

Week Ending Friday, January 4, 2002

The President's Radio Address

December 29, 2001

Good morning. Two thousand and one has been a year that Americans will always remember. We suffered great loss, and we found a new unity. We were attacked, and we responded swiftly. We have seen the strength of America in countless acts of kindness, compassion, and courage.

This year ends with progress on the battlefield and accomplishment at home. The men and women of our military have successfully fought a new kind of war. They applied new tactics and new technology to rout a new kind of enemy. The lessons we learn in Afghanistan will guide our military to the future and make our country stronger and more secure.

On the homefront, we're strengthening our defenses against terrorist attack while upholding our constitutional liberties. Our airways are more secure, and we are standing on alert.

And here in Washington, we have built a record of achievement. We've set out clear priorities of tax relief and education reform, and we achieved them.

Strengthening a troubled economy was one of my first priorities, so we passed the biggest tax reduction in a generation. And on January 1st, the next round of tax relief takes effect. As of January 1st, the marginal tax rate for moderate-income taxpayers falls to 10 percent. Tax credits to encourage businesses to provide daycare will expand, and the adoption tax credit will increase to \$10,000.

Yet, we cannot stop here. I was disappointed by the failure of the Senate to act on my proposals to help laid-off workers and to stimulate job creation. I outlined these proposals in October, more than 800,000 lost jobs ago. My ideas passed the House of Representatives, and, according to the Council of Economic Advisers, they could save 300,000 endangered jobs, but the Senate

would not schedule them for a vote. I hope that we can resolve in the new year to put politics aside and get the job done for the American people.

Education was another top priority, and we passed the boldest reform of the Federal education program in nearly four decades. We raised standards, put a new emphasis on reading, protected local control, and made sure that our schools teach all of our children. These are real achievements, and we must do more.

We must have quick action on other issues that passed the House of Representatives but languished in the Senate. I'm counting on the Senate to take up my proposals to assure America's energy independence, to stimulate our economy and create jobs, to adopt a solid Patients' Bill of Rights, to mobilize faith-based institutions for a new era of effective compassion, and to enhance our ability to negotiate favorable trade agreements for the United States.

We have work to do to strengthen Social Security and put Medicare on sound footing for the future. Above all, this coming year will require our sustained commitment to the war against terrorism. We cannot know how long this struggle will last. But it can end only one way: in victory for America and the cause of freedom.

We look back on 2001 with sadness and with pride. We must look forward with determination and with resolve.

Thank you so much for listening, and Happy New Year to you all.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:30 a.m. on December 28 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this address.

Remarks on New Year's Eve and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

December 31, 2001

The President. First of all, I wish everybody a Happy New Year; 2002 is going to be a great year for America. And we will continue to pursue our mission in fighting terror. We'll work hard to make sure our economy rebounds. But most of all, the Nation will continue to embrace the culture of compassion, which really, really flourished right after September the 11th.

I'm looking forward to an early evening tonight. I guess at the age of 55, it's expected that—or it's okay for a guy to go to bed at about 9 p.m., maybe 10 p.m. So I don't plan anything glamorous for New Year's Eve.

I've got to tell you, there's nothing more relaxing than being in Crawford, Texas. I'm spending as much time outdoors as I can. I spent—after my briefing this morning with National Security Council, I was able to spend about 3 hours in the canyons, cleaning underbrush. And I feel refreshed and fortunate that we've got such a beautiful piece of land to live on.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions; then I'm going to go have a cheeseburger.

Usama bin Laden and Mullah Omar

Q. Any information on the whereabouts of bin Laden or Omar? Is there a new pursuit underway now?

The President. No. Yes, I mean, the same pursuit: We're going to get him, and it's just a matter of when. You know, you hear all kinds of reports and all kinds of rumors. You've got people saying he's in a cave, people saying he's dead, people saying he's in Pakistan. And all I know is that he's running, and any time you get a person running, it means you're going to get him pretty soon.

And same with Mullah Omar. It's just a matter of time, and I'm patient, and so is our military. There is no artificial timelines or, you know, deadlines. The definition of success is making sure the Taliban is out of existence, helping rebuild Afghanistan, and disrupting this international terrorist network. And we're doing a darn good job of it, too.

Situation in South Asia

Q. Sir, are tensions easing in India and Pakistan, now that Pakistan has arrested the leader of a militant group? And just one more.

The President. Sure.

Q. Would you urge President—or Prime Minister Vajpayee to meet with President Musharraf next week?

The President. Well, a couple of days ago I had a good talk with both Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Musharraf. I urged President Musharraf to do everything he could to crack down on the terrorist network that had bombed the Indian Parliament or raided the Indian Parliament. In my conversation with the Prime Minister, I said I can understand how he feels. If someone attacked the U.S. Capitol, I'd feel angry, too. I urged—however, I urged—I explained to the Indian Prime Minister that while I understood his anger, I was hoping that they were not headed for war. I said, "Give us all a chance to work with President Musharraf to bring the terrorists to justice."

And today, as you know, he apprehended the head of what they call LET. That's after he had apprehended the head of JEM. So he's cracking down hard, and I appreciate his efforts. Terror is terror, and the fact that the Pakistani President is after terrorists is a good sign.

Argentina

Q. Mr. President, with the middle class now rioting in Argentina, are you concerned that that country's economic crisis is developing into a real political crisis? And has the time come for the U.S. to do something more substantial—

The President. Well, I talked to President—interim President Saa, and no longer President Saa—and I'm, you know, obviously, I'm worried about it. Argentina is a very important part of our hemisphere. I've heard that they're thinking about expediting elections, and that will be good. And as soon as they can get—I'm confident the country will stay together until they get elections.

And once they elect a President, we'll work with him. But the future President has got to deal with the economic crisis at hand. And

once they come up with a plan that will sustain economic growth, then we're willing to work with them. We're willing to provide technical assistance to the Government, through the IMF, and hopefully, they'll get their house in order here pretty quickly.

Q. Still no need for more direct U.S. intervention or aid?

The President. I'm not sure what that means. You know, Argentina is a vibrant democracy; they've been around a long time; they have elections. You know, they're going to have elections here pretty quickly. As soon as they get a democratically elected President in place, we'll work with him as—as a matter of fact, I anticipate I'll be calling the person as soon as he wins.

Homeland Security

Q. What can Americans expect in the upcoming year, in terms of homeland security? What's next, sir?

The President. Well, what's next is really a focus on health, a focus on—in terms of making sure the public health systems work. We're reviewing all our visa policies. We're looking at our immigration policies. We're looking at border policies, both with Canada and with Mexico. And we'll continue doing what we're doing now, which is, any time we get a lead, we're going to disrupt—we're going to bring them in and give them a chance to protect Americans.

The FBI, the whole culture of the FBI has changed, for the better. The FBI's main task now is to protect Americans from further attack. The country is on alert. And a classic case was the person who tried to put the bomb in his shoe, and a flight attendant on the American flight alertly notified people, and they got it. And he's now—we're now giving him a chance to tell us what he knows about terror and about Al Qaida.

But 2002 will—the country will still be on alert; we'll still be working hard to protect the American people.

Q. Is there a special alert now? The terrorists have shown an inclination to strike around New Year's—

The President. Well, or Christmas. I mean, there's all kinds of excuses for them to attack. Let's just put it this way, that the administration and the Government has

not—is on alert and have been since 9/11. And the American people realize we have a new culture, and that is one of being vigilant. We've got people working overtime during the holidays; you know, we've got CAPs still flying around. Anybody tries to harm an American, there's a good chance we're going to get him.

Vision for 2002

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—for the American people?*

The President. Well, it is that we're a blessed nation. God has richly blessed America. And for that, we ought to be grateful. We're a nation that has gone through incredible suffering and hardship. Yet, as a result of it, we're a strong nation and a united nation. And 2002, in my judgment, is going to be a great year.

It's going to be a great year because people are going to be able to find work again. It's going to be a great year because our military is going to do the job the Americans expect. It'll be a great year because at home we'll protect the American people. And it's going to be a great year primarily because Americans have taken a look inward, reassessed their values, have realized that some of the basics in life are that which is most important: love of faith, love of family. And as a result, our communities have been stronger. So I'm really looking forward to 2002.

I'm also looking forward to my cheeseburger. [*Laughter*]

New Year's Resolutions

Q. Any resolutions?

The President. Resolutions? Eat fewer cheeseburgers. [*Laughter*]

Thank you all.

New Year's Eve Plans

Q. Do you have friends coming over tonight?

The President. Yes, we've got two couples from Austin and a couple from Lubbock. And the Lubbock couple are generally—has spent, I guess, New Year's Eve with us for, like, a decade now, I think. And that's it.

Have fun; enjoy yourselves. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:44 p.m. at the Coffee Station restaurant. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida

terrorist organization; Mullah Mohammed Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, head of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LET); Maulana Masood Azhar, head of the terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM); former interim President Adolfo Rodríguez Saa of Argentina; and Richard C. Reid, a passenger on American Airlines Flight AA63 who allegedly tried to ignite an explosive device in his shoe while en route from Paris to Miami on December 22. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Digital
Computer Exports**

December 28, 2001

Dear _____:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85), I hereby notify you of my decision to establish a new level for the notification procedure for digital computers set forth in section 1211(a) of Public Law 105–85. The new level will be 190,000 millions of theoretical operations per second (MTOPS). In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(e), I hereby notify you of my decision to remove Latvia from the list of countries covered under section 1211(b). The attached report provides the rationale supporting these decisions and fulfills the requirements of Public Law 105–85, sections 1211(d) and (e).

I have made these changes based on the recommendation of the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, and Energy.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl Levin, chairman, and John W. Warner, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; Bob Stump, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and Paul Sarbanes, chairman, and Phil Gramm, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. This letter was re-

leased by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 2, 2002.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Western Balkans**

December 28, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 3, 2002.

**Notice—Continuation of Libya
Emergency**

January 3, 2002

On January 7, 1986, by Executive Order 12543, President Reagan declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Libya. On January 8, 1986, by Executive Order 12544, the President took additional measures to block Libyan assets in the United States. The President has transmitted a notice continuing this emergency to the Congress and the *Federal Register* every year since 1986.

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 7, 1986, has not been resolved. Despite the United Nations Security Council's suspension of U.N. sanctions against Libya upon the Libyan government's

hand over of the Pan Am 103 bombing suspects, Libya has not yet complied with its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993), which include Libya's obligation to accept responsibility for the actions of its officials and pay compensation.

Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Libya. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 3, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:35 a.m., January 3, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on January 4.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Libya**
January 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Libya emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 1251).

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration on January 7, 1986, of a national emergency has not been resolved. Despite the United Nations Security

Council's suspension of U.N. sanctions against Libya upon the Libyan government's hand over of the Pan Am 103 bombing suspects, Libya has not yet complied with its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993), which include Libya's obligation to accept responsibility for the actions of its officials and pay compensation.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Libya and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Libya to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Libya**

January 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Taliban**

January 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Taliban that was declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Remarks on the Unveiling of the
President's Portrait in Austin, Texas**

January 4, 2002

Thank you. Thank you, Laura. You need to know, I listen to her every day. *[Laughter]* Whatever success we've had is because she's constantly telling me what to do. *[Laughter]* I'm proud of Laura, and I can't tell you what a great job she has done for America—you know that, yourself. But she brings such a steadiness and a calm resolve, and I'm really proud of her.

I want to thank the Governor and the first lady. Thank you all very much for your hospitality. It's great to see the Lieutenant Governor and Sally, the Speaker and Nelda. It's good to see you all. I can't help but notice that my friend Jan Bullock is here, as well. Jan, thank you for coming.

We've got all kinds of dignitaries here. I want to thank you for taking time out of your day to come and witness my hanging. *[Laughter]* Fortunately, it's my portrait. *[Laughter]*

I'm particularly pleased to be here with the artist. Now, I was somewhat concerned when Laura told me that the Gentlings were famous painters of birds—*[laughter]*—but

they would make time to paint my picture. *[Laughter]* Pretty tough old bird here to paint, wasn't I? *[Laughter]* But I appreciate, Scott, your taking time to try to figure me out. It's a real pleasure for me to work with you. I know it's a challenge from your part, but it looks like you did me justice, and I thank you. And it's also good to see your brother, Stuart.

The Gentlings are a part of the really fantastic artistic community we have here in Texas. These guys may seem a little odd when you meet them upstairs, but they're really good at what they do. *[Laughter]*

I've got to tell you, I was talking with Bomer last night, and we started laughing about all the wonderful times we had in this building. And as I look around the room, I see many who helped make that happen. This was a joyous 6 years for us here.

It kind of reminds me of what Harry Truman said. He said, "I've tried never to forget who I was or where I'd come from and where I was going back to." And that's what this Capitol says to us. And so does Crawford, by the way. It's our home.

One of the things that happened here is that we made a lot of friends. You know, sometimes in politics, friends are just a fleeting memory. But that's not the case for us. Our friends are permanent parts of our life. We don't view such things as political friends. You're either our friend, or you're not our friend, no matter what your politics are like.

That's why we have got such fond memories of working with Pete and Nelda Laney. Oh, I know he's got the Democrat label, but somehow our relationship transcended that. And the same with Bullock. I can't help but chuckle about our breakfasts that we used to have in this building. Pete, with Bullock. I'd like to share some of the stories with the people watching on C-SPAN—*[laughter]*—but unfortunately, I can't repeat them in mixed company. *[Laughter]*

But the truth of the matter is, whether it be the Speaker or Bullock or Janelle or others, from both parties, we came in this building with one desire, to do what's right for Texas. We've got political labels around our name, no question about it. But we made up our mind to try to figure out what was best for our State and to work together.

And so I went up to Washington with a wonderful sense of being able to get things done, because of my relationships and my experience here in the State Capitol. I still believe that can happen. But sometimes Washington needs to figure out that politics isn't what's most important; the people are what's most important.

And so I'm going to take that can-do Texas spirit to Washington for however long I'm there and remind people that results are matter—results are what matters, not rhetoric; remind people that if you're willing to share credit, if you're willing to tell the other person that you're going to succeed, as well, amazing things can happen; and remind people that our country, just like our State, is much bigger than the political process.

Those are the lessons I learned here in this State Capitol. I also learned you cannot succeed without a good team around you. There's no such thing, in my judgment, as a one-man band when it comes to politics or being the Governor or being the President of the United States. You're only successful if you're able to convince a lot of good folks to join on the team and to empower them to achieve the common objectives.

And that's exactly what we did here in Austin. I think history will show that the staff of Governor George Bush was one of the greatest staffs ever assembled. You should be applauding because you're the ones who were on the staff, in this room. *[Applause]*

We had fun. We got some positive things done for Texas. We worked hard. And it was the memories that I'll never forget. And so I want to thank you all who worked on our team. It should be noted that many of them who were on this team moved to Washington: Pinky Allbaugh—*[laughter]*—he's not here, so I can say it—*[laughter]*—Karen, of course; Karl Rove; Gonzales—I see Al is here, the chief attorney—Margaret Spellings, she's got a new last name now—those of us who know her husband are somewhat amazed—*[laughter]*—Albert Hawkins; Harriet Miers.

These are all the folks that I rely on. These are people who have got great judgment and care deeply about our country. And America is really better off by the fact that they de-

cided to make a huge sacrifice, leave their beloved State and go to Washington, DC.

We also have got a lot of others up there that many of you knew: Ashley, Izzy, Logan—it's such an honor for Logan to know that we named one of our cows after him that was recently born—*[laughter]*—Margaret Wilson and Stuart Bowen and Vickers Meadows; Pat Wood. These are all folks—we worked together here in Austin—who are now serving our Nation. And I truly believe America is better off as a result of the influx of Texans who showed up.

I always will remember—and this painting helps remind me of the fact that all of us were a part of a larger story, a story much bigger than ourselves. Many have come before us, and many will follow. Mine is just one of 46 portraits in this Dome, and I'll always be in good company here.

It is amazing for me to think, when I step back and think this will be hanging here forever, along with J. Pinckney Henderson. I didn't know Henderson very well. *[Laughter]* But I did read about Sam Houston or John Connolly and the first Texas Governor I ever knew, Allan Shivers. It's an honor to be hanging with these men.

It's also amazing to think that it'll be here for a long, long time. I just hope Governor Richards doesn't mind being my neighbor for eternity. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank you all for coming. It's a day I've really been looking forward to for a long time. We look forward to seeing you upstairs for the little coffee we're having.

Again, I remember you; I won't forget Texas. It's a huge honor to be the President, by the way. But one of these days I'll be back, settled in, sitting on my porch in Crawford, looking for somebody to come and recount old war stories with.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. at the Texas State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and his wife, Anita Thigpen Perry; Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliffe of Texas and his wife, Sally; Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney and his wife, Nelda; Janelle Bullock, widow of former Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock of Texas; artists Scott and Stuart Gentling; Texas Secretary of State Elton Bomer;

Joe M. Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Karen Hughes, Counselor to the President; Karl Rove, Senior Adviser to the President; Alberto R. Gonzales, Assistant to the President and White House Counsel; Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Margaret Spellings and her husband, Robert; Albert Hawkins, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Cabinet; Harriet Miers, Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary; Ashley Estes, the President's Personal Secretary; Special Assistant to the President Israel "Izzy" Hernandez; Presidential Aide Logan Walters; Deputy Assistant to the President Stuart Bowen; Vickers B. Meadows, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Patrick Henry Wood III, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 29

During the day, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to urge them to take measures to ease tensions in South Asia. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in South Asia.

December 31

The President announced the appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan.

January 1

The President issued an emergency declaration for areas struck by record and near-record snowfall in New York.

January 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Austin, TX, and later returned to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven Robert Blust to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission and to be designated Chairman upon confirmation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah Matz to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Sullivan to be U.S. Executive Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint Vernadette Ramirez Broyles to be a member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 31

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the appointment of the Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan

Released January 1

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Released January 2

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the designation of 35 sub-Saharan African countries as eligible for tariff preferences

under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Changes to U.S. Dual-Use Export Controls

Fact sheet: Changes to U.S. Dual-Use Export Controls

Released January 3

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Expedited Assistance Funds to Egypt

Released January 4

Transcript of remarks by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes to the press pool on Senator Tom Daschle's remarks

Announcement on Director of Homeland Security Thomas Ridge's upcoming visit to Salt Lake City, UT, to review Olympic security preparations; Las Vegas, NV, to visit the counterterrorism training facility at the Nevada Test Site; and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 28 *

H.R. 3442 / Public Law 107-106

National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission Act of 2001

S. 1438 / Public Law 107-107

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002

H.R. 2883 / Public Law 107-108

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Week Ending Friday, January 11, 2002

**Remarks at a Townhall Meeting in
Ontario, California**

January 5, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Mario, *muchas gracias por tu palabras*. Thank you all for coming.

[At this point, the President spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

Thank you for letting me come. Thank you for taking time out of your *fin de semana para hablar con el presidente*. I'm honored that so many came out for this weekend. It gives me a great chance to share some thoughts with you as we begin a new year that I believe is going to be a fantastic year for America. And I look forward to answering some questions you may have.

I want to thank your Governor for being here. Governor Gray Davis kindly took time out of his schedule for coming. Governor, thank you for coming. I want to thank some of the members of the mighty—and I mean, mighty—congressional delegation from the State of California. We've got Gary Miller, whose district this is. Gary, thank you for coming. David Dreier, chairman of the Rules Committee—David, thank you for being here.

David and I worked closely together to get a trade bill out of the House of Representatives. He knows what I know, that trade is good for creating jobs in the State of California. Fearful people, people who don't trust the ability of our entrepreneurs, build walls around America. Confident people tear them down, and I'm confident in the American spirit. I'm confident that the entrepreneurs of our country—Hispanic, Anglo, African-American—compete with anybody, any place, any time, and let's trade freely.

Congressman Calvert, Congressman Issa, are with us, as well. Thank you two for coming. And finally, Congressman Jerry Lewis is with us today.

I notice the people in the uniforms here applauding a little louder. They understand that Congressman Lewis plays an incredibly important role when it comes to appropriating monies for the United States military. There is no—he's been strong on the defense of America. I look forward to working with Jerry Lewis in the next budget cycle to make sure that the defense of this Nation is the number one priority of the budget of the United States.

I want to thank Rosario Marin, the Treasurer of the United States, for being here. It's nice to be back in your neighborhood, Rosario. I want to thank Hector Barreto, the Administrator of the SBA; Ruben Barrales, who works for me in the White House. Thank you for coming, Ruben.

I want to thank our host organizations, the Latin Business Association, the Ontario Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County, and the Latino Coalition, for your sponsorship. One of the things that I am most proud of, of our Nation, is the number of Latinos who own their own business, the number of Latinos who really work hard to access the American Dream.

The growth of Latino-owned small businesses in California is astounding. It is amazing how many people now can say, "I am a proud business owner." To me, that is what America is all about, somebody who has a dream, somebody who works hard and can say to themselves and their community, "This is my business. This is something I own, and nobody can take it away from me."

And the job of Government is always to remember the importance of the small business and the entrepreneurial dream. The job of Government is not to try to create wealth. The job of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risks to realize their dream. It's to educate people. It's to provide opportunity and then make the playing field as level as it is and

see who can succeed or not in the great country called America.

This has been an amazing year for Laura and me. Some things occurred that we expected. Some things happened that we didn't expect. I'm going to talk about one thing we were able to anticipate and one we weren't. First, I will tell you that nearly a year ago I hosted a group of business leaders to Austin, Texas, before I had become sworn in as the President. And leaders all around the country came and made it very clear that our economy was pretty darn slow, and I knew we needed to do something about it, and I'm going to talk about that in a second.

So it was expected that there would be unemployment on the rise, expected that after a period of great prosperity, the economy would slow down. And we took some action that I'll describe here in a second. Obviously, what was not expected was what took place on September the 11th, and we're doing something about that, as well. This great land of ours made a clear statement, that we will not let terror stand, that those who inflicted damage on America would pay a severe price.

We learned some interesting lessons, that we're now vulnerable at home. I remember giving a speech to a group of high school seniors right after September the 11th, and it dawned on me in the middle of this talk that this is the first high school class that—in a long time, that is graduating in a time when somebody is attacking America.

These evil ones still want to hit us. But after September the 11th, America is now ready. We're after them. Any hint of somebody wanting to harm our country, we're acting. We've got thousands of FBI agents chasing down every single lead. We respect people's constitutional rights, and we will continue to do so. But if we think somebody is fixing to hurt the American people, we will move in this country. We're now on an alert because of September the 11th. And I want to thank the police officers who are here. And I want to thank whoever—if any FBI agents are here, and all law enforcement officials in the State of California and all across our country who are working endless hours to make sure with gather any information possible to protect the American people.

My most important job is the security and safety of the American people. Every morning I wake up, and when I wake up, I go to the Oval Office. I'm kind of an early morning guy, by the way. I take Barney and Spot out. [*Laughter*] They take a good look at the Rose Garden—[*laughter*]—up close and personal. [*Laughter*] And then I head into the Oval Office. And I read about the potential threats to America. And one of my first meetings is to visit with the head of the FBI. And my question every morning is, "Mr. Director, what are you doing about this threat? What's happening with this lead? Are you taking care of this piece of business?"

The culture of our law enforcement has changed to the point where they now know what I know, that we've got to do everything in our power to protect the American people. But the best way to secure the homeland of America is to find the evil ones wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what the United States military—[*applause*].

I am very proud of the U.S. military. They've done exactly what we've asked them to do. For those of you who wear the uniform, thank you. For those of you who have got loved ones who wear the uniform, thank you, as well. We're making steady progress in Afghanistan. The evil ones awakened a mighty giant. You know, we're a compassionate people, and we're a decent people, but if you come after us, you will learn that you have made a big mistake.

It seems like the more TV channels there are, the more anxious people become on TV. But I want to remind my fellow citizens, we've only been at war for 90 days. That's not a very long period of time. But in 90 days, we've made incredible progress. The Al Qaida, the Usama bin Laden group, can't claim Afghanistan as a haven anymore.

You know, they were like parasites. I know we've got some ranchers and farmers here; you understand what a parasite is. Parasites try to take over the host, and if there's enough parasites and if they've been there long enough, the host itself becomes ill. The host no longer is in a position of power in Afghanistan; the Taliban has been routed.

But you know what my most meaningful memory has been recently? And that has

been the joy on the face of women and young girls in Afghanistan as they have been liberated from one of the most brutal regimes.

We're taking action. We're taking action against evil people, because this great Nation of many religions understands, our war is not against Islam or against faith practiced by the Muslim people; our war is a war against evil. This is clearly a case of good versus evil, and make no mistake about it, good will prevail.

The American people are patient, very patient, and for that, I'm grateful. I appreciate so very much the fact that the Americans from all walks of life have stepped back and have figured out that this is going to require a lot of effort and energy to succeed in our war against terror. And I want to thank you for your patience. We're now in a dangerous phase of the first front in the war against terror. Because of the terrain in Afghanistan and because there's still hostile elements, we're pursuing our objective cave by cave. You see, the people that tend to send young, innocent boys to their death in the name of Allah want to save their own skins by hiding in caves. And I've told the world, just like I've told our military, we will do whatever it takes to bring them to justice. They think they can run, and they think they can hide, because they think this country is soft and impatient. But they are going to continue to learn the terrible lesson that says: Don't mess with America.

This conflict will have its casualties as we pursue our objective, and we mourn for Sergeant Nathan Chapman, and we pray with his family for God's blessings on them. Nathan lost his life yesterday, but I can assure the parents and loved ones of Nathan Chapman that he lost his life for a cause that is just and important. And that cause is the security of the American people, and that cause is the cause of freedom and a civilized world.

Our hunt for any terrorist activity is not just confined to Afghanistan. I truly believe this is a defining moment in history, and this country must lead. We must seize the moment. We must make our country and other countries that embrace freedom a place where children can grow up in peace and be able to realize their dreams. And therefore, we must find terror where it exists and pull it out by the roots and bring it to justice.

Terror is evil, and wherever evil exists, the free nations of the world must come together in a massive coalition that says, terror will not stand. And the United States is ready to lead that coalition, not only in Afghanistan but wherever we find terror.

And we're making good progress. We're cutting off their money. There's going to be all kinds of fronts in this war on terror, and one of them is the financial front. They like to move money around, and obviously, in order to fight a war against the United States or any of our allies or anybody who embraces freedom, you've got to have money. And so they set up front groups, groups that sound good, the such-and-such foundation for making sure people have got a good life. And yet, what ends up happening is, a chunk of that money ends up in the pockets of evil people who don't respect civilization, who don't like freedom, who resent the fact that men and women should be free. And so, we're working with our allies in our coalition to cut off their money. And we're beginning to have an effect. We're beginning to have good progress about finding who is funding them, and we're chasing the money all the way to the source. And when we find somebody in some country who is writing checks on behalf of groups of people that would hurt us, we're asking that country to hold them accountable.

You see, there's no shades of gray in this war against terror. Either you're with the United States or you're not with the United States. And because this Nation has shown such strong resolve and unity, because we're patient, and because we're going to be successful in the first theater, a lot of the fence-sitters or those who would like to be on the fence are beginning to realize it's in their best interests to be with us.

The Nation is united, and there is a resolve and a spirit that is just so fantastic to feel. And I am obviously grateful to be the President of such a strong and vibrant land.

We have responded to the issues abroad with unanimity and clarity of purpose and resolve. And that's the way we should respond to problems here at home, as well. We ought to come together to do the right thing. We need to focus on asking the question, what's the best thing for America? It's time

to take the spirit of unity that has been prevalent when it comes to fighting the war and bring it to Washington, DC.

The terrorists not only attacked our freedom, but they also attacked our economy. And we need to respond in unison. We ought not to revert to the old ways that used to dominate Washington, DC. The old ways is: What's more important, the country or my political party? I stand here as a proud party man, but let me tell you something: The country is far more important than the—[*ap-
plause*].

We've made some good progress about working together. I'm getting ready to sign an education bill next week. It's a really good piece of legislation. I'm real proud of it. I want to thank the teachers who are here and the people who are concerned about educating our—making sure our public schools are the best they can be. And by the way, the cornerstone of that bill is that every child can learn—every child in America.

And a lot of my friends in Midland, Texas, are going to be amazed when I stand up and say nice things about Ted Kennedy. [*Laughter*] He deserves it. He worked hard on this education bill. And I can proudly sign it, and I can proudly say I appreciate Senator Kennedy's strong work and input into making this bill a good bill.

But there are troubling signs that the old way is beginning to creep into the people's minds in Washington. After all, it's an election year. It's tempting to revert back to the old ways. But America is better than that. We're better than that.

This economic debate is troubling me. You see, I'm the kind of fellow who says, "Let's work together and focus on results, not rhetoric. Let's do what's right for the people who have been hurt. We need to work and then share credit, not pass blame."

And there is no question that the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. I mean, there's no question about it. It was slow beginning last year; it started to recover a little bit; and then the attacks hurt. I mean, after all, who wouldn't think it would? The attacks affected the confidence of the American people. It affected our psychology. It makes sense that it affected our psychology.

But we're recovering. And there are some good signs. But my attitude is, so long as any willing and able worker can't find work, we need to do something about it. The unemployment rate is 5.8 percent, but if you're unemployed, it's 100 percent for you.

The principle I have been operating on is this: In tough times, people need a check to help them when they're unemployed, but what they need for the long term is a paycheck. And we ought to be asking the question, how do you create jobs in America?

I do think we need to help those who have been affected by the attacks by expanding unemployment benefits, including help with health care costs. I think that makes sense, to help somebody whose life was severely affected, and we ought to do that, and we ought to make sure that we get that done.

But I also understand that we need to ask the question, how do we expand jobs? What can we do to encourage investment so that employers are able to go out and provide more work for American people?

I had the honor of meeting with JCM Corporation officials today. As you can tell, they're here. [*Laughter*] Carlo Moyano—his daddy started the firm; he's now running it. I'm going to get it mixed up, but they had 10,000 square foot of warehouse; now they've got hundreds of thousands of square foot of warehouse. He's living the American Dream. This is a company that started in a garage. It's now a major manufacturer. He said the best thing Government can do is to provide incentives for the expansion of plant and equipment, because he understands what I understand: If you expand plant and equipment, you expand jobs.

And he had asked the question, what about jobs? How do we create jobs? And when we ask that question, we've got to understand that the major job growth occurs in the small-business community in America; those are the creators of new jobs.

And that's why, in the beginning of last year, I worked so hard to get the tax cut passed. That's why, because—let me explain. If you think the economy is going to slow down, the best way to recover is to let people have their own money in their pockets to spend, not the Government.

Somebody told me the funniest thing. They said, "There are some in Washington saying that the tax cut caused the recession." I don't know what economic textbook they're reading. [Laughter] The best way to come out of a recession is to say to the small-business person, "We'll let you keep your own money." When we cut taxes on all rates, we said to the sole proprietor or the limited partner, "It's your money. You spend it in order to expand the job base in America."

We have priorities in Washington. Defending our homeland is going to be a priority. A strong defense is a priority. But something that shouldn't be a priority is to raise your taxes. There's going to be people who say, "We can't have the tax cut go through anymore." That's a tax raise. And I challenge their economics, when they say, "Raising taxes will help the country recover." Not over my dead body will they raise your taxes.

I'm confident that a new spirit can prevail in Washington. I hope people come together and do what's right for the American people. It's going to be a task—for some, it's kind of a steep hill. But I believe if that's what the American people want, it can happen. It's certainly what your President wants.

I also want our country to continue to embrace the values that make our Nation so wonderful. I've always told people that I believe the great strength of our country lies not in our halls of Government, but in the hearts and souls of the American people.

I got to see—running for President is certainly not a distant memory. [Laughter] It really puts you through the paces. But it's important because if you pay attention to what you see, you will begin to really see the strength of America. I see the strength of our country in our classrooms. I see the strength of our country in faith-based institutions that—of Christian faith, Jewish faith, Muslim faith, all of which exist to help people in need. It's the true strength of America.

After September the 11th, many of our fellow countrymen took a step back and said, "Is my life worth it now? Am I living my life the way that—in a worthwhile way?" People have begun to assess their priorities. I've been pleased to read story after story about how moms and dads are beginning to

realize the most important job they will ever have is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul.

I love the story that came out of Michigan about the women of color, of Muslim faith, who didn't feel comfortable about going to their home. And so Jewish and Christian groups, ladies' groups, went to the neighborhood and said, "We'll walk you to the store," because the America we know is not one that castigates an individual based upon their religion. The America we know is a society that's open and free and a society that says, "If you dream the big dream, you can realize it if you work hard." It's a society that says, "You can worship the way you want to worship," and a society which says, "You've got to love your neighbor just like you love yourself." That's the spirit of America that I know.

It's a million acts of kindness and compassion on a daily basis that define the true spirit and the true strength of America. We live in a blessed land. The values are great; the system is wonderful; but most of all, the people are the best in the world.

Thank you for coming. God bless. Thank you all. I'll be glad to answer some questions. Now that I'm in California, I've got to walk around like a talk show host. [Laughter]

California Water Resources

Q. Mr. President, my name is Al Lopez. I'm a member of the Western Municipal Water District. Our agency works in cooperation with all the water agencies throughout the Inland Empire to provide adequate drinking water for our Inland Empire.

California has to reduce its dependency on the Colorado River. Congressman Calvert is working very closely with legislation to reauthorize Cal-Fed, and we would hope that one of those projects would meet your support, especially for the Riverside-Corona theater that will provide much water to our Inland Empire for its economic base.

The President. Thank you, sir. Tell Calvert to come on by and drop it off. [Laughter] Thank you very much. I appreciate your work. Listen, I understand water. I grew up in Midland, Texas. There you go. [Laughter] You remember how much water we didn't have there. [Laughter]

Yes, sir, back in the back.

Energy Policy

Q. First, sir, a message from the crew that just recently returned from the U.S.S. *Enterprise*. My son-in-law was aboard that. From the last man and woman on that crew, they are honored to call you their Commander in Chief.

The President. Okay.

Q. And my question, sir, after you make Tommy Daschle go to his room for being bad, tell us something about your plans to end our dependency on foreign oil.

The President. There you go. He brings up a very important point, because in order to make sure our economy remains strong and vital in the long run, we have got to have an energy plan. Over 50 percent of our energy comes from overseas. Fortunately, a lot of it comes from Canada. But a lot of it comes from the Middle East.

And it seems like, to me, we've got to do a couple of things: One, find more oil in an environmentally friendly way. I think we can do this without drilling off the coast of California. I know that we have got the technologies necessary to explore in places like Alaska without damaging the environment—the technologies have changed so dramatically.

I know you all had a fright here in California. It's an indication of what could happen again. When you start running out of energy and demand is high, there's either going to be price spikes or shortages.

I've worked with your Governor to try to help get through this situation. One of the things that California has done is, they have expedited permitting for plants driven by natural gas. But we better figure out where we're going to get the natural gas from in order to make sure that you've got ample electricity in the future, and therefore, we need to explore. And I repeat, we can do so without damaging our environment. I am absolutely confident of that.

The other thing that's important to note is that in our own hemisphere, Mexico, which is obviously a vital neighbor, imports natural gas from the United States. So we've got to find more. We've got to find more not only for ourselves but to make sure our neighbor to the south is able to grow. There's nothing more important for America than for Mexico

to be strong and vibrant and to have good growth.

We also can do a better job of conservation. Governor Davis, the last time I met with him, reminded me that California has done a very good job of conservation, that you have been able to reduce dependency by conserving better. And so we've got plans, an energy plan that passed the House, that's stuck in the Senate, that do provide incentives for better means to conserve.

Thirdly, technology will help lead us away from dependency. I notice our Department of Energy was talking about a new automobile research plan to help develop a new fuel cell system for automobiles. It's coming. And the fundamental question is, how do we get from here to the day when the new technologies become market-accepted? And it starts with getting a plan out of the United States Congress. It passed the House; it's stuck in the Senate. It's time to get the bill moving and get it to my desk.

Go ahead and yell it out. If I don't like the question, I'll just change it. [*Laughter*]

Prayer

Q. Mr. President, I'm a Navy chaplain, serving with the Marines in Twentynine Palms, California. I am also honored to have you as my Commander in Chief.

The President. Do you have a question?

Q. My question is very simple: How can we, as pastors, pray specifically for you and your family?

The President. Well, first—thank you. I have—first of all, I believe in the power of prayer. And I have felt the prayers of the American people for me and my family. I have. And I want to thank all of you who have prayed. People say, “Well, how do you know?” I say, “Well, I can just feel it.” I can't describe it very well, but I feel comforted by the prayer.

I think the thing that—the prayer that I would like America—is to ask for is to pray for God's protection for our land and our people, to pray against—that there's a shield of protection, so that if the evil ones try to hit us again, that we've done everything we can, physically, and that there is a spiritual shield that protects the country.

Do you have a question? Come on underneath. The man's got a question.

September 11

Q. First of all, I'm very impressed in how you handled the situation on September 11th.

The President. That's plenty. No. Thank you.

Q. What was the first thing that went through your head when you heard that a plane crashed into the first building?

The President. Yes. Well, I was sitting in a schoolhouse in Florida. I had gone down to tell my little brother what to do, and—just kidding, Jeb. [Laughter] And—it's the mother in me. [Laughter] Anyway, I was in the midst of learning about a reading program that works. I'm a big believer in basic education, and it starts with making sure every child learns to read. And therefore, we need to focus on the science of reading, not what may feel good or sound good when it comes to teaching children to read. I'm just getting a plug in for my reading initiative.

Anyway, I was sitting there, and my Chief of Staff—well, first of all, when we walked into the classroom, I had seen this plane fly into the first building. There was a TV set on. And you know, I thought it was pilot error, and I was amazed that anybody could make such a terrible mistake. And something was wrong with the plane, or—anyway, I'm sitting there, listening to the briefing, and Andy Card came and said, "America is under attack."

And in the meantime, this teacher was going on about the curriculum, and I was thinking about what it meant for America to be under attack. It was an amazing thought. But I made up my mind that if America was under attack, we'd get them. I wasn't interested in lawyers; I wasn't interested in a bunch of debate. I was interested in finding out who did it and bringing them to justice. I also knew that they would try to hide, and anybody who provided haven, help, food, would be held accountable by the United States of America.

Anyway, it was an interesting day.

Higher Education

Q. *Senor Presidente, mi nombre is Andrea*—I'm a teacher in Rancho Cucamonga.

The President. Yes, I was there. I gave my Social Security speech there.

Q. I'm a professor at Chaffey Community College in Rancho Cucamonga. What is your vision for higher education for all people?

The President. Thank you. First, let me tell you, I am a big believer in making sure our community colleges remain affordable, available, and flexible. And the reason I believe that is that I understand that the best way to make sure people have got the ability to work is for there to be a training—a re-training opportunity.

In other words, communities must figure out how to match up a community college system with jobs that actually exist. It seems like, to me, in order for America to be hopeful for everybody, we need to have flexibility, at some point, in the higher education system. And the best place for that flexibility to occur is at the community college level.

Technologies race through the country, our economies, but people get left behind. And therefore, there needs to be a system to retrain people for the jobs that actually exist, and the best place to do that, in my judgment, is the community college. I'm not pandering. I happen to believe that.

Now, higher education takes all kinds of—there's all kinds of different ways to achieve higher education. A community college system is one, a 4-year college; there's others. One of the things I think we need to do is expand the Pell grant system to help people afford higher education.

I've got a couple of more, and then I've got to hustle. Yes, ma'am.

Q. [Inaudible].

The President. Thank you. You can repeat that if you want to. [Laughter]

The First Lady's Wardrobe/Small Business

Q. Well, like you, Mr. President, I too believe in the American Dream. I am a young Latina entrepreneur who caters to top-level executive women in their clothing needs. One of my dreams is to design an exclusive garment for the First Lady, Laura Bush.

The President. Yes, well, you've got a very good marketing department, I see that. [Laughter]

Q. How can you, as President, help me realize that dream? [Laughter]

The President. Well, you just helped yourself, which is part of realizing a dream. [Laughter] Secondly, I can take the tape of this show—I'm confident somebody back there is making a tape—[laughter]—and present it firsthand to the First Lady.

But the other thing—the other way to help you on your business and to help you expand is to let you keep some of your own money, so that you can reinvest it, and so that your business can grow. It's one thing to be able to have a good marketing plan—and I appreciate your boldness—[laughter]—but it's another thing to be able to have the cash flow necessary to implement the strategy.

It's important for Government to set priorities, and we're going to set priorities. But it's also important for Congress to realize that one way to put a halt to any economic recovery that's beginning is to overspend, is to keep too much of the people's money. And therefore, one of the interesting debates is going to be, do we let the people keep the money that we promised them or not? And you heard my position on it loud and clear. The answer is, absolutely they get to keep the money. Like this entrepreneur right here.

Yes, sir. Yes, sir. You probably think the Marines are the best branch in the service, don't you?

Montgomery GI Bill

Q. Yes, sir, I do. I was a recruiter for 3 years, so I know we are. Sir, the question I have, it goes back to education—[inaudible]—all marines, all soldiers, sailors, and airmen, we pay into the Montgomery GI bill. And there was talk in Congress about us being able to share that money that we've put in and the Government's going to match for our educations, to go towards our family. I was wondering what you thought of that so we could use—

The President. I'm not sure what the status of that proposal is. I remember discussing it with my OMB Director. I thought it was

a good idea when we discussed it; I just don't know where the proposal is right now.

Last question, then I've got to go up to Oregon. Yes, ma'am. Then I've got to go back out to the ranch. There are a couple of cows waiting for me. [Laughter] You know, when I first got back from Washington, it seemed like the cows were talking back. [Laughter] But now that I've spent some time in Crawford, they're just cows. [Laughter]

Yes, ma'am.

Amendment To Prohibit Flag Desecration

Q. What is the status and your feeling on the amendment to prohibit flag desecration?

The President. I don't know what it is. I'm for it. And that's a good question. I just don't know exactly where it stands right now. I need to—okay. *Como esta?*

Immigration

Q. *Muy bien.* I'm so proud you came here from the largest State of Texas, and the biggest President of the world.

The President. Thank you.

Q. *Jorge—*

The President. *Si.*

Q. For those of you who don't speak English, it's "George." I have a question. As an American Mexican, we face the problem with immigration.

The President. Yes.

Q. I'm very concerned. And I want to ask you what we can do to help to solve this problem, not only with the illegal immigration but with the millions of people living in the United States with the proper papers to work.

The President. Right. A couple of things. First, short term, is to make sure that the INS functions, that the INS is able to expedite the paperwork for people who are legitimately here in the country, and expedite the paperwork necessary for families to reunite. If you believe in family values, you've got to have families together, it seems like to me. And yet, we're too bureaucratic when it comes to the INS, and we need to streamline it and make it work.

Secondly, we've got to understand that in the past, at least, there have been people who were trying to hire people and people willing to work. And it makes sense to me to have

a system that matches willing employer with willing employee.

Thirdly, the long-term solution is for Mexico to grow a middle class so that people don't feel like they have to come here to work. The long-term solution—family values don't stop at the Rio Bravo. If there's somebody who has got children to feed, somebody, a mom or a dad who has got little ones to take care of, and they make 50 cents in a State in Mexico or they could make \$5 in America, they're going to come to America if they believe in their children, if they have the same values you and I have.

Values don't stop. And so, therefore, it seems like, to me, the best thing we can do is to have a strong relationship with Mexico, a free trading relationship with Mexico so that Mexico is more likely to grow a middle class, which means that person who is willing to walk miles across Texas desert to work to feed her children will be able to find work close to home.

That's why I said one of the most important foreign policy relations we have is with Mexico. The stronger Mexico is, the less pressure on our border. The stronger Mexico is, the more prosperity there will be in both our countries.

Listen, thank you all for coming. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. at the Ontario Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mario Rodriguez, member, board of directors and advisors, the Latino Coalition, who introduced the President; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Sfc. Nathan Ross Chapman, USA, who was killed January 4 by hostile fire in Afghanistan; Carlo Moyano, president and chief executive officer, JCM Corp.; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

The President's Radio Address

January 5, 2002

Good morning. The events of September the 11th left America sadder and stronger, and they clarified some important goals for our country. We have a war to wage and a recession to fight. Defending our country and strengthening our economy are great pri-

orities for 2002. We must be determined, and we must keep our focus.

This Saturday, I'm traveling in Oregon and California, talking with people who have been hit hard by the economic downturn. When I return to Washington on Monday, I will be meeting with my economic advisers and other officials to discuss the latest economic data and work for a quick recovery for our economy.

My administration has offered our ideas for creating new jobs. I've proposed speeding up the tax reductions Congress passed last year because the faster tax rates come down, the faster our economy will grow. I have proposed tax refunds for lower and moderate income families to put money in the hands of people with kids to support and bills to pay. I have proposed reforming the alternative minimum tax so employers and entrepreneurs no longer see their taxes rise as their profits shrink. In tough times, we need to encourage entrepreneurship and small business growth, not punish it. I've proposed better tax treatment for employers and entrepreneurs who invest in new equipment, which will help the hardworking people who use the equipment, and those who manufacture the equipment. The Council of Economic Advisers estimates that these ideas could save at least 300,000 threatened jobs.

I'm also calling on Congress to act immediately to help the unemployed workers. I've proposed extending unemployment benefits by 13 weeks, and I've supported tax credits to protect the health insurance of workers who've been laid off.

But we can't stop there. It is important to help workers who've lost their jobs. It is even more important to help workers find new jobs. In tough times, people need an unemployment check, but what they want is a paycheck. Americans want the independence of a job and the satisfaction of providing for their families, themselves. A job is more than a source of income; it is a source of dignity.

I made my proposals to create new jobs and help dislocated workers on October the 4th, 3 months and 943,000 lost jobs ago. The House of Representatives accepted my proposals, but the Senate Democratic leadership would not even schedule a vote. Some in the

Senate seem to think we can afford to do nothing, that the economy will get better on its own, sooner or later. I say that if your job is in danger or you have a loved one out of work, you want that recovery sooner, not later.

We need a plan to lengthen unemployment benefits; we need a plan to shorten the recession. The Senate should act on both. America's workers cannot afford more delay.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:20 a.m. on January 4 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 4 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon

January 5, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for such a gracious and warm welcome. It's nice to be back here in Oregon. I'm impressed by the Mighty Ducks; they're awfully good. I wasn't a believer; now I am. *[Laughter]* They're good. Of course, they gave my Texas boys a good lesson last year, as I recall. *[Laughter]*

But thanks for coming out on a Saturday afternoon to say hello. I was earlier in California, and then I'm here—went to a community college. You've got a wonderful community college here in the Portland area, which is worried about helping people find work. And I went by and saw the good instructors there that are trying to help people help themselves.

And I come in here to be able to share some thoughts with you. And then I'm going to hustle on home for dinner—*[laughter]*—right there in Crawford, Texas.

I want to thank Katie Harman for being here. It was a pleasure to meet your mayor. Mayor Katz, thank you for coming. It's very gracious for you to be here today.

I picked a good man from Portland to represent us in New Zealand; that's my friend Butch Swindells, who is now the Ambassador to New Zealand.

I spent a little time with some people that work for a company called InFocus, which is a company—*[applause]*. John, it sounds like you packed the crowd. *[Laughter]* Either that, or you've got a big family. *[Laughter]* But I want to thank John Harker and his team for coming to talk to me about how best they think we can stimulate growth. I want to thank them for employing people in this part of the world, for trying to figure out how to grow their economy, for worrying about their workforce, as well as making a quality product. I'm going to share some thoughts that John shared with me in a little bit. But I do want to thank you for coming.

I also want to thank my friends Senator Gordon Smith and Greg Walden. They were hitchhiking in California and they needed—*[laughter]*. They were looking for a free ride, and Air Force One happened to be available. *[Laughter]* But they did fly down with me. I'm impressed by these two good men.

We spent a lot of time talking about Oregon. They're deeply concerned about the fact that a lot of people aren't working; I am, too. They're deeply concerned about the fact that parts of your State are not being treated very well. We spent time talking about the Klamath Basin. I share their concern about people who make a living off the land. And I told these two good men that we'll do everything we can to make sure water is available for people who farm.

I also want to thank two of the Congressmen from this area, Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley, for being here, as well. Thank you so much for coming; I appreciate you being here. I know you had better things to do on Saturday afternoon, and here you are, stuck with me. *[Laughter]* Thanks for coming; it means a lot.

You know, there were some—some of the things that are happening in Washington, I expected. And there was one thing that happened was not expected. It's been a heck of a year. *[Laughter]* I will tell you, before I get into the expected and unexpected, I believe 2002 is going to be a fabulous year for America.

I remember meeting with business leaders in Austin, Texas—this is before I began heading north to become sworn in as your President—and there was deep concern about the

economy then. A year ago December, people were saying, "This economy is soft, and we're going to be in for a rough ride." It was not unexpected to see the economic slowdown. And I want to share some thoughts with you about how we can reverse the trend—although I'm optimistic about our economy. There are some numbers coming out that appear that things are getting a little better: The unemployment rate is 5.8 percent. But if you're unemployed, it's 100 percent, and I'm worried about that.

The unexpected, obviously, was September the 11th, when evil people decided to attack America. I say "evil people" because I don't view this as a religious war. I view this as a struggle of good versus evil. And make no mistake about it, good will prevail.

We are making steady progress in the first theater on the war against terror. We have made it clear to people that we weren't going to allow the injustice done to America to stand, and that if anybody harbored these people or fed them or clothed them or tried to provide them help, they were just as guilty as the terrorists were.

These people are like parasites, and they find a host. And for those of you who ranch, you understand what a parasite can do to the host cow, for example; too many parasites weaken the host. What happened was, was that they became parasites in Afghanistan. But we weakened the host; the Taliban no longer is in power.

And as a result, this great nation should be proud of the fact that we led a coalition that liberated women and children, a coalition that brought down a government that was so incredibly repressive it's hard for those of us who live in America to understand. Some of my finest memories thus far of this war against terror was the joy that came on people's faces when they realized that the Taliban would no longer hold them hostage to an outdated, outmoded, dictatorial point of view.

I am so proud of our country. I'm proud of the fact that at the same time that we waged a war against Al Qaida and the Taliban, we fed the people. I read an important headline the other day that—it said it looked like we avoided a terrible disaster by providing food for thousands of people in Af-

ghanistan. While we dropped bombs, we also dropped food and medicine and clothing to make sure that the innocents in Afghanistan could survive the brutal winter in that part of the world. We're a great nation.

We're making steady progress, and I use the word "steady" because sometimes it seems like there is a certain impatience in the airwaves. But I don't believe there's an impatience amongst the American people. As a matter of fact, I think the American people are very patient. They understand this is a difficult assignment, and they understand, like I do, that we've got to be patient in order to be successful.

But we've accomplished a lot in 90 days. That's not a very long period of time. It's been a long period of time for Al Qaida—*[laughter]*—but it hasn't been a very long period of time for us.

The reason we've had—we've got a good strategy, and we've got a great military. For those of you who serve in our military or for those of you whose sons or daughters or relatives serve in the military, thank you.

But I do want to remind our fellow citizens that we're now in a dangerous phase of this war in Afghanistan, because those who are willing to send young people to their suicide death hide in caves, themselves, to save their own skin. And I told the world, just like I told the American people: You can hide, but we will smoke you out and bring you to justice.

I'm so sorry to report that Sergeant Nathan Chapman lost his life yesterday. But I wanted—I want Sergeant Chapman's family to know that the cause for which he died is just and noble, the cause of freedom and the hope that our children and grandchildren will be able to grow up in a world that is free of the barbaric behavior of terrorism.

We're on a mission, and we will not yield until the mission is complete. The war against terror is broader than just Afghanistan, and that is exactly what I have made clear to members of the vast coalition which we have put together. I said there are no shades of gray in this fight for civilization—there are no shades of gray. Either you're with the United States of America, or you're against the United States of America.

I'm sure there were some people who were anxious to sit on the fence for a while. But what they've come to realize is that this Nation, when aroused, is a mighty nation, a nation that, when we make up our mind we're going to do something, we're going to do it. We're going to shake terrorism loose wherever it exists and bring those to justice who have hurt America and bring those to justice who might hurt America.

Let me tell you that part of this war is overseas, but part of it is here at home. My biggest job as your President is to make sure no one harms the American people. My biggest job is to rally the resources of this country, and have a homeland defense that will take every lead, every idea, every hint that somebody may harm us and rout them out, and give them a chance to protect America, and give them a chance to make this land secure.

And if we find somebody who wants to harm America, who espouses the philosophy that's terrorist and bent, I can assure you we will bring that person to justice.

This Nation is on alert, and it should be, but one of the things we're not going to let the terrorists do is to cause us not to behave like Americans and enjoy our freedoms and enjoy our neighborhoods and enjoy travel and enjoy the great wonders of our country. They think they can shut us down; they've got the wrong country they're dealing with.

There is a new spirit in this country, and a unity that is so powerful and so real that even a fellow who is hermetically sealed in the White House can feel it. *[Laughter]* I am proud of the Nation.

And we should not respond one way abroad and have a different attitude about issues that face us at home. Here's what I think: I think it's time for Congress to focus on what's best for America, and not political parties. I believe we need to set priorities and get positive things done.

I'm getting ready to sign an education bill on Tuesday. My friends in Midland, Texas, will not believe it when they turn on C-SPAN or one of these other channels because I am going to stand up and say to the Nation: One, this is a good piece of legislation and, two, I want to thank Senator Ted Kennedy for working on it with me. He's done a fine

job. It shows what's possible when you set aside party—listen, I'm a proud party man, but I'm American first, and that's what we ought to be dealing with when it comes to legislation. And there are troubling signs that some in the Nation's Capital want to go back to the old ways, and I don't think we ought to let them do that. I think we ought to focus on what's good for the country.

And take the issue of the economy. Like yourselves, I'm deeply concerned about the fact that Oregon leads the country when it comes to unemployment, and we've got to do something about that. First, my principle is this: In tough times people need an unemployment check, but for the long term, what they need is a paycheck, and we've got to figure out how to get jobs going.

I think it's very important for us to extend unemployment benefits, including monies to help people pay for their health care, for those whose lives were affected on 9/11. I think it's very important for our country to do this. I know there is the will to get that done in Washington, DC. It makes sense that we help people.

I met with the people in the community college today, a chemical engineer and an electrical engineer who were reliant upon the high-tech world to make a living. They got laid off. They need these benefits so they can help themselves and be prepared when the economy recovers.

But any economic stimulus plan must also expand the job base. We ought to be asking ourselves, what does it take to increase more jobs so people can find work? And that starts with understanding that the biggest job creators in America are the small businesses and entrepreneurs of America.

I mentioned that last winter we got the indications that the economy was slowing down. And that's one of the reasons I fought so hard for tax relief. Because I understand that if the economy is growing down—slowing down, the best thing to do is to give people their own money back. The best thing to do is—because the Government doesn't create wealth, the Government creates an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish.

There is an amazing new kind of economic theory working its way through Washington,

and it said that tax relief causes recessions. [Laughter] I'm not exactly sure what economic book that came out of, but if you want to get your way out of a recession, you provide tax relief. The worst thing you can do—the worst thing you can do is raise taxes in a recession. And yet, some in Washington, DC, are talking about getting rid of the tax cuts. I can't think of anything worse for growing our economy. The answer to those who want to raise taxes is: No, you're not going to raise taxes.

Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or, perhaps, a limited partnership. And when you cut personal income taxes, you're really affecting the ability of small businesses to grow. The question we ought to ask is, how do you expand the job base?

I spent time with John and the people of his good company. I like the idea of providing incentives to encourage corporate America to make investments in capital which is equal to jobs eventually. We ought to have an economic stimulus package that says, let's create more jobs for the American people. And we ought to get on about the American people's business—put politics aside and come together and do what's right for this country.

We have the ingredients for a plan. There's a bill that came out of the House; there was one that could have come out of the Senate; the votes were there. And so I just hope some of the Senators that kind of stood in the way of getting an economic plan done listen to the people and hear the voices of the people and come back and do what's right for the country.

I'll tell you something about America: The people are the true strength of this country. And we can talk about Government all we want to talk about, but the thing that makes this country great is our people. I have been so proud of the American people. I love the stories that had to do with the aftermath of September the 11th. When they heard that women of cover, women of the Muslim faith, were worried about going outside their home because somebody might take severe action against them, Jewish women and Christian women in the suburb of Detroit called up on the phone and said, "We want to help you go to the store. We want to provide whatever comfort we can so you can go about

your lives." That's the America I know, and that's the America I love.

It's been an amazing event—series of events that have taken place. One of the most heartening things for me is to know that thousands of Americans are reassessing their values. Moms and dads are asking what they can do to be better parents—that, as a result of the evildoer, not only are we responding militarily and not only have we put this broad coalition together that says we'll rid the world of terror, but here at home people are saying, "Gosh, let me reassess my life." It's so important for moms and dads to know that the most important job they will ever have is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul.

I'm so pleased to report to you that the great fabric of the country, in terms of helping people, exists because of faith-based institutions, regardless of their religion; all across neighborhoods in America, that people are asking the question, "What can I do to help"; that the great mosaic of America is made up of the millions of acts of kindness which takes place every single day. September the 11th was an attack on our country, but it didn't affect our heart; it didn't affect our soul.

My great hope for the year 2002 is that people who want to work can find a job.

My hope is that our military is safe in their mission. I understand the war on terror is going to beyond probably 2002. I have no unrealistic aspirations about a calendar, a quick calendar.

But my true hope, as well, is that the great compassion of America and the value system that has made us so different and so unique continues to be vibrant and strong; that people, when they want to know how to help America, turn to a neighbor in need and say, "I want to help, to provide comfort for a child who may need a loving mentor," to say to somebody elderly on your block, "Gosh, I want to provide you company."

That's the great—that's my hope for the country, that our compassion continues to well up and that this great American experience continues to touch every possible heart. I pray for peace, I pray for prosperity, and I pray for the greatest land on the face of the Earth—America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the school's Aldo Rossi Field House. In his remarks, he referred to Katie Harman, Miss America 2002; Mayor Vera Katz of Portland; Charles J. Swindells, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand; John V. Harker, president and chief executive officer, InFocus Corp.; Representative Greg Walden of Oregon; and Sfc. Nathan Ross Chapman, USA, who was killed January 4 by hostile fire in Afghanistan.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Team and the Federal Reserve Board Chairman and an Exchange With Reporters

January 7, 2002

The President. I want to thank Chairman Greenspan for coming. He's here to offer his independent advice and counsel about the state of our economy. I want to thank my economic team for keeping me abreast of what we're learning during our Christmas break. I look forward to a substantive discussion about how to wisely put policy in place that will help this economy recover.

I'm—we're making good progress in winning the war in Afghanistan, and we've got to make good progress about helping people find work. The cornerstone of any good policy is going to be to take care of—help people help themselves, and take care of those who may have lost their job as a result of 9/11. But always remember, the most important thing for those who have lost their job is to be able to find work. And so the question I'm going to ask, and the question I hope Congress asks, is, how best to create jobs? What can you do to encourage economic growth so that people who want to work can find work?

I'm optimistic that 2002 is going to be a better year than 2001. And we will discuss ways here to make—to figure out how Government can make that happen. One thing I will do, after the course of these discussions and some discussions later on this week, will put in my budget an economic stimulus package.

And speaking of that, I hope that when Congress comes back they will have listened to their constituents and that Congress will realize that America, like me, is tired of par-

tisan bickering, that we ought to come together, we ought to unify around some sensible policy and not try to play politics with tax relief or, for that matter, economic stimulus packages.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

National Priorities and the Federal Budget

Q. Mr. President, can you increase funding for the military and homeland security without dipping into the Social Security and Medicare accounts? And Chairman Greenspan, if I could—

The President. Well, wait. I promised him that he could come. He's an independent soul, and he can have a press conference elsewhere. But one of the things we're not going to do is drag the Chairman into a press conference. Otherwise, he won't come back—[laughter]—to the White House.

Q. I'm sure he would—

The President. Well, you can find him at his place of business. Sorry to tell you how to do—it's a new year. [Laughter] I plan to be much more assertive with the press.

Q. [Inaudible]—going to ask him if he thought the recession was over, that's all.

The President. Okay. I said to the American people that this Nation might have to run deficits in time of war, in times of a national emergency, or in times of a recession. And we're still in all three. We had a national emergency; we're trying to win a war; and we're in a recession. So I have no problem figuring out ways to win the war, figuring out ways to protect the homeland—and those will be the priorities of my budget—and at the same time—and spending the money necessary to do both—and at the same time, recognizing that we may not balance the budget for this year.

It makes sense to spend money necessary to win the war; it makes sense to spend money necessary to protect the homeland. And we're in a recession. There are some talk about raising taxes. That would be a disaster, to raise taxes in the midst of a recession. Even—I think you'll find that to be—most economists agree with that point of view. Certainly, if they're fair about it, they will say that.

And so I—as I said out there, somebody must be reading a different kind of economics textbook here in Washington. And most of the people that I spoke to in California and Oregon understood that we shouldn't be raising taxes in a recession.

Yes.

Economic Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, given that there was real progress on a stimulus package in December—[inaudible]—will your package, your proposal take effect more quickly than the one you proposed in December? And in addition to that, do you think, in the meantime, further interest rate cuts might be a way to provide an immediate boost?

The President. Well, first in terms of monetary policy, I'll leave that in the hands of our Chairman, Chairman Greenspan. He's done a fabulous job in running the Federal Reserve. And for that, America should be grateful.

Secondly, we did make very good progress on an economic stimulus package. We had a bill come out of the House of Representatives, and there was a bill that could have passed the United States Senate. There was enough votes, had the bill been brought up on the floor, that it would have passed. It took good features from the Republican point of view; it took good features from the Democrat point of view. We brought it together and made a very good package. That's pretty darn good progress.

Except, along the way, there was an attitude that said, "Well, maybe we don't need a package." I happen to believe we do need one, and there was a good one that could have passed.

Stretch. I mean, Little Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]. [Laughter]

Q. Thank you for that. [Laughter]

The President. That's your new name, by the way.

Q. Oh, it is? Okay, good. Thank you.

The President. It's a new year.

Q. [Inaudible]—new year. Why does everything have to be so black and white? Is there not room to maybe phase in the tax cut in the out-years more slowly to protect the Government's bottom line—don't start laughing yet. And the second thing is, what

will you say as elements of a new stimulus package? Do you think there's a way to break this logjam?

The President. Well, first of all, the logjam was broken in December of this year. Republicans and Democrats realized it was time to act. We came together, and something would have passed the Senate. In terms of finding a solution that bridged good ideas from both parties, that's happened.

And your first question was, Little Stretch?

Taxes and Economic Recovery

Q. Why does it have to be so black and white on the issue of raising taxes? Couldn't you—

The President. Because a tax cut is part of the prescription for economic recovery. By reducing taxes at a time when our economy was slowing down, the Congress, working with the administration, did the absolute right thing to provide a stimulus. And to change in the midst of the phasing-in of the tax relief plan would send the absolute wrong signal to the economy. It would say we weren't real about it; we weren't serious about tax relief. Tax relief is a part of the economic recovery plan.

Listen, thank you all very much—yes, a couple more. It's a new spirit.

Q. Which one?

The President. You're after Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], I promise.

Situation in South Asia

Q. Does it appear that war now has been averted between India and Pakistan, and has Pakistan done enough to crack down on terrorists?

The President. I think it's very important for President Musharraf to make a clear statement to the world that he intends to crack down on terror. And I believe if he does that and continues to do what he's doing, it will provide the—it will provide relief, pressure relief, on a situation that's still serious. I don't believe the situation is defused yet. But I do believe there is a way to do so. And we're working hard to convince both the Indians and the Pakis there's a way to deal with their problems without going to war.

Secret Service Agent

Q. Mr. President, during the holidays you stood by your Secret Service agent. And American Airlines has come out with a new statement today saying that he was bitter and hostile. What are your thoughts about the situation with your Arab-American agent now as it pertains to him trying to—

The President. Well, I know there's an investigation going on, and I look forward to see the findings. But as I said, if he was mistreated because of his ethnicity, I'm going to be plenty hot—that means angry. And I know the man. I am most appreciative of his service to me and my wife. He is an honorable fellow. But I don't know enough about the details of this particular incident, but I know there's an investigation going on, and I look forward to seeing it. I would be surprised if he was hostile. But I wasn't there, so it's hard for me to comment on something which I did not see.

Listen, thank you all for giving me a chance to visit with you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Executive Order 13252—Exclusions From the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program

January 7, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7103(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and in order to exempt certain subdivisions of the Department of Justice from coverage under the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Determinations. The subdivisions of the Department of Justice set forth in section 2 of this order are hereby determined to have as a primary function intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work. It is further determined that chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, cannot be applied to these sub-

divisions in a manner consistent with national security requirements and considerations.

Sec. 2. Amendment of Executive Order 12171. Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by adding to the end of section 1–209 the following new subsections:

- “(c) United States Attorneys’ Offices.
- (d) Criminal Division.
- (e) INTERPOL—U.S. National Central Bureau.
- (f) National Drug Intelligence Center.
- (g) Office of Intelligence Policy and Review.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 7, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 10, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 11.

Remarks on Signing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in Hamilton, Ohio

January 8, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Okay. I know you all are anxious to get back to class. [Laughter] So please be seated. [Laughter] Thank you for such a warm welcome. It's great to be in the home of the Big Blue, Hamilton High School. I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank my friend the Governor of the great State of Ohio, Governor Taft, for being here. I want to thank Tracey Miller for being so hospitable. I want to thank all who have come to witness this historic moment.

For those of you who have studied the history of our Government, you know most bills are signed at the White House. But I decided to sign this bill in one of the most important places in America, a public school.

We've got large challenges here in America. There's no greater challenge than to make sure that every child—and all of us on this stage mean every child, not just a few

children—every single child, regardless of where they live, how they're raised, the income level of their family, every child receive a first-class education in America.

And as you know, we've got another challenge, and that's to protect America from evil ones. And I want to assure the seniors and juniors and sophomores here at Hamilton High School that the effort that this great country is engaged in, the effort to defend freedom and to defend our people, the effort to rout out terror wherever it exists, is noble and just and right, and your great country will prevail in this effort.

I long for peace. But I also understand that if we do not lead the world against terror, that your children and your grandchildren will not grow up in a society that is as free as the society we have today. Freedom is the precious gift that one generation can pass to the next. It is a gift and a promise that I intend to keep to the American children.

And we owe the children of America a good education. And today begins a new era, a new time in public education in our country. As of this hour, America's schools will be on a new path of reform and a new path of results.

Our schools will have higher expectations. We believe every child can learn. Our schools will have greater resources to help meet those goals. Parents will have more information about the schools and more say in how their children are educated. From this day forward, all students will have a better chance to learn, to excel, and to live out their dreams.

I want to thank the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, for being here and for his leadership. I asked Rod to join my administration because I wanted somebody who understood what it meant to run a school district in Washington, DC. I didn't need somebody that based his knowledge on theory; I wanted somebody who based his knowledge on experience. And Rod was a teacher, a school board member, and the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. He did a fine job there, and he's doing a fine job in Washington.

Reaching this moment has not been easy, as you could tell from Chairman Boehner's discussion. [Laughter] But we made it be-

cause of the willingness of four fine leaders to do what was right for America. We made it because proud Members of the House and the Senate, loyal to their parties, decided to set partisan politics aside and focus on what was right for America.

I want to thank George Miller. I call him Big George, *Jorge el Grande*. [Laughter] As John mentioned, George and I aren't from the same political ideology; except when I met with George in Austin, I could tell he shares the same passion I share for making sure that every child gets educated. And he, like me and others, realize that a system that simply shuffles children through the schools is a system that's going to leave people behind, and so we made up our minds right then and there to do something about it.

I appreciate so very much my friend Judd Gregg from the State of New Hampshire being here. He was my campaign manager in the New Hampshire primary. I still invited him to come with me. [Laughter] After here, we're going to New Hampshire. I look forward to singing Judd's praises because he is a solid, solid United States Senator, honest, full of integrity, and like the others here, he buckled down to do what was right for the children.

And then, of course, there's Senator Edward Kennedy. And the folks at the Crawford coffee shop—[laughter]—would be somewhat shocked when I told them I actually like the fellow. [Laughter] He is a fabulous United States Senator. When he's against you, it's tough; when he's with you, it is a great experience.

And I'm signing this bill here because it's the home of the chairman, John Boehner. John did a really good job. He shepherded the process. He made sure people showed up for the meetings. He was dogged in his determination to get this bill done. It would not have happened without his leadership. And all four of these Members up here need to be proud of the legacy they have left behind. This is a good bill for the American children, and I'm proud to sign it in their presence.

There are other Members of the Congress who are here, as well, and I want to thank them for coming. Senator Evan Bayh from the State of Indiana is here. Evan, thank you

for your leadership on education reform. Senator Mike DeWine of your State of Ohio, who helped author—who helped to author the safe and drug-free schools part of this bill, thank you for your leadership. Steve Chabot of Ohio, Van Hilleary of Tennessee, thank you both for coming, as well.

In that box is the bill. I don't intend to read it all. [*Laughter*] It's not exactly light reading. [*Laughter*] But if you were to read it all, you would find that it contains some very important principles that will help guide our public school system for the next decades.

First principle is accountability. Every school has a job to do, and that's to teach the basics and teach them well. If we want to make sure no child is left behind, every child must learn to read, and every child must learn to add and subtract. So in return for Federal dollars, we are asking States to design accountability systems to show parents and teachers whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract in grades three-through-eight.

The fundamental principle of this bill is that every child can learn, we expect every child to learn, and you must show us whether or not every child is learning. I read a quote one time from a young lady in New York. She said, "I don't ever remember taking an exam. They just kept passing me along. I ended up dropping out in the seventh grade. I basically felt nobody cared."

The story of children being just shuffled through the system is one of the saddest stories of America. "Let's just move them through." It's so much easier to move a child through than trying to figure out how to solve a child's problems. The first step to making sure that a child is not shuffled through is to test that child as to whether or not he or she can read and write or add and subtract.

The first way to solve a problem is to diagnose it. And so, what this bill says, it says every child can learn. And we want to know early, before it's too late, whether or not a child has a problem in learning. I understand taking tests aren't fun. Too bad. [*Laughter*] We need to know in America. We need to know whether or not children have got the basic education.

No longer is it acceptable to hide poor performance. No longer is it acceptable to keep results away from parents. One of the interesting things about this bill, it says that we're never going to give up on a school that's performing poorly, that when we find poor performance, a school will be given time and incentives and resources to correct their problems. A school will be given time to try other methodologies, perhaps other leadership, to make sure that people can succeed. If, however, schools don't perform, if, however, given the new resources, focused resources, they are unable to solve the problem of not educating their children, there must be real consequences. There must be a moment in which parents can say, "I've had enough of this school." Parents must be given real options in the face of failure in order to make sure reform is meaningful.

And so, therefore, this bill's second principle is, is that we trust parents to make the right decisions for their children. Any school that doesn't perform, any school that cannot catch up and do its job, a parent will have these options: a better public school, a tutor, or a charter school. We do not want children trapped in schools that will not change and will not teach.

The third principle of this bill is that we have got to trust the local folks on how to achieve standards, to meet the standards. In Washington, there's some smart people there, but the people who care most about the children in Hamilton are the citizens of Hamilton. The people who care most about the children in this school are the teachers and parents and school board members. And therefore, schools not only have the responsibility to improve; they now have the freedom to improve. The Federal Government will not micromanage how schools are run. We believe strongly—we believe strongly the best path to education reform is to trust the local people. And so the new role of the Federal Government is to set high standards, provide resources, hold people accountable, and liberate school districts to meet the standards.

I can't think of any better way to say to teachers, "We trust you." And first of all, we've got to thank all the teachers who are

here. I thank you for teaching. Yours is indeed a noble profession, and our society is better off because you decided to teach. And by saying we trust local folks, we're really saying we trust you. We trust you. We want you to have as much flexibility as possible to see to it that every child that walks in your classroom can succeed. So thank you for what you do.

And a fourth principle is that we're going to spend more money, more resources, but they'll be directed at methods that work, not feel-good methods, not sound-good methods, but methods that actually work, particularly when it comes to reading. We're going to spend more on our schools, and we're going to spend it more wisely.

If we've learned anything over the last generations, money alone doesn't make a good school. It certainly helps. But as John mentioned, we've spent billions of dollars with lousy results. So now it's time to spend billions of dollars and get good results.

As John mentioned, too many of our kids can't read. You know, a huge percentage of children in poverty can't read at grade level. That's not right in America. We're going to win the war overseas, and we need to win the war against illiteracy here at home, as well. And so this bill—so this bill focuses on reading. It sets a grand goal for the country: Our children will be reading by the third grade. That's not an impossible goal. It's a goal we must meet if we want every child to succeed. And so, therefore, we tripled the amount of Federal funding for scientifically based early reading programs.

We've got money in there to make sure teachers know how to teach what works. We've got money in there to help promote proven methods of instruction. There are no more excuses, as far as I'm concerned, about not teaching children how to read. We know what works, the money is now available, and it's up to each local district to make sure it happens. It's up to you, the citizens of Hamilton, to make sure no child is left behind. And the Federal Government can spend money, and we can help set standards, and we can insist upon accountability. But the truth of the matter is, our schools will flourish when citizens join in the noble cause of making sure no child is left behind.

This is the end of a legislative process. Signing this bill is the end of a long, long time of people sitting in rooms trying to hammer out differences. It's a great symbol of what is possible in Washington when good people come together to do what's right. But it's just the beginning of change. And now it's up to you, the local citizens of our great land, the compassionate, decent citizens of America, to stand up and demand high standards, and to demand that no child—not one single child in America—is left behind.

Thank you for letting us come. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the gymnasium at Hamilton High School. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio and Tracey Miller, principal, Hamilton High School. H.R. 1, approved January 8, was assigned Public Law No. 107-110.

Remarks at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire January 8, 2002

The President. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. Winter wouldn't just be right without a trip to New Hampshire. [Laughter] I've got some fond memories of your great State, candlepin bowling—[laughter]—sledding down hills—[laughter]—and the people. What a great State you've got. Governor, thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here.

Madam President, thank you for opening up the university. It's an honor to be on this campus. Sorry I don't have time to watch the hockey team play. [Laughter] They tell me they're pretty good. [Laughter] It's good to be with Bob Smith and John Sununu. Thank you both for being here, as well. I want to thank all the students who are here. My advice is, listen to your mother. [Laughter] I'm still listening to mine. [Laughter]

I do want to—like Judd, I want to thank those of the National Guard who are here, those who serve in the guard and those families of guardspeople who have been called up to active duty. I want to tell you that your families are engaged in a noble and just cause. We will not let terrorists stand.

You know, the enemy made a big mistake. They didn't understand America. They thought, because of our richness, that we were soft, that we didn't believe in anything, that we weren't willing to stand up for what we think is right. And they're paying a dear price for messing with America.

I want the youngsters here to understand that this war is really about your future, that we fight not to seek revenge, but we fight to protect America and freedom, a system that is so fair, so optimistic, and so just, that this Nation is making sacrifices so that your children and your grandchildren can grow up in peace. I long for peace. But so long as there is terror and evil that want to do harm to the American people, I will not relent, and I will not tire until we bring them to justice.

We have an important mission overseas, and we've got an important mission at home. And we must never lose sight of this mission, and that's to make sure every single child—every child—receives a first-class education. The hope of the future for this country is not only to make sure that we're secure and we're safe, but the true hope for the country is to make sure everybody gets a good education.

This morning I signed a significant piece of legislation, a major piece of reform, and I did so in John Boehner's district in Ohio. Most of the time, you sign a piece of legislation at the White House. I chose to sign it at one of our most precious assets that we have in America, and that was in a public school. I did so because I want the country to remember that we've got to battle illiteracy and hopelessness through quality education.

This was a significant work done by the Congress. My friend Judd Gregg had a lot to do with it, and that's why we've come to New Hampshire, to not only praise the legislation, but to praise his work. He's not a real chatty kind of guy. [*Laughter*] But when he talks, people actually pay attention. He did really good work, as did the other three leaders on this stage. I emphasize the word "leaders" because it would have been easy to quit on the process. It would have been easy to allow the process to dissipate into the same old, tired politics that dominates—sometimes dominate Washington. That's that atti-

tude that said, "I can't work with anybody of a different political party." Folks, this bill I signed today shows what can happen when good people get together. It is more important to focus on our children than political parties in the country.

Big George Miller out of California came to the——

Audience member. What about the dead Afghani children, Mr. Bush? What about the dead Afghani children?

Audience member. We love you, President Bush!

The President. Big George is out of California. He came to the Governor's Mansion to talk about public education when I was still the Governor—heading to Washington. You know, he's from the different side of the political aisle and, frankly, the ideological spectrum than I am. And yet, he shares the same passion I have, and that is that we can't allow any systems and schools to exist that simply shuffle children through—that every person matters. We decided right then and there, we're going to put aside our differences and see if we couldn't work together, and we did. John Boehner from Ohio, he and George used to battle occasionally because they let their party labels get in the way. But they did magnificent work on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And then, of course, some of the folks in Crawford coffee shop will be amazed to hear me say that I like Ted Kennedy. I will tell you this: If you have a legislative battle, you want him on your side; you don't want him against you. [*Laughter*] He made an enormous difference, as did Judd, in passing a piece of legislation that sets high standards and high expectations, one that provides greater resources, one that understands the role of parents in public education. This a good piece of legislation for which America should be proud.

I want to thank my friend Rod Paige for being here, as well. Rod is the Secretary of Education. He was the superintendent at the Houston Independent School District. I figured that anybody that could survive being superintendent of the Houston Independent School District can survive Washington. [*Laughter*] His job will be to make sure that the piece of legislation that I signed this

morning is implemented in the spirit of the legislation, the principles involved remain intact.

And I want to share those principles with you. I wish the bill were here. It's about this tall. *[Laughter]* I haven't read it all yet. *[Laughter]* In my line of work, they give you an executive briefing. *[Laughter]* But I know the principles involved in the bill, and I want to share some of those with you.

One of the key principles in this bill is that we must hold schools accountable for results. And so therefore, if you receive Federal money, in return for Federal money, the States—not the Federal Government—the States must develop a test for third-through-eighth graders on reading and math. For the first time at the Federal level, we've asked a simple question: Is our money being spent wisely? Are people learning?

I want to quote to you what a young girl said from New York City. She said, "I don't even remember taking exams. They just kept passing me along. I ended up dropping out in the seventh grade. I basically felt that nobody cared." You see, in some schools, it is so much easier to take a look at the classroom and say, "Let's just move them through." In some school districts in some parts of our country, it is so much easier to walk into a classroom full of kids who may not supposed to be able to learn, and say, "We're just going to move you along. We don't really care what you know." That day is going to end in America. Every child matters.

I'm sure there's somebody out there saying, "I don't like to take tests." Tough. *[Laughter]* We want to know; we need to know. We need to know whether a curriculum is working. We need to know whether the teachers, the methodology that teachers use is working. We need to know whether or not people are learning. And if they are, there will be hallelujahs all over the place. But if not, we intend to do something about it.

Now, we're going to say to failed schools, you've got some time to correct yourselves. You've got some time to take remedial action. Not only will you have time, but there will be incentives and additional resources for you to improve. In other words, when we find failure, we're going to do something

about it. We're going to take corrective action in society.

But if a school can't change, if a school can't show the parents and community leaders that they can teach the basics, something else has to take place. In order for there to be accountability, there has to be consequences. And the consequence in this bill is that after a period of time, if a parent is tired of their child being trapped into a failed school, that parent will have different options, public school choice, charter, and private tutoring.

One of Judd Gregg's contributions to this bill was, he advocated supplemental services and the resources to back them up. He basically said that parents whose children go to failed schools must be given different alternatives. These children must be given an opportunity to receive additional education if the status quo is unacceptable. And so, when we say no child is left behind, the cornerstone of that is accountability, coupled with consequences in the accountability system.

The third principle involved in this bill is, you've got to trust the local people to make the decisions for the schools. The people of New Hampshire understand how to run their school system. This bill passes power out of Washington and provides flexibility for the Governors who, in turn, I hope, provide flexibilities for the local districts.

Listen, we have the Teacher of the Year here, and I want to thank her, and I want to thank all the teachers who are in this auditorium. There is nothing more that expresses our confidence, that says more about our confidence in you, than saying, "We're going to give you all the power you need to make the right decisions for the classrooms in which you teach."

Local control, flexibility, less strings from Washington really means that parents and teachers and community activists must not be bystanders when it comes to making sure every child learns. It's really important.

A lot of people after 9/11 said, "What can I do to help in America? What can I do to make America a better place?" You can support your public schools. You can mentor a child. You can teach a child to read. You can make sure your child turns off their TV at night, so they can learn to read better. You

can make education the number one priority in your neighborhood.

And while we're waging war overseas, we're after illiteracy here at home. One of the most appalling statistics of our great land is the illiteracy rate amongst poor children. It's really high at the fourth grade level, and that's unacceptable. I think Chairman Boehner said about 70 percent of the fourth grade impoverished children can't read. If you can't read in the fourth grade, you're likely not to be able to read in the eighth grade. And if you can't read in the eighth, you're likely not be able to read in high school. And if you can't read in high school, you're likely to fall into a life that—a life of despair and hopelessness. And that's not right in America.

And so therefore, this bill pays attention to reading. It's got a lot of money in it to develop programs that work. I'm tired, and I know these congressional leaders are tired of putting money into programs that don't work. Well, in reading, we know what works. It's time to fund curriculum and teacher training programs and reading programs not based upon what sounds good or some theory but based upon what works, so that children can learn to read in America.

We are focusing on early reading initiatives, so that the country can achieve this goal: Every child be reading at grade level by the third grade. That's an achievable goal. It's one that's going to insist upon making sure we've got accountability standards, flexibility, resource—focusing our resources, and using the things that work, proven curriculum. But we can do that in America. We can achieve this objective. We can meet this goal. And when we do, America will be a much better place.

You know, after 9/11, a lot of us have taken a hard look at how we live our lives, you know, the meaning of life. And that's good for our country. It's been an incredibly positive experience for Americans to sit around their dinner table and moms and dads to take a look at their kids and say, "You know something, being a mom or dad is the most important job I'll ever have." It's been good for our country to—for people to go to their houses of worship and pray for guidance. It's been good for our country for people to say,

"Gosh, I want to fight terror by being kind to somebody else." And it's going to be good for our country, good for our country, when we as a nation focus on education again, focus on making sure our public education is the best school system in the entire world. That's what America is about.

It has been an honor for me to travel and to work with the four men on the stage who've made this bill possible. They have shown the country what can happen when good, honorable people set their minds on getting something done. They have shown that when you work with an administration, that when you set clear goals and you set aside all the bickering and you push aside all those on the fringes trying to tear down the process, that good people from both parties can achieve something strong for America. And that's exactly what we've done.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. in the Lundholm Gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire; Joan R. Leitzel, president, University of New Hampshire; and Nancy B. McIver, 2002 State Teacher of the Year for New Hampshire.

Remarks at Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts

January 8, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you, please. You know, I told the folks at the coffee shop in Crawford, Texas, that Ted Kennedy was all right. [*Laughter*] They nearly fell out. [*Laughter*] But he is. I've come to admire him. He's a smart, capable Senator. You want him on your side, I can tell you that. And as a result of his hard work, we put together a good piece of legislation that has put Republicans and Democrats on the side of the schoolchildren in America. And Senator, thank you very much for your leadership.

On September the 11th, my wife was heading to—was on Capitol Hill to testify in front of Senator Kennedy. And before she'd go testify in front of his committee, obviously the evildoers hit America. And I want to thank him publicly, in front of his home folks, for providing such comfort to Laura during

an incredibly tough time. Ironically enough, Judd Gregg was there, as well, and both those men went out of their way to put their arm around Laura and let her know all would be right. So, Mr. Senator, not only are you a good Senator; you're a good man.

Speaking about September the 11th, I want the young folks here to know that the mission we are on to rid the world of terror is a noble and just mission. I long for peace. But we learned a terrible lesson, and that lesson is we must rout out terror wherever it exists, in order for you and your children to grow up in a free and peaceful society. This Nation will not tire; we will not rest until we bring those who are willing to harm Americans to justice. And that's exactly what we intend to do.

We have a job to do overseas, and our military is performing brilliantly. For those of you who have got relatives in the military or those of you who are in the military, thank you from the bottom of our Nation's collective heart.

And we've got a job to do here at home, as well, and that's to make sure every child in America—every child—receives a good education.

Senator Kennedy and I, on the way in here, were talking about the Latin School. And I want to thank the headmistress Kelley for having us here. Thank you very much. After he had finished the litany of all the Kennedys that had gone to school here—[laughter]—we talked about the quality of education that the kids receive here. And the truth of the matter is, if you look at this bill that I signed this morning in Ohio, it says this is the way—this is Boston Latin all over again. This is what Boston Latin is about. It's about expecting high standards, understanding every child can learn, demanding the best, insisting upon hard work, rewarding success, solving failure. It is a great school, and I am grateful that I could come and herald the signing of an important piece of legislation here at this school. This is not only a testimony to Senator Ted Kennedy's hard work; it's a testimony to a fine public school. Thank you for having us.

I appreciate the Governor coming, and I know the Governor is committed to quality education, as well. Jane, thank you for being

here. I'm honored that members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation came. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come by and say hello. I appreciate so very much the mayor being here. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming; it's good to see you again. I want to thank all of you for coming. I particularly want to thank the students who are here.

I—you're seeing Government at its best with this piece of legislation. I know there's a lot of folks who look at Washington and say, "Can't they ever get along? All they do is argue. All they do is call each other names." But on this piece of legislation, on this important piece of legislation, we figured out how to put our parties aside and focus on what's right for the American children. We showed the country that, if we so desire, it is possible in Washington to say the Nation matters more than our political parties matter.

That was not as easy as it sounds. [Laughter] It took a lot of hard work, and it took the leadership of four fine Americans who are on this stage with me today. These four people decided they would rather see results than have empty rhetoric dominate the scene. These people said, "Look, we disagree on some issues, but why don't we figure out where we agree and get something done." And it was in that spirit that we crafted a great piece of legislation.

Big George Miller is out of California. He is—he might be considered left in Massachusetts. [Laughter] What do you think, Congressman? [Laughter] That's saying something. [Laughter] Before I went to Washington, I had a group of the gentlemen come down to Austin to talk about education reform, and George and I had a discussion about making sure that the systems did not simply shuffle children through, that we wanted to call a halt to what some call social promotion. I knew right then and there, when I heard his passion about focusing on each child, that there was a potential ally when it came to writing good legislation.

And then Boehner from Ohio showed up. He did a fabulous job, by the way. I signed the bill this morning in his district to really express my gratitude and the Nation's gratitude for his leadership on shepherding this

bill through the House of Representatives. Without John Boehner, without George Miller, this bill never would have made it throughout the House, and I want to thank them both from the bottom of my heart.

And then there's the Kennedy-Gregg alliance. *[Laughter]* It was amazing that it worked, but it did. And the truth of the matter is, the bill wouldn't have gotten out of the Senate had not Senator Kennedy and Judd Gregg put their minds to it. This bill could have easily have stalled. It was a convenient time for people to say, "Well, we'd better not move anything out of the Senate because there's a war." But Ted Kennedy and Judd Gregg went to their respective caucuses and demanded action. And as a result, the bill came to the Senate floor, passed overwhelmingly, and I had the honor of signing it this morning.

I wish you could have seen the piece of legislation. It's really tall. And I admit, I haven't read it yet. *[Laughter]* You'll be happy to hear I don't intend to. *[Laughter]* But I know the principles behind the bill, and I want to describe some of them to you.

First, this bill says that we will hold people accountable for results. It says, in return for receiving Federal money, States must design accountability systems to measure—to determine whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. In return for Federal money, the State of Massachusetts or the State of Texas or any other State in the Union must develop an accountability system to let us know whether children in grades three-through-eight are meeting standards. It basically says, every child can learn. And if they're not learning, we want to know early, before it is too late.

Now, I've heard them say, "Well, tests—we're testing too much." If you don't like to take a test, too bad, because we need to know. We need to know whether you're learning.

I read a quote from a little girl from New York the other day that touched my heart, and I hope it touches yours. She said, "I don't remember taking exams. They just kept passing me along. I ended up dropping out in the seventh grade. I basically felt no one cared." Well, she was—she's blowing the

whistle on what happens in some of our schools in America.

You see, sometimes it's easy to walk into a classroom and say, "Certain children can't learn. Therefore, let's just move them through. Let's don't test them. Let's just push them out at the end." And that's wrong in America. Every child matters; every child should be diagnosed on whether or not they can read and write and add and subtract. And if they can't, we need to correct their problems early, before it's too late. The cornerstone of reform is strong accountability measures, just like you do here in the State of Massachusetts.

Secondly, in order for reform to mean anything, there must be consequences. Something must happen if there's failure. Now in this bill, it says schools will be given time to correct. After posting the test scores and mailing out the report cards that show mediocrity or failure, schools will still be given a chance to correct the problems. And therefore, we provide incentives and resources to make sure that failing schools have got the opportunity to meet standards.

But if they don't, the consequence is that parents must be empowered to make different choices. We must not trap children in schools that will not teach and will not change. And so, therefore, this bill says parents in failed schools can send their children to another public school or charter school or be able to get tutoring for their children in either the public or private sector. It is important to free families from failure in public education, and that's what this bill does.

The third principle—it says that we trust the local people to make the right decisions for the schools. It says we trust the Governors and the school boards to design the path to excellence for every child. It says Washington has a role of providing money, and now Washington is demanding results. But Washington should not micromanage the process. And so, this bill provides a lot more flexibility for the local folks. In essence, it says the people of Boston care more about the children of Boston than people in Washington, DC.

Rod Paige understands that. The reason I picked Rod to become the Secretary of

Education is because he was the superintendent of schools in the Houston Independent School District. He knows what it means to run a school district. And when we implement this bill, I can assure you, Rod is going to make sure that the spirit of “no child is left behind” is a part of the regulations. But this bill says there—one size doesn’t fit all when it comes to public schools. It fosters change by pushing power to the lowest level, and that is at the local school districts, which should make the teachers in this audience feel good.

First of all, I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Yours is a noble profession, and thank you for taking on this tough job. But a system that devolves power says we’ve got to trust the teachers and principals to make the right decisions in the classrooms. And that’s what this bill says.

This bill also wages a battle against illiteracy. It recognizes that spending money is important, but you need to spend money effectively in order to make a difference. We’ve spent a lot of money in education—a lot. And a lot of it hasn’t made a difference. Well, one area where we’re going to make a difference from this point forward in America is in reading—teaching every child to read.

The numbers for inner-city kids or impoverished—kids from impoverished families—their ability to read, or the illiteracy rate—let me put it to you that way—is astounding. It is pitiful. It is not right for America that over 60 percent of the children in the fourth grade from impoverished families cannot read. If you can’t read in the fourth grade, you’re not going to read in the eighth grade. And if you can’t read in the eighth, you’re not going to read in high school. And if you can’t read, you’ve got a tough life ahead of you.

And we need to do something about it, America, and this bill does. It triples the amount of money for early reading programs, programs based upon the science of reading, not something that sounds good or feels good but something that works. There’s money for teacher training. There’s money for enhanced methodology. There’s money that says we’re going to stay focused until we

teach every child to read by the third grade in America.

So those are the principles of a good bill. The bill is not only good for education, but it’s a good go-by to show what can happen in Washington. And that’s why the five of us—or the six of us, including Rod Paige—have been traveling around the Nation today, heralding the success—the joint success—the success of people from both political parties in both Houses of Congress. It shows what is possible when people say, “I want to get something done.”

I know what’s possible when it comes to educating children. You’ve seen it here in your own State, how the numbers have improved dramatically. It starts with an attitude that says public education is crucial; every child can learn; and we must set high standards. And that’s what we’ve got to do in America, it seems like, all over the country.

After 9/11, a lot of people have asked, “What can I do to help? How can I make a difference in America?” Well, my advice is, first, love your children like you’ve never loved them before. Show them that they’re the most important people in the world. But a way you can help America is to mentor a child, to teach a child to read. You can make sure your kids turn off your TV and read. You can make sure that you support the public school in your neighborhood. You can make sure you thank a teacher. You can help by going into classrooms, to make a difference.

If you’re really interested in how to help fight terrorists, if you want to make sure that the terrorists aren’t able to affect the heart and soul of America, support your public schools. Insist upon the best; demand accountability, because every child in America can learn. And when they do, this country is going to be a heck of a lot better off.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:17 p.m. in the Roache Gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Cornelia A. Kelley, head master, Boston Latin School; Gov. Jane Swift of Massachusetts; and Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston.

Remarks on Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

January 9, 2002

Thank you all so very much for that warm welcome. It's really great to be here with so many men and women who have made education your life's work.

Yesterday I had the high honor of signing H.R. 1—the No Child Left Behind Act—which begins a new and hopeful era for American education. We're bringing new resources and higher standards to struggling schools. We're placing greater emphasis on the basics of reading and math. And we're giving parents better information and more say in how their sons and daughters are educated.

Two decades ago, experts looked at public education and saw "A Nation At Risk." A nation described at risk is now a nation on the road to reform.

I am so proud of what our administration and Members of Congress from both political parties have achieved. We have shown what is possible in Washington, DC. We have shown that if you put the Nation's interests ahead of political party, you can achieve mighty, mighty reform.

The House and the Senate passed education legislation by overwhelming margins. I signed the legislation into law. And now much of the real work begins. Now we must turn our principles into progress and progress into excellence and excellence into the lives of hope and achievement.

I want to thank Secretary Rod Paige and all who work at the Department of Education. America is getting to know that I picked a good man to be the Secretary of Education. The guy is down to Earth. He's got a lot of experience. He ran a huge school district in the State of Texas and brought excellence, the standard of excellence, into classrooms in Houston, Texas.

I want to thank three of the four members of our merry band of travelers. *[Laughter]* Yesterday we went around parts of our country together. It was my honor to travel with Miller and Boehner and Kennedy and Judd Gregg. I figure Judd got tired of hearing us, so he peeled off. *[Laughter]*

But I want to repeat some of the things I said yesterday. First of all, I know the folks in Crawford, Texas, won't believe this, but Ted Kennedy is an able, good man. *[Laughter]* This bill would not have happened had he decided not to work to make it happen. He put his mind to it. I learned this: You want him on your side in a legislative battle.

I also want to thank George Miller from the State of California. George is a proud liberal, but also he's a proud author of this bill. He cares deeply about a system that quits on its kids—he wants to change it. I like him so much, I gave him a nickname: Big George. *[Laughter]*

But I've enjoyed working with these two Democrats. They are a credit to their party but, more importantly, a credit to our country.

Yesterday I signed the bill in Chairman Boehner's district. *[Applause]* I knew Boehner had a big family; I didn't realize it was that big. *[Laughter]* I did so because John was a steady influence in the process; he kept the process moving forward, even in the face of 9/11. He said, "We've got to get a bill," and he worked hard to bring people together to get it done. Mr. Chairman, you did a fabulous job, and I thank you.

I want to thank the other Members of Congress who are here. Mike Castle is here from the State of Delaware; Van Hilleary from Tennessee; Johnny Isakson from Georgia; Tim Roemer from Indiana; Bobby Scott from Virginia; and a delegate from Puerto Rico, Delegate Anibal Acevedo-Vila. Thank you for all coming here today.

And then we're going to pass some of the power—as you know, you'll hear soon—out of Washington, and it's going to be up to the Governors to make things happen. And fortunately, we've got four fine Governors with us today: Roy Barnes of Georgia; Sila Calderon of Puerto Rico; Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; and my brother. Thank you all for coming.

Republicans and Democrats share the same basic commitments on education. We believe good public schools should not be islands of excellence. They should be found in every city and in every neighborhood in America. We believe that no child should

ever be written off, because every child is important, and every child can learn.

We believe education is a national priority and a local responsibility, that Washington should be giving our schools help, not giving them orders. We share these convictions, and we have acted on them. We have given new tools of reform to teachers and principals, local and State officials, and parents. Now we must finish the job.

We have a great task to complete, and everyone has responsibilities to meet. Those responsibilities begin in the classroom. The No Child Left Behind Act provides new training opportunities for teachers to develop their professional skills and their knowledge. The law gives incentives to hire and train teachers, and it backs up teachers who impose reasonable discipline in their classrooms. We want teachers in charge of their classrooms, not plaintiff's attorneys.

We're also putting more resources into the classroom. This year, the Federal Government will spend more than \$22 billion on elementary and secondary education, an increase of more than 25 percent over last year. Because of our commitment to assist low income students, we will increase spending on Title I by 18 percent. Because teachers are so important, we will increase spending on teacher training by 33 percent. And because reading is the gateway to all learning, we will more than triple Federal funding for early reading programs. We are willing to spend more for education, and we will spend it on what works.

In return for this commitment, my administration and the American people expect results. We expect every child to learn basic skills. We expect failing schools to be turned around. We expect teachers and principals to do their jobs well, to have a firm grasp on their subject matter, and to welcome measurement and accountability.

All who have chosen the noble profession of teaching should know this: We are counting on your energy and your imagination to make these reforms real for America's children. You have our confidence, and you'll have our support.

Local and State officials have responsibilities, as well. Yesterday, I mentioned, I went to Hamilton, Ohio. Then we went to Dur-

ham, New Hampshire, and Boston, Massachusetts. I was with parents and teachers who know the faces and names and needs of their own children. Local schools now have a mandate to reform, and we are giving them the freedom to reform.

It is the job of the local folks to chart the path for excellence for every single child in America, and we trust them to do so. As a result of this bill, local officials now have unprecedented flexibility to decide where to spend money and target reforms. We are increasing support and funding for research into teaching methods that work. And we will spend almost \$400 million to help States design and administer tests. In return, we expect States to set standards of basic knowledge and to make steady progress toward meeting those standards. Every student in grades three through eight will be tested in reading and math.

Every time I talk about testing, I sometimes see people wince—particularly, the students. They don't like to take tests. *[Laughter]* My attitude is, too bad. *[Laughter]* How can you correct problems if you do not diagnose the problem in the first place?

In order to make sure children are not simply shuffled through the system, we must measure. We must determine what needs to be corrected early, before it's too late. States must show us that overall student achievement is improving, and as importantly, they must show that the achievement gap between the disadvantaged students and other students is closing. And in particular, in grades three through eight, all school districts—I mean all school districts—must show that students can read and write effectively.

I expect most schools will rise to the challenge. I believe that. Some may not, and they must be held accountable. They will have time to improve; they will have incentives to improve; and they will have the resources to improve, as a result of this bill. And if they still do not improve, there are real consequences and new options for parents.

The local and State officials in charge of America's schools carry a great trust, and we really are counting on you all. You are the rising generation of reformers. You can serve

your community, and you can serve your country. Do not settle for mediocrity. Accept no excuses. Set high goals and raise them again and keep raising the standards. That is the task of leadership, and we trust you to take it on.

The success of these reforms also depends on parents. To be a mom or a dad is to be your child's first and most important teacher. So under this new law, parents will have the information they need to do what is best for their children. Parents will have access to an annual report card on school performance. And they'll have access to statewide results. They will know the qualifications of the teachers and their children's achievements in key subjects. If schools persistently fail their children, parents will have more options: a better public school, a charter school, or a tutor.

In return, we expect that parents will use this information. Parents need to pay attention to school performance. They should insist on results, and when necessary, they must be strong advocates for change. They should offer praise when they can and pressure when it's called for. If you're a parent, visit your child's school; get to know the teachers and principals; support the school; and demand excellence. And remember that every child should come to school ready to learn. Good manners and respect for teachers are learned at home. Good study habits are reinforced by mothers and fathers who are willing to switch off the TV set and turn off video games to make sure the homework gets done. As parents, you're entitled to expect a lot from schools and teachers, and schools and teachers are entitled to expect some things from you, as well.

This Nation has waited many years for major reform in education. We've now achieved it. And we're wasting no time in implementing it. Tonight Secretary Paige will meet with State education leaders on plans to put these reforms to work.

This is an hour of promise for America's public schools. My signature is now on the law, but it was the work of many hands. Together, we have overcome old arguments and outdated policies. And now, together, let us see these changes through until every school succeeds and no child is left behind.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:28 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Roy E. Barnes of Georgia; Gov. Sila M. Calderon of Puerto Rico; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Statement on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

January 9, 2002

On June 4, 2001, I joined the Governor of Florida in visiting the Everglades. The Everglades and the entire south Florida ecosystem are a unique national treasure. The restoration of this ecosystem is a priority for my administration, as well as for Governor Bush. Today we are very pleased to solidify our commitment and full partnership in this unprecedented endeavor by signing a joint agreement to ensure that adequate water supplies will be available to benefit State and federally owned natural resources.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The plan has a projected cost of \$7.8 billion over 30 years, the largest ecosystem restoration project ever undertaken. The plan establishes a unique 50/50 cost-sharing partnership between the State of Florida and the Federal Government.

A critical component of the plan relates to the supply and management of water for multiple uses in south Florida—restoration, municipal, agricultural, and flood control. The Congress determined that the overarching objective of the plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.

Because the Federal Government's primary interest is in restoration and protection of the federally owned natural resources in the State, the Congress called for the President and the Governor to agree formally that

the State would reserve under State law for each restoration project water sufficient to meet the needs of the south Florida ecosystem, including Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and other natural areas owned by the State and Federal Government. The reservation of water under State law will be included in the Project Implementation Report for each project and will be consistent with the plan.

My administration is deeply committed to the Federal/State Everglades partnership, and the Department of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers will have important roles in this effort. On January 16, 2001, Secretary of the Interior Norton will convene a meeting in Plantation, Florida, of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force comprised of representatives of Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal governments to discuss issues involving Everglades restoration including the recently released draft programmatic regulations by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Assurance of Project Benefits Agreement

January 9, 2002

Whereas, the Everglades ecological system is unique in the world and one of the Nation's great treasures;

Whereas, the Central and Southern Florida Project as originally authorized in 1948 has had unintended consequences on the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 authorized a Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) of the Central and Southern Florida Project;

Whereas, as required by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Restudy was submitted to the Congress of the United States on July 1, 1999;

Whereas, the Restudy, renamed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, was authorized by the Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000;

Whereas, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (the "Plan") will restore, preserve, and protect the more than 2.4 mil-

lion acres of the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, implementation of the Plan will require a collaborative effort among Federal and State partners, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, acting under Federal and State law, to achieve the shared goal of restoration of the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem;

Whereas, as the ecosystem is restored, all interests seek a level of assurance that they will receive the anticipated benefits from the Plan;

Whereas, the Federal interest in restoration flows largely from the substantial Federal resources in the ecosystem, including Everglades National Park and other National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Marine Sanctuaries, which comprise a significant portion of the natural system;

Whereas, in recognition of this interest, the Congress established that the overarching objective of the Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem, while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection;

Whereas, section 601(h)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (the "Act"), requires that the President of the United States and the Governor of Florida enter into a binding agreement that ensures that water from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will be made available for the restoration of the natural system;

Whereas, section 601(h)(3) of the Act further requires that the Secretary of the Army, with the concurrence of the Governor and the Secretary of the Interior, and in consultation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Commerce, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, promulgate programmatic regulations to ensure that the goals and the purposes of the Plan are achieved;

Whereas, section 601(h)(4)(A)(iii) of the Act requires that a Project Implementation Report (PIR) identify the amount of water to be reserved or allocated for the natural system under State law;

Whereas, section 601(h)(4)(B)(ii) of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Army shall not execute a Project Cooperation Agreement until any reservation or allocation of water for the natural system identified in the PIR is executed under State law;

Whereas, the State of Florida has the authority to reserve water for the natural system pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes;

The signatories to this agreement hereby affirm that:

As required by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, water made available by each project in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will not be permitted for a consumptive use or otherwise made unavailable by the State of Florida until such time as sufficient reservations of water for the restoration of the natural system are made by regulation or other appropriate means pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and in accordance with the project implementation report for the project and consistent with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

To effectuate this agreement, the Federal party agrees:

- To include within the President's budget submissions to the Congress requests for Federal appropriations in the amount the President deems necessary to implement the Federal share of the Plan's implementation;
- To initiate authorized project planning and design;
- To work with the State of Florida on developing information jointly to support the adaptive assessment component of the Plan;
- To use the planning process to supply information for both Federal and State legislative oversight requirements;

To effectuate this agreement, the State party agrees:

- To include within the Governor's budget submissions to the Legislature requests for State appropriations in the amount the Governor deems necessary to implement the State share of the Plan's implementation.
- To undertake reservations of water for the natural system upon completion of each PIR, and to ensure that reserva-

tions of water for the natural system will be consistent with information developed in the PIR, indicating appropriate timing, distribution, and flow requirements sufficient for the restoration of the natural system.

- To manage its water resource allocation process to ensure that water made available by each project in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will not be permitted for a consumptive use or otherwise made unavailable for restoration of the natural system, consistent with the PIR and the provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.
- To monitor and assess the continuing effectiveness of reservations as long as the project is authorized to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of the agreement as signed by the President and the Governor of Florida. An original was not available for verification of the content of this agreement.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Governor Jeb Bush of Florida

January 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. First, it's good to be at the old family reunion. *[Laughter]* I want to thank Marv and Doro for hosting this reception for our brother, my big little brother. *[Laughter]* I want to thank the chairman and the vice chairman of the Republican Party for being here. I want to thank the chairman of the Florida Party. I want to thank Al Cardenas, and I want to thank you all for coming.

These are serious times that face our Nation. And these serious times require serious leaders, and you're here to support a really good, serious man.

I was reminded about how serious the times are today when we lost a KC-135 refueler in Afghanistan. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the soldiers. But I want to remind them that the cause that we are now engaged in is just and noble. The cause is freedom, and this Nation will not rest until we've achieved our objective.

I have explained to the American people that we must be patient—and I'm proud to report the Americans are patient—that we're entering into a dangerous phase in our war against terror, that we've achieved a lot of objectives, thanks to a fabulous military, that we have routed out the government that was the host to the parasitical Al Qaida. And in so doing, this great Nation liberated women and children from one of the most repressive, evil regimes history has ever known.

My favorite scenes of this conflict have been the joy on the faces of Afghan women as our soldiers and our allies have swept into these villages where women were so incredibly repressed. It's hard for our country to imagine the brutality and the backwardness of the Taliban. They are no longer in power, thanks to the great United States of America.

Those who struck America think they can run and hide. It's interesting—I find it amazing that the Al Qaida leaders are more than willing to convince some of their brethren to commit suicide; yet they, themselves, hide in caves. [*Laughter*] And that's why this phase of the war is dangerous, because we're going to hunt them down. They think they can hide, but this patient Nation will do whatever it takes to bring them to justice. And when we do, the world will be better for it.

We have got a job to do here at home, and I appreciate working with Governor Bush on protecting our homeland. We've got a job to make sure that we take every threat seriously. And make no mistake about it, the enemy still wants to harm America. But what they don't realize is that this Nation is alert, and we're ready. And anytime we find any hint of anybody who will try to harm the innocents of our country, we will give them the chance to share information with us. [*Laughter*] We will bring them to justice, as well.

But the best homeland defense, of course, is to be successful overseas. We're in the first theater. But wherever terror exists, this great Nation will hunt it down. It's the calling of our time.

I appreciate so very much the spirit of unity here in Washington, DC, on this war. [*Laughter*] But we showed what's possible in Washington, what can happen in Wash-

ington, the last couple of days. I had the honor of traveling our country with George Miller of California, John Boehner of Ohio, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, and Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. I signed an education bill that is a really good piece of legislation. It's a good piece of legislation because it enables and empowers Governors like Jeb Bush of Florida to continue to strive for excellence for every child. And it's a good piece of legislation because it shows what's possible in Washington, DC. Political parties are important, but they're not nearly as important as doing the Nation's business. And making sure every child is educated is a heck of a lot more important than the political parties that make up our political system.

I've worked hard to change the tone in Washington, to focus on big matters, and to bring people together to achieve those matters. I hope that one of the legacies of my administration will be that results matter more than rhetoric and that, as we achieve results, it's important to share credit with people.

I joked with Ted Kennedy when I told him that the folks at the coffee shop in Crawford, Texas, will be amazed when they see me standing up there saying nice things about him. [*Laughter*] But I meant them. I meant them, because this bill never would have happened had he not made up his mind to help it happen.

And that's exactly the spirit that Jeb has taken to the governorship of Florida. You see, he, too, is a proud Republican, like me, but he also understands, children of Florida are more important than political parties. And he said he stole ideas from me; he didn't steal ideas from me. He had the idea of every child being educated ingrained deeply in his heart.

He is—today I signed an Everglades agreement with the State of Florida. It's legislation that passed prior to my time. My job then was to certify that the Floridians were honoring their obligation to make sure there was enough water to the Everglades park. That was easy to sign because I know that deeply ingrained in Jeb's heart is a desire to protect the natural beauty of the State of

Florida. He can also—he's a deeply compassionate man, but he's plenty tough. Just ask the crooks of Florida. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you all for making his campaign more viable. But what's going to make it really viable is that he is a man who's done in office what he said he would do. He speaks straight with the Florida voters; he tells them what he believes. He's not one of these kind of fellows that walks around with his finger in the sea breeze trying to figure out which way the political winds blow. He says what's on his mind, not based upon polls or focus groups, but based upon conviction. And there's no doubt in my mind that he is not only one of the great Governors of Florida's history; he's one of the great Governors of our Nation. And he deserves a second term.

We not only share a last name, but we share the fact we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] It's great to be here with Columba, as well. Both Jeb and Columba understand there's a calling when you hold a high office, that there's an awesome responsibility that comes with that office. And that's, first and foremost, to bring honor and dignity to the office. And that's exactly what this couple has done.

They may not agree with Jeb in Florida on every issue, but when they look at that office, when they look at the office of Governor of Florida, they know they've got a man there who will tell them the truth, a man who's there for the right reason, and a man who brings honor to the great State of Florida.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:19 p.m. in a ballroom at the Capitol Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Marvin Bush and Dorothy Koch, the President's brother and sister; Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, chairman, and Ann Wagner, cochairman, Republican National Committee; David Johnson, executive director, and Al Cardenas, State chairman, Republican Party of Florida; and Columba Bush, wife of Gov. Jeb Bush.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Team and an Exchange With Reporters

January 10, 2002

Pension Reform

The President. Thank you all for coming. I met with my economic security team last week to talk about ways to create jobs. We're meeting again with the components of the team to talk about one part of economic security, and that's pension security.

One of the things we're deeply concerned about is that there have been a wave of bankruptcies that have caused many workers to lose their pensions, and that's deeply troubling to me. And so I've asked the Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Labor, and Secretary of Commerce to convene a working group to analyze pensions, rules and regulations, to look into the effects of the current law on hard-working Americans, and to come up with recommendations how to reform the system to make sure that people are not exposed to losing their life savings as a result of a bankruptcy, for example.

As well, Secretary of Treasury, along with the SEC, the Fed, and the CFTC, are going to convene a working group to analyze corporate disclosure rules and regulations. In light of the most recent bankruptcy, Enron, there needs to be a full review of disclosure rules to make sure that the American stockholder or any stockholder is protected.

And so, I think this is an important part of, obviously, other investigations that are ongoing. The Justice Department announced and informed us late yesterday that they're in the process of investigating aspects of the Enron bankruptcy. The administration is deeply concerned about its effects on the economy. We're also deeply concerned about its effects on the lives of our citizenry.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Enron Corporation

Q. When was the last time you talked to either Mr. Lay or any other Enron official

about the—about anything? And did discussions involve the financial problems of the company?

The President. I have never discussed with Mr. Lay the financial problems of the company. The last time that I saw Mr. Lay was at my mother's fundraising event to—for literacy, in Houston. That would have been last spring. I do know that Mr. Lay came to the White House in—early in my administration along with, I think, 20 other business leaders to discuss the state of the economy. It was just kind of a general discussion. I have not met with him personally.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—to inoculate and your administration politically from the fallout?*

The President. Well, first of all, Ken Lay is a supporter. And I got to know Ken Lay when he was the head of the—what they call the Governor's Business Council in Texas. He was a supporter of Ann Richards in my run in 1994. And she had named him the head of the Governor's Business Council, and I decided to leave him in place, just for the sake of continuity. And that's when I first got to know Ken and worked with Ken, and he supported my candidacy.

This is—what anybody's going to find, if—is that this administration will fully investigate issues such as the Enron bankruptcy to make sure we can learn from the past and make sure that workers are protected.

Iran and Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, does it appear that Iran is flexing its muscles in western Afghanistan, and does that threaten the U.S. war on terrorism in that region?

The President. Well, first of all, Iran must be a contributor in the war against terror; that our Nation and our fight against terror will uphold the doctrine, "Either you're with us or against us," and any nation that thwarts our ability to rout terror out where it exists will be held to account, one way or the other.

I hope—we had some positive signals early—early in this war from the Iranians. We would hope that they would continue to be a positive force in helping us bring people to justice. We would hope, for example, they wouldn't allow Al Qaida murderers to hide in their country. We would hope that if that be the case, if someone tries to flee into Iran,

that they would hand them over to us, that they're a part of—if they're a part of the coalition, then they need to be an active part of the coalition.

In terms of Afghanistan, we are—we would like to work with the Iranians, as well as other neighboring countries, to bring a stable interim government—to stabilize the interim government. And to the extent that they're involved, we would hope that they would participate. If they are trying—if they in any way, shape, or form try to destabilize the government, the coalition will be—we'll deal with them, in diplomatic ways initially. And we would like very much for them to be active participants in a stable Afghanistan. It's to their advantage, by the way, that Afghanistan be stable.

Middle East Arms Shipment

Q. Mr. President, based on the evidence the Israeli delegation presented at the State Department yesterday, about this arms shipment, do you believe that it's time for the United States to either break or suspend relations with Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority?

The President. John [John King, Cable News Network], I think it's very important for our administration to remain engaged with both parties. Obviously, I want to make sure that the evidence is definitive. But I'm, like many, beginning to suspect that those arms were headed in the wrong—to promote terror. And terror will never enable us to achieve peace in the Middle East. So long as there's terrorists trying to disrupt the peace process, there won't be peace.

I do believe that once the evidence is in, that those responsible need to be held to account. On the other hand, I also believe that our country must stay engaged in the process. I intend to ask Zinni to go back to the region at the appropriate time, to keep pushing for a dialog, to keep pushing for the process to go forward.

Mr. Arafat must renounce terror, must reject those who would disrupt the peace process through terror, and must work hard to get to the peace table. It seems like it's up to him to make these decisions.

Q. But has he been less than truthful in speaking to Secretary Powell, General Zinni,

and others, in saying he had nothing to do with this and no knowledge of it?

The President. We will find out the facts, John. But he is—you asked a question, should we basically disengage? And the answer is no, we won't disengage from the Middle East. We will stay involved in the Middle East peace process—or trying to get to the peace process. And it starts with making the region more secure. Mr. Arafat must renounce terror and must reject those in the region that would disrupt the peace process by the use of terrorist means.

Pension Reform

Q. What can you do about pensioners—what can you do about pensioners now? Isn't that horse already out of the barn at Enron?

The President. Our group is meeting, and they will bring recommendations here. They'll look at—fully investigate what went on. My concern, of course, is for the shareholders of Enron. But my—I have great concern for the stories—for those I read about in the stories who put their life savings aside and for whatever reason, based upon some rule or regulation, got trapped in this awful bankruptcy and have lost life savings. And one of the things this group is going to do is take a good, hard look at it.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:42 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kenneth L. Lay, chairman and chief executive officer, Enron Corp.; former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002, in Arlington, Virginia

January 10, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. At ease. [Laughter] I always love being intro-

duced by a matinee television idol. [Laughter] Who would have thought it? [Laughter]

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Not my wife.

The President. Only his mother. [Laughter] Thanks so much, Mr. Secretary. He's doing a fabulous job.

Secretary Rumsfeld. Thank you.

The President. He really is. And so are the men and women who work in this building, and the men and women who wear the uniform. We're really proud of you.

I'm honored to sign this bill because the Nation owes the men and women of the military our full measure of respect and our full measure of support. We owe you decent pay and a decent quality of life. We owe you the best leadership and training. We owe you the best equipment and weaponry. We owe you, our service men and women, our best, because we owe you our freedom.

This bill, which includes both this year's defense appropriations and emergency supplemental spending, keeps the commitment to our military and keeps the commitments of our country. It was passed with bipartisan support in the Congress. It will be implemented by this fine Secretary, and a fine Deputy Secretary in Paul Wolfowitz.

As Commander in Chief, I'm really proud to sign this bill here in the Pentagon. It shows that at an hour when freedom is under attack, America is steady and standing tall in freedom's defense. I too want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here, particularly Chairman Bill Young. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for coming. Senator Dorgan, I appreciate you being here, sir. Rodney, thank you for coming, and Jim and George. I guess you're supposed to be formal with the Senate and informal with the House. But thank you all for taking time to be here. It's a kind gesture for you to come.

I also want to thank the members of the Joint Chiefs and the leadership of our military who are on the stage with me here. Dick Myers is doing a fabulous job. He is steady; he is strong. He sends such an important signal throughout our military that we mean business, we're a no-nonsense group of people who have got one thing in mind, and that is victory.

I remember talking about our plans with the Secretary and others in my administration. And as we set our plans, there was no question that our military was ready. The Secretary made that clear; Dick Myers made that clear; Hugh Shelton made that clear. And since September the 11th, the skill, the daring, and the courage of our men and women in uniform is now clear to all. It's clear to your fellow Americans, and it's clear to those who try to hide in caves.

We have liberated a nation from oppression, and we've saved many people from starvation. I like to remind my fellow Americans there is nothing more joyous to my heart than to see our military liberate women who have lived under the most oppressive regime in the history of mankind. This cause is noble, and this cause is just. And we will stay on this cause until we have achieved our objective. You're delivering justice—not revenge but justice—to agents of terror. And you're making this Nation proud.

America recently has been reminded that in our quest to defend freedom—and really in our quest to save civilization—there are enormous sacrifices, and no more greater sacrifice than loss of life. And like the Secretary, I extend my prayers and sympathies to the moms and dads and the wives and sons and daughters of those who have lost their life. But as I told the young lady the other day when I called her, whose husband had died, I said, "Please tell your children that he died for a just cause." Sacrifices are made willingly by volunteers. And having traveled our Nation a little bit, I can assure you, you're in the midst of a grateful people.

In our global campaign against global terror, our military must have every resource, every tool, every weapon, and every advantage you need for the missions to come.

The bill I'm about to sign makes a down-payment on an essential commitment: We will give our forces everything they need to defeat global terror. Overall, this year's defense bill provides nearly 30 billion more than the amount enacted for the fiscal year 2001. The emergency supplemental measure provides another 3.5 billion on top of that.

Yet, even more important than these numbers are the priorities they represent. First of all, the bill contains funding for pay in-

creases of up to 15 percent for service members, with an average increase of 6.9 percent. The bill reduces out-of-pocket housing costs from 15 percent to 11 percent and puts us on a track towards eliminating this burden altogether by the year 2005. In addition, the bill also fully funds the health care of active duty members and their families and provides 3.9 billion for health care benefits for military retirees over 65 and their families.

We can never pay our men and women in uniform on a scale that matches the magnitude of their sacrifice. But this bill reflects our respect for your selfless service.

Today, more than ever, we also owe those in uniform the resources they need to maintain a very high state of readiness. Our enemies rely upon surprise and deception. They used to rely upon the fact that they thought we were soft. I don't think they think that way anymore.

Our forces must be ready to deploy to any point on the globe on short notice. This bill increases operation and maintenance by over \$8 billion. This Nation must have and will have ready forces that can bring victory to our country and safety to our people.

The world's best soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines also deserve the world's best weaponry. To ensure that, our Nation must invest in procurement accounts. This defense bill contains about \$61 billion for procurement. This Nation must give our military the weapons it needs to meet the threats of our future. If the war against terror means that we must find terror wherever it exists and pull it out by its roots and bring people to justice, our military must have the means to achieve the objective.

This bill is just the beginning to make sure that that happens. Our Nation must also look even farther into the future, so that the next generations of weaponry take advantage of our Nation's decisive technological edge. That's why I'm pleased to see that this year's defense bill contains almost \$50 billion for research and development, including nearly \$8 billion for missile defense.

My administration is committed to transforming our forces, with innovative doctrine and strategy and weaponry. This will allow us to revolutionize the battlefield of the future and to keep the peace by defining war

on our terms. It's a great goal, and it's a great opportunity, one granted to few nations in history. And with the leadership of the Secretary, we will seize this opportunity.

And finally, I'm pleased that the emergency supplemental funding in this bill is going to allow us to meet some of our urgent priorities. In addition to the 3.5 billion to help prosecute the war on terror, the bill contains 8.2 billion to help New York, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania recover from the attacks by the evil ones. It also devotes an additional 8.4 billion to homeland security.

We're working hard to make sure that our homeland is secure. But the best way to secure America's future is to bring the terrorists to justice and to say to those who think they can hide them, "You, too, are just as guilty as the murderers if you think you can hide them and provide them aid and provide them comfort." We will build the security of America by fighting our enemies abroad and protecting our folks here at home. And we are committed, this administration, and the Congress is committed to these most important goals.

These are good bills that will help America in time of need. And I appreciate the spirit on Capitol Hill that led to its passage. I look forward to working with the Congress as we build our Nation's strength and security. I look forward to working for next year's budget, with the priorities of winning this war and defending our homeland. I'm confident that the spirit that prevailed in late fall will spill over into this year, as we continue to remember the great goals that face this Nation.

It is now my honor, in the heart, in the headquarters of the greatest military in the world, to sign the Department of Defense and emergency supplemental appropriations act. Thank you all for your hospitality. Stay on course. Find the enemy. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. in the auditorium, room 5A1070, at the Pentagon. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Rodney P. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, James P. Moran of Virginia, and George R. Nethercutt, Jr., of Washington; and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA (Ret.), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. H.R. 3338, approved January 10, was assigned Public Law No. 107-117.

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002

January 10, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3338, the "Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002," which provides \$317.2 billion for national security programs administered by the Department of Defense. It also provides \$20 billion in emergency supplemental funding for the consequences of the September 11th attacks, including \$3.5 billion for the Department of Defense that is urgently needed to prosecute the war on terrorism. The Act provides appropriations for the Nation's defense and supplemental appropriations for many agencies for recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States. In particular, the Act provides the resources needed to continue the war against global terrorism, pursue an effective missile defense, properly support members of the Armed Forces and their families, and begin to transform our Armed Forces to meet the military requirements of the 21st century.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by the agreed-upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion and the agreed-upon level enacted in Public Law 107-38, the "2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to the Terrorists Attacks on the United States" that occurred on September 11, 2001.

Public Law 107-38—legislation crafted and enacted with strong bipartisan cooperation—provided a total of \$40 billion in emergency funding to the Emergency Response Fund. The \$40 billion in emergency expenses was provided to assist victims of the attacks and to deal with other consequences of the attacks, including the costs of: (1) providing Federal, State, and local preparedness for mitigating and responding to the attacks; (2)

providing support to counter, investigate, or prosecute domestic or international terrorism; (3) providing increased transportation security; (4) repairing public facilities and transportation systems damaged by the attacks; and (5) supporting national security. As required by Public Law 107-38, I designated the entire \$40 billion as an emergency funding requirement. To date, my Administration has transferred \$19.7 billion of the first \$20 billion, which was made available to agencies, without requiring any further congressional action, to address the immediate needs and consequences of the attacks.

The second \$20 billion provided in this Act will continue those efforts. The funds in this Act include: \$3.5 billion for Department of Defense operations; \$8.2 billion for New York, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania, to help those areas recover from the terrorist attacks; and \$8.4 billion for homeland security activities. I am proud that we worked together with such bipartisan spirit in the weeks following the despicable attacks on our Nation. My Administration will work together with the Congress to address additional needs as they become known during the second session of the 107th Congress.

The Act funds the vast majority of my request for critical pay raises and other quality of life programs. It supports my commitment to improving the quality of life of our military personnel and their families by including pay raises of 5 to 15 percent. The Act also funds many of my modernization priorities, including conversion of Trident submarines to submarines that can carry cruise missiles. However, because it provides approximately \$2 billion less than requested, the Act does not adequately fund all my critical priorities, specifically the readiness of our forces. The \$2 billion reduction is largely achieved by cuts to operation and maintenance programs. While a small portion of that reduction is offset in dollar terms by congressional increases, those increases are for programs of a much lower priority. As a result, these cuts will place our military forces in the all too familiar predicament of having to choose either to sacrifice near-term readiness or to forego critical repair of family housing, defer impor-

tant depot maintenance of our weapon systems, and reduce base operations.

Section 8007 of the Act prohibits use of funds to initiate a special access program until 30 calendar days of congressional session have elapsed after the executive branch has notified the congressional defense committees of initiation of the program. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the President's authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although 30-day advance notice can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must promptly establish special access controls on classified national security information under his constitutional grants of the executive power and authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. The executive branch shall construe section 8007 in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

Section 8072 of the Act provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2002 may be used to transfer defense articles or services, other than intelligence services, to another nation or international organization for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations, until 15 days after the executive branch notifies six committees of Congress of the planned transfer. The provision does not affect transfers using funds available to the Department of Defense if the recipient is other than a nation or an international organization or if the transfer is of intelligence services, such as provision of or accommodation procurements for imagery intelligence, geospatial information, or cryptological support. The provision also does not affect transfers of defense articles or services using funds contained in the Act that are available to the Central Intelligence Agency rather than the Department of Defense. To the extent that protection of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations might require action of a

kind covered by section 8072 sooner than 15 days after notification, section 8072 shall be construed in a manner consistent with my constitutional duty as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Provisos in section 8098 of the Act purport to limit during fiscal year 2002 the number of Department of Defense military and civilian personnel assigned to legislative affairs or legislative liaison functions and to mandate the percentage distribution of such personnel among various offices of the Department. While limitation of the number of Department of Defense personnel assigned to legislative affairs and legislative liaison functions is a laudable goal, the executive branch shall construe section 8098 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the executive branch and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. In particular, section 8098 cannot constitutionally restrict the authority of the President to control the activities of members of the armed forces, including whether and how many members of the Armed Forces assigned to the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the combatant commands, or any other element of the Department of Defense shall perform legislative affairs or legislative liaison functions.

Section 8173 prohibits the use of appropriated funds for assistance or other support to the International Criminal Court (ICC). While section 8173 clearly reflects that the Congress agrees with my Administration that it is not in the interests of the United States to become a party to the ICC treaty, I must note that this provision must be applied consistent with my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs, which, among other things, will enable me to take actions to protect U.S. nationals from the purported jurisdiction of the treaty.

Sections 911 and 912 in Division B of the Act provide for assistance by executive departments and agencies, including the Armed Forces, to the U.S. Capitol Police in the performance of its duties. Safeguarding the Congress and its ability to carry out its constitutional role is vital to the continuity of our constitutional Government, and the executive branch will assist as needed and appropriate. In carrying out these sections, it is

important to ensure proper respect for the separate constitutional roles and authorities of the executive and legislative branches. With the aim of ensuring that respect within the executive branch, the Attorney General shall serve as the single point of contact within the executive branch for requests from the legislative branch, including the U.S. Capitol Police, for assistance under sections 911 and 912, and the District of Columbia National Guard and Federal law enforcement authorities shall enter into an agreement under section 912 only with the prior approval of the Attorney General.

Section 208 of Division B makes a technical correction to subsection 626(c) of Public Law 107-77 (the FY 2002 Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act), but does nothing to alter the effect of that provision or any other provision of law. Since the enactment of subsection 626(c) and consistent with it, the executive branch has encouraged the courts to act, and will continue to encourage the courts to act, in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Algiers Accords that achieved the release of U.S. hostages in 1981.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 10, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3338, approved January 10, was assigned Public Law No. 107-117.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Constandinos Simitis of Greece

January 10, 2002

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Listen, we're so honored you're here. Thank you so much for coming to America. There is a huge number of Greek-Americans who live in our country who have still got great fondness for their—for your country.

I am most appreciative, sir, of your strong stand against terror. You have been a friend in our mutual concerns about routing out terror around the world, and I want to thank you for that very much.

I'm also very appreciative of your administration's working with Turkey. Relations have improved with Turkey, and as a result, the world is better off. And I want to thank you for your vision, for your foreign ministry's hard work to do what is right for the world, to make the world more peaceful.

We've got a lot in common with your country; we've got a lot of interests in common. I look forward to discussing those with you. I also look forward to the Olympics. Thank you for your invitation. It's going to be a magnificent moment for the sporting world to have the Olympics return to Athens. I'm confident your country will do a fine job.

So welcome to the White House; we're so glad you're here.

Prime Minister Simitis. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm so very glad to be here and have the possibility to discuss with you the problems—the subjects are interesting for us.

We are totally committed to the fight against international terrorism. And as you know, we take part in the Afghanistan effort. We will be part also in the international peace corps in Afghanistan. And I think it's necessary to cooperate in order to fight terrorism all over the world, because there are also, for example, in the Balkans, group terrorists, groups in all the Balkan countries, and we think that this must be controlled.

Thank you also for your appreciation for our effort concerning the Greek-Turkish relations. We make—we want more peace and stability in the region, and this is our main principle, how—apply international laws that we have a southeastern Europe that is really peaceful.

As you know, I showed you the coins of the new euro.

President Bush. Yes.

Prime Minister Simitis. This means—this means a big banking change for Europe, because the whole environment will change. There will be a new feeling about the possibilities of Europe, and there will be new discussions on the new European structures, on the necessity of new cooperation, and also of the necessity, I hope, of a closer cooperation with the United States in order to solve the common problems.

So this is a new era, and I'm very glad to be here to greet the new year.

President Bush. Well, thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Welcome.

Thank you, all.

Q. You don't want to take a question?

President Bush. I took them all this morning; you just were in the wrong pool.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002

January 10, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2506, the "Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002." The Act provides the funds needed to support U.S. foreign policy objectives abroad and reflects the restraint on spending that has been a key goal of my Administration.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion. The Act will provide \$15.4 billion, largely along the lines of my request, and includes essential funding to support America's war on terrorism. The Act supports such key Administration initiatives as the campaign against HIV/AIDS, with up to \$100 million available for the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis and an additional \$100 million is also provided by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

I also welcome the additional flexibility that the Act provides through the reduction in earmarks and added waiver authorities, including the changes to the annual counter-narcotics certification process and the waiver provision allowing me the flexibility to provide additional assistance to Azerbaijan. This flexibility will allow my Administration to meet the diplomatic requirements stemming from the September 11th attacks, as well as

to continue to address the ever-changing foreign policy challenges we face.

The Act does not interfere with our policies regarding bilateral international family planning assistance, and ensures that U.S. funds are not made available to organizations supporting or participating in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. The Act provides additional discretion to determine the appropriate level of funding for the United Nations Population Fund.

Several provisions of the Act purport to direct or burden the conduct of negotiations by the executive branch with foreign governments, international organizations, or other entities abroad, or otherwise interfere with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs. These include sections 514, 560, and 581(a), and the appropriations heading related to the International Development Association, which purport to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to require the U.S. representatives to take particular positions for the United States in international organizations or require the Secretary to accord priority to a particular objective in negotiations with such an organization. Another such provision is section 567(b), which purports to direct the Secretary of State to consult certain international organizations in determining the state of events abroad. These provisions shall be construed consistent with my constitutional authorities to conduct foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the executive branch.

Section 573 of the Act calls for the Department of State to provide regular and detailed briefings to congressional committees on any discussions between the executive branch and a particular government abroad on any potential purchase of defense articles or defense services by that government. This provision shall be construed as advisory only, given the constitutional powers of the President to supervise the executive branch and to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, which includes the authority to determine what information about international negotiations may, in the public interest, be made available to the Congress and when such disclosure should occur. The Secretary of State will,

however, as a matter of comity between the executive and legislative branches, keep the Congress appropriately informed of the matters addressed by section 573.

Finally, section 577 requires that the President direct executive agencies possessing information relevant to specified deaths abroad to declassify and release that information. I will direct the Attorney General to coordinate the implementation of this section within the executive branch, so as to produce the requested information in a manner consistent with my constitutional and statutory responsibilities to protect various kinds of sensitive information.

Many provisions of the Act make funds available for particular purposes subject to, in accordance with, or under "the regular notification procedures of the Committee on Appropriations." The executive branch shall construe the reference to the "regular notification procedures" to be a reference to the procedures in section 515 of the Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 10, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2506, approved January 10, was assigned Public Law No. 107-115.

**Statement on Signing the
Departments of Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 2002**

January 10, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3061, the "Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002." The legislation provides funding for key domestic programs, including the important education initiatives that have been a top priority of my Administration.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed-upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with:

- \$10.4 billion for title I grants to close the achievement gap between rich and poor students;
- \$1 billion for Reading First and Early Reading First to help schools meet the goal of ensuring that all students can read fluently by third grade;
- \$2.9 billion for State grants for improving teacher quality;
- \$7.5 billion for State Grants for Special Education, an increase of \$1.2 billion over FY 2001;
- \$23.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health to support biomedical research to help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability;
- full funding for the Consolidated Health Centers to provide quality health care to millions of uninsured and underserved Americans;
- additional resources for Drug Abuse Treatment services to help narrow the treatment gap between those in need of treatment and those with access to it; and
- full funding for Global HIV/AIDS activities to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in developing countries, including a further U.S. contribution to the global trust fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

While I am supportive of the overall bill, I have strong concerns that this bill creates a serious fiscal problem for 2002 by underfunding the Pell Grant program, which provides critical financial assistance to low-income students seeking higher education. The bill mandates a Pell Grant maximum award of \$4,000, but provides only enough funding to pay for a maximum award of \$3,600, creating a shortfall of nearly \$1.3 billion. The Congress disregarded my requests to provide resources for the Pell Grant program commensurate with the maximum award. My Administration will ask the Congress to correct this shortfall in the FY 2003 Budget. I am committed to maintaining a strong Pell Grant program that ensures qualified students have access to college, and budgeting responsibly for its full costs.

I am pleased that the final version of the bill retains the prohibition against research in which human embryos are destroyed, and

reinforces my determination on August 9, 2001, to support federally funded stem cell research in an ethical manner.

I am also pleased that the final version of the bill retains current law regarding funding for needle exchange programs.

The first proviso of section 207 of the Act purports to make certain transfers between appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services subject to approval by the congressional appropriations committees. Under the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in *INS v. Chadha*, the Congress cannot by law make transfers of appropriations subject to the approval of committees of the Congress. At the same time, the intention of the Congress that the executive branch have flexibility to transfer funds among appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services is plain from the language of the Act. Accordingly, the executive branch shall treat the portion of the proviso of section 207 that purports to provide for congressional committee approval of transfers as having no force and severable from the remainder of the proviso of section 207 and the Act.

Also, section 217, addressing the Acting Director of NIH, and section 622, amending the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997, shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the Appointments Clause of the Constitution.

Several provisions of the Act purport to make funding available for particular projects “in the amounts specified in the statement of the managers on the conference report accompanying this Act.” Although specifications of projects and amounts in a statement of managers cannot satisfy the constitutional requirements of bicameral approval and presentment to the President needed to give them the force of law, my Administration will treat these specifications in a manner reflecting the comity between the executive and legislative branches on such matters.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 10, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3061, approved January 10, was assigned Public Law No. 107–116.

Remarks on Signing the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania

January 11, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It's great to be back here in Pennsylvania.

I'm glad to be traveling with one of the most effective members of my Cabinet, the former Governor of New Jersey, now the Administrator of the EPA, Christie Todd Whitman. America is getting to know what people in this part of the world understand, that she is an able Administrator, a fine person, a person who cares deeply about the environment and our country. And she's going to go down as one of the best selections I have made in my Cabinet. So Christie Todd, thank you for coming, and thank you for your leadership.

I want to thank you all for coming. When I saw the family over there, it reminded me that we have more responsibilities than just those on the war. And that is, we've got a responsibility of making sure every child is educated and that the environment in which our children grow up is healthy and clean.

I'm here to sign this bill, and it's a very important piece of legislation. It's a great accomplishment. And I do so in Pennsylvania because your State has been on the forefront of brownfield legislation, thanks to now the—in part, to the Director of our homeland security effort, Governor Tom Ridge.

I want to share with you, just right quick, my attitudes about how to keep the peace. And the reason I brought up the family is, is that it's so important for our fellow Americans to understand that our efforts overseas and our efforts at home are all aimed at making sure that little fellow can grow up in a peaceful world and in a world that understands freedom.

We have learned that there are some on this globe that hate America and hate what America stands for. Those folks didn't understand our country. They thought, because we were prosperous and free, we would be soft and complacent. They made a grave mistake. Our war overseas and our war at home to stop terrorist activity is all aimed at making

sure the youth of America can grow up in a free society. They will not stop us. They will not deter us. We will achieve our aims and bring the terrorists to justice no matter where they hide or where they exist.

So we'll be focused overseas, and we'll be making sure we follow every single lead about whether or not they're going to try to hit us again. But we've also got a lot of work to do here at home. I made that clear the other day when I signed a really good piece of legislation, and that's the education reform bill. And I'm now making that statement again when I sign this sensible piece of legislation, one that emphasizes the need for environmental stewardship all across the country, and a piece of legislation that will enhance prosperity and the safety of Americans living in urban areas.

This bill was passed because of the work of both Republicans and Democrats. It's an example of what can happen when people put partisanship aside and focus on what's best for America. It shows what can happen when people say, "I'm proud of my political party, but I'm more proud of my country, and I'm in Washington, DC, to do what's right for America first, not my political party."

And so I want to thank Paul Gillmor, from the State of Ohio. Paul flew over today from his district outside of Toledo, in order to watch this bill being signed. And it's right that he's here, because he was the main sponsor in the House, who has worked hard to get this piece of legislation through. Paul, I want to thank you for coming. I look forward to giving you the pen, as I sign the bill. This should be one of the high marks of your leadership and your service to the country. So thank you for being here, sir.

I want to thank two members of the Pennsylvania delegation for being here, Joe Hoeffel and Bob Borski. Thank you both for being here and taking time out of your day to come. It's good to see the old Governor here. I appreciate Mark coming today. I appreciate his leadership, and I know the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appreciate his willingness to step in when Ridge left, and he's doing a fine job. I want to thank the attorney general, Mike Fisher, for being here as well. Michael, thanks for

coming, and thanks for your service to Pennsylvania.

And then I want to thank Brian O'Neill. I knew the O'Neills were a big family, but I didn't realize—[laughter]—they were that big. But I thank Brian for being a risktaker; somebody who understands that in order to create jobs, you have to take risk; somebody who is an entrepreneur; somebody who has had the vision to take these eyesores and convert them into positive economic assets that benefit the community at large. And so, Brian, I'm proud of the work you do, no more so than the citizens of this community. You're leaving behind a legacy that is positive and strong. And I'm honored to be here at your place of business. Thank you, sir.

I also want to thank some of the Senators that worked on this piece of legislation, none of whom could be here today. They're traveling around in different parts of the globe. One is Senator Lincoln Chafee from Rhode Island; he sponsored the bill. Kit Bond worked on it; Senator Bob Smith, Senator Harry Reid all worked hard to get this legislation out of the Senate and eventually onto my desk.

All of us have a responsibility to be the stewards of our land. When we use the land, we must do so wisely and responsibly, balancing the needs of the environment with the best interests of those who live and work on the land.

The law I sign today addresses the problem of land which has already been developed and then abandoned. American cities have many such eyesores; anywhere from 500,000 to a million brownfields are across our Nation. These areas once supported manufacturing and commerce, and now lie empty, adding nothing of value to the community and sometimes only causing problems.

Many communities and entrepreneurs have sought to redevelop brownfields. Often they could not, either because of excessive regulation or because of the fear of endless litigation. As a consequence, small businesses and other employers have located elsewhere, pushing development farther and farther outward, taking jobs with them and leaving cities empty.

For its part, the Federal Government sometimes spent more time haggling over regulatory details than it did working with States and cities to fix the problem. The old way of doing things was to mandate, regulate, and litigate. That began to change a few years ago as some States, such as Pennsylvania, and some communities and local businesses began to work together in a constructive relationship to find positive solutions to the brownfield problem. And the Federal Government began to help by pursuing a more cooperative approach with regulatory relief, with loans, and with technical support.

Here at the Millennium Corporate Center, if people take time to find out what happened, you'll see the possibilities of what can happen when people work together. For a long time this site was the site of a steel foundry. After the foundry closed, the property sat in disrepair. Finally, with a grant from the EPA, Montgomery County began to work to turn things around. Then O'Neill came in with private investment, and he received cooperation at every level of government. This place is a good place to work. It is now a good place to live. And there are going to be more people employed here than before. This is an example of what can happen, of what is possible.

And the bill I am about the sign will enable this success to be repeated many times over, all over America. It gives protection against lawsuits to prospective buyers and others who didn't create the brownfields but want to help clean them up and develop them. And it will help strengthen State cleanup programs, with more Federal funding and less Federal meddling. My budget for next year will meet this commitment by requesting that Congress double EPA's brownfields funding.

The law will also make way for the creation of more jobs. As the employees here know, when a business develops a brownfield, it turns a stagnant plot of land into a productive neighborhood. What we ought to be asking in America is, what does it take to create more jobs? Sure, we want those who have been affected by 9/11 to be helped with an unemployment check, but what they really want is a permanent paycheck. In all public policy—public policy ought to figure out

ways to make sure that the entrepreneurs can succeed, so that there is job creation taking place all over the country. This is a good jobs creation bill.

Further benefit will come as businesses recycle older properties and spare surrounding lands from development. There has been a lot of talk about urban sprawl. Well, one of the best ways to arrest urban sprawl is to develop brownfields and make them productive pieces of land where people can find work and employment. By one estimate, for every acre of redeveloped brownfields, we save 4½ acres of open space.

This legislation will also protect small-business owners from unwarranted Superfund liability. Lawyers and governments used to tell small-business owners that because they sent their trash to a landfill and because that landfill became contaminated, they were potentially liable for cleaning up the entire site. When Government acts in such a heavy-handed way, it hurts a lot of people; it works against its own purposes; it discourages small-business growth. With this bill, we are returning common sense to our cleanup program. We will protect innocent small-business owners and employees from unfair lawsuits and focus our efforts, instead, on actually cleaning up contaminated sites.

Environmental protection and economic growth can go on together. It is possible for the two to exist, if we're wise about public policy. And the law that I'm about to sign is good public policy. It's got a lot of common sense in it. It's wise. It encourages growth. It fosters the environment. It is the best—it shows what can—it is the best of Washington, when people decide to cooperate, not bicker, when people put the national interests ahead of political interests.

And so it's an honor to be here in Pennsylvania to sign the most important piece of environmental legislation that came out of the Congress last year, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. in the Millennium 3 building at the Millennium Corporate Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania and Brian O'Neill, chairman of the board, O'Neill Properties

Group. H.R. 2869, approved January 11, was assigned Public Law No. 107-118.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. Also in the morning, he traveled to Ontario, CA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with President Vicente Fox of Mexico and President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to discuss the situation in Argentina.

In the afternoon, he traveled to Portland, OR, and later returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

January 7

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced the recess appointment of John Magaw to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anthony Lowe to be Administrator of the Federal Insurance Administration at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President announced his intention to designate Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Grant D. Aldonas, Deputy Secretary of Labor Donald C. Findlay, and Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs John B. Taylor as members of the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

January 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Hamilton, OH. In the afternoon, he traveled to Durham, NH, and later to Boston, MA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate David O'Brien Martin to be a Commissioner of the International Joint Commission—United States and Canada.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert George Hayes as a Commissioner of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, as the Sport Fishing Representative.

January 9

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings, and then met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Walter Lukken to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Enrique Bolanos Geyer of Nicaragua on January 10: Mel Martinez, Oliver Garza, John Maisto, Lino Gutierrez, Janet Ballantyne, George Prescott Bush, James C. Kenny, Earle Irving Mack, Anna Navarro, Raul Romero, and Evelyn Dee Potter Rose.

January 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in the Middle East and cooperation against terrorism. Later, he dropped by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Minister of Home Affairs Lal Krishna Advani of India to discuss the situation in South Asia.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

January 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Conshohocken, PA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Leszek Miller of Poland in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Moline, IL, Aurora, MO, and New Orleans, LA, on January 14–15 to discuss job creation, trade, and economic security.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Japan, South Korea, and China on February 16–22 to discuss cooperation against terrorism, economic recovery, the strengthening of our alliances in the region, and other areas of mutual interest.

The President announced the recess appointment of Eugene Scalia as Solicitor of the Department of Labor.

The President announced the recess appointment of Otto J. Reich as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald S. Prophete to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel: Becky Norton Dunlop, Chairperson; Richard Barber Ainsworth; Andrea Fischer Newman; and Joseph Carter Whitaker.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas Casey, Christopher B. Galvin, and Edward Earl Whitacre, Jr., as members of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Lois Betts, Bo Derek, David Girard-diCarlo, Anne Sewell Johnson, Kathleen Robinson Koll, and Catherine Ann Stevens.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan and Council of Economic Advisers member Mark McClellan

Released January 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Margaret Spellings

Fact sheet: No Child Left Behind Act

Released January 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 on January 8

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2199 and H.R. 2657 on January 8

Fact sheet: Another Step Forward for Everglades Restoration

Released January 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: Preparing for the World—Homeland Security and the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics

Released January 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman to the travel pool on the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Moline, IL, Aurora, MO, and New Orleans, LA

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Japan, South Korea, and China

Statement by the Press Secretary: Moscow Court Decision on TV-6

Statement by the Press Secretary on Director of Homeland Security Thomas Ridge's meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda

Fact sheet: President Signs Legislation To Clean Environment and Create Jobs

Acts Approved by the President

Approved January 4*

S. 1789 / Public Law 107-109
Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act

Approved January 8

H.R. 1 / Public Law 107-110
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

H.R. 643 / Public Law 107-111
African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001

H.R. 645 / Public Law 107-112
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001

H.R. 2199 / Public Law 107-113
District of Columbia Police Coordination Amendment Act of 2001

H.R. 2657 / Public Law 107-114
District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001

Approved January 10

H.R. 2506 / Public Law 107-115
Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002

* This public law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

H.R. 3061 / Public Law 107–116
Departments of Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education, and Related Agen-
cies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 3338 / Public Law 107–117
Department of Defense and Emergency
Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery

from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on
the United States Act, 2002

Approved January 11

H.R. 2869 / Public Law 107–118
Small Business Liability Relief and
Brownfields Revitalization Act

Week Ending Friday, January 18, 2002

The President's Radio Address

January 12, 2002

Good morning. We have entered a busy season here in Washington. Soon, Congress will be back in session. I will go to the Capitol to report on the State of our Union, and I will present a budget that sets the priorities of our Government for fiscal year 2003.

Our highest priorities are clear to all. We must give our military every tool and weapon it needs to prevail in the war against terror. We must strengthen our country's defenses against further attack with a comprehensive program of homeland security. And we must get our country's economy growing and creating jobs once again.

The economy is a concern for all Americans, especially for those out of work. These Americans need extra help. My economic plan proposes an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who have lost their jobs and direct assistance to protect their health insurance.

My plan is based on the simple truth that people out of work need an unemployment check, but what they need even more is a steady paycheck. So I have joined with Republicans and Democrats in proposing concrete steps to create more jobs and help spur more growth in the economy. The House passed this plan; the Senate needs to act on it.

Difficult economic times brings hardship to many other Americans, as well, single moms or disadvantaged young people trying to get into the workforce. My budget seeks to help them, too, by adding resources to vital programs that have proven their value. One of our Government's most effective services is the Women, Infants, and Children program, which counsels mothers on nutrition and health care for their children. In my budget for the coming fiscal year, I will propose an increase of \$364 million for the WIC

program. This will be enough to serve nearly 8 million women and children each month.

Another vital program is the Job Corps, which provides employment training to more than 72,000 disadvantaged young Americans. In my budget, I will ask Congress for an additional \$73 million to expand the good work of the Job Corps. This will help to pay for new residential training centers. We will also secure high school accreditation for Job Corps training so that more young people can have the advantage of a high school diploma.

These are some of the elements of the budget I will be sending to Congress. My budget focuses on the pressing needs of our country and on the basic needs of our citizens. I am committed to building a strong economy that spreads its benefits to everyone. This goal reaches beyond politics or party, and I'm confident that Congress will join me in the work ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:20 p.m. on January 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Departure for East Moline, Illinois, and an Exchange With Reporters

January 14, 2002

President's Health

The President. My mother always said when you're eating pretzels, chew before you swallow. Listen to your mother. I feel great—looking forward to a good trip.

Q. What happened?

The President. I hit the deck and woke up, and there was Barney and Spot showing

a lot of concern. I didn't realize what happened until I looked in the mirror and my glasses cut my side of my face.

I feel great. I had good blood pressure last night, good blood pressure this morning.

Q. *[Inaudible].*

The President. Yes, yes. Anyway, going to have a great trip. Good to see you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks to Employees of John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois

January 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. I thought for a while, when they told me that I was going to receive a gift here, that old Chuck was going to bring a pretzel—*[laughter]*—those kind that are easy to chew. *[Laughter]* If my mother is listening, Mother, I should have listened to you. Always chew your pretzels before you swallow. *[Laughter]* When I work the ropelines, people bring their children, and I always turn to the child, especially the teenagers, and say, “Listen to your mother. It's the best advice I can give you.” I obviously needed to do the same thing last night.

But I'm feeling great and so honored to be here. Thank you very much for letting me come to this fantastic plant. I'm impressed by the size of these monsters. *[Laughter]* It kind of makes me think I need a bigger ranch. *[Laughter]*

I'm also impressed by the quality of the work. It's a great tribute to the men and women who work the floor here, which is a great tribute to the country, that we've got such good workers, such an entrepreneurial spirit. And part of my job is to make sure we preserve that spirit.

It's also an honor to be here on the Mississippi River. The river really links our country together, and so I'm going to start here, and then I'm going to go down to Missouri to talk to some farmers. And then I'm going to go down to New Orleans, to the Port of New Orleans, from whence your product and the products you help harvest leave our country for foreign markets.

It's my way of doing a couple of things: one, reminding America about how important the food and fiber system is to our economy; reminding America that those who grow food and those who help the farmers harvest that food are an incredibly important part to the future of our country. The food and fiber industry represents \$1.3 trillion of gross domestic product in the year 2000. It employed over 24 million people.

I'm also here not only to remind people about the importance of food and fiber but to remind people that we need to make sure we create jobs in this country. And I've got some ideas I want to share with you on how we do just that. There's no better place to do this than on the mighty Mississippi River.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet traveling with me, Secretary Evans and Secretary Veneman, both of whom are doing a fine job representing all segments of our society. I want to thank Members of the United States Congress who are here: Senator Harkin from Iowa, Senator Fitzgerald from Illinois, thank you both for being here. I appreciate a Member of the United States House, Lane Evans, who represents this district. And they must have changed the immigration laws because they let two Congressmen from Iowa in here. *[Laughter]* Congressman Gansky and Congressman Leach, thank you both for coming.

I appreciate the mayor of East Moline and the mayor of Moline for greeting me here today. Thank you both for coming. I want to thank the officers of John Deere. I want to thank Bob Lane and John Gault. And I want to thank Chuck Thompson and all the hard-working folks here at this plant. Thank you for greeting me. It's my honor to be here.

The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, in which people can find work. And I want to share with you some of my thoughts about how best to do that.

The first condition to make sure that people can find work is to make sure our Nation is secure, secure against an enemy that wants to attack us. That starts with having a robust, active, strong homeland security for our country.

People say, "What does that mean?" Well, it means any time you get a hint that somebody wants to harm us, you do something about it. It means you share intelligence with people all across the world, so that we know if somebody is coming our way. It means we've changed the nature of our law enforcement, so that preventing an attack is the number one priority of the FBI and local law enforcement. It means we're going to have our ears up and our eyes open. It means we'll be alert. And it means if we catch anybody trying to harm America or thinking about harming America, we're going to bring them to justice.

Bob mentioned the confidence of the American consumer, and there's no question the attacks on America on 9/11 have affected our confidence. But the more the American citizen realizes that our Federal Government in combination with State Government and local authorities are working day-in and day-out to prevent any other kind of attack, confidence will return.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens this, that the best way to secure the homeland of America is to find the enemy where they think they can hide and bring them to justice, no matter where they are. It's amazing to me that we've got an enemy, on the one hand, that's willing to convince young males to commit suicide on behalf of a cause that's empty and, at the same time, try to escape the justice of America in caves. They can run; they think they can hide. But this patient, strong Nation will stay on the job until we find them, rout them out, and get them.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got sons and daughters or brothers and sisters or moms and dads wearing the uniform, you need to be proud, too. They're accomplishing the mission that we set out, a mission that is dangerous, a mission that is just. After all, we are fighting for the freedoms: the freedom to live the life the way you want to, the freedom to worship the way you want to, and the chance for our children and our grandchildren to grow up in a peaceful and safe society.

The enemy made a mistake: They thought this Nation was soft. They thought because

we're a wealthy nation that we wouldn't rise to the occasion. Oh my, are they wrong.

A second way to make sure we've got sustained economic growth is to make sure our public school system works well. Recently, last week, I had the honor of traveling the country touting the fact that I was able to sign a good education bill. I know I shocked people when I stood up and said, "Ted Kennedy is all right." [Laughter] Probably shocked him more than anybody else. [Laughter]

But we showed what can happen in Washington when you put party politics aside and focus on what's good for the country. And what's good for the country is to make sure our education system produces smart, intelligent, literate children. And this bill I signed goes a long way for helping. It's a great piece of legislation, and I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats for working with me to get an education bill that America can be proud of.

I believe the third condition necessary to make sure people can find work and those who have work can work harder is to make sure that we open up the world for American products. Fearful people want to build walls around America; confident people believe we ought to tear them down. I'm confident in the American worker. I know the American worker can outproduce anybody, anywhere in the world. I'm confident in the American farmer. I know the American farmer is more efficient and can raise more crop than anybody, anywhere in the world. I'm confident we need to open up markets, not close them down. I'm confident we've got to get my friend Putin to be buying John Deere products. I'm confident what this Nation needs is to level the playing field and have trade that will create jobs all across America.

The fourth ingredient is to make sure we've got an energy supply as we head into the future. I oftentimes talk about how important it is to have—to be able to grow your own food. Part of the national security of the country is to know that we're self-sufficient when it comes to food production, that we can grow our own food, we don't have to rely upon another nation to feed our people. It's one of the luxuries this Nation has. We don't have the same luxury when it comes

to energy. We are too reliant upon foreign sources of crude oil. We've got to do a better job of not only conserving energy, but it seems to make sense to me that when we've got energy on our own hemisphere and in our own States, we ought to explore for it, to make us less reliant.

It's in the national security interests of our country to have an energy policy. And we need to get Congress to act on a good one. It's one that will make us less reliant. It's one that encourages more conservation. And it's one that's good for American workers and American jobs.

And finally, in order to make sure we have jobs, in order to make sure the economy expands, we've got to have good economic policy out of Washington, DC. I know there's a difference of opinion on about what's good economic policy, but mine starts with saying this: When the economy slows down, one of the best things we can do is let people keep their own money so they can spend it. If the economy slows down, one of the best answers is tax relief. It trusts local people to spend the money the way they want to see fit. If you have more money in your pocket, you buy more things, which encourages more production. Consumer demand is stimulated by tax relief. And the great thing about our society is when consumers demand, generally somebody's there to produce, and so there's more jobs as more production takes place.

Now, there's going to be a debate when we go back to Washington about tax relief. But I've made up my mind: The tax relief plan we passed, which you're now beginning to feel the effects of, is going to be permanent.

There are some more things that we can do. We need to take care of the workers whose lives were affected as a result of the evil ones' attacks, by extending unemployment benefits and by helping with their health care. I'm confident we can find common ground in Washington, DC, and a way to help people. But you know something? Americans don't want an unemployment check; Americans want a permanent paycheck, and that's got to be the mission of any good stimulus package.

So we need to work together to figure out ways to create stimulus: deductibility for

more equipment purchased, speeding up tax relief. There are some positive things we can do, if we make up our minds to do it, that will give a little extra oomph to an economic recovery that I hope is beginning to happen.

So those are some of the thoughts I wanted to share with you as I travel down the Mississippi River: Good stimulus policy, good economic policy based on trusting people with their own money, good education policy, good trade policy, and a good policy to bring these terrorists to justice.

You know, I am amazed that anybody would think they could attack the country. They just didn't understand us. But I understand the great strength of our country, and it's the people—it's the people that live all across our land. I don't care whether you're Democrat or Republican or independent, it's the people that make us great. You know why? Because this Nation is a nation of heart and soul and strength.

I am so pleased to hear the stories of moms and dads sitting around their dinner table, asking the fundamental question about life, people assessing their values: What's the most important thing in life? And moms and dads are realizing it's to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. No, the evil ones struck us, and they did serious damage. But in so doing, they really lifted the spirit of the country in a unique way. They brought out the very best in America.

The best in America takes place when somebody walks across the street and says to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help you?" Somebody knows there's somebody's shut in and says, "I think I'm going to go spread a little love today." The best of America takes place is in our churches and synagogues and mosques, when people walk out and listen to that call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, and then do something about it.

All this takes place, by the way—these millions of acts of kindness on a daily basis, which helps define the soul and spirit of America—it takes place not because of Government; it takes place because of the people of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

My call to you is: Work hard like you do; love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; love your children; tell them you

love them every single day; make sure they turn off the TV so they become good readers. [Laughter] And always remember that we're lucky to live in such a fabulous nation, the nation called America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. on the factory floor of John Deere Harvester Works. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jose Moreno of East Moline; Mayor Stanley F. Leach of Moline, IL; Robert W. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer, Deere & Co.; John S. Gault, general manager, John Deere Harvester Works; Chuck Thompson, president, United Auto Workers Local 865; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks in Springfield, Missouri

January 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I appreciate it. Thanks for coming. I thought the Senator—I thought the Senator was going to offer me a pretzel. [Laughter] Not one of those ones that are hard to chew. Now, I see a lot of the students who are here. This gives me a chance to give you some good advice: Always listen to your mother. [Laughter] Mine used to say, "Never swallow your pretzel until you've chewed it." [Laughter] I guess I wasn't listening.

But it's great to be back here in the great State of Missouri and Springfield. I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event. It gives me a chance to share some of my thoughts with our fellow citizens as I work my way down the heartland of America. I started earlier in Moline, Illinois, at a factory that makes John Deere tractors. I am here to talk to farmers. I'm on my way down to New Orleans to remind people that much of what we grow and produce in America is shipped overseas, out of that port. I'm really here to remind people of the great values of our country, lived in your everyday lives.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I'm grateful for a fine United States Senator and a good friend of mine, Kit Bond, for being here. Thank you for coming, Kit. I appreciate my Secretary of Commerce as well as the Secretary of Agriculture for joining me on this trip. Thank you both for coming. I want

to thank Kenny Hulshof and Todd Akin, of the United States Congress, for being here today. I want to thank those two fine Members of the House of Representatives for coming. I see my good friend Jim Talent is here. I appreciate you coming, Jim; I'm looking forward to visiting with you on the way out to the next stop. I want to thank so very much Roseann Blunt for being here, the wife of your Congressman. The first lady of your fine State met me at the airport, and I want to thank Lori Holden for coming out to say hello.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for taking time out of your day to be here to greet me. It's been an unbelievable experience to be your President.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Thank you. I'm so proud to come and be able to share some thoughts about how to make sure America remains strong and to make sure people who are trying to find work are able to do so. You know, my view about this is that the role of Government is not to try to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risks, in which the entrepreneur is willing to expand through capital investment. The job of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to create jobs, so people who want work can find work. And that starts with making sure our Nation is safe, in order to make sure—in order to make sure that there's confidence in our economy and that the environment is good for job creation.

My biggest job is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again, and that's exactly what I'm going to do. We take homeland security very seriously in America now. I put a good man in place, Tom Ridge, to make sure that any time we get any hint that anybody would try to harm America again, we'll act, and we'll act strong. If we get any scintilla of evidence that somebody may try to harm America, we will bring them to justice.

I want to thank the law enforcement officers and officials who are on alert. And we've got to remain on alert. You see something unusual happening in your community, contact the local law enforcement. We're on the look. But the truth of the matter is, the best

way to protect America is find the enemy where they hide and get them.

I am so proud—I am so proud of those who wear our uniform. We have given them a big task, and they're performing brilliantly. For those of you who may have a son or a daughter in our military, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. For those of you who have a husband or wife in the military, or a mom or a dad, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our military is doing us proud.

We have sent them on a difficult mission. It is getting more difficult as time progresses. After all, we've got our troops now looking in caves, looking in villages, scouring the countryside. When I first announced our mission, I told the American people it may take a while, that we must show discipline and resolve, and we must be steadfast in our purpose. And that's exactly what the American people—that's how the American people are reacting. And for that I'm grateful and so are our troops.

We had objectives that our troops have accomplished. One, we said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist," and the Taliban is paying a price. I hope you're as proud as I am of the pictures of joy as our troops have liberated the women of Afghanistan, the Taliban. We're not only fighting for freedom; we're liberating people from the clutches of oppression.

And now we're after Al Qaida. They think they can run; they think they can hide from the mighty United States. But we're patient; we're strong; we're resolved. We're going to stay on the hunt until we bring them to justice.

In order to make sure people can find work, we better make sure everybody in America is educated. I had an honor—I had the high honor of traveling our country last week with authors of a good education bill. It's one, by the way, that says every child can learn—every child can learn. We must teach children the basics. And in return for help, you must show us—just like you say here in Missouri—whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract. And if they cannot, let's correct problems early, before it's too late.

It also says, inherent in that bill, the people who care more about the children in this part of the world are the moms and dads and teachers who live in this part of the world. We believe in local control of schools.

I stood up in front of the American people there on this trip, and I said, "You all may not believe this—certainly the people in the Crawford, Texas, coffee shop may not believe it when I say it—but Ted Kennedy did a fine job on this bill." [Laughter] I never thought I would hear myself say that. [Laughter] Of course, he never thought I would say it. [Laughter] But I meant it—I meant it.

It goes to show what can happen when Republicans and Democrats set aside their political differences and focus on what's right for America. Let me tell you what we need in Washington: We need people to put party aside and say, "America is the most important thing in Washington, DC."

In order to make sure people can find work, this Nation better—better knock down trade barriers. See, one of the things we're good at, really good at, is growing food. We're the best in the world. And it makes sense that if we're good at growing food, that we ought to be trying to sell it not only at home but, when we have a little extra, overseas.

If you want to be—if you're good at something and the best at something, it makes sense to allow that product to be overseas. One of the things I'm fighting for and one of the things I think makes great sense is for this nation to be a free trade nation—not to be afraid to compete but let us compete. And when we can compete in a fair way, we can whip anybody when it comes to selling food.

The other thing we need to do is to make sure we have an energy policy. We're a blessed nation because we can grow our own food, and therefore, we're secure. A nation that can feed its people is a nation more secure. Now, if you're secure when you feed the Nation, it seems like one of the things we ought to try to be more secure about, as well, is having an energy policy that makes us less reliant on foreign sources of energy.

We can do a better job of conservation, and we will. We can do a better job of distribution, and we must. We can use some

innovative products to provide energy, like ethanol. But one of the things we've got to do is to explore for energy in our own lands in an environmentally sensitive way.

We had a trade bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. We've got an energy bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. It is in the Nation's interests that we move those two bills.

And finally, in order to make sure people can find work—and I'm worried about the fact that the evil ones hit us and it caused people to lose their job—in order to make sure they can find work, we've got to have good, sound economic policy coming out of Washington, DC. And that starts with understanding how jobs are created.

One way you can create jobs is to lower people's taxes. If people have more money to spend, it means somebody has got to produce more for them. And the producers then need to hire people. It's Economics 101. Except sometimes people in Washington haven't taken the course. *[Laughter]* We passed a meaningful tax cut, and now some of them want to take it away from you by delaying it.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Yes, I agree. The best way—the worst thing to do is, in the face of this recession, is to not let people have their tax break. It doesn't make any economic sense. And that's why we're not going to let them—that's why we're not going to let them repeal this tax cut.

And not only that, we can help workers who got laid off. We need to extend the unemployment benefits, and we need to help them with their health care. And we can do that, if we make our mind up to put people's lives ahead of partisan politics. But I'm going to remind the folks in Washington that what people don't want is an unemployment check; what they want is a permanent paycheck. And therefore we've got to put plans in place that stimulate our economy, that creates jobs, that says to employers, if you buy equipment, you get a little extra in order to help people find work.

No, we can do a better job in Washington, DC, of addressing this economic downturn. And I'm confident when the people's voice

comes up, the good folks up there elected to represent you all and everybody else will hear you loud and clear.

One of the things that the evil ones didn't figure out was how strong we are. Oh, they knew we had a nice military, but they didn't think we'd use it. They made a bad mistake. But what they also don't understand is the character of our Nation. They don't understand what I know, that the great strength of this country really isn't in our airplanes or guns; it's not in our stock market. Those are parts of our country that are strong, but the great strength is in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. This is a nation of a lot of character. It's a strong nation because we're strong people. It is a nation that is determined and patient, but it's also a nation that's compassionate and decent.

The evil ones hit us, and they caused a lot of loss of life and a lot of anguish, a lot of fright and a lot of fear. But they also caused folks all across our country to search their soul about life. They caused moms and dads to ask the fundamental question of what was the most important thing for them. The good news is about America, moms and dads all across America are now saying, "My most important job is to love my children with all my heart."

What the evil ones did is they reminded us that there are things important in life, such as loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. People ask me all the time, what can they do to help fight terror. And one thing you can do is walk across the street and tell a neighbor in need you love them. If you find somebody who's shut in, just spend a little time. If you want to fight evil, mentor a child who needs to learn how to read, support your teachers, get involved with public education. If you want to fight evil, make a contribution to a local charity, go to your church or synagogue and mosque, and figure out how you can help a community become a better place.

That's what's happening all across America. You know, folks, we're going to win the war, but we're also going to win because the goodness of America will overshadow the evil of those who take innocent life.

It is such honor to be moving around the country, to be with the good folks who make

the country strong. I want to thank you so very much for your hospitality; I want to thank you for your prayer. May God bless America. Thank you all. Thank you all very much, and God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1:15 p.m. in the BMP Hangar at the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Talent, candidate for U.S. Senate in Missouri; and Lori Hauser Holden, wife of Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri.

Remarks in Aurora, Missouri

January 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. So there I was, sitting in the residency at the White House—[*laughter*—watching a football game, eating a pretzel. [*Laughter*] And the next thing I know is Barney, the Scottish terrier, is wondering what the heck happened. [*Laughter*]

I want you all to know that I learned a good lesson, and that is: I should have listened to my mother. [*Laughter*] She said, “Never try to swallow your pretzel until you chewed it.” [*Laughter*]

Thank you all for coming, and thank you for letting me come. If you see some of the folks who lined the road coming in, tell them thanks. Really, I wish we had a bigger hall so I could thank everybody in person, but there’s a lot of people from your communities that are out there to wave, and I’m really grateful. Thank the high school kids and the teachers for being out there, as well.

I’m working my way through the Midwest, through the heartland, because I want to send a couple of messages to the American people. One message is, food is really important for the economy of this country, that in the year 2000, \$1.3 trillion of the GDP came from food and fiber, 24 million Americans were employed as a result of work and food and fiber, that if we’re talking about the economic health of the country, we’ve got to always understand it begins with a healthy farm economy. And if we’re worried about creating jobs—which I am—then we’ve got to think—we use some common sense principles in order to expand the job base so people can find work.

I’m also glad to be in the heartland because it’s a place that understands values, the values of family and faith, of personal responsibility and hard work.

I started my day in Moline, Illinois, at the John Deere plant, where they’re making Harvesters, and then here, of course, in Aurora and Springfield, Missouri. And then I’m on my way to New Orleans, where they sell the product. It’s a good message for America, to understand how the farmer works in relationship to the equipment manufacturer, in relationship to the exporter.

I’m so happy that people in my administration understand the importance of the farmer to our country, starting with our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. Thank you both for being here.

I want to thank Senator Kit Bond for traveling with me today. He was giving me a good lesson on Missouri politics, as was Jim Talent, when we drove over. Thank you for coming, Jim. And I’m traveling with two members from the Missouri congressional delegation, Kenny Hulshof and Todd Akin. Thank you all for coming.

Now, my friend Roy Blunt isn’t here. He’s evidently on a mission somewhere else, but he sent his better half. And I want to thank very much—I want to thank sweet Roseann Blunt for coming, as well. Thank you for coming. I want to thank the Missouri Farmers Association. I want to thank the people who run this outfit. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for coming today.

One of the things I strongly believe is that the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risk, an environment in which people are willing to risk capital, an environment that heralds the entrepreneur and the small-business person. That’s the role of Government.

If the role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risk, one of the things Government must do is to work hard to create confidence in the people. And at this moment in history, the best thing I can do, along with my administration, in order to build the confidence of

the American people, is to prevent the evil ones from hitting us again.

The best way to make sure this economy recovers and people can find work is to have a homeland security system that runs down every hint that somebody might harm us, runs down every lead that we find. I want to assure you all that I spend a lot of time, as did my administration, on this top priority, that we're working with intelligence-gathering services from around the world to sniff out, to listen to, to find out who might be trying to harm us again, that we've got our law enforcement officers around our country—at the Federal, State, and local level—now understand that they must remain on alert, that there's still an enemy, and we've got to stop them. The FBI's primary mission is homeland security, and we're working closely with folks in your communities to make sure that if there's any hint that somebody may try to harm America, that we're going to act and act now and bring them to justice.

I'm proud of the efforts of many all around our country who are working endless hours to make America safe. But the best way to make America safe is to hunt the enemy down where he tries to hide and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

I gave our military a mighty task, and they have responded. I want to thank those of you who have got relatives in the military, a brother or a sister, or a son or a daughter, or a mom or a dad. They have made me proud, and I hope they made you proud, as well.

We sent the military on a clear mission, and that is to bring the evil ones to justice. It's a mission, however, that I expanded to include this: that if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide aid and comfort for a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. That's why the Taliban is no longer ruling Afghanistan.

I think that one of the most joyous things for me is to see the faces of the Afghan women as they have been liberated from the oppression of the Taliban rule. Not only is our military destroying those who would harbor evil, destroying whatever military they had, destroying their defenses, but we're lib-

erators. We're freeing women and children from incredible oppression.

The humanitarian aid workers are home, as part of the conditions I laid down for the Taliban. The Taliban is in total rout. But we haven't completed our mission yet. And we're now at a very dangerous phase of the war in the first theater, and that is sending our boys and troops into the caves. You see, we're fighting an enemy that's willing to send others to death, suicide missions in the name of religion, and they, themselves, want to hide in caves.

But you know something? We're not going to tire. We're not going to be impatient. We're going to do whatever it takes to find them and bring them to justice. They think they can hide, but they're not going to hide from the mighty reach of the United States and the coalition we have put together.

I see members of the FFA here. I want you to know that the cause that our military now wages is a just cause, it's an important cause, that I long for peace. But I also understand that this Nation must lead the war against terror if you and your children and your grandchildren are going to grow up and understand the freedoms that we so enjoy in America, that if you and your children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and hopeful world, now is the time for this country to lead, and lead we will.

I'm worried that the attacks on 9/11 have affected the ability for people to find work, and we're going to do something about it. Not only are we going to make the homeland secure, but we've done some things in Washington that actually make sense. *[Laughter]* And one of them is to pass a good education bill that makes public education a priority, that sets high standards, that calls people into account if there's failure, and that trusts the local people to run their own schools.

I had the privilege of traveling the country last week with two Republicans and two Democrats, the sponsors of the bills. One of the Democrats happened to be Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. Never did I dream—*[laughter]*—that I would say good things about him. *[Laughter]* Never did he dream that I would say good things about him. *[Laughter]* But I can, because he joined

together with an administration to come out with a bill that's a good bill.

It goes to show—this bill shows what can happen in Washington when we're willing to put our political parties behind and focus on what's best for the United States of America.

I'm going down to New Orleans tomorrow. I like to go there. It's a nice place to eat, and I'm going to be—[*laughter*]. I've got a lot of friends in Louisiana; it's right next to the State where I used to be Governor. But I'm also going to remind people of the importance of trade, trade not only for the agricultural sector of our country but trade in general. And let me tell you my view.

If you're good at something, you ought to try to encourage it to become a bigger part of your world. And if you're good at growing crop, we ought not to diminish the ability to grow crops in America; we ought to encourage. And the way to do that is to find other places to sell crops. If you're the best in the world at what you do—which we are in farming—then it seems like, to me, we ought to encourage that product to be sold not only here in America but level the playing field so it can be sold all across the world.

I know there's a lot of farmers around who say, "You know, we've heard that before. Every trade agreement trades out the farmer. Here comes old Bush from Texas, and he says he's for the farmer. Yet, you watch. They'll worry more about other products, and when it comes time to argue for the agricultural sector, they'll just leave us out."

But that's not the way it's going to be, folks, because I understand how important agriculture is, not only for America, but how important it is for international trade for our country. Not only domestically but internationally, agriculture is important.

And I'd just ask you to look at the record. In China, I argued that China ought to be in the WTO because it's good for the American agriculture. Look at the agreement. We've opened up the Chinese markets to U.S. farmers. It's good for China, and more importantly, it's good for the U.S. farmers to have that market available. We've got to trade. It's in our Nation's interest to trade, and it's a sure way to help create jobs.

We've also got to have an energy policy if we're going to grow for the long term. One

of the great things about America is, is that we're self-sufficient in food. It's a national security interest to be self-sufficient in food. It's a luxury that you've always taken for granted here in this country, but imagine if we have to rely upon somebody else to provide us food. It would be a problem. The good news is, we can not only grow food for ourselves; we can grow food for others.

That's not the way it is in energy. We're too reliant upon foreign sources of energy. We're too reliant upon parts of the world that may like us, may not like us, for our sources of energy. It seems like, to me, that we ought to work hard to become more self-sufficient, less reliant, by having an energy plan that encourages conservation—encourages the use of ethanol, for example—value-added processing, and also explores for energy in our own hemisphere and in our own States, in an environmentally friendly way.

Finally an administration has come along and said, "Let's have a national energy plan." And that's exactly what passed out of the House, and hopefully, we can get it out of the Senate, just like the trade bill that came out of the House. Hopefully, we can get it out of the Senate. Hopefully, when they come back, they listen to the American people and put plans in place that will help our economy grow so that people can find work.

Finally, I want to talk to you about economic policy out of Washington. It seems like, to me, that the question we ought to be asking in Washington is, what does it take to help people create jobs? What's it take? I started with this part: I said that if you give people their own money back, if you let them keep more of their hard-earned dollars, that's good for the economy. If a consumer has got more money, he or she spends it on a product, causing the person who manufactures the product to keep jobs in place and/or increase jobs.

And so we worked together and passed meaningful, real tax relief. It came at exactly the right time. The economy started to show signs of slowing down in March of 2001. A way to stimulate growth during recession is to give people—let them keep their own money. That's Economics 101; except, it sounds like some of them hadn't taken the course in Washington. [*Laughter*]

There's now some talk that maybe we should raise taxes in a recession. That would be a disaster for the American economy, and we're not going to let it happen. And one of the best parts of that bill, that tax bill, was phasing out the death tax so the American farmer can pass his assets from one generation to the next.

And there are some things we ought to do in Washington to help. We ought to help people who lost their job on 9/11, whose industries were affected as the result of that attack. That means extending unemployment benefits. That means helping people with health care. But here's the way I think about it: People really don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore, we ought to figure out ways to expand the job base of America.

Every question ought to be, how do we grow our economy in a smart way? Therefore, I'm more than willing to work with the Democrats and Republicans to help the unemployed, but I ask them to think long term for America. Accelerating depreciation makes sense for people who buy equipment. It makes sense to speed up the tax relief. It makes sense to help low-income taxpayers with money in their pocket to enhance demand.

Oh, there's some smart things we can do to stimulate this economy, and there's some smart things we will do to make sure that we've got a good farm bill. I look forward to working with both political parties to come up with a farm bill that meets the following principles: One, it will be generous and affordable. There will be ample money in there to meet the needs, and it's money that will fit into our budget. Secondly, a farm bill must provide a safety net for the American farmer without encouraging overproduction and thereby depressing prices. Thirdly, the farm bill must support our strong commitment to trade. Fifthly, it must offer incentives for good conservation practices on working lands. And finally, establish farm savings accounts to help farmers manage risks.

These are sound principles which will enable the American farmer to plan, to think ahead, to be able to survive in a down time, and thrive when the markets get good. I look forward to working to get a good farm bill,

and I look forward to working with you to get a good farm bill.

Here are some practical steps to make sure that our economy recovers: good education—that will help in the long run, for certain—good tax policy; a good stimulus package; a good farm bill; good trade policy; and most importantly, homeland security that keeps Americans safe.

You know, when the enemy hit us, I was amazed to read that they really thought we were soft. They kind of didn't understand America very well. They might have been watching too much TV or something. [Laughter] I don't know what it was, but they thought, "Well, we'll hit them, and then America will fold their tent." We may launch a cruise missile or two, but that will be it. Man, did they make a big mistake.

They don't understand how much we love freedom and that we're willing to fight for it. They didn't understand people—they must not have understood people being on a commercial airline, figuring—realizing what was happening, then saying a prayer and bringing the plane down to save others' lives. They didn't understand sacrifice. But what they really don't understand is the character of the American people. They don't realize that this Nation is a nation full of people who are determined and strong but compassionate and loving.

A lot of times people ask me, "What can I do in the war against terror?" Well, obviously, if you see something unusual, report it. Treat people with respect. Value all religious—religions. But there are some other things you can do. Fight evil with good. We can fight terror using our military, and we're going to, of course. But we can fight terror and evil with acts of kindness, with millions of acts of kindness, all across the country. The best thing about America is the fact that that happens on a daily basis. There are people who walk across the street to a neighbor in need and say, "Can I help you? What can I do to help?" They find somebody who is shut in and say, "I'd like to just love you for a second." It happens when Sunday schools or synagogues or mosques empty out, and they look for somebody to help. It happens when people raise money for a local charity. It happens when somebody says, "I want to

be a Boy Scout leader, to teach a child good values." It happens when somebody mentors a child and teaches them how to read.

The war on terror is a war we will fight on many fronts. It is a war we're going to win on many fronts. It's a war we'll win at home because this is a compassionate nation, full of decent and loving and caring people. And it is such an honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for having me. God bless. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the warehouse at the MFA Feed Mill. In his remarks, he referred to Roseann Blunt, wife of Representative Roy Blunt of Missouri.

Remarks in New Orleans, Louisiana January 15, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. It's great to be back in what they call the Big Easy. As you might remember, I grew up in Texas and spent some quality time here in New Orleans. I forgot how good the food is. I'm going to have to spend about a week working off that baked Alaska that I had at Antoine's. *[Laughter]*

I didn't have any pretzels last night for dinner. *[Laughter]* I learned my lesson: Always listen to your mother, who told me, "Chew your pretzels before you swallow." *[Laughter]*

But thank you all for coming. It is a beautiful day in a great city and an important part of our economy, and that is the Port of New Orleans. I want to thank Gary LaGrange, who is the executive director of this facility. I want to thank the Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, who is traveling with me. I want to thank the chairman of the Port of New Orleans Board of Commissioners. I want to thank Dave Wagner. I want to thank Jim Campbell, who is the president of the International Longshoremen's Association Number 3000. I want to thank all the hardworking longshoremen who are here to help make America grow.

I want to thank my friend the Governor of the great State of Louisiana. What a piece of work that guy is. That's why they love you,

Mike. *[Laughter]* He knows how to tell the truth; he speaks plainly, and he's doing a heck of a good job for the people of Louisiana.

I want to thank Congressman David Vitter, who's here today. I want to thank Congressman John Cooksey, who is with us, as well. Thank you both for coming.

And I want to thank you all for coming out to say hello. It's a great way to end my trip throughout America's heartland. I started yesterday in Moline, Illinois, at a factory that makes harvesting equipment for John Deere. I told them I was coming down to New Orleans, and I said, "I'm going to come to the place where much of the equipment you manufacture is shipped out when you sell overseas."

And then I went to see some farmers in Missouri. And I told them that I was coming down to New Orleans in Louisiana, which ships out a lot of the product that they grow. The reason I'm here is because I want America to understand how our economy works. We're worried about jobs in our country. We want everybody who wants to find work to be able to have work; everybody who wants a job should be able to provide for their family. I'm worried about the loss of jobs.

Our economy is interconnected. What happens in Moline, Illinois, and in Missouri affects the people who work here in New Orleans, in the port. And therefore, good public policy recognizes that. And good public policy asks the questions, how do we make sure that what affects one affects the other in a positive way? How do we make sure people can find jobs as we head into the year 2000?

The best way to make sure that our economy recovers from the attack—I think one of the most important things I can do is to make sure that they don't hit us again. We suffered a lot on September the 11th, and one of the things that we suffered was the lack of confidence in the future. But as every day goes by, the American people are getting more and more confident in our ability to protect ourselves and the ability for our Government to respond in a positive way to make sure that families are safe in America.

I fully understand the enemy still lurks out there, and the enemy still would like to hit

us. But America has changed since September the 11th. We're now more alert. We've got a Coast Guard that's now actively patrolling our coasts, trying to make sure nobody comes in to hurt us. We've got an FBI—major function now is to prevent further attack. We've got better intelligence-sharing around the world to make sure that we find people before they come to our country. We're on full alert. I'm so proud of the law enforcement officials all across America who are working endlessly—who are working endlessly to make sure that we're safe.

This is a strong country. It's an alert country, and it's a patient country when it comes to achieving the ultimate objective, which is keeping America safe by finding terrorists where they live and bringing them to justice. And that's exactly what's happening in the first theater in the war against terror. I have unleashed a mighty military, and the mighty military of America is making us proud.

For those of you who wear our uniform, I want to thank you. For those of you who have got families—family members of those who wear the uniform, I hope you're as proud of them as I am.

We set a clear objective—several clear objectives. One of them was is that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're guilty. That's the doctrine. The objective was to make sure that the Taliban no longer harbored Al Qaida. The Taliban no longer rules in Afghanistan. We met that objective, and in so doing, we liberated a group of people that had been terrorized—we liberated women and children. I'm so proud of the United States military.

It brings me such joy—such joy—to know that not only are we pursuing the objective—and that is to bring the murderers to justice—but this great Nation is liberating people and feeding people. We're not only a tough nation, but we're a compassionate nation. And the world has seen the greatness of America as we pursue our objective.

And we're making some progress against Al Qaida. We're hunting them down, one man at a time. I just want to tell you that I'm patient, and our military is patient; that I don't care how long it takes. I don't care where they hide; we're after them. And we're

after them and will remain after them until they're brought to justice.

Oh, I know there are some who are saying, "Gosh, I wish this ended yesterday." But that's not how this is going to work. You see, we've got people who send youngsters to suicide missions, and they, themselves, hide in caves. Those are the kind of people we're dealing with, but there's not going to be enough caves in the world to hide them.

Some may tire—some in our coalition may get tired of this effort, or some in our country may tire. But I can assure you, I'm not, because I view this as a moment—a defining moment in history, a moment when we must defend freedom, a moment when we must defend civilization, itself, a moment when this great Nation—in which this great Nation must lead the world—must lead the world—to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and secure society.

In order to make sure people can find work, we better make sure we educate the people of our country. I had the real privilege last week of traveling the country, touting a good education bill, a bill that is going to make sure every child gets educated and no children get left behind.

One of the things that I really, really appreciate about Governor Foster is that he understands that we better hold people accountable in education. Otherwise, some are going to get left behind. I'm real proud of the education reforms that Mike Foster has put in place.

I believe strongly, every child in America can learn. I believe that, and I believe our public school systems can teach every child in America how to read and write and add and subtract. And I took that message up to Washington and worked with both Republicans and Democrats to get a good bill out that sets high standards, that says, "If you take money, you need to show us whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract," a good bill that focuses on making sure every child is literate, a bill that helps teachers teach reading using a curriculum that works, and a bill that says the good folks of Louisiana can run their schools better than bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

And one of my traveling mates was Ted Kennedy, the Senator from Massachusetts.

I've said good things about him. [*Laughter*] He nearly fell out. [*Laughter*] So did the boys at the Crawford coffee shop. [*Laughter*] But I said it because he worked hard to get a good bill; he worked with a Republican administration to get a good piece of education reform. We showed what can happen in Washington when you put your political parties aside and focus on what's best for the United States of America.

And that's what's got to happen on this issue of trade. One of the reasons I'm traveling down the spine of America and on the mighty Mississippi is because I want to remind our fellow citizens how important trade is. It's important to these workers that we trade. The people who are loading these ships load them because we're trading around the world. The farmers who are selling product can sell more if we trade. And if the farmers sell more of their product, we can sell more of the machines made in Moline, Illinois, so the good folks up there, the UAW workers, can work.

I'm worried about jobs. And I believe if you trade more, there are more jobs available for hardworking Americans. There are some who play politics with the trade issue; they want to shut down trade. I like to remind people, those who shut down trade aren't confident. They're not confident in the American worker; they're not confident in the American entrepreneur; they're not confident in American products.

I'm just the opposite. I know we got the best workers in the world; I know we can make the best products in the world. And therefore, we ought to have free and fair trade around the world. I'm not the only one that feels that way. Some of the longshoremen that I met coming in said, "We need trade so I can keep working." I got a nice letter from your mayor. He said, you know, he's sorry he couldn't see me because he's on a trade mission to Mexico City, "however, I want you to know that I fully support your efforts to pass legislation giving your administration fast-track authority to negotiate trade agreements."

This isn't a Republican issue; this isn't a Democrat issue. Trade is a jobs issue. And the United States Senate needs to hear the

voices of the working people and get me a bill I can sign.

And you know what else the United States Senate needs to do? They need to pass an energy bill. One of the great things about our agriculture sector is, we grow enough food to feed America. And therefore, we're secure when it comes to food. Gosh, I would hate to be the President of a country that has to import a lot of food. It would mean you're beholden to somebody else's farmers to feed your people.

We grow a lot of food. We can feed our people. We grow enough that we can put it on the ships here and send it around the world, and we ought to be feeding the world, as well. But that's not the case for energy. We receive a lot of our energy, over 50 percent of it, from other parts of the world. Sometimes they like us; sometimes they don't. [*Laughter*] And it's those times when they don't like us that makes me nervous as the President of the country. [*Laughter*] It's in our national interest to have a national energy plan. It's in Louisiana's interest to have a national energy plan. It's in America's interest to have a national energy plan.

A national energy plan will help us conserve more and produce more. It will make us less reliant upon foreign sources of energy, and it will help us create more jobs. The people of Louisiana understand that energy equals jobs. So do a lot of other people in America. This bill is bottled up in the United States Senate. It's about time they focused on creating jobs in America and get me a trade bill and an energy bill for the good of the American people.

The good news is, I think we got a United States Senator—I know we've got one from Louisiana who understands that; John Breaux understands. He understands jobs, and I appreciated him supporting me on the tax cut.

And that's another good piece of legislation that passed out of Washington, and it came just at the right time—just at the right time. You see, our economy started slowing down significantly in March of 2001. And when the economy begins to slow down, one of the best remedies is to let people keep more of their own money, is to take less of the money from the working people.

When a longshoreman is able to keep more of his own money, his family has more money to spend. And as they spend that money, somebody, obviously, has to produce the product for them to buy. And as they produce the product, it creates jobs. And in order to stimulate the economy, one of the good ways to do so is to have tax relief. We passed meaningful, real tax relief that says, finally, our Government trusts people with more of their own money so that people can make the right decisions for their families.

You know, there are some in Washington, however, who seem to be indicating that in order to come out of a recession, you should raise taxes.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. I don't know what economic textbook they've been reading—[laughter]—but it's not the one that most Americans have read. They understand tax relief is the best way to encourage an economic recovery in America.

Now, we can help and should help those workers who lost their jobs as a result of the September the 11th attacks. We should work together to extend unemployment—insurance employment benefits. We ought to help pay for health care for workers that have been laid off; that's something we ought to do. But most Americans don't want an unemployment check. They want a paycheck, and we ought to figure out ways to increase jobs.

An energy plan will help create jobs; a trade bill will create jobs. And we need a stimulus plan that says, "Let's be smart. Let's encourage entrepreneurs and people who buy equipment, and let's accelerate the tax relief so that this economy will grow, so that people who want to work can find work." There is no reason why we can't work together to get a good bill done for the American people.

I like my job a lot. It's a huge honor to live in the White House, and I want to report that Laura is doing a fabulous job. What a great, great First Lady. She's happy, and that's really important. [Laughter] And it's an honor to represent you in Washington, but I really enjoy traveling our country, as well. I like to get out. I like to move around, because it is—one, it reminds me of the true strength of America. And the true strength

of our country is not in our Capital. We've got a great system; no question about it. We've got a fantastic Constitution. But the true strength of America really are the American people—is the American people. That's the true strength. The true strength is the American citizens, people of good heart.

The enemy didn't understand our country. You know, they thought we were so materialistic that we were soft. They thought we cared more about ourselves than we cared about something greater than ourselves. But they were wrong. They didn't understand the character of America. They don't know how tough we can be—they didn't realize how tough we could be if we decided to be tough. They thought we would be impatient, and they're wrong. They thought we'd get tired early. They don't understand us.

A lot of people say, "Well, what can I do to help fight the war on terror?" Well, one, be alert. If you see something happening that's unusual, report to the local law enforcement. Let them know. But the other thing is, is that in order to fight evil, I think one way you do it is to fight it with good—acts of kindness and decency. In order to fight the evil ones and not let their way of life stand, one thing Americans can do is to love a neighbor.

I want to not only unleash our military and the might of our military; I also want to help unleash the compassion of the American people. A soldier in the war on terror is somebody who mentors a child or somebody who walks across the street to a shut-in neighbor and says, "How can I brighten your day? What can I do to love you?" A soldier in the war on terror is a mom or a dad who surrounds—who hugs their children on a daily basis and says to a child, "I love you more than anything in life." Somebody who wants to fight evil with goodness is somebody who wants to get involved in their school system and praises the teacher or helps the education, somebody who goes to a church or a synagogue or mosques and says, "What can we—how can we form a faith-based program to help change people's lives by changing their hearts?"

The enemy has awakened a mighty nation. They made us angry, but they've also made us hopeful because we fully understand the

true strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of a wonderful, fantastic group of people.

It is my honor to be your President. It's my honor to be here in New Orleans. May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you very much. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:23 a.m. on the Nashville Avenue Wharf at the Port of New Orleans. In his remarks, he referred to Gary P. LaGrange, executive director, and Dave A. Wagner, chief operating officer, Port of New Orleans; Francis E. "Hank" Lauricella, chairman, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans; Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster of Louisiana; and Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7517—Religious Freedom Day, 2002

January 15, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Republic, a core principle of our Constitution, and a fundamental human right. Many of those who first settled in America, such as Pilgrims, came for the freedom of worship and belief that this new land promised. And when the British Colonies became the United States, our Founders constitutionally limited our Federal Government's capacity to interfere with religious belief by prohibiting the Congress from passing any law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." These constitutional limits have allowed the flourishing of faith across our country, which greatly blesses our land.

George Washington forcefully expressed our collective constitutional promise to protect the rights of people of all faiths, in a historic letter he wrote to the Jewish community at Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island: "the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens" Today, our cities are home to synagogues,

churches, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship that peacefully welcome Americans of every belief. Preserving religious freedom has helped America avoid the wars of religion that have plagued so many cultures throughout history, with deadly consequences.

Today, as America wages war against terror, our resolve to defend religious freedom remains as strong as ever. Many miles from home, American service men and women have risked their lives in our efforts to drive the Taliban regime from power, ending an era of brutal oppression, including religious oppression. At home, Americans demonstrated the vitality of our religious freedom in the enormous outreach by faith communities to help those harmed by the terrorist attacks. In quiet prayers offered to God in churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques and in the helping hands of faith-based groups, Americans have shown a deep love for others and genuine spiritual unity that will sustain us through the difficult days of recovery.

Religious Freedom Day provides us an opportunity to celebrate America's commitment to protect the freedom of religion. On this special day, I encourage all Americans to renew their commitment to protecting the liberties that make our country a beacon of hope for people around the world who seek the free exercise of religious beliefs and other freedoms.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2002, as Religious Freedom Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day by asking for the blessing and protection of Almighty God for our Nation, and to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities in their homes, schools, and places of worship as a sign of our resolve to protect and preserve our religious freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 17, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of
Turkey and an Exchange With
Reporters**

January 16, 2002

President Bush. I'm going to have an opening statement welcoming our friend to the Oval Office. The Prime Minister is going to say a few remarks. Both of us have agreed to take some questions. I would like those traveling with the Turkish press to have a chance to ask some questions today, as well. We'll both take two questions apiece.

Thank you for coming, Mr. Prime Minister. I'm proud to welcome you as a friend. You have been steadfast in your support in the war against terror, and for that, my Nation is very grateful.

We appreciate your leadership when it comes to foreign policy, and we appreciate your leadership when it comes to economic policy. You and your administration have made some very tough decisions, and the economy is improving as a result of your leadership. And we look forward to having a good discussion about how we can increase trade.

And today I'm informing the Prime Minister that we're lifting the travel ban on Turkey so that our citizens can feel comfortable going to that wonderful country to visit and to enjoy the rich history of one of our valued allies and friends. So welcome, Mr. Prime Minister. It's a delight to welcome you, and thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Ecevit. Thank you very much for your kind invitation, Mr. President. It is a great honor for us. We deeply appreciate the support that you have extended, since you have taken over, to relations with Turkey. We had always good relations with the United States in your—during your time of office. And you have totally enhanced this cooperation and friendship.

We have some very good, concrete good news now, as you have referred to it, Mr. President. The State Department has today issued a statement expressing the will of the United States that we will be able to form an economic partnership——

President Bush. Right.

Prime Minister Ecevit. ——in additional to our political partnership. We attach great importance to that—our cooperation with you against terrorism is a great service, not only for our own people but for the whole world.

The American determination to get rid of terrorism in the world is of great importance, of historic importance, and we are glad—we are very happy that we have the chance to cooperate with you to that effect. And Turkish and American cooperation, partnership now together with economic partnership will be beneficial for both—peoples of both our countries.

We had very fruitful discussions during the brief period here. We still have other items on our agenda, and we shall go to New York also to visit the place of terrorism. Thank you very much for sharing this time, for showing this generosity and friendship to us.

President Bush. Well, you're welcome, sir.

Prime Minister Ecevit. Thank you.

President Bush. Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters] and then Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Cyprus

Q. Sir, what do both of you see as the chances of a negotiated settlement with Cyprus——

President Bush. I'll let the Prime Minister speak. Of course, we're very encouraged that there is a dialog now taking place. And I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister for encouraging that dialog. You can't solve a problem unless the parties are willing to talk.

And Mr. Prime Minister, would you like to speak about the Cyprus situation?

Prime Minister Ecevit. Yes. We attach great importance to our dialog with you with regard to Cyprus. It's good news that the leaders of the two communities are now having face-to-face dialog. They may not attain

concrete results immediately, but the very fact, the very process of dialog may lead to satisfactory agreements between the two communities.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that very much. Anybody from the Turkish press?

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, to make your Iraqi policy more efficient, in your efforts to make the Iraqi policy more efficient—

President Bush. Iraqi policy?

Q. Yes, your policy towards Iraq. What are your expectations from the Turkish government?

President Bush. Well, I'm going to have a discussion with the Prime Minister about Iraq. And my expectations, most importantly, are not from Turkey—are from Iraq. I expect Saddam Hussein to let inspectors back into the country. We want to know whether he's developing weapons of mass destruction. He claims he's not; let the world in to see. And if he doesn't, we'll have to deal with that at the appropriate time.

My discussions with the Prime Minister are going to be not only regional in nature but global in nature. And I will assure him that we will consult closely with Turkey on any decisions that I make. Turkey is an ally and a friend, and no decisions have been made beyond the first theater. And the first theater is Afghanistan, and I do appreciate very much the Turkish support for our efforts in Afghanistan.

Q. What if Saddam Hussein doesn't let the—[inaudible]—inspectors?

President Bush. If he doesn't let them in? He'll find out.

Afghanistan/Turkey's Role in the Coalition

Q. On the question of Afghanistan, do you support the Turkish idea of leading the peacekeeping operation there? And if the United States essentially made the peace there, why not involve U.S. troops in keeping the peace?

President Bush. Well, first of all, there's been a lot of international interest in providing troops to help keep the peace. And we welcome that support. As you know, the Brits have now taken the lead in the first

round. There are some discussions as to whether or not Turkey will take the lead in the second round, and I appreciate their consideration of this very important matter.

I believe there is plenty of troops from other nations that are willing to help, and after all, I've made it clear that our troops will be used to fight and win war, and that's exactly what they've done. We've sent them over to fight a war, and we're winning the war.

And on the other hand, we're more than willing to help with the reconstruction efforts. We're—make serious contributions to the interim government of Afghanistan so they can help rebuild themselves. We look forward to the conference in Tokyo. We'll have representatives there.

Just today, Richard Armitage, our Deputy Secretary of State, met with the Finance Minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, and I've been told they had a very good discussion about how to get cash starting to move into the coffers.

But I think there is ample support from around the world to provide troops to help stabilize Afghanistan so the Government can eventually take over its own defense.

Q. Yes, but are you going to channel more funds to support Turkey in its role in Afghanistan?

President Bush. Channel more funds to support Turkey in its role in Afghanistan? You mean, if and when they provide troops? That's what you're talking about?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Well, we haven't had that discussion yet. And one thing for certain is that we're providing a lot of funds now in the Afghan theater. After all, we're proudly leading the efforts to destroy the Taliban and rout out the Al Qaida. As to reimbursements, that's a discussion we'll have at a later date. Turkey hasn't made up her mind yet as to whether or not she is going to lead the coalition forces. We're just in discussion phases. So I think the budgetary phase—the budgetary discussions should take place after a commitment has been made.

Taxes

Q. [Inaudible]—generous—[inaudible]—Senator Kennedy called for—

President Bush. Oh, let me comment. I appreciate that very much.

Q. I thought you might want to. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, Mr. Prime Minister, we put a significant tax relief package in place right at the right time. Our economy was beginning to slow down in March of 2001. Fortunately, I was able to work with both Democrats and Republicans in our Congress to get a good tax relief package out. And when the economy slows down, it makes sense to cut taxes, and that's exactly what's happened. And those who want to revoke the tax cut, basically raise taxes, are those who just don't share my view.

I think raising taxes in the midst of a recession is wrong economic policy. It would be a huge mistake. It's bad for American workers. It hurt when it comes to creating jobs. And so I strongly disagree with those who want to raise taxes here in Washington, DC. I'm confident that the American people agree with me, as well.

And if Members of the House and the Senate listened to their constituents and listened to those who want to find work, they will understand the wisdom of our ways.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Minister of Foreign Affairs Ismail Cem of Turkey; and Hedayat Amin Arsala, Vice Chair and Minister of Finance, Interim Authority of Afghanistan. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act

January 16, 2002

Today I signed into law H.R. 1088, the Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act. This legislation will provide fee relief to the growing number of Americans who have invested in stocks and bonds to save for their retirements, their children's education, and other needs. This legislation will relieve the 50 percent of American households that now own stock, either directly or in pension or mutual funds, from the burden of these fees, while ensuring that the SEC has sufficient

funding to continue to carry out its important mission of protecting investors through vigorous enforcement of securities laws. I applaud the Congress for acting in an overwhelming bipartisan manner in sending this legislation to my desk.

NOTE: H.R. 1088, approved January 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-123.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 16, 2002

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2002, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks to the World Affairs Councils of America Conference

January 16, 2002

Well, thank you for that very warm welcome. It's such a pleasure to be here tonight for this gathering. I want to thank the World Affairs Council for promoting citizen interest in global issues, especially an interest in our own hemisphere and its importance to our country.

Eldon, thank you very much for your fine introduction. Back stage he was wondering

whether or not I could understand his accent. I said, "That's not the problem. The problem is, can you understand mine?" [Laughter] I want to thank Jerry Leach, as well. I want to thank the leadership here at the OAS. Cesar, thank you very much for your continued hospitality and leadership. It's good to see my friend Luigi again. I want to thank Enrique Iglesias, as well.

I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here, in particular, Mel Martinez, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Thank you, Mel. I'm pleased to see Roger Noriega, *el Embajador de los Estados Unidos a la OAS*, for being here. Thank you, Roger. A new member of my team is Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere. I appreciate Otto being here. And of course, I want to thank the members of my National Security Council who are here, Condi Rice and John Maisto, for their sound and solid advice. Thank you all for coming.

In September of last year, I welcomed my good friend the President of Mexico to the White House. Standing together on the South Lawn, President Fox and I spoke of building a hemisphere of freedom and prosperity and progress. That was 5 days before the terrorists attacked the peace and security of the world, murdering thousands of citizens from over 80 nations, including almost every nation in this hemisphere.

Since the attacks, the United States has received incredible sympathy and support from our neighbors and friends. I've been in close contact with democratic leaders such as Prime Minister Chretien and President Fox and President Cardoso, President Lagos and President Toledo, to name a few. We've been talking on a regular basis about our common interests. Democratic leaders throughout the Americas have offered help and wisdom, friendship, and even peacekeepers, and for that this country is very grateful.

The nations of the Western Hemisphere are resolved: We refuse to live in fear, so we will fight terror wherever it exists. And we're committed to building a prosperous and free and democratic hemisphere. Nothing will distract us; nothing will deter us in completing this great work.

We meet, however, at a time when there are some who question the path to prosperity and stability. Some wonder whether free market reforms are too painful to continue. Some question the fairness of free and open trade, while holding out the false promise of protectionism. And there's even greater danger—that some may come to doubt democracy, itself.

Our answer to these questions and doubts must be clear, and it must be consistent: The hopes of all our peoples, everybody who lives in this hemisphere, no matter where they live, lie in greater freedom. Free markets and open trade are the best weapons against poverty, disease, and tyranny. And democracy is the nonnegotiable demand of human dignity.

The future of this hemisphere depends on the strength of three commitments: democracy, security, and market-based development. These commitments are inseparable, and none will be achieved by half-measures. This road is not always easy, but it's the only road to stability and prosperity for all the people—all the people—who live in this hemisphere.

Our first commitment is to democracy and political freedom. This is affirmed in the Democratic Charter of the Americas, which holds this: Only democracies can be a part of our inter-American dialog and system. And these governments cannot be democratic in name only. Citizens and businesses must know that the townhall, the *alcaldia*, is free from bribery and cronyism and all forms of corruption. These old attitudes and habits are a form of theft, stealing from people their money and their trust and their hopes for a better life. For freedom and prosperity to come, corruption must go. Freedom—the freedom to vote, the freedom to speak your mind, the freedom to worship an Almighty God, the freedom to own your own property—is the great idea of our time; it is the great idea of all time. And by building governments that are more open and honest and fair, we will make freedom more meaningful for all our citizens.

Our second commitment is to security, security against acts of terror. It is the great calling of the 21st century. And I can assure you this Nation will not tire; we will not fade; we'll be resolute in our determination to rout

out terror wherever it exists—in our neighborhood or neighborhoods around the world—security against the lawless violence of drug cartels and their accomplishments—accomplices. Our citizens must know that they can exercise their freedoms in security and in peace.

And that is why, for example, the United States, Canada, and Mexico are cooperating in unprecedented ways to build smart borders for the 21st century that ensure safety for ordinary people and trade and filters out terror and drugs.

And that is also why the United States remains committed to helping nations like Colombia defend her democracy. Colombia and the Andean nations are strengthening law enforcement, reducing illegal crops, and expanding legitimate business opportunities as viable alternatives to drug farming and drug trafficking. The United States Congress and I recently approved \$625 million to support these efforts. America will help all nations in the region in cutting off the supply of drugs. And just as importantly, America will help the nations of the regions by reducing the demand for drugs within our own borders.

Our third commitment is to growing and stable economies where the benefits of growth are widely shared, economies where small-business owners and farmers and workers and investors are all able to build and earn their own prosperity. We must foster policies that reward, not punish, entrepreneurship, work, and creativity. We understand that sustained development depends on market-based economies, on sound monetary and fiscal policies, and on freer trade in our neighborhood.

Recent events in Argentina do nothing to change this reality. America is deeply concerned about the difficulties facing our ally and our friend; we're deeply concerned about the effects of the economy on Argentina's great people. We share ties of commerce and culture and family. America is hopeful that Argentina will get through these tough times.

It was an encouraging sign that the President, on taking office, expressed a desire to pursue a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Argentina and nations throughout our hemi-

sphere need to strengthen our commitment to market-based reform, not weaken it. Shortcuts to reform only lead to more trouble. Half-measures will not halve the pain, only prolong it.

The United States is prepared to help Argentina weather this storm. Once Argentina has committed to a sound and sustainable economic plan, I will support assistance for Argentina through international financial institutions. This assistance can soften the impact of the crisis on the lives of the Argentine people and help that country return to growth and prosperity.

Success in the global economy comes to countries that maintain fiscal discipline, open their borders to trade, privatize inefficient state enterprises, deregulate their domestic markets, and invest in the health and education of their people. And those who promise painless protectionism or security through statism assure a bleak and stagnant future for their people.

Countries that stay on the hard road of reform are rewarded. Just look at Chile. Chile has cut its poverty rate in half over the last decade. It has cut its child mortality rate by almost two-thirds since 1980. Or Mexico, that's withstood the setbacks of the midnineties, and its economy has grown by more than 4 percent annually since 1996. Costa Rica's emphasis on education and attracting foreign investment has transformed its economy over the past decade. Costa Rica's exports of computer products are now almost 4 times greater in value than its banana exports and nearly 8 times greater than its coffee exports.

My Nation is no stranger to the difficulties of reform and restructuring. A generation ago, our Government made a mistaken and failed experiment with wage and price controls. Later, during the 1970s and 1980s, millions of our workers were displaced as our industries adapted to the demands of a new global economy. We've grown through the pains of recession, inflation, and unemployment by strengthening our commitments to markets, by enacting sound monetary and fiscal policies, and by embracing free trade. In the end, each of these challenges made us stronger and more prosperous. With all its

tests and difficulties, a faith in freedom is never disappointed.

This belief in markets is justified within our borders and beyond them. Open trade and investment bring healthy, growing economies and can serve the cause of democratic reform. From the success of NAFTA, we know these are facts, not theories.

Acting on this belief, we went to Doha, and strongly support a new global trade negotiations. In this region, we are acting on a number of fronts. We're working to build a Free Trade Area of the Americas, and we're determined to complete those negotiations by January of 2005. We plan to complete a free trade agreement with Chile early this year. And once we conclude the agreement, I urge Congress to take it up quickly. And I ask the Senate to schedule a vote, as soon as it returns, on renewing and expanding the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Today I announce the United States will explore a free trade agreement with the countries of Central America. My administration will work closely with Congress toward this goal. Our purpose is to strengthen the economic ties we already have with these nations, to reinforce their progress toward economic and political and social reform, and to take another step toward completing the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

All of these efforts depend on one thing: Congress must pass trade promotion authority. The House of Representatives acted. In the Senate, the Finance Committee has given its strong bipartisan approval. Now it's time for the full Senate to approve trade promotion authority, so I can put it to work for the good of America—and all of the Americas.

Markets and trade, development and democracy, rely on healthy and educated people. Therefore, we are also working to bring better health care and greater literacy to the nations of our hemisphere. The United States' funding for international basic education assistance programs this year will be over 45 percent higher than last year. And this spring, the first of our regional teacher training centers will open in Jamaica. Additional centers will be operating in South and Central America by year's end.

I have called upon the World Bank and other development banks to increase the share of their funding devoted to education. The Inter-American Development Bank has significantly increased this share over the past year. All the development banks should keep moving in the direction of making sure our neighborhood is well educated. I've also urged the World Bank to provide up to 50 percent of its assistance to the world's poorest nations in the form of grants rather than loans, grants for education, for health, for nutrition, for water supplies, and for sanitation.

To this end, my next budget will include nearly \$50 million increase in aid to the World Bank programs that assist the poorest countries. If the Bank demonstrates it can use the funds to achieve measurable results and helps move forward reform, I'm prepared to consider requesting increases over \$100 million in each of my subsequent budgets. This would mean that the amount—the annual U.S. contribution to these World Bank programs would be 30 percent higher than 3 years ago.

This hemisphere is on the path of reform, and our nations travel it together. We share a vision, a partnership of strong and equal and prosperous nations, living and trading in freedom. Together, we will defend that vision against lawlessness and violence. We will assert it against terrorism and protectionism. Especially in times of adversity, we'll maintain our vision, because it unleashes the possibilities of every society and recognizes the dignity of every person. Together—and I mean together—we will build and defend this hemisphere of liberty.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States. In his remarks, he referred to Sir Eldon Griffiths, chairman, World Affairs Councils of America, who introduced the President; Jerry Leach, president, World Affairs Councils of America; Cesar Gaviria, Secretary General, and Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States; entertainer Enrique Iglesias; Roger Noriega, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil; President Ricardo Lagos of Chile; President Alejandro Toledo of

Peru; and President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde of Argentina. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Export of Bomb Containment and
Disposal Units**

January 9, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246) (the “Act”), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902 of the Act insofar as such suspensions pertain to the export of bomb containment and disposal units for use in the prevention of terrorist bombings.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
Sierra Leone and Liberia**

January 15, 2002

On January 18, 2001, by Executive Order 13194, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the insurgent Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and pursuant to which the United States imposed a general ban on the direct and indirect importation of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to the United States, except those imports controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. On May 22, 2001, I issued Executive Order 13213, which expanded the scope of the na-

tional emergency to include actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF and prohibited the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia.

Because the actions and policies of the RUF continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, and the measures adopted on those dates to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond January 18, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 15, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:50 a.m., January 16, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to
Sierra Leone and Liberia**

January 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 18, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. This is the first renewal of the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency.

The national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, with respect to Liberia, has not been resolved. The national emergency, as expanded, was declared to deal with the threat posed to United States foreign policy by (1) the insurgent Revolutionary United Front's (RUF) illicit trade in diamonds to fund its operations and procurement of weapons in the brutal, decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone; (2) the RUF's flagrant violation of the Lome' Peace Agreement of July 7, 1999; (3) the RUF's attacks on personnel of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone; and (4) the actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia and to maintain in force the sanctions imposed in response to the threat posed by the actions and policies of the RUF.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

January 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194, of Janu-

ary 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213, of May 22, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

**Executive Order 13253—
Amendment to Executive Order
13223, Ordering the Ready Reserve
of the Armed Forces to Active Duty
and Delegating Certain Authorities
to the Secretary of Defense and the
Secretary of Transportation**

January 16, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in furtherance of Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks, which declared a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States, and in order to provide the Secretary of Transportation, with respect to the Coast Guard, with the authority to manage personnel requirements in a manner consistent with the authorization provided to the Secretary of Defense in Executive Order 13223 of September 14, 2001, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 5 of Executive Order 13223 is amended by adding at the end: "The Secretary of Transportation is further designated and empowered, without the approval, ratification or any other action by the President, to exercise the authority vested in the President by sections 123 and 123a of title 10, United States Code, and sections 149 (detail members to assist foreign governments), 275(a) (suspension of provisions on

selection, promotion, or involuntary separation of officers), and 722 (administration of reserve forces) of title 14, United States Code, as invoked by section 2 of Executive Order 13223.”

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Executive Order 13223 is deleted and revised to read as follows: “Based upon my determination under 10 U.S.C. 2201(c) that it is necessary to increase (subject to limits imposed by law) the number of members of the armed forces on active duty for the Department of Defense beyond the number for which funds are provided in the appropriation Act for the Department of Defense, which, by virtue of 14 U.S.C. 652, applies to the Department of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation may provide for the cost of such additional members under their respective jurisdictions as an excepted expense under section 11(a) of title 41, United States Code.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 16, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:43 a.m., January 17, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

Remarks in a Meeting With Labor Leaders

January 17, 2002

Thank you all. Let me just be to the point: A good energy plan is important for our national security, and it's important for job security. Around the table, I'm honored to be sitting with people who represent thousands of working people. And they asked the same question I asked: What can the Federal Government do to help people find work; what can we do to create jobs?

And this energy bill that we're working on is a jobs bill. And when we explore for power—U.S. power—U.S. energy in ANWR, we're not only helping us become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil and

foreign sources of energy, we're creating jobs for American workers—jobs so that men and women can put food on the table.

That's the question these two leaders ask all the time, “How best can I help the members of my union find work? What can I do to make them, you know, be able to feed their families?” It's the same question I ask. And that's why we're linked up on this issue. We've got Republicans sitting around this table; we've got Democrats sitting around this table; we've probably got some people who don't care about politics sitting around the table. But all of us know that the energy bill that's now stuck in the Senate, that can't get voted on in the Senate, will be good for America. It will be good for our foreign policy, good for our national security, and more importantly, it will be good for jobs.

And so I want to thank you, Jimmy, for your leadership. And Doug, thank you very much. I appreciate you all working with us. I appreciate members of my Cabinet for coming. Together, we can show the country that when we work together, we can do what's right—do what's right for the working folks.

And so I'm honored you would let me come by. It's a privilege to be around this table. There's no telling what kind of conversations have gone on around this table. [Laughter] But it is a huge honor. Thank you, sir. Doug, thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in the boardroom at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001

January 17, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, thanks, Laura. I appreciate those kind words, and I love you a lot.

I want to welcome you all to the White House. It's our honor to entertain you all and to let you witness a piece of history here. The bill I'm going to sign rests on the belief that our strong Nation is built on strong families. The legislation reaffirms our country's commitment to helping children grow up in secure and loving families by encouraging adoption, by helping young adults make their way in life after they leave foster care, and by expanding mentoring for children who have a mom and dad in prison.

I'm proud of the men and women of Congress who worked hard to make this happen. This is a really good piece of legislation. In this town, sometimes the really good pieces of legislation aren't really recognized, because there hadn't been a lot of fighting and hair-pulling and gnashing of teeth. But this bill, sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans, is a meaningful, real piece of legislation that's going to change people's lives.

I want to thank Mike DeWine, and I want to thank Ben Cardin, and I want to thank Deborah Pryce, three of the bill's sponsors who have come today, for your hard work. I am sorry that Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Wally Herger of California are not here, as well. But the five names I just named are responsible for getting this piece of legislation through the House and the Senate and to my desk. And thank you all.

I, too, want to thank Tommy. He's worked really hard. He's a good, compassionate man who cares deeply about our society. And Tommy, thanks for your hard work. You tell your staff, thanks, too, for working.

The family is the foundation of this society. And here's what I know. It's the place where we find deep human fulfillment and where we find love. It is where character of our Nation is shaped and where values are forged. Families provide us with comfort and encouragement, compassion and hope, mutual support and unconditional love. No family is perfect, but every family is important.

Promoting strong families was my firm commitment when I was the Governor of Texas, and promoting strong families remains a priority for me as your President. We all know that children who are surrounded by love have a strong foundation for success as adults. When someone thinks a child is the

most important person in the world, that child will grow up to be confident in their self and loving toward others. She'll make her community stronger and her Nation better.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program has a great goal, keeping families together whenever possible. It helps to prevent the removal of children from their homes. And if that must happen to protect a child's safety, it supports efforts to correct the problem that broke the family apart and reunite the family safely and quickly. It also supports adoption and post-adoptive services to place children with loving families, to ease a child's transition into a new family, and to help ensure that families stay strong and intact. My budget next year will build on this good work, by requesting \$505 million in funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, \$130 million more than it receives this year.

The bill I sign today also supports children who grew up in foster homes by authorizing States to provide vouchers of up to \$5,000 a year for education and vocational training to teens who have aged out of the foster care system. My budget next year will ask Congress for \$60 million to fully fund this program.

I'm especially pleased that this bill authorizes funds for a crucial part of my Armies of Compassion Initiative, mentoring children whose parents are in prison. These children don't see their parents every day but, like all children, need help with homework, someone to play catch with, someone to hug them. Countless adults are willing to open their hearts to these children, and we should do all we can to support their compassion. Government cannot love a child, but it can support those who do, parents and family members and neighbors and caring adults who have heard the call.

We have some parents with us today who have heard the call, who share their love with their children and are building strong families through adoption. Derek and Cindy Baliles are police officers in Montgomery County, Maryland. Thank you all for coming. They knew they had a lot of love to offer, and they knew as soon as they met Taylor and Gerald—better known as G-man—[laughter]—that the boys would make great

additions to their family. The boys obviously feel the same way. Thanks to their hard work, thanks to the hard work of a county social worker, their adoption was finalized quickly, on the same day as their mother's birthday.

Willie and Sybil Gray originally planned to adopt one little girl who would become a sister to their son, Christopher. But an adoption agency told them that Kenyetta and Katrina, two sisters who needed a new home, needed to be adopted. The girls and their new parents quickly bonded, and Willie and Sybil will finalize their adoption in the next few months.

Adoptive parents like Willie and Sybil and Derek and Cindy give their children the most precious gift possible, their love. Advocates for adoption, many of whom are in this room, know that when you find a loving family, it makes a huge difference in a child's life, and know that our national goal must be to find a loving family for every child that needs one.

Sadly, a great American and a strong advocate for adoption and stable families passed away this week. Dave Thomas was best known as the founder of Wendy's Restaurants. But people who devote their lives to helping children know that Dave Thomas shared their commitment. As a child who was adopted, Dave once said, "I feel strongly that all children deserve a secure and loving family." His own family provided the foundation that allowed him and encouraged him to become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs and one of America's most familiar faces.

Dave's vision of America was one in which all children would be a part of a loving family, so they could grow into healthy and happy and successful adults. This bill that I'm fixing to sign will bring us closer to his vision.

And now I'd like the Members of the Congress and Secretary Thompson to join me as I sign the "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" legislation.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson. H.R. 2873, ap-

proved January 17, was assigned Public Law No. 107-133.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the President's Council on Bioethics

January 17, 2002

The President. It's nice to see everybody.

Participant. We're very pleased to be here.

The President. I'm glad you're here. First, let me just say a couple of comments. One, I think—let me thank Leon for taking on the assignment. I appreciate so very much Leon's counsel early on in my administration about how to deal with some very important issues. And then, obviously, I made the decision to put together a council, and I want to thank you all for serving.

I just told NBC News in there that I really think you can help be the conscience of the country, to help us understand some really, really difficult issues that face America and will really face us as we go down the road, and what a vital, vital contribution that you're going to make. It'll help people like me understand what the terms mean and how to come to grips with how medicine and science interface with the dignity of—the issue of life and the dignity of life and the notion that life is—you know, that there is a Creator.

This is, I think, one of these historic moments for our country, as we come to grips with a new world and how to deal with the new world. And I hope you take this—I know you take this seriously, and I just want to assure you I take it seriously and so does this administration. We all have consciences, and we wrestle with very tough issues. And there's no easy answer to some of the issues. It's hard to look at a parent of a child who's dying and believes if you take life, it will save a life. I mean, these are tough, tough issues to confront.

And I've confronted one already, and there will be others. And I look forward to your advice and counsel, and so does the Nation. It's not just me, it's the country that's going to count on you to really think through what we face.

And not only that, it will serve the world, because we're now in a unique position. I

don't want to be megalomaniac about my views, but we're leading—we're leading on a lot of fronts. And this is another front in which this country can lead, because I can assure you that other leaders are looking at it. I've talked to them, and they don't know what to do. They're wrestling with decisions, and when America makes up her mind to do something, a lot of people listen. So this is a huge forum.

So thanks for taking it on. And I want to thank Leon for his leadership. And I want to thank Tommy for being here—and Dr. Marburger. And I'll be glad to listen, answer questions. I'm not sure what we ought to do, Leon, but first you ought to say something.

[At this point, Dr. Leon R. Kass, bioethicist, University of Chicago, and Chair, President's Council on Bioethics, made brief remarks.]

The President. Let me say two other things, and then I will listen. One, you need to monitor the stem cell issue. That was the charge I gave on national TV that day, and I forgot to mention that. And the other thing is that I have spoken clearly on cloning. I just don't think it's right. On the other hand, there is going to be a lot of nuance and subtlety to the issue, I presume. And I think this is very important for you all to help the Nation understand what this means.

And with that, I'd be glad to hear folks. Mr. Carter.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson; John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; and Stephen Carter, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Yale Law School. The Office of the Press Secretary released the names of 17 members of the President's Council on Bioethics on January 16. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Dr. Kass. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7518—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2002

January 17, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

For too brief a time, our Nation was blessed by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a modern American hero whose leadership rallied people of all races to rise up against injustice. His commitment to stand peacefully for the conviction that all men are created equal brought about changes in the laws of our Nation, and he paid the ultimate price for the courage he demonstrated in attempting to ensure that all men and women were treated equally in the eyes of the law and by their fellow citizens. It is with a great sense of pride and gratitude that we celebrate this 17th national holiday in honor of Dr. King's life and work. Let us take this opportunity to recall his vision and renew his call for equal justice for all.

We enter this new year and this annual celebration with a revived national spirit. The events of September 11, 2001, have drawn us closer as a Nation and increased our resolve to protect the life and liberty we cherish. And while our patriotism and neighborly affections run high, these circumstances have given us renewed purpose in rededicating ourselves to Dr. King's "dream." As he said on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963: "I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by content of their character." Dr. King's words were not just a call to change our laws, but they also served as a challenge to all Americans to change their hearts by refusing to judge people by their skin color or their national origin, by their race or their religion. For while we have made progress, there is much work to be done, both at home and abroad.

In the face of massive injustice, Dr. King's unwavering commitment to nonviolent means of bringing the people of our Nation together provided a foundation for healing and trust. That trust brought us through our recent tragedy as we reached out to each other without regard to race or religion. Dr. King spent his life working for those who held the uncelebrated jobs in our communities—people who simply performed their work with dignity and pride. The words from his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech of 1964, spoken about the workers in the freedom movement, still ring true for those men and women who unselfishly attempted to rescue innocent persons in the World Trade Center buildings and at the Pentagon:

Most of these people will never make the headlines and their names will not appear in Who's Who. Yet when years have rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvelous age in which we live—men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilization—because these humble children of God were willing to suffer for righteousness' sake.

We are so thankful for those "humble children of God," and we are thankful for the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His abiding faith in America has helped us become a fairer and more colorblind society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 21, 2002, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I encourage Americans to observe this day with appropriate community programs, gatherings, and civic activities that honor the memory and the legacy of Dr. King.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 24.

Proclamation 7519—National Mentoring Month, 2002 *January 18, 2002*

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Mentoring Month allows us to recognize the important contributions made by the millions of our fellow citizens who choose to strengthen our Nation by giving their time, effort, and heart to serve as a mentor and role model for a young person. Through quality education programs, community initiatives, and personal involvement, mentors help our children become better citizens by showing them how to make the right choices, to work hard, and to care for their neighbors in need. Mentors play an important role in a child's life, particularly if a parent is absent. A mentor's involvement in the life of a child can brighten that child's future, help maintain healthy families, and help promote more vibrant communities.

Community mentoring programs have given millions of young people, particularly those at high-risk for poor school performance and behavior problems, a boost in life. Statistics indicate that most children who have been mentored improve their school attendance and performance, go to college, and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol. By being a positive role model, a mentor can demonstrate the blessings of living a virtuous life by sharing their values and experiences and motivating a child to learn and achieve. We must teach our children the difference between right and wrong; and we must seize every opportunity to help a young person find the right path. We must also teach discipline and accountability.

Many adults recall lessons they learned from childhood as a result of observing and interacting with role models. They recognize

their childhood homes and schools as places where love, encouragement, and instruction provided them with the tools they needed to become contributing citizens. Today, the role of families, schools, and communities remains crucial to providing stability and direction to America's young people.

My Administration strongly supports Federal, State, and local programs that help families stay together, keep both parents involved in their child's life, and utilize our education system to stand by parents and reinforce the values that are taught in the home. I am particularly pleased that the Congress passed and I have signed into law legislation I proposed to strengthen and expand successful mentoring initiatives aimed at serving a vulnerable population: children whose parents are incarcerated. This new initiative—"Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001"—represents the first comprehensive Federal effort to improve the lives of these children. This important legislation will help surround vulnerable youth with positive, one-on-one role models, and help them not just dream big dreams, but achieve them.

On the occasion of National Mentoring Month, we pay tribute to the parents, teachers, community leaders, and citizens who serve as mentors and role models for our children. We encourage others to become involved in mentoring.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 2002 as National Mentoring Month. I call upon the people of the United States to recognize the importance of being role models for our youth, to look for mentoring opportunities in their communities, and to celebrate this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 24.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Extension of Normal Trade Relations
Status for Certain Former Eastern
Bloc States**

January 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 21, 1994, President Clinton determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, he also determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

On June 29, 2000, pursuant to section 302(b) of Public Law 106-200, President Clinton determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan, and on December 29, 2000, pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106-476, he determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Georgia.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 13

In the morning, from the Oval Office, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, to discuss the situation in South Asia.

January 14

In the morning, the President traveled to East Moline, IL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. He also had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss cooperation against terrorism and peace efforts in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Springfield, MO, and Aurora, MO. In the evening, he traveled to New Orleans, LA.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack C. Chow for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Special Representative of the Secretary of State for HIV/AIDS.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Goldwater Clay, Michael Goldstein, and John Henry Winston to be members of the Board of Trustees for the Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Saul to be a member and Chair upon confirmation, and Gordon Whiting and Alejandro Modesto Sanchez to be members of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board: Carol C. Gambill, Douglas Carnine, Carmel Borders, Blanca E. Enriquez, Jean Osborn, Phyllis C. Hunter, Mark G. Yudof, Juan R. Olivarez, William T. Hiller, and Robin Morris.

January 15

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 16

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

The President named the following individuals to serve on the President's Council on Bioethics: Leon R. Kass, Chair; Elizabeth Blackburn; Stephen Carter; Rebecca Dresser; Daniel Foster; Francis Fukuyama; Michael Gazzaniga; Robert P. George; Alfonso Gomez-Lobo; Mary Ann Glendon; William B. Hurlbut; Charles Krauthammer; William F. May; Paul McHugh; Gilbert Meilaender; Janet D. Rowley; Michael J. Sandel; and James Q. Wilson.

January 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning cooperation against terrorism and the situation in South Asia. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania in the Oval Office, and then participated in a Partners in 4-H Awards ceremony in the Roosevelt Room.

In the evening, the President hosted a cocktail reception in the Residence for Republican Congressmen.

During the day, the President participated in the filming of the television productions "The Bush White House: Inside the Real West Wing," which will air on NBC on January 23, and "Inside the White House," which will air on the Discovery Channel on January 25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to Washington, DC, on February 15.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan to Washington, DC, on January 28.

January 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde of Argentina to discuss the economic situation in Argentina. He also had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Roosevelt Room with members of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security to thank them for their efforts in the past year. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the visit of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to Washington, DC, on January 31.

The White House announced that the President announced that the White House will once again be open to tours, beginning on a limited basis in early February, for school groups.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 12

Statement by the Press Secretary: Pakistani President Musharraf's Speech

Released January 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Elections in Madagascar

Released January 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1202, S. 1714, S. 1741, and S. 1793

Released January 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2278, H.R. 2336, H.R. 2751, H.R. 3030, H.R. 3248, H.R. 3334, H.R. 3346, and H.R. 3348

Statement by the Press Secretary on appointments to the President's Council on Bioethics

Advance text of the President's remarks to World Affairs Council

Fact sheet: U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (English and Spanish versions)

Released January 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Chairman Karzai to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle To Visit Washington

Fact sheet: President Bush Acts To Promote Strong Families, Safe Children

Fact sheet: Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (LIBERTAD)

Released January 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved January 15

S. 1202 / Public Law 107–119
Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 2001

S. 1714 / Public Law 107–120
To provide for the installation of a plaque to honor Dr. James Harvey Early in the Williamsburg, Kentucky Post Office Building

S. 1741 / Public Law 107–121
Native American Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Technical Amendment Act of 2001

S. 1793 / Public Law 107–122
Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001

Approved January 16

H.R. 1088 / Public Law 107–123
Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act

H.R. 2277 / Public Law 107–124
To provide for work authorization for non-immigrant spouses of treaty traders and treaty investors

H.R. 2278 / Public Law 107–125
To provide for work authorization for non-immigrant spouses of intracompany transferees, and to reduce the period of time dur-

ing which certain intracompany transferees have to be continuously employed before applying for admission to the United States

H.R. 2336 / Public Law 107–126
To extend for 4 years, through December 31, 2005, the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers

H.R. 2751 / Public Law 107–127
General Shelton Congressional Gold Medal Act

H.R. 3030 / Public Law 107–128
Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2001

H.R. 3248 / Public Law 107–129
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 65 North Main Street in Cranbury, New Jersey, as the “Todd Beamer Post Office Building”

H.R. 3334 / Public Law 107–130
To designate the Richard J. Guadagno Headquarters and Visitors Center at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California

H.R. 3346 / Public Law 107–131
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the reporting requirements relating to higher education tuition and related expenses

H.R. 3348 / Public Law 107–132
To designate the National Foreign Affairs Training Center as the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center

Approved January 17

H.R. 2873 / Public Law 107–133
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001

Week Ending Friday, January 25, 2002

**Proclamation 7520—National
Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2002**

January 18, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

This Nation was founded upon the belief that every human being is endowed by our Creator with certain “unalienable rights.” Chief among them is the right to life itself. The Signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged their own lives, fortunes, and honor to guarantee inalienable rights for all of the new country’s citizens. These visionaries recognized that an essential human dignity attached to all persons by virtue of their very existence and not just to the strong, the independent, or the healthy. That value should apply to every American, including the elderly and the unprotected, the weak and the infirm, and even to the unwanted.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that, “[t]he care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.” President Jefferson was right. Life is an inalienable right, understood as given to each of us by our Creator.

President Jefferson’s timeless principle obligates us to pursue a civil society that will democratically embrace its essential moral duties, including defending the elderly, strengthening the weak, protecting the defenseless, feeding the hungry, and caring for children—born and unborn. Mindful of these and other obligations, we should join together in pursuit of a more compassionate society, rejecting the notion that some lives are less worthy of protection than others, whether because of age or illness, social circumstance or economic condition. Consistent with the core principles about which Thomas Jefferson wrote, and to which the Founders subscribed, we should peacefully

commit ourselves to seeking a society that values life—from its very beginnings to its natural end. Unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law.

On September 11, we saw clearly that evil exists in this world, and that it does not value life. The terrible events of that fateful day have given us, as a Nation, a greater understanding about the value and wonder of life. Every innocent life taken that day was the most important person on earth to somebody; and every death extinguished a world. Now we are engaged in a fight against evil and tyranny to preserve and protect life. In so doing, we are standing again for those core principles upon which our Nation was founded.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 20, 2002, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. I call upon all Americans to reflect upon the sanctity of human life. Let us recognize the day with appropriate ceremonies in our homes and places of worship, rededicate ourselves to compassionate service on behalf of the weak and defenseless, and reaffirm our commitment to respect the life and dignity of every human being.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

January 19, 2002

Good morning. On Monday, communities across America will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Laura will visit Atlanta to commemorate the day in Dr. King's hometown. I will welcome Dr. King's family to the White House. This year's observance is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Dr. King and honor the principles for which he lived and died.

Americans can proudly say that we have overcome the institutionalized bigotry that Dr. King fought. Now our challenge is to make sure that every child has a fair chance to succeed in life. That is why education is the great civil rights issue of our time.

So my administration worked with Republicans and Democrats to enact into law the most far-reaching educational reform in a generation. We are insisting on high standards for all our children. We're putting a new emphasis on reading as the first step toward achievement. We're offering teachers new training, and States and localities new flexibility. And we're going to measure and test how everyone is doing in our new accountability system, so we can get help to children before it is too late.

We have a special obligation to disadvantaged children to close the achievement gap in our Nation. In my next budget, I will propose an increase of \$1 billion for the Federal program that aids disadvantaged schoolchildren. That's on top of the 18 percent increase in last year's budget. In fact, Federal spending on Title I will increase just about as much in the first 2 years of my administration as it did in all the previous 8 years combined. I hope Congress will approve this request.

At the same time as we fund Title I, we're giving extra help to children with special needs. The Federal program for special needs children was established by the law known as IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My 2003 budget requests an additional \$1 billion for IDEA, as well, an important increase. But we want these new dollars to carry to special education the same spirit of reform and account-

ability we have brought to other education programs.

This reform effort began Tuesday, when Education Secretary Rod Paige convened the first meeting of the new Presidential Commission on Excellence in Special Education. This distinguished and diverse group, chaired by former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, has a clear mission, to propose reforms that will make special education an integral part of an education system that expects all children to reach their full potential.

We must have high expectations for children who are more difficult to teach or who have fallen behind. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would accept no less than an equal concern for every child in America, and neither will my administration.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:32 p.m. on January 18 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 19. In his remarks, the President referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10); and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 94-142). The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration

January 21, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for coming. Mrs. King, thanks for this beautiful portrait. I can't wait to hang it. *[Laughter]*

I want to welcome you all to the White House. We've gathered in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the ideals he held and the life he lived. We remember a man who brought much good into the world by the power of his voice and the truth of his words.

For some of you here this afternoon, Dr. King was and is a special part of your life as a colleague and a friend and a brother. Four call him "Dad," and we are pleased that two of his children are here with us today.

We welcome Bernice and Martin Luther King III. I know your dad would be incredibly proud of you. I also welcome Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister. Alveda King, Isaac Farris, Jr., Arthur Bagley, and Arturo Bagley, family members, are here as well. Thank you all for coming. And of course, we're honored to be in the presence of such a distinguished and delightful lady, Coretta Scott King.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige for being here. In honor of Dr. King, the Department of Education will soon announce the Martin Luther King, Jr., scholars program to promising students all across America.

I appreciate all the members of my team who are here, in particular, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser. Thank you for coming, Condi. It's good to see the Mayor. Mr. Mayor and the first lady, Diane, are with us today. Thank you all for coming. The Mayor is a good man. I can assure you, Mr. Mayor, we paid our property taxes. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so many members of the diplomatic corps for being here. Ambassadors from all across the world are here to say hello to Mrs. King and her family. And thank you all for coming to pay honor to such a great American. Thank you very much.

On a summer night in 1964, right here in the East Room, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and handed a pen to Martin Luther King, Jr. The law marked a true turning point in the life of our country. As Dr. King put it, "The Civil Rights Act was the end of a century of slumber." More laws would be needed, and more would follow. But on that day, our Federal Government accepted the duty of securing freedom and justice for every American.

Standing in the White House, marking a national holiday in Dr. King's memory, we are now two generations and a world away from Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, as he knew them. It would be easy to forget the great obstacles he overcame and the years of effort and the daily courage that turned a cause into a movement. Perhaps without Martin Luther King, there might still have been a Civil Rights Act. There's no doubting that the law came as it did, when it did, because of him.

Yet, he was not one to claim credit for himself. The civil rights law, he said, was first written in the streets by many thousands of black citizens and others who shared their goals. Their movement rose from generations of bitter experience, the slights, the cruelties, the pervasive wrongs that marked the lives of many black Americans.

As a small boy, Martin had seen his father, a gifted and learned man, retain great dignity while being insulted, ordered about, and spoken down to. "I don't care how long I have to live with this system," said Martin Luther King, Sr., "I will never accept it." The son would not accept it either. Years afterwards, he related the story of going to the back of the bus, day after day, putting his mind up in the front seat. He told himself, "One of these days I'm going to put my body where my mind is."

In time, he did so, as did others, some of whose names are also honored in our history. Along the way, he was beaten and stabbed, jailed, and came close to losing his wife and baby daughter when their house was bombed. At a certain point, even a strong man might have yielded. Dr. King never did, and he never gave up on his country. He believed that whatever one would change, one must first love—and he loved America.

His most powerful arguments were unanswerable, for they were the very words and principles of our Declaration and Constitution. When he came to this Capital City and stood before the figure of the Great Emancipator, it was not to assail or threaten. He had come to hold this Nation to its own standards, to live out the true meaning of its creed.

We see Martin Luther King in many ways. Perhaps, above all, we should see him as a minister of the gospel. He said, "I decided early to give my life to something eternal and absolute, not to these little gods that are here today and gone tomorrow but to God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

That faith gave Dr. King the grace to forgive and the strength to love. He refused to answer hatred with hatred or meet violence with violence. He appealed not to resentment but to reason, not to anger but to conscience. He was on this Earth just 39 years. On the last night of his life, he did seem

to sense that grave danger was lying in wait. But he trusted in the ways of providence, not fearing any man, certain that no man could ever finally prevent the purposes of Almighty God.

"Here on all the roads of life," said Dr. King in a sermon, "God is striving in our striving. As we struggle to defeat the forces of evil, the God of the universe struggles with us. Evil dies on the seashore, not merely because of man's endless struggle against it but because of God's power to defeat it." Martin Luther King, Jr., lived in that belief and died in that belief.

Some figures in history, renowned in their day, grow smaller with the passing of time. The man from Atlanta, Georgia, only grows larger with the years. America is a better place because he was here, and we will honor his name forever.

It is now my honor to sign the proclamation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and their children Bernice King and Martin Luther King III; Alveda King and Isaac Farris, Jr., niece and nephew of Dr. King; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia and his wife, Diane.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Continued Operations of United States Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

January 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of July 24, 2001, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, based upon information provided to me and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (P.L. 93-148), to help ensure that the Con-

gress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1357 of June 21, 2001. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize, and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 3,100 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 18 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 17,500 personnel. During the last half of 2001, 19 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered in the city of Tuzla. Other U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 50 U.S. military personnel presently deployed to Hungary and Croatia in order to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives,

and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 22.

Remarks on Arrival in Charleston, West Virginia

January 22, 2002

The President. Thank you all. It's nice to be back. I appreciate this West Virginia welcome. Thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for giving me a chance to give you a little update on how we're doing as a nation.

But first, before I begin, I want to thank our friend, a great friend to West Virginia, Shelley Moore Capito, for her leadership. I've learned some things about Shelley Moore: One, she's very bright; two, she doesn't always do what the President says—she's got a little bit of an independent streak; but three, she loves West Virginia. She loves the State, and she's working hard to do what's right for the West Virginia people. And I'm proud to call her friend. And I hope you're proud to call her Congresswoman.

It's been a pleasure to work with some of the distinguished Members you have sent to Washington, DC, and there's no more distinguished than Senator Robert Byrd. He loves his State; he loves the country. I have been spellbound by his speeches. I've been interested to hear his points of view. I look forward to working with him as Congress comes back to Washington, DC, after the Christmas break. West Virginia has got a fine friend in Senator Byrd, and so does America, and I'm proud to call him friend.

And I appreciate your Governor being here today, Governor Wise. It's awfully kind of him to come and say hello to the President. We're working closely together on a subject that's dear to your heart and dear to my heart, and that's how to make sure West Virginia, and all of America, remains safe, make sure we've got a homeland that's secure. And the Governor is working closely on this issue with us.

I appreciate so very much the former Governor, Cecil Underwood, and my friend, for being here. I don't know if they put Cecil into "Ripley's" or not—[laughter]—but he was the youngest Governor ever and the old-

est Governor ever, and he's still looking pretty spry to me.

I appreciate the Speaker and the Senate President, as well as the minority leaders in the Senate and the House for coming. Thank you all for being here to say hello. And your mayor showed up. Mr. Mayor, thanks for coming, as well. It's an honor to be with my fellow citizens from West Virginia on such a beautiful day. And it's a day for me to tell you, folks, we're winning.

Little did I realize the last time I was here that I would be coming back to this very spot to thank the fine men and women of the West Virginia Guard for helping us fight and win the war against terror—all of you. For all who wear our uniform, I want to thank—say thank you on behalf of all Americans. For the moms and dads and wives and husbands and sons and daughters of those who wear the uniform—some of whom had been deployed out of West Virginia—thanks from the bottom of our hearts for your sacrifice. It is for a cause that is noble and a cause that is just and a cause that this great Nation will win.

I appreciate the fact that our Nation is now on alert, that we're ready, that if you see something odd happening in your neighborhood, that you now know to go and notify the local police—something different is happening, and we might ought to take a look at it.

Every morning I wake up like I did this morning, and I get to the Oval Office—I'm an early morning man. Barney and Spot and I head out to the South Lawn. [Laughter] I head in to the Oval Office, and the first thing I look at is potential threats to the United States. Every morning I'm reminded that my most important job in this day and age is to make sure our Government, the Federal Government and all governments at all levels do everything we can to prevent a further attack on the good people of this country.

I want to assure you, we're chasing down every lead; we're following every hint. Our FBI is on full alert. Their primary task now is to prevent another attack. We're working with States—as I mentioned the Governor—we're working with local officers to better share information to disrupt and prevent.

And I'm so proud of the way our Nation is responding, but the truth of the matter is, the best way to secure the homeland of the United States is to find the enemy where he hides and bring him to justice.

I know I'm like many moms—many dads, and Laura is like many moms who yearn for peace. We want nothing more than our children to be in a peaceful world. But I understand that in order to defeat the evil ones, we must use the mighty U.S. military to put—after we have put them on notice, to rout them out of their caves and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what our Nation will do.

Our military has performed brilliantly. I gave them a task with clear objectives, and they're accomplishing those tasks and those objectives. I said real clear to the world that—real clearly to the world—the old west Texan in me slipping out—[*laughter*—clearly to the world, I said that either you are with us or you are against us when it comes to finding terror. I'm proud to report many, many, many nations have signed up to be with us. But I want to assure you all that if I tire, they will go to sleep. And if we blink, so will they. And therefore, it's so important for this Nation to remain steadfast and resolved and strong in our purpose to free the world of terror so our children can live peacefully.

I want to thank the people of West Virginia and the American people for their patience. They understand that the task at hand may take a while. They understand that this country is in this for the long pull, that in order to secure freedom for generations to come, that we, this generation, must be willing to sacrifice, must be patient, must be determined, and must be resolved. We have no other choice, as far as I'm concerned. It's either allow terror to spread its wings and terrorize others, or to stand tough. And this Nation has made the decision to stand tough. And I'm proud of her.

A fellow came the other day to the office and said, "Well, are you worried about Mr. bin Laden?" I said, "No, I'm not too worried about him. He's the guy that needs to be worried." [*Laughter*] But I want to assure you, the objective is not bin Laden. Oh, we'll get bin Laden. There's only so many caves

he can hide in, if he's still hiding in caves. My attitude was, once we get him running, it's just a matter of time before we bring him to justice.

But the mission is broader than just one person. The mission is to make sure that terror, wherever it tries to settle in, is routed out. The mission is to say to the governments that think that we're not watching, "We're watching, and if you try to harbor a terrorist, feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who would commit murder on innocent citizens."

So I want to reiterate what I said to those who are making the sacrifice by wearing the uniform and particularly their families. I want to thank you. I grieve and mourn and pray when we lose a life. And we will, when it comes to the war on terror. But I told—

Audience member. We love you, sir!

The President. Thank you. [*Laughter*]

But I told the families that I've spoken to, by word and written letter, that this Nation is doing the right thing, that we're seeds in history, that we refuse to be shaped by terror, that we will win the war on terror, and the cause of sacrifice is noble, and it is just.

What a great nation we have: A nation that is willing to sacrifice for freedom and, at the same time, a nation that is liberating women and children in Afghanistan from the evil repression of the Taliban; a nation that not only stands on principle but a nation that is a nation of liberators. I'm so proud of our military and the American people, and the Afghan women and children thank you from the bottom of our heart.

I know a lot of people are thinking overseas, and that's—I can understand that, but we've got a lot of work here to do at home, too. The evil ones, when they hit us, affected our economy. And I've got to tell you something: I'm worried about people being able to find jobs. My economic plan is based upon this word: jobs. I want to ask that question all around the country, what do we do to create work? There's a lot of good people who want to work, and we've got to help them find work. And so I'm asking Congress, when they come back, to keep in mind one word: jobs.

Now, we've got to help people. We've got to help the good folks who have lost their

job as a result of 9/11, and that means extending unemployment benefits. We can do that. That means helping them with health care, and we'll do that. But the American people, they don't want just an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And that's what we've got to be figuring out how to do.

I remember when I was campaigning in West Virginia, I said, "If you'd give me a chance to become your President, one thing I'll fight for is to let the working people keep more of their own money." And guess what? We got it done. I mean, a real tax relief package that understands that by giving people their own money, somebody is going to spend more. And if somebody spends more, somebody is going to produce what their spending—spend money to produce what their spending on, which means they've got to hire people. Listen, tax relief equals jobs.

And thank goodness we did it when we did. This economy was slowing down—the evidence shows it—in March of 2001. It was beginning to kind of grind down, and tax relief happened at the right time. There's some weird economics going on in Washington. There are some saying they don't want the tax relief plan to go through, which is basically a tax increase. They want to raise taxes in the midst of a recession. I can't imagine what textbook they're reading. *[Laughter]* But raising taxes, or not allowing money in people's pockets in the midst of the recession, is the wrong prescription. If you want to create jobs, let the American people have more of their own money so they can spend it.

We've got to sell more products around the world. I've spent a lot of time talking to American farmers. I said, "Look, our farmers are the best in the world. We're the best at growing crops. So why don't we try to feed people who don't have food?" It seems like, to me, it makes sense for us to open markets for U.S. products.

We're good at what we do. We've got the best workers in the world. We're the most productive people on the face of the Earth. We should not fear opening markets; we ought to welcome opening markets so we can sell more products. If we sell more products overseas, it means more jobs for the working people in America.

In order to grow our economy—in order to grow our economy, we've got to have an energy plan. Believe it or not, we're the first administration in a long time that's developed a comprehensive energy plan. On the one hand, it says, we've got to do a good job of conservation. We've got to promote technologies that will enable people to have the same lifestyle without burning as much energy. We've got to figure out ways for our cars to burn less fuel, but be able to be comfortable and be able to let families drive all throughout West Virginia. We've got to conserve energy.

But conservation is only one half of the equation. In order to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy, we've got to find and produce more energy at home, including coal. I don't view the world as zero sum. I believe that we can have coal production and enhanced technologies in order to make sure the coal burns cleaner. I believe we can have both. Now, I know there are some in Washington who don't want to concede that, but they must not have much faith in the technology that's coming on line. I don't believe we can be independent as a nation unless we've got a constructive coal policy.

And so I asked Congress, once and for all, to pass a comprehensive energy plan, including exploring for natural gas in the State of Alaska so we can be less dependent.

The other day—some of the most interesting meetings are taking place in Washington. The other day I was with Jimmy Hoffa. A lot of people say, "Well, he's a Republican. Obviously, he doesn't care about the union." That's not true at all, for starters. I care about working people. I don't care what label they put on them. I don't care if they're a Democrat, Republican, independent, union, nonunion; I want to find jobs for everybody. I'm the President of everybody, not just a few. And so I sat down with Jimmy, and we talked about—and I was with the head of the carpenters, and seafarers, and construction people. And we're talking about jobs.

And he reminded me, one reason he was so strong for the energy plan was not only because it was good for U.S. security—he cares about U.S. security just like I care

about U.S. security—but because when we explore for energy in America, it means jobs for working people. This is just as much of a job program as it is an energy—as a national security program, folks. And it's about time Congress skips all the politics and focuses on what's right for the American people.

Congress is coming back tomorrow to Washington, and my call to Congress is, not let the year 2002 become a bitter, political year. Now, I know a lot of them are running for office, and that's fine. And I've got my favorites—[laughter]—like Shelley Moore. But there are some things that are more important than political party.

The national security is more important than political party. And I appreciate the way Democrats and Republicans have worked together. Energy is more important than political party. Jobs are more important than political party. And we showed what's possible in Washington on the education bill. We passed a good piece of legislation that says, public education is a cornerstone of job security. It's a cornerstone of hope. And the Federal Government is going to take an active role in promoting accountability to make sure nobody gets left behind in America.

I trust the local people of West Virginia to make the choices for the children of West Virginia. So we're going to pass power out of Washington, so the schools are run locally. But there are some major initiatives inherent in that bill. One of them is making sure every child reads. I mean every child, not just a few, not just only one kind of child—every single child. If we want to have an America that is hopeful and prosperous, if we want to have a job-oriented country, we'd better make sure our schools teach every child how to read. And if they don't, it's time for us to start blowing the whistle on failure and changing things early, before it's too late.

So there I was, a couple of weeks ago, traveling the country, saying, "You know, Ted Kennedy is a pretty good fellow." I know that sends a lot of shock waves throughout American political scene. [Laughter] It certainly shocked him. [Laughter] We worked together on the education bill. Instead of saying, "Well, I can't talk to you because you're of this party, and you can't talk to me because I'm that party," we said, "Why don't we do

what's right for America when it comes to our children? Why don't we set aside all the bickering? It's time for us to understand in Washington that America is more important than our political parties and come together and do what's right for the American people."

We are a strong, strong nation, and I am so proud to be the President of such an incredible land. You know, the enemy, when they hit us on 9/11, really didn't understand America. They thought we were soft. I guess they were watching too much TV. [Laughter] They didn't understand our character or our resolve. They didn't understand that if you anger a mighty nation, that we will rise up with one voice and bring justice. We're a nation not of revenge but a nation of justice. We're a nation that loves our freedom. We're a nation—a nation based upon some fundamental values and principles.

You know, after 9/11, a lot of mothers and dads sat down at their dinner tables and reassessed their value systems. They said, "We now understand our most important job is to love our children. We may be working 8 to 5, but loving your children is forever." There's a lot of mothers and dads—there's a lot of moms and dads saying, "I love you," on a daily basis, and that's good. Out of evil can and has come good.

Audience member. How's Laura?

The President. She's doing great. Thank you for mentioning her name. [Laughter] Laura is doing great. I got to tell you, what a fabulous, fabulous wife and First Lady she is. It's clear I married above myself. [Laughter]

But I want you all to know that many have asked, "What can I do to help America?" And they're still asking that question. Well, the best way to fight evil is with good. The best way to let the enemy know here at home that they have not affected us is for parents to love their children more, is for people in communities all across West Virginia to help a neighbor at need. If you've got a shut-in across the street from you and want to be a soldier in the war against terror, walk across the street on a daily basis and say, "Can I help you?"

If your church group or synagogue or mosque knows somebody who's lonely, why

don't you help set up a mentoring program so the child knows somebody in America loves him or her? If you want to be a soldier in the war against terror, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

America is defined not by our Government. America is defined by millions of acts of kindness that take place every single day all across America, because this Nation is a nation of such strong values, of such strong faith, that nobody, no evil one will ever be able to diminish the good inherent in the soul and character of the American people.

It is my honor to be your President and to be the President of such a fabulous land. Thank you for having me come. May God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at Yeager Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Robert E. Wise and former Gov. Cecil H. Underwood of West Virginia; Speaker Robert S. Kiss and Minority Leader Charles S. Trump IV, West Virginia House of Delegates; President Earl Ray Tomblin and Minority Leader Vic Sprouse, West Virginia Senate; Mayor Jay Goldman of Charleston; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Mike Sacco, president, Seafarers International Union; and Edward C. Sullivan, president, Building and Construction Trade Department.

Telephone Remarks to the March for Life

January 22, 2002

Nellie, thank you very much. I want to thank you very much, and I want to wish everybody a good afternoon. I'm calling from the State of West Virginia.

I want to begin, Nellie, by praising you and your dedication to the cause of human life. For almost 30 years, Americans from every State in the Union have gathered on the Washington Mall in order to march for life. This march is an example of an inspiring commitment and of deep human compassion.

Everyone there believes, as I do, that every life is valuable, that our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and weak,

the imperfect, and even the unwanted, and that our Nation should set a great goal that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law.

Abortion is an issue that deeply divides our country, and we need to treat those with whom we disagree with respect and civility. We must overcome bitterness and rancor where we find it and seek common ground where we can. But we will continue to speak out on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society.

We do so because we believe the promises of the Declaration of Independence are the common code of American life. They should apply to everyone, not just the healthy or the strong or the powerful. A generous society values all human life. A merciful society seeks to expand legal protection to every life, including early life, and a compassionate society will defend a simple, moral proposition: Life should never be used as a tool or a means to an end.

These are bedrock principles, and that is why my administration opposes partial-birth abortion and public funding for abortion, why we support teen abstinence and crisis pregnancy programs, adoption and parental notification laws, and why we are against all forms of human cloning.

And that is why I urge the United States Senate to support a comprehensive and effective ban on human cloning, a ban that was passed by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote of the House of Representatives last July.

We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children and to seek the promise and potential of every single life. You're working and marching on behalf of a noble cause and affirming a culture of life. Thank you for your persistence, for defending human dignity, and for caring for every member of the human family.

May God continue to bless America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:08 p.m. from Charleston, WV, to march participants on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In his remarks, he referred to Nellie J. Gray, president, March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

Exchange With Reporters in Belle, West Virginia

January 22, 2002

Enron/Upcoming Session of Congress

Q. Mr. President, do you think the Enron investigation will become a distraction for Congress and, by extension, your goals?

The President. No.

Terrorist Attack in India/Upcoming Session of Congress

Q. Is the attack in Calcutta an attack on America? Was the attack in Calcutta an attack on our country?

The President. Well, we're gathering more information about it, to find out exactly what the facts are. Terror is terror, however. It doesn't matter whether it's an attack on us or an attack on other people. You've got to work together to fight off terrorists.

For your question, I believe Congress knows what it needs to do. It needs to fund the war. It needs to fund homeland security. It needs to work on ways to create jobs. And I'm confident that all the facts will come out on Enron. And I'm also confident that if Congress has the right attitude, we can get a lot done. We need an energy policy, a trade policy. So I'm going to keep talking about it until we get it done.

Enron

Q. Do you worry that Enron creates a negative perception about you or your policies?

The President. Our administration has done the exact right thing. There has been a couple of contacts with people in my Cabinet. And my Cabinet officers said, "No help here." And we're starting an investigation before anybody started paying attention to Enron. Last December, Elaine Chao started an investigation of pensions. And I'm absolutely confident the American people know that my administration has acted the right way.

What I'm outraged about is that shareholders and employees didn't know all the facts about Enron. My own mother-in-law bought stock last summer, and it's not worth anything now. If she had known all the facts, I don't know what her decision would have been made, but she didn't know all the facts.

And a lot of shareholders didn't know all the facts. And that's wrong.

And so our Government must do something about it, must make sure that the accounting practices that have been going on for quite a while are addressed, make sure there's full disclosure and the corporate government's issues are wide open for everybody to understand.

If Congress is going to do its business, and should—the Congress also needs to stay focused on the American people. We're running a war. We've got to make sure our homeland is secure. And we've got to make sure people can find work. And we'll take care of our business.

Q. [*Inaudible*]
—call the information about meetings between the Vice President and Enron and energy policy, just to get it out—

The President. If somebody has got an accusation about some wrongdoing, just let me know. It's like when I talked with Don Evans and O'Neill, they told me they had spoke to Enron. I said, "Tell the people what you did." And if there's any accusations, if you've got anything on your mind—the energy report should speak for itself. We laid out the energy report; it's fully disclosed. People now know that we need an energy plan based upon conservation and increasing supplies and better transmission of energy. And there's no better place to talk about energy than right here in West Virginia, which is an energy-dependent State.

Energy Policy and Coal Miners

Q. The West Virginia coal miners, sir, what do you say to—

The President. My answer is that with a comprehensive energy plan, they're going to be able to find work. And we need an energy plan. And there are ways to have coal exploration and coal development with a sensitivity toward our environment.

Q. What about the West Virginian who's not into coal, the other part of the State that needs help so badly?

The President. Well, education is going to be the first step. People getting a good education are going to be able to find good work. And West Virginia has got an interesting, burgeoning tourist industry. They've

got a good natural gas industry, and they've got a lot going for them. But a lot of it is going to be the ability to educate the people so they can find work. And that's why this education bill is a good piece of legislation.

Thank you, all, pleasure.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:40 p.m. during a tour of the Walker Machinery Co. Powertrain and Engine Rebuild Facility. In his remarks, the President referred to his mother-in-law, Jenna Welch.

Remarks to Employees of the Cecil I. Walker Machinery Company in Belle January 22, 2002

Thank you very much. Well, thank you for that warm welcome. Steve, I appreciate the fact that everybody who works here has got a uniform on with my middle name. [*Laughter*] I don't know if he'll claim me as a relative, being a Walker. [*Laughter*] But hearing how you like to sing at parties in West Virginia, I'm not so sure I want to claim you. [*Laughter*]

But I'm honored you all would have me. I appreciate small-business owners, entrepreneurs, people who work hard, people who build a team. I want to thank the workers here for such a warm greeting. I also appreciate you for your high-quality work. You know, American workers are the best in the world, and Walker employees are some of the best workers in the world, too.

I can't think of a better place to talk about economic security than at a place that works hard to create jobs and helps people keep a job and makes sure that people who work here are treated well, treated with respect.

At its core, an economic security plan for every American has got to be the goal of our Government, and it begins with a good education and ends with secure retirement. And in between, much of one's life depends on being able to find work, good, steady work. And that's how I approach decisions about our economy. I ask, are we creating an environment in which people can find work. My economic plan is summed up in one word: jobs. And that's what all of us in Washington ought to be asking: How do we create jobs for people who want to work in America?

I want to thank members of the West Virginia delegation who are with me. Shelley traveled with me from Washington. We flew down together; we had a good visit. Every time I talk to her, she constantly talks about West Virginia. Every time I talk to her, she doesn't necessarily do everything I tell her to. She's got kind of a West Virginia independent streak to her. [*Laughter*] But I'm proud to call her friend, and I'm also proud to call Jay Rockefeller friend. He and I are different political parties, but that's okay. We both love America.

The other day I had the honor of signing a piece of legislation at the White House, called the Safe and Stable Families Act. It's a really good piece of legislation. It's legislation that promotes adoption, legislation that helps foster care children. It's a legislation sponsored by Republicans and Democrats. Senator Rockefeller was one of the sponsors, and I sung his praises there, and I'm happy to come on his home turf and sing his praises here for this piece of legislation. So, thank you, Senator Rockefeller, for doing it.

Every job begins with one decision, and that is the decision by somebody to say, "I want to hire you." It comes as a surprise to some in Washington, though, when you think about that, that most of the hiring does not take place at the Government level. Of course, we create jobs by hiring people at the Government level. Most hiring takes place at small businesses. Most hiring takes place when an employer in the private sector says, "I need you to work for me." And so the job of the Government, if you think about it, is not to try to create wealth. That's not the job of the Government. The job of a Government is to create an environment in which more people are willing to hire more workers.

If jobs are the most important part of one of my jobs, then I'm going to insist that people ask the question, how do we encourage people to hire more people? That's what we ought to be asking. And that's the role of Washington, DC.

It starts with making sure everybody is well educated. You know, every new product, every new service starts with a good idea. And then that needs to be carried out by talented, skilled, educated people. With a

better educated workforce, our businesses, small and large, all across America are going to be able to innovate and make improvements. A better educated workforce will mean America is more productive, and higher productivity means more jobs and higher paychecks.

So we've got to get it right when it comes to education. And I'm proud to report this is one issue where a handful of us in Washington decided to put aside our political parties and focus on what was right for America. I had the honor of signing a very good piece of education legislation, sponsored by, of all people in the Senate, Ted Kennedy. Now look, I traveled the country saying the guy is not a bad guy. *[Laughter]* I think I put him in shock. *[Laughter]* I know I put the people in Crawford, Texas, coffee shop in shock. *[Laughter]* But on this issue we worked well together, Republicans and Democrats. We showed the country that party is all right—I'm a proud Republican—it's not nearly as important as the education of our children.

One of the roles of Government is not only to create an environment that is good for jobs but to remove obstacles, if they exist, for people having jobs. One of the obstacles that exists in our society is a public school system that simply shuffles children through the schools. It's so much easier to quit on a child, one that's supposedly hard to educate. And in some schools, in some school districts, and in some States, we've had the practice of just moving children through.

And that's not right in America. It is not right to quit on kids. And so now, as a result of this piece of legislation that both the Members here voted for, we asked—we say, "Look, if you get Federal money"—and we're going to spend money, by the way, on certain areas in education out of the Federal Government—"but if you get it, you've got to show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract."

I'm asking the simple question, are we getting results with your money? And if not, do something different. If we're spending money, we expect children to learn to read. And if they can't, you'd better change, or otherwise, we're going to give parents different options, so that there is no child trapped in

a school that will not teach and will not change.

I want to assure you, I remembered where I came from. I trust the people of West Virginia to run the schools of West Virginia, so we passed power out of Washington to the States. But we expect high standards and high accountability and results. If what we're worried about is jobs, we've got to remove the obstacle for people finding good work by educating every child who lives in America.

But education doesn't just stop at the elementary school level or high school or college. This Nation has got to understand, as technology changes, we've got to make sure the workforce changes with it. And that's why I strongly support local job training programs.

We're increasing—significantly increasing the amount of job training in our—in the budget I submit to Congress. It recognizes there are a lot of good, hard-working people in America who received an education, that were skilled in one area, but the job base has shifted, and therefore, we better educate people to make sure that they can shift with the technologies. And as well, my 2003 budget increases funding for Job Corps, which is an effective program that will help disadvantaged young people learn how to work.

So one thing we can do to make sure that people find a job is to make sure our education system works well throughout its entirety. Another thing to make sure there's an opportunity to create more jobs is to have good tax policy that allows people to keep more money, more of their own money, that you can put more of your own money in your own pocket, and you can spend it.

When workers have more money—and by the way, it's your money to begin with. It's not the Government's money. Somebody said the other day, "Well, the Government is giving back the money." Well, it's not the Government's money; it's the people who work for a living's money. If you have more of your own money, it means you're going to spend more. And if you spend more, somebody is going to have to make more of what you're spending it on, which means more likely somebody is going to find work. That's how the economy works.

The same with Walker. I want the Walkers to have more money to reinvest in their business. I want the Walkers to be able to have more cash flow so they can upgrade the equipment which the workers here use. It means it's more likely that somebody is going to find a job for the long term.

Now, there is kind of a wacky economic theory going around Washington. It says, "The more they take in your taxes, the better off you'll be." [Laughter] It doesn't make any economic sense. It doesn't make any dollars and cents. And here in West Virginia, like they do elsewhere, they've got to know this is nonsense.

This economy started slowing down last March. And so the tax cut we put in place for everybody who pays taxes came right at the right time. If you want to encourage an economy to recover, you let people keep more of their own money. If you want to slow down an economy, you stop tax cuts. You, in essence, take money away from people, and that's not right, folks. I'm worried about job security. The more money people have, the more likely it is you're going to be able to find work.

Now, I'm also worried about people who lost work because of the evil ones who attacked us. And I look forward to working with members of both political parties to extend unemployment benefits to those who lost their job and to help them with health care. Surely, we can come together to do that.

But any good economic stimulus plan must ask the question, how do we create more jobs? And one way to do that is to accelerate tax relief for workers, and the other way to do that is to make sure the Tax Code doesn't punish companies like Walker. We ought to allow them to accelerate the depreciation schedule so it is more likely they will buy more equipment. And we've got to reform a Tax Code that makes them pay more taxes even though their profits are going down.

And it is time for a vote. It's time for people to set aside who's going to benefit on the nightly news, you know, whose picture is going to look the best. Let's get a vote up. Let's pass this bill. Let's quit talking about it, and let's get the bill going. Congress is coming back tomorrow, and I'm confident,

if they listen to the people out there, they'll know it's time to get a piece of legislation moving that will help create jobs and help workers who got affected as a result of 9/11.

The next opportunity is to make sure that this Nation has an energy policy. This Nation needs an energy policy. Jobs depend on affordable energy. If there's a price spike or a disruption in supply, people may not have work. And it's also in our Nation's national security interests that we become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

And we're dependent. We're dependent on energy from some parts of the world where sometimes they like us, and sometimes they don't. And we need to do something about it. We need an energy bill. We passed one out of the House of Representatives, and it's now time for the United States Senate to pass a good bill. It's one that says, "Of course, we'll conserve more." All of us want to have new technologies that will make conservation a part of our life. And we can do a better job in America. One of these days, we're going to be driving automobiles that are fueled differently. And that's going to be exciting times for America. In other words, there's new technologies coming down, and we can encourage those technologies. So conservation, technological development have got to be an integral part of energy.

But folks, we need more supply. You know, I'm walking back here in the back, and they said, "I'm now repairing a machine that digs for coal." We need to use coal. We've got a lot of it, and we need to make sure that we've got coal.

A lot of people don't realize that good energy policy means jobs. Bad energy policy means we might lose jobs. Good energy policy means we can create jobs.

I was with Jimmy Hoffa the other day, of the Teamsters, in his headquarters. I know, I mean, people don't expect a Republican to be hanging out with the Teamsters. [Laughter] But he and I share something in common: We worry about people who want to work. He worries about it as the head of a mighty union. I worry about it as the President.

See, I'm the President of everybody, not just a few. I'm the President of people

whether they voted for me or not. I'm the President of union and nonunion. I'm the President of Republicans and Democrats and independents. And I share something in common with Jimmy, and that is how best to get jobs. That's why he and I both know that the energy bill ought to make sure we can explore for natural gas and crude oil in Alaska. It's good for jobs. He knows what I know: That means work for people.

There's going to be a lot of work. And he knows what I know, as well: that we can do so in an environmentally friendly way, that we can have a footprint in this vast tundra that will not affect the environment and, at the same time, make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Listen, finding oil and gas and coal in our own hemisphere—and nuclear power, for that matter—in our own hemisphere is in our national security interest. And I ask the Senate to put aside all the politics and get me a good energy bill. It's in the best interests for people trying to find work, and it's in the best interests of the United States of America.

We can create more opportunities by selling more products overseas. You know, I spent a lot of time as the Governor of Texas with the farmers. The agricultural sector is an incredibly important part of our economy. And one of the benefits we have as a nation is, we can feed ourselves. That's good for the national security interest, by the way. But we produce more food than we need. We ought to be selling it overseas. The more markets available for U.S. products, the more likely it is somebody is going to find work.

It is so important for America to understand that we're good at what we do. We can compete with anybody in the world. We've got the most productive workforce on the face of the Earth. Therefore, let's open up markets to sell our products. The Senate has got to give me the ability to do that. It came out of the House; it's bottled up in the Senate. I ask them to pass that bill called the trade promotion authority.

In order to create good jobs, we've got to have a legal system that's fair and balanced. I want people who have got a good case to be able to make their case in court. But I'm going to tell you, the Walker boys fear frivo-

lous and junk lawsuits. I don't know them that well, but I can guess they do. *[Laughter]* And we don't need a lot of regulation either. The Federal Government ought to be wise about how we enforce standards but not overregulate those who are trying to create work.

We can do some smart things in Washington to create jobs. One of the things the Government needs to do is to spend money on research and development. The more research and development there are, the more likely it is we'll find interesting answers to energy problems or health problems or national security issues. And that translates into jobs.

And so my budget for 2003 spends \$110 billion on Federal research—on grants for research and development. It makes sense. The more we know today about the future, the more likely it is we're going to be able to have a workforce that's steadily employed.

And finally, we've got to make sure that we have retirement security, that if part of a secure economic environment begins with education, it's got to end with making sure that our Medicare system works well, that people are given options, that it's a modern system that reflects the modern ways of medicine, and that we have a Social Security system that fulfills the promise to the elderly but recognizes we better reform her for the younger workers so that they will have a Social Security system, one that says if you're relying upon Social Security today, nothing changes. The promise we have made you will be a promise this Government will keep.

But if you're a younger worker, we've got to trust you to manage your own money, if that's what you choose to do. You see, ownership is a part of what it means to have a society that is vibrant, that is a society based upon economic security. I want people to own their home, and so we've got plans to encourage ownership from renters. I want people to be able to manage their own money. I want people to be able to own and start their own business. I want them to be able to pass their farm or ranch or business from one generation to the next. That's why I was so insistent we get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code. Ownership is what makes America unique and different. And if we're asking

about how to make sure we have a secure environment for workers and families, let's encourage people to own their own home and business and their own retirement accounts. And we can do that.

As a matter of fact, I'm confident in our economy, confident in—because I'm confident in the American way of life. You know, they hit us on 9/11, but Walker was running before 9/11, and it's running after 9/11. I mean, some certainly have gotten affected as a result of the attacks. But they didn't diminish the entrepreneurial spirit of America. They didn't diminish the drive by small-business owners to expand and grow and to create jobs. Now we've got—the underpinnings of growth are with us. And our job in Washington, DC, is to encourage that growth and to always remember that jobs are the cornerstone of good economic policy.

But these are unique times in America, which means we've got to really deal with the problem that came upon our shores. The truth of the matter is, the best thing I can do for the economy is to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again. And I'm proud of the—[*applause*—every morning I wake up, walk into the great Oval Office. Well, first I take Barney and Spot outside. [*Laughter*] But I go into this fabulous office—by the way, it is just a—it's a shrine to our great democracy—and I read a threat assessment. You know the intentions of the enemy are to hit us again. And I make a vow every morning that I will do everything in my power and encourage those of us in positions of responsibility not to let that happen.

You need to know our Government is on full alert, and I hope you are, as well. People say, "What does that mean?" Well, if you see something odd happening, let somebody know—something out of the ordinary. It's just like that stewardess on the airplane that time when the shoe man showed up. She saw something was odd. [*Laughter*] She thought something was different, and she brought him in. That's what Americans must do now as a result of the evil ones hitting us. We've got to be on our toes.

The FBI has changed its culture. The FBI is now focused on preventing another attack. We've got agents all across the country working day-in and day-out to sniff out any lead,

any idea, because our biggest job is to prevent them from coming at us. They may come at us, but they're not going to get us.

I want to thank the local law enforcement officers here in West Virginia who are working hand in hand with State officers and working with our Federal people, too. But the truth of the matter is, the best way to make sure that we secure our homeland is to find the enemy where they hide and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Many of you have got relatives in the military, and I want to thank you, and you thank them on behalf of their Commander in Chief. Put the military to a task, and the military has performed brilliantly.

We told the world, I told the world, our Government has told the world, our country has told the world, that this compassionate, generous Nation will not let terror stand, that wherever we find terror, we will deal with it. We put a great coalition together, people who understand that this is an historic opportunity and a moment in which those who love freedom must not blink and must not tire, that—I made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, we're going to treat you like a terrorist.

And the Taliban learned that lesson because of our United States military. They're not in power. And by routing them out of power, this great Nation not only defended freedom, not only sent a clear message about our intention, but this great Nation liberated a people. We liberated women and children. We freed people from incredible oppression. What a proud moment for America, that we stood for what we believe and, in so doing, gave people a better chance for life.

I want to thank you all and thank the American people for your patience. If we tire, the world will tire. If we get impatient, the terrorists win. Yet our great Nation is bound by such a love for freedom and the desire not for revenge but for justice that we're not going to tire, that we will stay the course.

Families in America have suffered the greatest sacrifice of all, the loss of a loved one. But in this case, the cause is noble, and it is just. We fight for freedom and the ability for our children and grandchildren to grow

up in a peaceful world, one that does not fear murderers coming onto our shore and killing through acts of terror.

This country must not yield. We must seize this moment of history. It is this generation's calling, and we are not going to let the world down. We're ready; we're steady; we're resolved. And we will rout out the terrorists, no matter what cave they think they can hide in, and bring them to justice.

You know, I was floored to think about the attitudes of the enemy when they thought we were soft. I couldn't figure out which TV show they had been watching. [*Laughter*] I mean, can you imagine somebody saying the great United States won't respond, or the great United States really doesn't care, won't commit the resources necessary to rid the world of evil? But my oh my, did they make a huge mistake.

They also didn't understand the character of the country. They don't understand how good we are. They don't understand America's values: the values of freedom of worship no matter what religion you choose, freedom to speak, freedom to run for office, freedom to vote, freedom to be—to work for your family so your family can live in a peaceful world. They don't understand that. They must not understand it.

I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help?" Well, what you could do to help for a while was to travel, and it looks like we're getting better. Airlines are filling up, and people are going to different destination places. But the truth of the matter is, if you want to fight evil—and make no mistake about it, this is good versus evil—if you want to fight evil, do some good.

If you're interested in fighting evil, tell your children you love them every day this year. If you want to fight off evil, get involved in the school system and make it as good as it can be. Teach a child to read. If you want to fight evil, go to your church or synagogue or mosque and start a program that will love a neighbor. If you want to fight evil, go see a shut-in and say, "What can I do to help?"

You see, the great character of America is not defined necessarily by our military actions, although that counts. The great character of America is defined by millions of

acts of decency and kindness that take place every day all across our country.

The evil ones struck, but out of this will come incredible good. The world will be more peaceful when we accomplish our mission. And this country will be more compassionate and more decent and more loving.

It's such an honor to be the President of a land that has achieved so much but with much more to do. Thank you for giving me the chance to come, and thank you for giving me the chance to be your President.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Engine Rebuild Center of the Walker Machinery Co. Powertrain and Engine Rebuild Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Walker, president and chief executive officer, Cecil I. Walker Machinery Co.; James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and Richard C. Reid, a passenger on American Airlines Flight AA63 who allegedly tried to ignite an explosive device in his shoe while en route from Paris to Miami on December 22, 2001.

Remarks at a Reserve Officers Association Luncheon

January 23, 2002

Thank you all. At ease. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you all very much for such a warm welcome. It's an honor to be here, and it's an honor to receive the Minuteman Award. I'm in pretty good company: Scoop Jackson, Strom Thurmond, President Ford, President Reagan, and the best dad a guy could ever have.

It's a high privilege to be here with the men and women of the Reserve Officers Association. For 80 years you stood up for America and the people who wear its uniform. Today many Reserve officers are on duty in our campaign against terror. Today the Guard and Reserve are fighting a two-front war, one in Central Asia and one here at home.

The Air Force Reserve alone has flown more than 3,000 sorties over Afghanistan and more than 800 sorties to protect American cities. In this hour of need, America is depending on our Reserve officers. You are not letting us down, and America is grateful.

We're in a fight for freedom and for the security of the American people. We're in a fight for the values of civilization. And the terrorists, the evil ones who targeted America are learning something: They picked the wrong enemy. Whatever it takes, whatever it costs, this patient, this resolved Nation will win the first war of the 21st century.

I want to thank Chip for his fine introduction and for picking me for the award. [Laughter] I see Secretary of the Army White is here. General Jumper is here. I'm sure I'm going to miss somebody. David Chu is here, and other members of one of the finest teams—one of the finest national security teams a President has ever put together. Thank you all for coming. And I appreciate the Reserve chiefs, as well. Thank you for your service to the country.

You know, it has been 4½ months since September the 11th. It's been 4½ months since we've been attacked. Sometimes it seems like a long time. But one thing is for certain: When you think about the nature of the war we face, 4½ months is not a very long time. And yet, we've done a lot. We've accomplished a lot.

One thing is for certain: This great Nation has risen to the challenge. One of the most brutal and repressive regimes ever, the Taliban, is now out of business. We've smoked members of Al Qaida out of their caves. We've destroyed their bunkers, and the global network of terrorists has seen the first glimpse of their fate.

We've sent food and medical shipments to the suffering people of Afghanistan. We've helped them organize a new government that represents all the people. And this proud military and this great Nation has liberated people. We've liberated women and children who lived under the severe hand of the most repressive Taliban.

And these gains are a tribute to the United States military. There were no doubt in my mind that when I unleashed our great military, our men and women would perform bravely. They have not let us down. Our military is relentless—I mean relentless—in pursuing the terrorists. And at the same time, we've shown great care in protecting innocent life.

They serve with skill and dedication. Our commanders are patient; they're not restless. They know that they've got the backing of the administration and the American people; that I'm patient; the people are patient. We all know that we've entered a difficult phase in our first theater in the war against terror; that while, in the first couple of months, we saw great success on the ground, we're now on a manhunt, one person at a time. No matter how long it takes, no matter where we have to look, our United States military will patiently and surely hunt down the murderers and killers and terrorists and bring them, one by one, to justice.

Our fight against terrorism began in Afghanistan, but it's not going to end there. We still face a shadowy enemy who dwells in the dark corners of the Earth. Dangers and sacrifices lie ahead. Yet, America will not rest; we will not tire until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, has been stopped, and has been defeated.

We have a special responsibility to defend freedom. And I accept that responsibility and so does our military and so do the American people. And I have the responsibility to prepare the Nation for all that lies ahead. Next week I will go before Congress to lay out my priorities for the coming year. There will be no room for misunderstanding. The most basic commitment of our Government will be the security of our country. We will win this war; we will protect our people; and we will work to renew the strength of our economy.

Our first priority is the military. The highest calling to protect the people is to strengthen our military. And that will be the priority of the budget I submit to the United States Congress. Those who review our budget must understand that we're asking a lot of our men and women in uniform, and we'll be asking more of them in the future. In return, they deserve every resource, every weapon needed to achieve the final and full victory.

My '03 budget calls for more than \$48 billion in new defense spending. This will be the largest increase in defense spending in the last 20 years, and it includes another pay raise for the men and women who wear the uniform.

We will invest in more precision weapons, in missile defenses, in unmanned vehicles, in high-tech equipment for soldiers on the ground. The tools of modern warfare are effective. They are expensive. But in order to win this war against terror, they are essential. Buying these tools may put a strain on the budget, but we will not cut corners when it comes to the defense of our great land.

Another priority is to protect our people from future terrorist attacks. And so the second priority in my budget will be a major new increase in spending for homeland security. The Federal Government has already acted quickly to increase the number of sky marshals, to support the largest criminal investigation in U.S. history, to acquire antibiotics for large-scale treatment of anthrax, to deploy hundreds of Coast Guard cutters and aircraft and small boats to patrol ports, and to station 8,000 National Guardsmen in the Nation's airports.

All this came in response to a sudden emergency. Now we must undertake a sustained strategy for homeland defense. In our next budget, we move forward to complete the hiring of 30,000 new Federal airport security workers. We will hire an additional 300 FBI agents to help fight the war on terror. We'll purchase new equipment to improve the safety of the mail and protect the men and women who deliver our mail. We'll begin a major program of research to combat the threat of bioterrorism. We'll modernize public health labs throughout the country, improving their capacity to detect and treat outbreaks of disease. We will ensure that State and local firemen and police and rescue workers are prepared for terrorism, and we will do more to secure our borders.

The American people are on watch against future attacks, and so will their Government. The truth of the matter is, though, in order to fully secure America and our allies, those of us who love and defend freedom, in order to make sure we're safe in the long run, we must find the terrorists wherever they think they can hide and, as I like to say, get them.

Another priority of the budget is to fight the recession and work on the economic security of our people. You know, our country is united when it comes to fighting the war. We need to be united when it comes to bat-

tlung recession, as well. It's time to set aside all the politics, all the posturing, and figure out how to take care of workers whose lives were affected because of the attacks on 9/11.

But as we do so, always remember that people may want an unemployment check to help them through tough times, but what they really want is a permanent paycheck. And therefore, jobs ought to be the central core of any economic development plan that we can run out of the United States Congress.

So when I submit my budget to the United States Congress, these will be my priorities. We've made our choices to match the great challenges and opportunities of our time. Our great challenge is to protect the American people. Our great opportunity is to advance the cause of justice and human dignity and freedom all across the world. In this cause, our military is showing the world America at its best.

And so, on behalf of an entire nation, I want to say thanks to the men and women who wear our uniform, and thanks to the Reserve Officers Association for your sacrifices and your support of our great land.

Thank you for having me, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:23 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Charles L. "Chip" Holsworth, USAFR, national president, Reserve Officers Association; Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF, chief of staff, U.S. Air Force; and David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Remarks on Signing the Victims of Terrorism Tax Relief Act of 2001

January 23, 2002

Thanks for coming. Please be seated. Thank you all very much. We've come together today to remember and recognize victims of terrorism and to sign a piece of legislation that will provide a tangible measure of support for their families.

The Victims of Terrorism Tax Relief Act will provide some tax relief to families of those killed in the attacks on September the

11th, the anthrax attacks after September the 11th, and the Oklahoma City bombing. This is a small gesture, compared to the overwhelming generosity of the American people in times of tragedy. Yet this will help to extend that generosity because it exempts payments from charities to victims' families from Federal taxes. This legislation is a bipartisan symbol of the Federal Government's concern for families who suffered such great loss.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I particularly want to thank those who worked on the bill: Senator Torricelli of New Jersey; Senators Schumer and Clinton of New York—and by the way, welcome back to the White House—Senator Nickles of Oklahoma; Senators Allen and Warner of Virginia; Senator Baucus of Montana; Congressman Rangel of New York; Congressman Fossella of New York; Congressman Thomas of California, who couldn't be here; and all the other Members, both Republicans and Democrats. Welcome back to town, and welcome to the White House.

We're joined today by families who have lost loved ones in the great acts of evil. As you draw on faith and personal strength to cope with your grief, I hope you'll also find comfort in the knowledge that your Nation stands with you and prays for you. We mourn those whom we've lost, and we face the future together.

In times like these, we realize both the purpose and the limitations of Government. The Government cannot take away your pain and sorrow, but it can bring the killers to justice. It can devote its energy and resources to try to prevent other families from experiencing what you're going through and can help remove some of the financial obligations it imposes to ease your burdens.

The Oklahoma City bombing was a terrible crime, and justice was done. And I can assure each of you that justice will be done to all those who are responsible for the evil acts of September the 11th.

We've already driven the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, and we're helping a new government take its place. We've infiltrated Al Qaida caves. We destroyed their

camp. We will continue to destroy their bunkers and their hideaways. We've put them on the run, and we'll hunt them down, wherever they try to hide, and bring them to justice.

As we wage the war on terrorism abroad, we will also comfort families deeply hurt by terrorism here at home. The Members of the United States Congress who came together to pass this bill I'll sign today had one goal in mind: to help ease your financial burdens as you struggle to cope with the loss of your loved ones.

Many families lost their primary wage earners in the attack on the Murrah Federal Building, in the attacks of September the 11th, and in the anthrax attacks after September the 11th. This financial strain deepens the emotional and psychological impact of the initial tragedies. The legislation passed by Congress will relieve the tax burden on families who have lost loved ones. Under this law, the Federal Government will collect no income taxes on wages earned by terrorism victims in the year of their death or in the preceding year.

Families of victims killed in the Oklahoma City bombing will receive a tax refund on behalf of their relatives. Some death benefits paid by employers will be exempt from Federal taxation. Lower State tax rates will apply to victims of terrorist attacks, as well as to members of the armed services who have been killed in combat zones. And to help insure that families receive as much relief as possible from charitable organizations, payments from charitable organizations to victims' families will be exempt from Federal taxation.

The Victims of Terrorism Tax Relief Act is an important example of our national unity and resolve, and it's my honor to sign it today. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:18 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 2884, approved January 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-134.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 18, 2002

On January 23, 1995, by Executive Order 12947, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process. On August 20, 1998, by Executive Order 13099, the President identified four additional persons, including Usama bin Laden, who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Because these terrorist activities continue to threaten the Middle East peace process and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, and the measures adopted on those dates to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond January 23, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 18, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:57 a.m., January 18, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 22.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 22, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 7371).

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process, and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency, declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

January 23, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. The last report, consistent with Public Law 102-1, was transmitted on October 11, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives,

and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Russia

January 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 24.

Remarks to United States Mayors and County Officials

January 24, 2002

Welcome to the White House. It's a privilege for me and for Tom to be with the country's most accountable elected officials—[laughter]—the mayors, *los alcaldes*.

We always used to say, you know, the government that's closest to the people is that which governs best. You know firsthand. You know what it's like to get the call to make sure the streets are paved or the garbage is picked up. You're what I call practical. [Laughter] The farther you get away from the local governments, we get a little theoretical. But there's nothing like being a mayor to be a problem-solver.

And as you know, we've got a new problem to solve here, and that's the security of our homeland. And I'm so pleased that you all are here to give me a chance to discuss how

we're going to work together to solve this common national problem, which is the security of our people.

It's your police forces, your emergency medical teams, your fire fighters who are responsible for the first response on any terrorist attack and are responsible for saving lives. I say "terrorist attack" because we're still under attack. They still want to come after us. These are evil people that are relentless in their desire to hurt those who love freedom. And since we're the bastion of freedom, the beacon of freedom, we're their target. And we're going to respond, and we're going to deal with it by working together.

I want to thank—when you go back to your communities, you make sure that you thank your police chiefs and your fire chiefs and your emergency medical teams, not only on behalf of the President but the entire country. These good folks put their lives at risk; they work incredibly hard and long hours; and they deserve the praise and love of our Nation.

There obviously is a role for the Federal Government, and I'll discuss parts of our homeland security strategy in a little bit. But in order to make sure that our homeland is secure for a long time, we as a nation must be patient enough and resolved enough to hunt down the killers and the terrorists wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what this country is going to do.

I say "patient enough" because sometimes there is a certain sense of anxiety that creeps into the national dialog. Some folks are trying to rush the score card, I guess, is a way to put it. We've made huge progress in 4½ months. I mean, we've done a lot, thanks to a great military, by the way. And there's a lot of moms and dads and wives and husbands and children who also need to be thanked for their sacrifice.

But in the first theater to rout out terror, we have done a lot. We've totally destroyed the government and routed out the government that thought they could hide the terrorists. You see, there used to be, I guess, a school of thought around the world that it's okay to hide a terrorist; you weren't considered a terrorist. We changed that. We said, "If you hide a terrorist, or you feed a ter-

rorist, or you coddle a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists, and we will hold you accountable," as the Taliban has found out.

We have liberated people. I'm so proud of our military and this great Nation and our coalition—we've got a strong coalition—of going into Afghanistan and freeing women and children. It was a fantastic moment in United States history, to be able to liberate people that were so oppressed that they probably thought they had no future. And yet, we came. We came to achieve an objective—the objective was to hold a government accountable for harboring a terrorist—and, in so doing, became liberators. It's a proud moment for the country.

And now we're chasing down people in the first theater who, on the one hand, are willing to commit others to suicide, and they themselves hide in caves. And they think they can hide, and they may be able to hide today, but we'll get them. We're going to get them running, and when they run, we'll bring them to justice.

I'm plenty patient. I have no preconceived notion about how long this should take, and neither do the American people. What the American people expect is a determined, relentless effort. And that's exactly what we're going to—that's exactly how we're going to behave.

And so while we're after them overseas, there's a lot to do at home. That's what I want to discuss today, that this is a two-front war. Overseas we're fighting, and at home we're fighting. We're fighting to share information—or working to share information—to make sure that all law enforcement agencies are knitted up, that we do a better job of alerting people, giving people a heads-up that something might be going on in the neighborhood and please help.

Our people are alert. The shoe man, the shoe bomber, Reid, he found out how alert Americans can be when he showed up on the airplane, and all of a sudden people noticed something was odd. And they turned him in, and now he's in prison. That's what we're doing. But there's more to do, and I want to discuss that with you today. We're counting on you, and I'm about to tell you

that we're going to make resources available so that we can work together.

I want to thank Tom for taking on a tough assignment. I appreciate you bringing one mayor who thought you did a good job as Governor. *[Laughter]* I'm really proud of Tom's efforts. He understands local government; he understands State Government. He believes in cooperative efforts. He's an open-minded fellow. I hope you've found that he's willing to listen, willing to listen to good ideas. He's not an it's-got-to-be-invented-here guy. He believes that if there's a good idea, it doesn't matter who brought it up, Republican or Democrat; we'll put it in place. So I'm real proud of your efforts, Tom, and thanks for your hard work.

Mel Martinez is here. He will have spent a lot of quality time with you all on housing issues. I appreciate your service, Mel. I appreciate your—*[applause]*. A man who worked with me a lot in Texas, who now runs FEMA, who is a—who has made sure the agency is responsive to emergencies, who will eventually, soon, play a big effort in making sure this national strategy for homeland defense is effected in a way that helps you do your job, and that's Joe Allbaugh. Thank you for coming.

I appreciate all the county officials, all the city officials, all who helped make sure that we work together in good fashion. I particularly want to thank the head of the mayors. I am a little disappointed in Mayor Morial. I went down to Antoine's the other day in New Orleans to eat a meal. I was hoping I could invite him and he would pay. *[Laughter]* But the intelligence-gathering system in New Orleans works well, so he went to Mexico. *[Laughter]* But nevertheless, Mr. Mayor, I appreciate your service. I love your town, and thanks for being here today, sir.

I'm going to the Congress next Tuesday night to deliver a State of the Union Address, and I will lay out the priorities of our Government. You heard one of our first priorities: That's to fight and win this war.

The second priority of our Government, a priority which will be reflected in my budget, is making sure we protect the people at home, homeland defense. And therefore, I'll be calling on Congress to pass a funding increase for homeland defense of 38—an addi-

tional \$38 billion. This is double the pre-September 11th numbers. Thirty-eight billion is the total request—double over 2002. It's the beginning of a homeland defense initiative which is going to last throughout my administration.

It's the beginning of a cooperative effort. It shows and recognizes that in the first minutes or hours after an attack, are the most hopeful minutes for saving lives—first minutes, immediately. And therefore, we've got to understand and remember the important role of first-responders. It became vivid, obviously, on September the 11th.

One of the most poignant stories I remember is when some going into the danger wrote their Social Security numbers on their arms. It reminds all of us about how dangerous the job is and about how some are willing to sacrifice for others. We saw that firsthand throughout the September the 11th time-frame.

We saw people drive an airplane into the ground to save others. I think America is now becoming to appreciate the definition of sacrifice, sacrifice for freedom, sacrifice for human life. That's something our first-responders have known for a long time, and it's important for America to recognize that contribution they make.

And so, what we must do in the country is remember that the attacks on September the 11th were not just attacks on New York or the Pentagon, were attacks on all of America, and treat those attacks such. It is a national threat, and therefore, obviously, it's a Federal responsibility. And so the 2003 budget proposes \$3.5 billion in Federal aid to State and local first-responders. That is a 1,000 percent increase over what our Government has spent. It's necessary money. It's part of the \$38 billion budget I'm going to be asking for for homeland security. It's absolutely necessary that we spend the money and that we spend it correctly.

And therefore, in order to make sure that there is a strategy, one that you understand, one that the Governors understand, one that the folks in Washington understand, I'm going to ask the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be the lead agency on coordinating efforts with the local governments.

It is the right agency to choose. They understand local disaster and the local emergency. They understand—and have responded in the past, not only in this administration but in other administrations—the need to work closely with mayors to make sure that we effect good policy. Plus, I trust Allbaugh. I've seen him work before. He's a good man. It doesn't matter whether Daley calls him or whether a Texan calls him; he's going to answer the phone. *[Laughter]* He's not one of these political, partisan guys. He's here to serve the country for the right reason, and so this is the right way to go. And if you have any problem with him, call me. *[Laughter]*

Part of our task is to recognize there's 36,000 local jurisdictions all around the country. And how do we make sure there are some standards? How do we make sure, you know, that the fire hydrant hookup works in one city and can go across the region and fit another city? How do we make sure information flows properly? How do we make sure there's mutual aid agreements in the neighborhoods? How do we make sure that the communications equipment and the rescue equipment is compatible not only within a State but nationwide?

Those are the tasks ahead, and that's part of the challenge we face. But I'm confident that, if we work with you, we can meet the challenge. There's no question in my mind that given the right impetus and the right focus, the right communications, and the right money, we can make it work.

We have no choice. We're all charged. We find ourselves in a moment of history where we, as leaders, must respond. And we will—and we will respond. It is—sometimes you get to pick your moments, and sometimes you don't. *[Laughter]* And we're here now in the middle of a war, and I want to thank you all for understanding the call. And we're not going to blink as a nation, and I know you won't blink as mayors. You accept your responsibility, and I accept mine. And as a result of working together, the Nation will be better off. We've got a lot of work to do, but that's how I got elected. And it starts with cooperation, and I can assure you, this Government is willing to cooperate.

I also understand a good homeland defense means our cities are vibrant and strong. I want to work with you on brownfields legislation—on implementing brownfields. I signed legislation; now it's time to get after it. And it's going to help the cities around America that we clean up the brownfields. I want to thank the Republicans and Democrats up here who worked on this initiative. We finally got something passed that will enable cities to revitalize tracts of land that had been abandoned, that now can be productive parts of your property tax base.

I want to work with you to support homeownership for low income Americans. I love the idea of somebody owning something, somebody owning their own home. I can't think of anything more powerful to help revitalize neighborhoods than to encourage homeownership. And we'll work with you on that.

I want to work with you to strengthen the community-based drug prevention and effective drug treatment programs. I believe that the best—I know we've got to do a better job of suppressing demand for drugs. But I also understand that the most effective programs are community-based programs. You've seen them. You've helped make them vital in your communities, and we want to work with you to do just that.

I have not given up on my Faith-Based Initiative. Many of you understand the power of faith-based programs in your communities, church programs, programs out of synagogues and mosques. I believe so strongly in the power of faith. I believe strongly that we must unleash the armies of compassion in every city in America to provide hope for people where hope doesn't exist. And I want to work with you to do just that. I think we can get a bill out of Congress.

I bring up matters of the spirit because the enemy doesn't understand who they hit. They first thought they were hitting somebody, a nation which was soft, a nation which wouldn't—oh, we might respond, but we wouldn't mean it. It would be kind of a slap-on-the-wrist response. They didn't understand that when you attack America and you murder innocent people, we're coming after you with full force and fury of a great nation and our allies.

They didn't understand our fiber, our character, our values. And that's one of the interesting developments in our country, is that people, as you know better than me, have said, "We better assess our values as a result of what went on." And people all across the country are doing just that. It's a moment that we must seize. Those of us in leadership position must understand that there are a lot of Americans who are asking what they can do to help. I like to put it in as plain terms as I can: If you want to fight evil, do some good.

If you want to show the world that we're not going to stand evil, let's make sure we love somebody, mentor a child. Let's get involved in the school systems in our local communities. Let's rally around those who want to help a neighbor in need. Let's seize the moment, seize the initiative, seize the chance to rally the armies of compassion, so that people feel love and decency in their lives, so that shut-ins know somebody cares, so lonely children who may have a parent in prison know somebody loves them.

This is the opportunity. I look forward to working with you to rally the country, to not only not let—to not only fight evil but to stamp in place a compassion, a decency, and a goodness that will stand the test of time. It's a challenge we face, and I know it's a challenge we can meet.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge; Richard C. Reid, a passenger on American Airlines Flight AA63 who allegedly tried to ignite an explosive device in his shoe while en route from Paris to Miami on December 22, 2001; Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans, LA; and Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL.

Exchange With Reporters in Portland, Maine

January 25, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, are you consider cutting off ties to Yasser Arafat, sir?

The President. I am disappointed in Yasser Arafat. He must make a full effort to

rout out terror in the Middle East. In order for there to be peace, we've got to rout out terror. And ordering up weapons that were intercepted on a boat headed toward—headed for that part of the world, is not part of fighting terror, that's enhancing terror. And obviously, we're very disappointed.

Q. We're told that you thought his explanation was insulting, sir.

The President. I never said that. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:25 p.m. while touring the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma*. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at Southern Maine Technical College in Portland, Maine January 25, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. It's nice to be back in—I guess my second home. I was telling your fine Governor, Angus King—and thank you for being here, Angus. I'm so honored you're here. He said, "Are you going to come back next summer?" I said, "I knew I should have made my bed last time I was here." [Laughter] I'm not so sure my mother is going to invite me back, but I hope she does. [Laughter] Maine's a fabulous State, and as the Governor knows, it's full of such decent people. And thank you for coming out for such a warm greeting. I've got some things on my mind, and I want to share them with the good people of Maine.

First, I want to tell you, I've got a great Cabinet. I'm so proud of the way our team has responded. A leader is only good as his team. I brought two members of my Cabinet with me: Secretary Mineta, and when I picked him out of the ranks, he was a—he served the previous administration as the Commerce Secretary. He's a proud Democrat, but he showed America really what he is: He's a proud American, and he's done a fabulous job. And I knew I needed somebody who knew something about local government to run the Homeland Security Office, somebody who had been an administrator, a chief executive officer, and somebody who could

organize a massive task. And I picked the right man when it came to the former Governor of Pennsylvania, my very close friend, Tom Ridge. And one thing the world is learning, something I already knew, we've got a fabulous military run by fine people. Admiral Loy, thank you for your leadership. I appreciate it.

I was supposed to bring two other folks with me today. I think you've heard of them: Snowe and Collins. They missed the flight—[laughter]—for good reason. They were working on behalf of the people of Maine. They had some votes to cast. But I will tell you, these two fine ladies are good to work with, strong for the support of the State of Maine and great patriots. I'm proud of their service to our country, and I want to thank you for sending them to Washington, DC. And I know a Congressman—one of the two Congressmen from your State, John Baldacci, is here. John, where are you? Thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here, as well.

First, I want to talk about the Coast Guard. Now, you probably think I've had a sweet spot in my heart for the Coast Guard because when I spend the night at 41's house down the coast, I wake up and see the cutter sitting out there. [Laughter] Well, has some good reason why I support the Coast Guard so strong. But I saw how the Coast Guard has responded after 9/11, and I know how important the Coast Guard is for the safety and security and the well-being of our American citizens.

This is a fine group of people who don't get nearly as much appreciation from the American people as they should. And I'm here today to say thanks, on behalf of all the citizens who appreciate the long hours you put in, the daring rescues you accomplish, and the fine service you provide to our country. Oh, yes, we're on guard in America.

But the Coast Guard has got more missions than that. Admiral Loy told me that right off the coast of my State of Texas, the Coast Guard enacted one of the largest marijuana busts in history just the other day—right off the east coast. The Coast Guard chopper, the Coast Guard crew from Air Station Cape Cod—coast guardsmen who I had a chance to thank personally today—rescued

five fishermen from a 74-foot fishing vessel called the *Covered Wagon*, that sank in heavy seas. Five human souls returned back to land because of the bravery of people who wear the Coast Guard uniform.

Such bravery is not an isolated event. After all, this story was repeated 4,000 times last year. The Coast Guard, the men and women who accomplish the mission, seized over 60 tons of cocaine last year. They responded to over 11,000 oil spills. They're working around the globe with the Department of Defense. Today, the Coast Guard is conducting maritime intercept operations in the Persian Gulf and providing waterside security in Guantanamo Bay.

Earlier today I had the pleasure of going on board the *Tahoma*, the Coast Guard vessel that was the command vessel on site in New York Harbor the day the enemy hit us. They stayed there for 40 days, on alert 24 hours a day, making sure that not only did traffic flow smoothly but the people were safe.

When it comes to securing our homeland and helping people along the coast, the Coast Guard has got a vital and significant mission. And therefore, the budget that I send to the United States Congress will have the largest increase in spending for the Coast Guard in our Nation's history. We must make sure that our Coast Guard has got a modern fleet of vessels. We must make sure that port security is as strong as possible. We must make sure there's additional operating money available for the extended missions of the Coast Guard. And we must make sure those who wear our uniforms are well paid.

I'll have other priorities in my budget. One of the biggest priorities, of course, is to make sure the homeland is secure. You know, none of us ever dreamt that we'd have a two-front war to fight, one overseas and one at home. But we do. That's reality, and as a result, we must respond and continue to respond and stay on alert and help defend America. The biggest chore I have, my biggest job, is to make sure our homeland is secure.

Every morning I go into the Oval Office—and what a thrill it is to walk into that grand office—and I sit at the desk that other Presidents have sat at, Roosevelt, Reagan. And I look at the—I look at a threat assessment.

The enemy still wants to hit us, and therefore this Nation must do everything in our power to prevent it. And so when I speak to the Congress next Tuesday night and I submit my budget, one of the top priorities will be the security of the homeland. I've asked for a doubling of homeland security funds, to \$38 billion a year, money that will be spent to make sure that the Federal Government and the State Government and the local governments—and I know some mayors are here—work in a cooperative way to make sure that our first-responders—the police, the fire, the emergency medical teams—have the best equipment, the best training, the best ability to communicate with each other to protect the American people.

In this budget, we will make sure that our health systems are more modern and more responsive, that we stockpile needed medicines so that they'll be easily accessible at the call of a Governor or the call of a mayor, that we've got money in the budget for research and development, to stay ahead of what the enemy may try to use, that our public health systems have got the best communications possible and the ability to respond quickly.

In this budget, under Norm Mineta's leadership, we are securing our airports, we're modernizing the equipment, we're sending more people into our airports to make sure that travelers get the best service and the most safe flight humanly possible.

And under this budget, we're spending \$11 billion for controlling of our borders. It is so important for our Nation to work with our friends to the north, Canada, and our friend to the south, Mexico, on border initiatives—that, one, doesn't tie up commerce but, on the other hand, prevents illegal drugs, terrorists, arms from flowing across our border.

Tom Ridge went up to Canada—and I know the Governor will appreciate this, since you've got such a huge border with Canada—he went up with Canada and were talking about a new border initiative with our friends. We're analyzing every aspect of the border and making sure that the effort is seamless, the communication is real, that the enforcement is strong.

And so, to this end, I've got a 29 percent increase in the budget of the INS, to make

sure we modernize our reporting data, to know who comes in our country and who leaves our country. Forty percent—40 percent—the INS estimates that 40 percent of the people who are here illegally have overstayed their visa. Forty percent of the people who are here illegally came because of the generosity of America—were given a period of time in which they could stay, and then they didn't leave. And one of the things we want to make sure of is we find the 40 percent to make sure they're not part of some Al Qaida network that wants to hit the United States.

And so we're looking; we're listening; we're following every single lead. I'm proud of our FBI. We've got a fine man running the FBI, named Robert Mueller. When Mueller first came in, the main task of the FBI was running down crime, which is great—white-collar crime or watching for spies. And those are all important missions. But I'm proud to report to you now the number one mission of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is to prevent another attack on America. We're going to add agents onto the payroll. We're going to add agents on our payroll, all aimed to making sure that not only do we find leads, but when we find a lead, we chase them down as quickly as possible.

There is nothing more important for me and the Federal Government to do everything within the Constitution of the United States—and I emphasize we will not let the terrorists tear down our Constitution—we will do everything within the Constitution to protect the innocent Americans, the innocent moms and dads, the people who yearn for freedom and normalcy in their life. We're working overtime, and I'm proud of the American people, and I'm proud of the people who are working to protect the American people. We're going to beef-up Customs. We're on alert.

But I want to assure you, I know this: that the best way to secure freedom in America, the best way to make sure we're a peaceful nation, the best way to ensure that our children can grow up in a world that a lot of us older folks grew up in—one that was pretty calm, pretty peaceful at home, one that was secure—the best way to accomplish this

dream and mission is to find the enemy where they hide, to rout them out, and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what our Nation is going to do.

It wasn't all that long ago that I asked the military to perform a vital function. We've been at this for about 4½ months. Oh, for some people it may seem like a long time, but it's not very long when you think about the magnitude of the task. But in 4½ months, we've accomplished a lot—we really have—because we've got such a fabulous military. We routed out the Taliban. You see, I told the world—I told the world that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're a terrorist, and you're going to pay a price.

Our men and women in uniform are brave, and they're skilled, and they must have all our support. So the budget I asked for to the United States Congress has got the most significant increase in military spending in the last 20 years. The price of victory is well worth it.

And you know what makes me so proud of America? In the process of holding the Taliban accountable, in the process of defending freedom, our troops became liberators. We liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most repressive regimes in the history of mankind. We rid women and children of the evils of the Taliban regime.

But I want to explain to the American people that we must be patient. We've just started, and there's a lot to do. We've entered into a dangerous phase of the first theater in the war against terror. And that is, we're now hunting them down. We've got teams on the ground that are going cave to cave. You see, this enemy is one that's willing to send their young on suicide missions, while they, themselves, hide in caves. But there's no cave deep enough for the reach of the American military. We're patient; we're deliberate; and we're going to bring them to justice, one person at a time.

I want to remind you all that our mission is not one person, our mission is terror wherever it exists. I'm proud we've got a strong coalition, a coalition that our country leads, a coalition bound up to protect freedom, a coalition that I hope will take every step nec-

essary to find terrorists where they live and help us bring them to justice.

You know, when the enemy hit us, they must have not known what they were doing. I like to tell people, "They must have been watching too much TV, because they didn't understand America." [Laughter] They were watching some of those shows, that one can get the wrong impression about how materialistic we might be, how selfish we might be as a people. But that's not the way we are. Not only are we patient and determined and resolute to defend values we love, starting with the value of freedom, this good Nation understands that in order to fight evil, you do so with acts of kindness and goodness.

People say to me, "What can I do, Mr. President, to help?" And my answer is, if you want to fight evil, do something good in your neighborhood. If you want to fight evil, be a part of the goodness of the country, by loving a child who may have lost a parent, by walking across the street to a shut-in and say, "Somebody cares about you." If you want to be a part of the war against terror, go to your church or synagogue and mosque and ask the question, how can we love a neighbor in need, and then feed somebody. If you want to be a part of the war on terror, help a teacher, get involved with your public education, mentor a child.

You see, the great strength of America is not only our military. The true strength of America is the million acts of kindness and decency and compassion that define the soul and character of our country on a daily basis.

No, when the enemy struck us, little did they realize that out of the terrible evil would come such good. Our job is not only to win the war overseas; our job is not only to protect the homeland, to make sure we can live peacefully; our job is to fight evil on a daily basis, by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's what's happening all across the country, and for those of you who do that, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Hutchinson Union Building.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for Victims of the Eruption of Mount Nyiragongo

January 25, 2002

On January 17, the people of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffered from an enormous natural disaster. Many homes, shops, roads, and schools were buried, and many lives were lost or disrupted by the flow of molten lava from Mount Nyiragongo. The Congolese people have shown enormous spirit and resilience, already returning to the land where their homes once stood to recover and rebuild.

I commend President Kabila of Congo and President Kagame of Rwanda for working together to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Goma who have been hurt by this volcanic eruption. The United States will help the victims of this disaster, and we have already allocated up to \$3 million for relief efforts. I have sent a team of experts from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the region to assess how this aid can be directed most effectively. At the same time, I have ordered the immediate dispatch of two relief flights carrying blankets, shelter material, and water storage equipment to support the most urgent needs of the Congolese people. The United States will continue to work closely with the international community to help those affected by this disaster to rebuild their town and their lives.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

January 21

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

January 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, WV, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Belle, WV. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand to the White House for a meeting on bilateral and international issues on March 26.

The President signed the recess appointment of Michael J. Bartlett to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President signed the recess appointment of William B. Cowen to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President signed the recess appointment of Cynthia A. Glassman to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President signed the recess appointment of Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President signed the recess appointment of JoAnn Johnson to be a member of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President signed the recess appointment of Deborah Matz to be a member of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration.

January 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with bipartisan House and Senate leaders concerning the upcoming agenda for the year and domestic issues. Then, he met with Members of Congress concerning military issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the House Intelligence Committee who recently visited the Middle East.

January 24

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the Homeland Security Council and also with the National Security Council. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed legislation to name the national cemetery in Saratoga, NY, for the late former Congressman Gerald Solomon.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney and then met with his Cabinet.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner at Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's home with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdullah II of Jordan to Washington, DC, for a meeting and working breakfast on February 1.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the official working visit of President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to Washington, DC, on February 13.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on December 15, 2001, and continuing.

January 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he traveled to Portland, ME.

In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD, where he was joined by Republican congressional leaders for a retreat to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda. In the evening, the group watched the movie "Black Hawk Down."

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Monroe Miles to be Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Ricardo Maduro Joest of Honduras on January 27: Gale Norton, who will lead the delegation; Frank Almaguer; Otto Reich;

William P. "Scott" Bush; Perfecto Rivera; and Jack Vaughan, Jr.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 23

Lance M. Africk,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, vice Edith Brown Clement, elevated.

Percy Anderson,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Kim McLane Wardlaw, elevated.

Michael M. Baylson,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Robert F. Kelly, retired.

Stanley R. Chesler,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Anne Elise Thompson, retired.

Ronald H. Clark,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, vice Howell Cobb, retired.

Joy Flowers Conti,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Alan N. Bloch, retired.

Legrome D. Davis,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Edmund V. Ludwig, retired.

Leonard E. Davis,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, vice Paul N. Brown, retired.

David C. Godbey,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Texas, vice Robert B.
Maloney, retired.

William C. Griesbach,
of Wisconsin, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of Wisconsin, vice a new
position created by Public Law 106–553, ap-
proved December 21, 2000.

Andrew S. Hanen,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Texas, vice Filemon B.
Vela, retired.

Henry E. Hudson,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Eastern District of Virginia, vice a new position
created by Public Law 106–553, ap-
proved December 21, 2000.

Joan E. Lancaster,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. District Judge for
the District of Minnesota, vice Paul A. Mag-
nuson, retired.

Ronald B. Leighton,
of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Washington, vice
Robert J. Bryan, retired.

Kenneth A. Marra,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Florida, vice a new position
created by Public Law 106–553, ap-
proved December 21, 2000.

Jose E. Martinez,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Florida, vice Edward B.
Davis, retired.

William J. Martini,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for
the District of New Jersey, vice John C.
Lifland, retired.

Samuel H. Mays, Jr.,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Tennessee, vice Je-
rome Turner, deceased.

Terrence F. McVerry,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice
Donald E. Ziegler, retired.

Frederick W. Rohlffing III,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. District Judge for the
District of Hawaii, vice Alan C. Kay, retired.

Thomas M. Rose,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Ohio, vice Herman J.
Weber, retired.

Cynthia M. Rufe,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice
Norma Levy Shapiro, retired.

Arthur J. Schwab,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice
Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., retired.

John F. Walter,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice John
G. Davies, retired.

Withdrawn January 23

Scott A. Abdallah,
of South Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the
District of South Dakota for the term of 4
years, vice Elizabeth Karen Schreier, re-
signed, which was sent to the Senate on No-
vember 30, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released January 19

Fact sheet: President Bush Announces Sig-
nificant New Resources for Education

Released January 20

Statement by the Press Secretary on the report and recommendations of the Presidential Emergency Board appointed in the dispute between United Airlines and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Released January 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand
Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Address the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Released January 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3447

Fact sheet: President Bush Signs Legislation To Help Victims of Terror

Announcement of the nomination of 24 individuals to serve as members of the Federal judiciary

Released January 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arkansas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3392

Statement by the Press Secretary: King of Jordan To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf

Fact sheet: Strengthening Homeland Security

Released January 25

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Border Security—Smart Borders for the 21st Century

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved January 23

H.R. 2884 / Public Law 107–134
Victims of Terrorism Tax Relief Act of 2001

H.R. 3447 / Public Law 107–135
Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001

Approved January 24

H.R. 3392 / Public Law 107–136
To name the national cemetery in Saratoga, New York, as the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, and for other purposes

Week Ending Friday, February 1, 2002

The President's Radio Address

January 26, 2002

Good morning. A few days from now I will go before Congress to report on the State of the Union and lay out my priorities for the coming year and beyond. These priorities reflect a single, overarching commitment to enhance the security of America and its people.

Government's responsibilities begin with the defense of our Nation. Our fight against terrorism began in Afghanistan, but it will not end there. America must not rest until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated. In this work, our military must have every resource, every weapon needed to achieve full and final victory.

My budget calls for the largest increase in defense spending in the last 20 years, investing in more precision weapons, missile defenses, unmanned vehicles, and high-tech equipment for our soldiers on the ground. I will also seek another pay increase for the men and women who wear our country's uniform. We will spend what it takes to win the war against terrorism.

A related priority is homeland security. We will pursue a sustained strategy to protect our people from the threat of terrorism. The Federal Government has already acted to increase airport security, investigate terrorist activity, and improve our response capability. In the next budget, we will do even more. I'll be calling on Congress to nearly double funding for homeland defense to \$38 billion. We will complete the hiring of tens of thousands of new Federal airport security workers. We will strengthen the border patrol, hire another 300 FBI agents to help fight the war on terror. We'll provide more money so that State and local firefighters, police officers, and EMTs have the equipment they need. The American people are on watch

against future attacks, and their Government will be, as well.

The third key of my budget is to fight the recession and build economic security for the American people. Government doesn't create jobs, but it can encourage an environment in which jobs are created. I'm glad the Senate is finally moving forward, and I urge it to pass a strong stimulus bill like one that passed the House last year.

Every budget reflects fundamental choices, and my administration has made choices to fit the times. We'll work to create jobs and renew the strength of our economy. We'll protect our people in every way necessary, and we will carry on the campaign against global terror until we achieve our goal, the peace that comes from victory.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:21 a.m. on January 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act with Respect to Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan

January 25, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-06

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act with Respect to Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan

Pursuant to the authority contained in Title II of the "Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002" (Public

Law 107–115), I hereby determine and certify that a waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–511):

- is necessary to support U.S. efforts to counter international terrorism;
- is necessary to support the operational readiness of U.S. Armed Forces or coalition partners to counter international terrorism;
- is important to Azerbaijan’s border security; and
- will not undermine or hamper ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan or be used for offensive purposes against Armenia.

Accordingly, I hereby waive section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 28.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 National Basketball Association Champion Los Angeles Lakers

January 28, 2002

Please be seated. Mr. Commissioner, good to see you, sir. Thank you for coming. I appreciate the Buss family members for being here. Thank you. Welcome to the East Coast. I’m so honored that Phil Jackson has come with players from the mighty LA Lakers championship team. I want to welcome you all the to White House. We’re thrilled you’re here. This is one way for us to congratulate you for being champs.

I want to thank the members of the California congressional delegation. I think we’ve got six Members here. Thank you all for coming. I know you’re as proud of the team as the people of California are.

I also want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City in New Jersey and Maryland for being here. I’m just as excited as you are for meeting these players. [*Laughter*] And thanks for coming.

I first want to congratulate Coach Jackson on learning how to win championships for different teams. He’s got to be a pretty remarkable guy to figure out how to win on a consistent basis. And so, Phil, congratulations for coming back to the White House.

I also want to thank the players. Being champs on the court means you’ve got to be champs off the court, as well. And I know these players understand that every time they do something, some kid is watching. Every time they say something, some kid is listening. And I want to thank the players who understand that with victory comes huge responsibility to encourage people to make the right choices in life. To me, that’s the true sign of a champ. I also want to thank the LA Lakers for being involved in your community.

People ask me all the time after the attack of 9/11, “What can I do to help? How can I participate in the war against terror?” And the answer is, you fight evil with acts of decency and kindness. You fight evil by doing something good. You fight evil by teaching a child that somebody loves them. You fight evil by being an LA Laker that convinces somebody to be a mentor for some child in inner-city Los Angeles who wonders whether there’s any love or hope in the world. That’s how you fight evil. And so I want to thank the organization and the players and the coach for assuming a position of responsibility in our society.

I was hoping that on his birthday, Mark Madsen would dance for us. [*Laughter*] I actually—as I said, I was hoping. [*Laughter*] I’m afraid the Secret Service might react violently if you did. [*Laughter*]

But I’m glad you all are here. It’s an honor to welcome champs to the people’s house. LA Lakers, good luck this year. Congratulations for two fabulous seasons. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to David Stern, commissioner, National Basketball Association; Jerry Buss, owner, Phil Jackson, coach, and Mark Madsen, forward, Los Angeles Lakers.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
Chairman Hamid Karzai of the
Afghan Interim Authority and an
Exchange With Reporters**

January 28, 2002

The President. It's a great honor for me to welcome to the White House the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority, Hamid Karzai.

Mr. Chairman, welcome.

Chairman Karzai. Thank you very much.

The President. I also want to welcome the ministers of the Interim Authority who have accompanied him to Washington. Chairman Karzai is a determined leader, and his Government reflects the hopes of all Afghans for a new and better future, a future free from terror, free from war, and free from want. The United States strongly supports Chairman Karzai's interim Government. And we strongly support the Bonn agreement that provides the Afghan people with a path towards a broadly based government that protects the human rights of all its citizens.

The Afghan people have already taken the first steps along this path by committing to rid their country of Al Qaida terrorists and remnants of the Taliban regime who supported the terrorists. Yet, even as the war against terrorism continues, the world has also begun to help the Afghan people win the peace they deserve.

The United States is committed to building a lasting partnership with Afghanistan. We'll help the new Afghan Government provide the security that is the foundation for peace. Today, peacekeepers from around the world are helping provide security on the streets of Kabul. The United States will continue to work closely with these forces and provide support for their mission. We will also support programs to train new police officers and to help establish and train an Afghanistan national military.

The United States is also committed to playing a leading role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Today I announce the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation will provide an additional \$50 million line of credit for Afghanistan to finance private sector projects. This announcement

builds on the United States' pledge in Tokyo earlier this month to provide \$297 million this year to create jobs and to start rebuilding Afghanistan's agricultural sector, its health care system, and its educational system. Yet these efforts are only the beginning.

Two days ago, for the first time since 1979, an American flag was raised over the U.S. Agency for International Development's mission in Kabul. That flag will not be lowered. It will wave long into the future, a symbol of America's enduring commitment to Afghanistan's future.

Chairman Karzai, I reaffirm to you today that the United States will continue to be a friend to the Afghan people in all the challenges that lie ahead. Welcome to Washington.

Chairman Karzai. Thank you very much.

Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. Although we are here, as I mentioned in my meeting with you, invited by you, for which we are very grateful, but we are also here in a way to thank you and the American people for the great help that we were given to liberate our country once again, this time from terrorism from the Taliban. The Afghan people recognize this help. They know that, without this help, we would have still probably been under that rule. So thank you very much to you and, through you, to the American people.

Afghanistan is a good partner. It will stay a good partner. And I'm sure that the future of the two countries will be good, and a wonderful relationship should be expected to come in the future. Thank you very much for the help that you gave us during the Tokyo conference, and thank you for organizing that, as well, together with other co-organizers. And thank you for the help that you announced today. Afghanistan does need help in reconstruction. Afghanistan does need help in the rebuilding of its national army. And thank you very much for doing that, too.

I assure you, Mr. President, that Afghanistan, with your help and the help of other countries, friends, will be strong and will stand eventually on its own feet. And it will be a country that will defend its borders and not allow terrorism to return to it or bother it or trouble it. We'll be self-reliant. We'll

do good in business. We'll be a strong country.

Afghanistan knows, Mr. President, the suffering of those people in America that saw and went through the horrors of the Twin Tower incident, the terrorism there. I believe the Afghans are the best people to see the pain exactly the way it was felt there then, at the time, because the Afghans have suffered exactly in the same way. We have sympathy; we know that pain; we understand it. Our families know that pain.

Therefore, this joint struggle against terrorism should go to the absolute end of it. We must finish them. We must bring them out of their caves and their hideouts, and we promise we'll do that.

Thank you very much, again, for having us here. It was an honor, and we enjoy our trip to the U.S, myself and my colleagues. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We'll answer a couple of questions. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Guantanamo Bay Detainees

Q. On the issue of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, what's wrong with formally applying the Geneva Convention to them?

The President. I have—the question is about the detainees in Guantanamo Bay. I had a very interesting meeting this morning with my national security team. We're discussing all the legal ramifications of how we—what we—how we characterize the actions at Guantanamo Bay. A couple of things we agree on: One, they will not be treated as prisoners of war; they're illegal combatants. Secondly, they will be treated humanely. And then, I'll figure out—I'll listen to all the legalisms and announce my decision when I make it. But we're in total agreement on how to—on whether or not—on how these prisoners, or detainees, excuse me, ought to be treated. And they'll be treated well.

And yesterday the Secretary of Defense went down to Guantanamo Bay with United States Senators from both political parties. The Senators got to see the circumstances in which these detainees were being held.

They—I don't want to put words in their mouth, but according to the Secretary of Defense—I'll let him put words in their mouth—they felt like, one, that our troops were really valiant in their efforts to make sure that these killers—these are killers—were held in such a way that they were safe. I noticed one of our troops last night was commenting that they are receiving very good medical care. But I'll make my decision about—on how to legally interpret the situation here pretty soon.

Sonya.

General Accounting Office and the Energy Task Force

Q. Are you prepared to go to court with the General Accounting Office to keep secret the records of your energy task force meetings?

The President. Well, the question about the General Accounting Office is this: Should an administration be allowed to have private conversations in this office without everybody knowing about it? This is a part of how you make decisions, is to call people in and say, "What's your opinion? What's your opinion on stem cell? What's your opinion on energy? What's your opinion on the war?"

And in order for me to be able to get good, sound opinions, those who offer me opinions or offer the Vice President opinions must know that every word they say is not going to be put into the public record. And so I view the GAO like the Vice President does. It's an encroachment on the executive branch's ability to conduct business.

Now, as far as the specific case of the energy report goes, there is an energy report that is now in the public arena. People are free to read it. I hope they do because it's a comprehensive report, one based upon the opinions of members of the exploration sector of the energy business; some about the infrastructure, opinions from those involved with the infrastructure; some opinions, obviously, from those in the environmental community. This is a report that collected a lot of opinions, and it was done in such a way that people felt free to come in and express their opinion.

And so, to answer your question, we're not going to let the ability for us to discuss matters between ourselves to become eroded. It's not only important for us, for this administration, it is an important principle for future administrations.

Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, on the Middle East—

The President. Medium-size Stretch. [Laughter]

Q. When you spoke to President Mubarak today and expressed your disappointment in Yasser Arafat, what did he say? And secondly, are you worried that the level of disappointment in the region is not as high as your own? Does that complicate your efforts to build a coalition against Arafat that's necessary?

The President. I think members—I think—first of all, Mr. Mubarak can characterize the conversation the way he sees fit. I will just tell you what I told him. And I told him that in order for there to be peace in the Middle East, we must rout out terror wherever it exists. And the U.S. effort to rout out terror around the world is going to benefit the Middle East in the long term.

It is important for Mr. Arafat to not only renounce terror but to arrest those who would terrorize people trying to bring peace. There are people in the region that want there to be a peaceful settlement, and yet, obviously, terrorists are trying to prevent that from happening by wanton murder. And Mr. Arafat must join the effort to arrest them.

And when the ship showed up with weapons, obviously aimed at terrorizing that part of the world, I expressed my severe disappointment because I was led to believe that he was willing to join us in the fight on terror. I took him for his word when he—at Oslo. And so I made this very clear to my friend Hosni Mubarak, that ridding the Middle East of terror is going to make it more likely that there be peace and stability in the region.

Energy Task Force Report/Enron

Q. Mr. President, going back to the issue of the GAO lawsuit—

The President. Yes.

Q. —some in Congress, particularly Congressman Waxman, have suggested that the energy report represented a wish list for Enron.

The President. The energy report represented a wish—in other words, we were doing favors for Enron?

Q. Do you agree with that, sir?

The President. Well, Enron went bust. Shortly after the report was put out, Enron went broke. And it went broke because, it seems like to me—and I will wait for the facts to come out—it went broke because there was not full disclosure of finances. This is a—what we're talking about here is a corporate governance issue. This is a business problem that our country must deal with and must fix; that is, full disclosure of liabilities, full understanding of the effects of decisions on pension funds, reform of a pension system, perhaps.

There are some on Capitol Hill who want to politicize this issue. This is not a political issue. It is a business issue that this Nation must deal with. And you know, Enron had made contributions to a lot of people around Washington, DC. And if they came to this administration looking for help, they didn't find any.

Now, obviously, we're interested in people's opinions about energy—those in the energy business, those in the conservation world, those who know how to develop infrastructure. And so we solicited a lot of opinions from people. And the report is now public; everybody can read it to determine our vision about how to make our country less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, which we must do.

Yes, Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, we understand that you do not want to commit American troops to peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan. Why not, sir? And do you have any concerns that there will be enough forces to give Mr. Karzai the kind of security he needs?

The President. We are committing help to the ISAF in the form of logistical help, in the form of kind of a bailout—if the troops get in trouble, we stand ready to help—in the form of intelligence. Plus, I have just

made in my remarks here a significant change of policy, and that is that we're going to help Afghanistan develop her own military. That is the most important part of this visit, it seems like to me, besides the fact of welcoming a man who stands for freedom, a man who stood for freedom in the face of tyranny.

We have made a decision—both of us have made the decision that Afghanistan must, as quickly as possible, develop her own military. And we will help. We'll help train, and Tommy Franks, our general, fully understands this and is fully committed to this idea. So, better yet than peacekeepers—which will be there for a while, with our help—let's have Afghanistan have her own military.

Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

2003 Budget Proposal/Tax Relief

Q. Mr. President, along the issue of politicizing Enron, the majority leader, Tom Daschle, with whom you in the past have said you have a good working relationship, said over the weekend that he was afraid your budget would Enronize Social Security and Medicare. That is to say, put them in specific jeopardy of collapsing. I wonder if you could comment on that, sir, and if there's any way to make this—

The President. Well, sometimes there's political hyperbole here in this town. The budget I submitted is one—will submit soon—is one that says that the war on terror is going on, and we're going to win, and we've got to make sure we spend enough money to win. It's also one that prioritizes homeland security. It is also one that wants to do something about our economy; let's get a stimulus bill. It's a bill that sets priorities.

And it is—I think there are some still upset with the tax cut, but I want to remind you that we were in recession in March of last year. That's when they officially declared recession. The slowdown was obviously significant to reach a point where we were—where the economists said we were in recession, and so the tax cuts came at the right time.

Now, there are some who believe if you raise taxes it makes the economy stronger. As I've told the American people several times, I don't understand what textbook they're reading. I believe by reducing taxes

it makes the economy stronger. The tax relief came right at the right time. Now, our economy is still, you know, not as strong as it should be. There's still some weakness, but surely people aren't suggesting raising taxes at this point makes sense. I don't believe it does make any sense.

And so the budget I've submitted is a good, strong budget. It sets priorities, and it's realistic, and the American people will understand it when I explain it tomorrow night.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Guantanamo Bay Detainees

Q. Mr. President, in holding the detainees in Cuba in the manner in which the United States is, is one of the signals you're sending that in this new kind of war, as you've described it, the Geneva Conventions are outdated and don't apply in the conflict with Al Qaida?

The President. No, the Geneva Conventions are not outdated, and it's a very important principle. First of all, Terry, we are adhering to the spirit of the Geneva Convention. When you say you're holding the prisoners in the manner you are—we're giving them medical care; they're being well-treated.

There is no allegation—well, there may be an allegation—there's no evidence that we're treating them outside the spirit of the Geneva Convention. And for those who say we are, they just don't know what they're talking about.

And so—

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Let me finish. And so I am looking at the legalities involved with the Geneva Convention. In either case, however I make my decision, these detainees will be well-treated. We are not going to call them prisoners of war, in either case, and the reason why is Al Qaida is not a known military. These are killers. These are terrorists. They know no countries. And the only thing they know about countries is when they find a country that's been weak, and they want to occupy it like a parasite. And that's why we're so pleased to join with Chairman Karzai to rout them out.

And so the prisoners, detainees, will be well-treated. They just won't be afforded prisoner-of-war status. I'll decide beyond that whether or not they can be noncombatants under the Geneva Convention, or not. I'll make that legal decision soon. But this administration has made the decision they'll be well-treated. Long before they arrived at Guantanamo Bay did we make that decision.

Plante [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Saudi Arabian Detainees

Q. Mr. President, the Saudi Interior Minister today said that a majority of those being held at Guantanamo, more than 100, are Saudi citizens, and asked that they be returned to Saudi Arabia for questioning.

The President. Well, I appreciate his request. And we will, of course—we'll take it under consideration. There are a lot of detainees around the world as a result of this first phase in the war against terror. There's a lot in Pakistan; there's a lot in Afghanistan; and there are 179, I believe, or whatever the number is, in Guantanamo Bay. So there's a lot of Saudi citizens that chose to fight for Al Qaida and/or the Taliban that we want to know more about. And so we'll make a decision on a case-by-case basis as to whether they go back to Saudi Arabia or not. I appreciate his suggestion.

Listen, I want to thank you all very much. Mr. Chairman, it's good to have you—

Q. May I ask Chairman Karzai a question?

The President. Ask who?

Q. May I ask Chairman Karzai something about—

The President. Of course you can ask Chairman Karzai a question. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, I have a question—

The President. No, I'm sorry.

Afghanistan

Q. Chairman Karzai, given Afghanistan's history of fighting foreign invaders and its pride and independence, are you concerned about any political sensitivity—[inaudible]—in establishing an Afghan military? And how would you describe the ideal partnership between the United States?

Chairman Karzai. Well, we have no concerns there. As I mentioned in my remarks earlier, the Afghans are grateful that we were

helped twice, once during the Soviet occupation, by the U.S., and now to fight terrorism and liberate ourselves from that menace. We are a fiercely independent country, and the world knows that. Our neighbors know that very well, and the countries in the region know that.

The Afghan request for training of our army is nothing new. Our prime ministers were here even back in the 1950's to ask this kind of training. And it's training and a relationship between two independent, sovereign countries, and nothing to worry others.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Chairman Karzai, have you discussed in regards with Usama bin Laden, and what can you do to gather more information to capture him?

Chairman Karzai. We are looking for him. He's a fugitive. If we find him, we'll catch him.

Thank you very much.

The President. That's right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:58 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The President also referred to the Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group, which was issued May 2001; and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Chairman Hamid Karzai on a New Partnership Between the United States and Afghanistan

January 28, 2002

President Bush and Chairman Karzai commit to build a lasting partnership for the 21st century, determined to fight terrorism, and ensure security, stability and reconstruction for Afghanistan, and foster representative and accountable government for all Afghan

women and men. We stand together for a new and better future for Afghanistan—a future free from terror, war, and want. We pledge our respect for the culture and traditions of the different peoples of Afghanistan, and for the great religion of Islam, which has been tragically distorted and misused by the Taliban.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue to work together to rout out the remnants of the Taliban and Al Qaida network. The United States and Afghanistan stand united in our determination that Afghanistan will never again become a training ground for global terror. We are equally determined that Afghanistan's tragic experience—where terrorists were allowed to hold an entire nation hostage—will not be repeated or replicated anywhere in the world.

The United States and Afghanistan share the belief that a secure, stable Afghanistan, at peace with its neighbors, is critical to achieving our shared goals. We agree that a lasting, permanent solution for Afghanistan's security needs must be based on strengthening Afghanistan's own capacities.

We agree that the United States will work with Afghanistan's friends in the international community to help Afghanistan stand up and train a national military and police, as well as address Afghanistan's short-term security needs, including through demining assistance. We further agree to continue to support the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to help promote security in Afghanistan. Chairman Karzai asked President Bush, on behalf of the Afghan people to consider supporting an extension and expansion of the ISAF.

Recognizing that representative and accountable national government is vital for Afghanistan to achieve stability, national reconciliation, and reconstruction, we reaffirm our shared determination to support the Bonn Agreement for a political transition process in Afghanistan over the next two years. Both sides recognize the importance of adhering strictly to the agreement's timetable.

We agree to support collaborative programs to strengthen Afghan civic institutions, working through Afghan and American NGOs to build and strengthen political struc-

tures, independent media, human rights protections, labor unions, accountability and anti-corruption initiatives.

We also agree to launch a joint U.S.-Afghanistan Women's Council to promote private/public partnerships and mobilize resources to ensure women can gain the skills and education deprived them under years of Taliban mis-rule.

The United States and Afghanistan further agree that the Voice of America will expand its broadcast of Afghan news throughout Afghanistan as VOA and international partners work with Afghanistan to develop its own media capacity.

We both welcome the role of the United States in helping with Afghanistan's reconstruction, including the initial American contribution of nearly \$297 million for Afghanistan's critical reconstruction and the transfer of \$223 million in previously frozen Afghan assets. We affirm our determination to move quickly to help Afghanistan create jobs and start rebuilding Afghanistan's agricultural sector, its health care and educational systems. Concrete examples of programs, in addition to our current humanitarian aid program and contributions to large infrastructure projects, that will have immediate impact are to:

- print and distribute nearly 10 million textbooks in Dari and Pashtu, focused on math, reading and science, in time for the official start of the Afghan school year in March;
- provide basic training for 4,000 teachers, at least half of whom are women;
- vaccinate 2.2 million Afghan children against measles and set up primary care community health clinics; and
- use \$45 million in food-related programs to, in part, promote recovery by providing food directly to teachers and students at school and food to workers at project sites.

Our joint commitment to the development of Afghanistan's private sector will be bolstered by an initial U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) \$50 million line of credit to finance qualified U.S. private sector projects. We are pleased to announce that in February OPIC, the Export-Import Bank, and the U.S. Trade Development

Agency, will conduct an investment assessment mission to Afghanistan and that the Commerce Department will lead a private sector mission to Afghanistan to help identify Afghanistan's investment needs and opportunities for U.S. private sector participation in reconstruction. We welcome a U.S. Department of Labor initiative to fund job generation and training programs for ex-combatants and women.

Finally, we pledge to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges and cultural initiatives, including through the Fulbright, International Visitor and Humphrey programs, as well as through non-governmental organizations. Recognizing that the Taliban destroyed several of Afghanistan's great historic statues and cultural sites, we agreed to work together to help restore and preserve Afghanistan's heritage.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 28, 2002

Medicare

The President. I want to thank the Members from both the House and the Senate, both of the political parties, for coming to discuss an incredibly important issue, and that is Medicare. We had good discussions last year, and now it's time to get something done.

We need a comprehensive reform plan that includes prescription drugs for every senior. And the will of the folks around this table is to work together to do just that, is to make sure our seniors have got the capacity to have a—to purchase prescription drugs. That's what we all want.

And I believe that given the right focus and the right efforts, we can achieve that objective. And while we're doing so, we want Medicare to be modernized. We want it to be a system that is relevant for seniors today and for tomorrow. And it's not. It's a sys-

tem—it's old, and it's tired, and it needs to be looked at in a way that recognizes we've made a commitment to our country's seniors. But we want the commitment to work.

And so, the Members around this table have all come back to town and said, "Let's get something done." And I'm so thrilled to have them here, and I appreciate the spirit. And it's going to require that kind of spirit to get it done.

I'm looking forward to my speech tomorrow night. I will mention Medicare in my speech. We need to make it work; we need for there to be a prescription drug plan in the program.

Thank you all for coming.

Legislative Agenda in an Election Year

Q. Do you think it will be likely in an election year, sir? Is it likely in an election year, sir?

The President. You know, that's why you run for office. Election year or no election year, it's time to get something done. And this is not an issue for the faint-hearted, but it's the right thing to do. And Members around here understand it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Michael Hammond

January 29, 2002

Michael Hammond was an accomplished conductor, composer, and advocate of the arts. His commitment to excellence and his extraordinary talents will be greatly missed.

Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the State of the Union

January 29, 2002

Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, fellow citizens: As we gather tonight, our Nation is at war; our economy is in recession; and the civilized

world faces unprecedented dangers. Yet, the state of our Union has never been stronger.

We last met in an hour of shock and suffering. In 4 short months, our Nation has comforted the victims, begun to rebuild New York and the Pentagon, rallied a great coalition, captured, arrested, and rid the world of thousands of terrorists, destroyed Afghanistan's terrorist training camps, saved a people from starvation, and freed a country from brutal oppression.

The American flag flies again over our Embassy in Kabul. Terrorists who once occupied Afghanistan now occupy cells at Guantanamo Bay. And terrorist leaders who urged followers to sacrifice their lives are running for their own.

America and Afghanistan are now allies against terror. We'll be partners in rebuilding that country. And this evening we welcomed the distinguished interim leader of a liberated Afghanistan, Chairman Hamid Karzai.

The last time we met in this Chamber, the mothers and daughters of Afghanistan were captives in their own homes, forbidden from working or going to school. Today women are free and are part of Afghanistan's new Government. And we welcome the new Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Sima Samar.

Our progress is a tribute to the spirit of the Afghan people, to the resolve of our coalition, and to the might of the United States military. When I called our troops into action, I did so with complete confidence in their courage and skill. And tonight, thanks to them, we are winning the war on terror. The men and women of our Armed Forces have delivered a message now clear to every enemy of the United States: Even 7,000 miles away, across oceans and continents, on mountaintops and in caves, you will not escape the justice of this Nation.

For many Americans, these 4 months have brought sorrow and pain that will never completely go away. Every day a retired firefighter returns to Ground Zero to feel closer to his two sons who died there. At a memorial in New York, a little boy left his football with a note for his lost father: "Dear Daddy, please take this to heaven. I don't want to play football until I can play with you again some day."

Last month, at the grave of her husband, Micheal, a CIA officer and marine who died in Mazar-e-Sharif, Shannon Spann said these words of farewell, "Semper Fi, my love." Shannon is with us tonight. Shannon, I assure you and all who have lost a loved one that our cause is just, and our country will never forget the debt we owe Michael and all who gave their lives for freedom.

Our cause is just, and it continues. Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears and showed us the true scope of the task ahead. We have seen the depth of our enemies' hatred in videos where they laugh about the loss of innocent life. And the depth of their hatred is equaled by the madness of the destruction they design. We have found diagrams of American nuclear powerplants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities, and thorough descriptions of landmarks in America and throughout the world.

What we have found in Afghanistan confirms that, far from ending there, our war against terror is only beginning. Most of the 19 men who hijacked planes on September the 11th were trained in Afghanistan's camps, and so were tens of thousands of others. Thousands of dangerous killers, schooled in the methods of murder, often supported by outlaw regimes, are now spread throughout the world like ticking timebombs, set to go off without warning.

Thanks to the work of our law enforcement officials and coalition partners, hundreds of terrorists have been arrested. Yet, tens of thousands of trained terrorists are still at large. These enemies view the entire world as a battlefield, and we must pursue them wherever they are. So long as training camps operate, so long as nations harbor terrorists, freedom is at risk. And America and our allies must not and will not allow it.

Our Nation will continue to be steadfast and patient and persistent in the pursuit of two great objectives. First, we will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt terrorist plans, and bring terrorists to justice. And second, we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world.

Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld, including groups like Hamas, Hizballah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-Mohammed, operates in remote jungles and deserts and hides in the centers of large cities.

While the most visible military action is in Afghanistan, America is acting elsewhere. We now have troops in the Philippines, helping to train that country's armed forces to go after terrorist cells that have executed an American and still hold hostages. Our soldiers, working with the Bosnian Government, seized terrorists who were plotting to bomb our Embassy. Our Navy is patrolling the coast of Africa to block the shipment of weapons and the establishment of terrorist camps in Somalia.

My hope is that all nations will heed our call and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own. Many nations are acting forcefully. Pakistan is now cracking down on terror, and I admire the strong leadership of President Musharraf. But some governments will be timid in the face of terror. And make no mistake about it: If they do not act, America will.

Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction. Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September the 11th, but we know their true nature.

North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens.

Iran aggressively pursues these weapons and exports terror, while an unelected few repress the Iranian people's hope for freedom.

Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America and to support terror. The Iraqi regime has plotted to develop anthrax and nerve gas and nuclear weapons for over a decade. This is a regime that has already used poison gas to murder thousands of its own citizens, leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children. This is a regime that agreed to international inspections, then kicked out the inspectors. This

is a regime that has something to hide from the civilized world.

States like these and their terrorist allies constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United States. In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic.

We will work closely with our coalition to deny terrorists and their state sponsors the materials, technology, and expertise to make and deliver weapons of mass destruction. We will develop and deploy effective missile defenses to protect America and our allies from sudden attack. And all nations should know: America will do what is necessary to ensure our Nation's security.

We'll be deliberate; yet, time is not on our side. I will not wait on events while dangers gather. I will not stand by as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.

Our war on terror is well begun, but it is only begun. This campaign may not be finished on our watch; yet, it must be and it will be waged on our watch. We can't stop short. If we stop now, leaving terror camps intact and terrorist states unchecked, our sense of security would be false and temporary. History has called America and our allies to action, and it is both our responsibility and our privilege to fight freedom's fight.

Our first priority must always be the security of our Nation, and that will be reflected in the budget I send to Congress. My budget supports three great goals for America: We will win this war; we will protect our homeland; and we will revive our economy.

September the 11th brought out the best in America and the best in this Congress. And I join the American people in applauding your unity and resolve. Now Americans deserve to have this same spirit directed toward addressing problems here at home. I'm a proud member of my party. Yet as we act to win the war, protect our people, and create

jobs in America, we must act, first and foremost, not as Republicans, not as Democrats but as Americans.

It costs a lot to fight this war. We have spent more than a billion dollars a month, over \$30 million a day, and we must be prepared for future operations. Afghanistan proved that expensive precision weapons defeat the enemy and spare innocent lives, and we need more of them. We need to replace aging aircraft and make our military more agile to put our troops anywhere in the world quickly and safely. Our men and women in uniform deserve the best weapons, the best equipment, the best training, and they also deserve another pay raise.

My budget includes the largest increase in defense spending in two decades, because while the price of freedom and security is high, it is never too high. Whatever it costs to defend our country, we will pay.

The next priority of my budget is to do everything possible to protect our citizens and strengthen our Nation against the ongoing threat of another attack. Time and distance from the events of September the 11th will not make us safer unless we act on its lessons. America is no longer protected by vast oceans. We are protected from attack only by vigorous action abroad and increased vigilance at home.

My budget nearly doubles funding for a sustained strategy of homeland security, focused on four key areas: bioterrorism, emergency response, airport and border security, and improved intelligence. We will develop vaccines to fight anthrax and other deadly diseases. We'll increase funding to help States and communities train and equip our heroic police and firefighters. We will improve intelligence collection and sharing, expand patrols at our borders, strengthen the security of air travel, and use technology to track the arrivals and departures of visitors to the United States.

Homeland security will make America not only stronger but, in many ways, better. Knowledge gained from bioterrorism research will improve public health. Stronger police and fire departments will mean safer neighborhoods. Stricter border enforcement will help combat illegal drugs. And as government works to better secure our homeland,

America will continue to depend on the eyes and ears of alert citizens.

A few days before Christmas, an airline flight attendant spotted a passenger lighting a match. The crew and passengers quickly subdued the man, who had been trained by Al Qaida and was armed with explosives. The people on that plane were alert and, as a result, likely saved nearly 200 lives. And tonight we welcome and thank flight attendants Hermis Moutardier and Christina Jones.

Once we have funded our national security and our homeland security, the final great priority of my budget is economic security for the American people. To achieve these great national objectives—to win the war, protect the homeland, and revitalize our economy—our budget will run a deficit that will be small and short term, so long as Congress restrains spending and acts in a fiscally responsible manner. We have clear priorities, and we must act at home with the same purpose and resolve we have shown overseas. We'll prevail in the war, and we will defeat this recession.

Americans who have lost their jobs need our help, and I support extending unemployment benefits and direct assistance for health care coverage. Yet, American workers want more than unemployment checks; they want a steady paycheck. When America works, America prospers, so my economic security plan can be summed up in one word: jobs.

Good jobs begin with good schools, and here we've made a fine start. Republicans and Democrats worked together to achieve historic education reform so that no child is left behind. I was proud to work with members of both parties: Chairman John Boehner and Congressman George Miller; Senator Judd Gregg. And I was so proud of our work, I even had nice things to say about my friend Ted Kennedy. *[Laughter]* I know the folks at the Crawford coffee shop couldn't believe I'd say such a thing—*[laughter]*—but our work on this bill shows what is possible if we set aside posturing and focus on results.

There is more to do. We need to prepare our children to read and succeed in school with improved Head Start and early childhood development programs. We must upgrade our teacher colleges and teacher training and launch a major recruiting drive with

a great goal for America, a quality teacher in every classroom.

Good jobs also depend on reliable and affordable energy. This Congress must act to encourage conservation, promote technology, build infrastructure, and it must act to increase energy production at home so America is less dependent on foreign oil.

Good jobs depend on expanded trade. Selling into new markets creates new jobs, so I ask Congress to finally approve trade promotion authority.

On these two key issues, trade and energy, the House of Representatives has acted to create jobs, and I urge the Senate to pass this legislation.

Good jobs depend on sound tax policy. Last year, some in this Hall thought my tax relief plan was too small; some thought it was too big. But when the checks arrived in the mail, most Americans thought tax relief was just about right. Congress listened to the people and responded by reducing tax rates, doubling the child credit, and ending the death tax. For the sake of long-term growth and to help Americans plan for the future, let's make these tax cuts permanent.

The way out of this recession, the way to create jobs, is to grow the economy by encouraging investment in factories and equipment and by speeding up tax relief so people have more money to spend. For the sake of American workers, let's pass a stimulus package.

Good jobs must be the aim of welfare reform. As we reauthorize these important reforms, we must always remember the goal is to reduce dependency on government and offer every American the dignity of a job.

Americans know economic security can vanish in an instant without health security. I ask Congress to join me this year to enact a patients' bill of rights, to give uninsured workers credits to help buy health coverage, to approve an historic increase in the spending for veterans' health, and to give seniors a sound and modern Medicare system that includes coverage for prescription drugs.

A good job should lead to security in retirement. I ask Congress to enact new safeguards for 401K and pension plans. Employees who have worked hard and saved all their lives should not have to risk losing everything

if their company fails. Through stricter accounting standards and tougher disclosure requirements, corporate America must be made more accountable to employees and shareholders and held to the highest standards of conduct.

Retirement security also depends upon keeping the commitments of Social Security, and we will. We must make Social Security financially stable and allow personal retirement accounts for younger workers who choose them.

Members, you and I will work together in the months ahead on other issues: productive farm policy; a cleaner environment; broader homeownership, especially among minorities; and ways to encourage the good work of charities and faith-based groups. I ask you to join me on these important domestic issues in the same spirit of cooperation we've applied to our war against terrorism.

During these last few months, I've been humbled and privileged to see the true character of this country in a time of testing. Our enemies believed America was weak and materialistic, that we would splinter in fear and selfishness. They were as wrong as they are evil.

The American people have responded magnificently, with courage and compassion, strength and resolve. As I have met the heroes, hugged the families, and looked into the tired faces of rescuers, I have stood in awe of the American people.

And I hope you will join me—I hope you will join me in expressing thanks to one American for the strength and calm and comfort she brings to our Nation in crisis, our First Lady, Laura Bush.

None of us would ever wish the evil that was done on September the 11th. Yet, after America was attacked, it was as if our entire country looked into a mirror and saw our better selves. We were reminded that we are citizens with obligations to each other, to our country, and to history. We began to think less of the goods we can accumulate and more about the good we can do.

For too long our culture has said, "If it feels good, do it." Now America is embracing a new ethic and a new creed, "Let's roll."

In the sacrifice of soldiers, the fierce brotherhood of firefighters, and the bravery and generosity of ordinary citizens, we have glimpsed what a new culture of responsibility could look like. We want to be a nation that serves goals larger than self. We've been offered a unique opportunity, and we must not let this moment pass.

My call tonight is for every American to commit at least 2 years, 4,000 hours over the rest of your lifetime, to the service of your neighbors and your Nation. Many are already serving, and I thank you. If you aren't sure how to help, I've got a good place to start. To sustain and extend the best that has emerged in America, I invite you to join the new USA Freedom Corps. The Freedom Corps will focus on three areas of need: responding in case of crisis at home; rebuilding our communities; and extending American compassion throughout the world.

One purpose of the USA Freedom Corps will be homeland security. America needs retired doctors and nurses who can be mobilized in major emergencies, volunteers to help police and fire departments, transportation and utility workers well-trained in spotting danger.

Our country also needs citizens working to rebuild our communities. We need mentors to love children, especially children whose parents are in prison. And we need more talented teachers in troubled schools. USA Freedom Corps will expand and improve the good efforts of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to recruit more than 200,000 new volunteers.

And America needs citizens to extend the compassion of our country to every part of the world. So we will renew the promise of the Peace Corps, double its volunteers over the next 5 years, and ask it to join a new effort to encourage development and education and opportunity in the Islamic world.

This time of adversity offers a unique moment of opportunity, a moment we must seize to change our culture. Through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of service and decency and kindness, I know we can overcome evil with greater good.

And we have a great opportunity during this time of war to lead the world toward the values that will bring lasting peace. All

fathers and mothers, in all societies, want their children to be educated and live free from poverty and violence. No people on Earth yearn to be oppressed or aspire to servitude or eagerly await the midnight knock of the secret police. If anyone doubts this, let them look to Afghanistan, where the Islamic "street" greeted the fall of tyranny with song and celebration. Let the skeptics look to Islam's own rich history, with its centuries of learning and tolerance and progress. America will lead by defending liberty and justice because they are right and true and unchanging for all people everywhere.

No nation owns these aspirations, and no nation is exempt from them. We have no intention of imposing our culture. But America will always stand firm for the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity: the rule of law; limits on the power of the state; respect for women; private property; free speech; equal justice; and religious tolerance.

America will take the side of brave men and women who advocate these values around the world, including the Islamic world, because we have a greater objective than eliminating threats and containing resentment. We seek a just and peaceful world beyond the war on terror.

In this moment of opportunity, a common danger is erasing old rivalries. America is working with Russia and China and India, in ways we have never before, to achieve peace and prosperity. In every region, free markets and free trade and free societies are proving their power to lift lives. Together with friends and allies from Europe to Asia and Africa to Latin America, we will demonstrate that the forces of terror cannot stop the momentum of freedom.

The last time I spoke here, I expressed the hope that life would return to normal. In some ways, it has. In others, it never will. Those of us who have lived through these challenging times have been changed by them. We've come to know truths that we will never question: Evil is real, and it must be opposed. Beyond all differences of race or creed, we are one country, mourning together and facing danger together. Deep in the American character, there is honor, and it is stronger than cynicism. And many have

discovered again that even in tragedy—especially in tragedy—God is near.

In a single instant, we realized that this will be a decisive decade in the history of liberty, that we've been called to a unique role in human events. Rarely has the world faced a choice more clear or consequential.

Our enemies send other people's children on missions of suicide and murder. They embrace tyranny and death as a cause and a creed. We stand for a different choice, made long ago on the day of our founding. We affirm it again today. We choose freedom and the dignity of every life.

Steadfast in our purpose, we now press on. We have known freedom's price. We have shown freedom's power. And in this great conflict, my fellow Americans, we will see freedom's victory.

Thank you all. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Corona, CA, resident Guillermo Sobero, who was kidnapped May 27, 2001, and later killed by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; and alleged terrorist Richard C. Reid. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Message to the Congress on Termination of Suspensions Pertaining to the Export of Defense Articles or Services to Japan

January 25, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246) (the "Act"), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902 of the Act insofar as such suspensions pertain to the export of defense articles or defense services in support of efforts by the Government of Japan to destroy Japanese chemical weapons abandoned during World War II in the People's Republic of China. License requirements re-

main in place for these exports and require review and approval on a case-by-case basis by the United States Government.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 25, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30.

Executive Order 13254— Establishing the USA Freedom Corps

January 29, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. Building on our Nation's rich tradition of citizen service, this Administration's policy is to foster a culture of responsibility, service, and citizenship by promoting, expanding, and enhancing public service opportunities for all Americans and by making these opportunities readily available to citizens from all geographic areas, professions, and walks of life. More specifically, this Administration encourages all Americans to serve their country for the equivalent of at least 2 years (4,000 hours) over their lifetimes. Toward those ends, the executive departments, agencies, and offices constituting the USA Freedom Corps shall coordinate and strengthen Federal and other service opportunities, including opportunities for participation in homeland security preparedness and response, other areas of public and social service, and international service. The executive branch departments, agencies, and offices also will work with State and local governments and private entities to foster and encourage participation in public and social service programs, as appropriate.

Sec. 2. USA Freedom Corps. The USA Freedom Corps shall be an interagency initiative, bringing together executive branch departments, agencies, and offices with public service programs and components, including but not limited to programs and components with the following functions:

- (i) recruiting, mobilizing, and encouraging all Americans to engage in public service;
- (ii) providing concrete opportunities to engage in public service;
- (iii) providing the public with access to information about public service opportunities through Federal programs and elsewhere; and
- (iv) providing recognition and awards to volunteers and other participants in public service programs.

Sec. 3. USA Freedom Corps Council. (a) *Establishment and Mission.* There shall be a USA Freedom Corps Council (Council) chaired by the President and composed of heads of executive branch departments, agencies, and offices, which shall have the following functions:

- (i) serving as a forum for Federal officials responsible for public service programs to coordinate and improve public service programs and activities administered by the executive branch;
- (ii) working to encourage all Americans to engage in public service, whether through Federal programs or otherwise;
- (iii) advising the President and heads of executive branch departments, agencies, and offices concerning the optimization of current Federal programs to enhance public service opportunities;
- (iv) coordinating public outreach and publicity of citizen service opportunities provided by Federal programs;
- (v) encouraging schools, universities, private public service organizations, and other non-Federal entities to foster and reward public service;
- (vi) studying the availability of public service opportunities provided by the Federal Government and elsewhere; and
- (vii) tracking progress in participation in public service programs.

(b) *Membership.* In addition to the Chair, the members of the Council shall be the heads of the executive branch departments, agencies, and offices listed below, or their designees, and such other officers of the executive branch as the President may from

time to time designate. Every member of the Council or designee shall be a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government. Members shall not be compensated for their service on the Council in addition to the salaries they receive as employees or officers of the Federal Government.

- (i) Vice President;
- (ii) Attorney General;
- (iii) Secretary of State;
- (iv) Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (v) Secretary of Commerce;
- (vi) Secretary of Education;
- (vii) Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (viii) Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- (ix) Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service;
- (x) Director of the Peace Corps;
- (xi) Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development;
- (xii) Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office; and
- (xiii) Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

(c) *Chair.* The President shall be the Chair of the USA Freedom Corps Council, and in his absence, the Vice President shall serve as Chair. The Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office may, at the President's direction, preside over meetings of the Council in the President's and Vice President's absence.

(d) *Honorary Co-Chair.* The President may, from time to time, designate an Honorary Co-Chair or Co-Chairs, who shall serve in an advisory role to the Council and to the President on matters considered by the Council. Any Honorary Co-Chair shall be a full-time or permanent part-time employee or officer of the Federal Government.

(e) *Meetings.* The Council shall meet at the President's direction. The Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office shall be responsible, at the President's direction, for determining the agenda, ensuring that necessary papers are prepared, and recording Council actions and Presidential decisions.

(f) *Responsibilities of Executive Branch Departments, Agencies, and Offices.*

- (i) Members of the Council shall remain responsible for overseeing the programs administered by their respective departments, agencies, and offices. Each such department, agency, and office will retain its authority and responsibility to administer those programs according to law;
- (ii) Each executive branch department, agency, or office with responsibility for programs relating to the functions and missions of the USA Freedom Corps as described in section 2 of this order shall be responsible for identifying those public service opportunities and coordinating with the USA Freedom Corps Council to ensure that such programs are, if appropriate, publicized and encouraged by the Council; and
- (iii) Upon the request of the Chair, and to the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive branch departments and agencies shall provide the Council with relevant information.

Sec. 4. USA Freedom Corps Office. (a) *General.* The USA Freedom Corps also shall be supported by a USA Freedom Corps Office (Office), which shall be a component of the White House Office. The USA Freedom Corps Office shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the President. The Director shall be assisted by an appropriate staff within the White House Office.

(b) *Presidential Recognition to Participants in USA Freedom Corps Programs.* In addition to supporting and facilitating the functions of the Council listed in section 3 of this order, the Office shall support the President in providing recognition to volunteers and other participants in programs and activities relating to the functions and missions of the USA Freedom Corps as described in section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) The White House Office shall provide the Council and Office with such funding and administrative support, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, as directed by the Chief of Staff to the President to carry out the provisions of this order.

(b) This order does not alter the existing authorities or roles of executive branch departments, agencies, or offices. Nothing in this order shall supersede any requirement made by or under law.

(c) This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 31, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 1.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Homeland Security in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

January 30, 2002

Listen, I want to thank you very much. Mr. Mayor, thanks a lot. I'm honored to be here with the chief of the fire department and the chief of the police department and other citizens concerned about the safety of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

We're here because this community has figured out a while ago that there needs to be a collaborative effort amongst providers to provide an emergency response plan in case something were to happen. I'm here to highlight the success of this community. I'm here to highlight the fact that we've got people from different jurisdictions sitting down to develop a strategy response in case something were to happen.

Last night I talked about the need for this country to have a strong homeland security strategy. It starts at the local level. And so part of our plan to make sure the country is more secure is to encourage cities and counties to develop a homeland defense strategy for their area, similar to what is taking place here in Winston-Salem.

So I'm here to congratulate you all and herald a fine collaborative effort. One of the interesting byproducts of planning for a disaster and working with the Federal Government when it comes to homeland security is, your community will be strong before and afterwards, that there will be a better health care system afterwards, safer neighborhoods afterwards.

And I want to again thank you for your hospitality. It's good to be in the great State of North Carolina. And I'm glad to show off to the Nation what is possible when people of good will and good heart get together and say, "I'm going to do my job in a collaborative effort to make my community safer."

So, thanks, Sylvia. Good work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. at the Center for Community Safety, part of Winston-Salem State University. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor J. Allen Joines of Winston-Salem; John Gist, chief, Winston-Salem Fire Department; Linda Davis, chief, Winston-Salem Police Department; and Sylvia Oberle, executive director, Center for Community Safety. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Community in Winston-Salem

January 30, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for such a warm North Carolina welcome. I hope I didn't keep you up too late last night. [Laughter] I usually get to bed about 9 o'clock, but I obviously had something to say. I said that even though we're at war, even though we're at recession, the state of our Union has never been stronger.

And I know why. And the reason why is because we're a nation of strong Americans. It is such an honor to be the President of such a fabulous country. And I'm glad, proud to be here with you to share some of my thoughts and hopes and concerns.

Before I begin, I want to thank your chief. She has done a fabulous job. I loved it when the men and women who wear the blue stood up when the chief came out and led the round of applause. It shows that she knows how to lead. So, Chief, thank you for being

here, and thank you for honoring me with your presence.

I'm proud that Tom Ridge is traveling with me today. He and I were Governors together. Never did I dream that I'd ask him to come and serve in an important capacity—and that is to protect our homeland—because we never thought we'd be attacked. But we have been. And now it's time for this country to respond in a positive way, and I am so proud of the effort he is leading to secure the homeland of the United States of America.

I'm also glad Allbaugh is here. Obviously, I didn't pick him because he's pretty. [Laughter] He's got a face only his mother would love—[laughter]—if she stretches it. [Laughter] But I've known him for a long time. He was with me in Texas. He understands how to manage an organization. And the organization he manages is FEMA, so that if there ever is an emergency in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, you'll get the absolute best service from your Federal Government. I want to thank both members for being here—both men for being here today.

I flew down on the airplane today with some distinguished members of the North Carolina congressional delegation. First, a true gentleman, and somebody every time I sees him talks about North Carolina in the most glowing terms, and that's Senator Jesse Helms.

And then we let somebody from Hickory, North Carolina, travel with us, old Cass Ballenger. I appreciate you being here, Cass. Congressman Mel Watt is with us today, too. Thank you, Congressman, for coming; honored you're here. My first meeting was in his district, and then I crossed the line and came into Richard Burr's district, Congressman Richard Burr. Richard told me that his mother and daddy are here. Where? There you go. I hope he listens to you, Mom. You better tell him. He probably listens to you about as much as I listen to my mother—[laughter]—a lot, by the way. [Laughter]

I'm also so proud—the other night I invited one of our Nation's foremost couples for dinner. Unfortunately, only the husband could come. We got stuck with the short straw in this couple, because the wife was here doing hard work in North Carolina. The

lady who wasn't at dinner was Miss Elizabeth Dole. Thank you for coming. My hope, of course, is that we'll be able to dine frequently. [Laughter]

I'm told your good Governor is here, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, Mike Easley. I know your mayor is here, because I traveled with him in the limousine. We had a good visit, newly elected Mayor Joiner of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We've got leaders from the State delegation. I know the leader of the senate is here on the Republican side, members of the house and the senate. I'm so honored you all would take time to come and pay a visit.

I know that we've got people who have made huge sacrifices in their life with us today, men and women who wear our uniform. We are so grateful for your service to our community.

I'm told there are some volunteer firefighters here. I'm a proud contributor to the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department. One of the things I'll be talking about a little later on is how we can encourage volunteers to help police and firefighters all across the country. The volunteer fire departments have already shown how to help. It is made up of people who understand that in order to make their community, people must stand up and say, "How can I help?" So I want to thank all the volunteer firefighters who are here today.

We're making great progress in our war against terror. We have totally routed out one of the most repressive governments in the history of mankind, the Taliban. When I made our announcement last September about our intentions, I said, the evil won't stand; and to nations that feel like they can harbor evil or support terrorists, they, too, are just as guilty as a terrorist. We not only made the message clear; we delivered. And that's because this patient Nation has got a fine, strong United States military. And this country is going to back them to the hilt in our war against terror.

We're making good progress. We put together a great coalition of nations around the world with this message: Either you're with us, or you're against us; either you're on the side of freedom and justice, or you aren't.

And the good news is, most people are beginning to see the wisdom of being on the side of freedom and justice. [Laughter]

We're after them. But the good news to report for our side, and the bad news for the evil, is that we're patient, and we're determined, and we will not stop until we achieve all our objectives.

The first objective was to hold the Taliban Government hostage and to liberate a people. And this proud Nation did so. One of my favorite images was to see liberated women and children with joy on their faces, thanks to the United States military.

We haven't forgot our other objective, and that's bad news for Al Qaida. Our other objective is to run them down, wherever they hide, and bring them to justice—or as I like to say, get them. [Laughter] It's going to take a while. There are caves in rugged parts of Afghanistan where these people may be hiding. But they better not think they can hide forever—

Audience member. Give them what for, G! [Laughter]

The President. —because our only objective is not Al Qaida; our objective is broader than one person or a handful of people. We'll get them. We're going to get them. We're going to bring them to justice, make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans. But the call is bigger than that. In order to make sure our children can grow up in a free world and a civilized world, we must rout out terror wherever it exists, wherever it hides.

The doctrine that says you're just as guilty as the terrorist applies not only in Afghanistan but worldwide. Our mission is to make the world free from terror. And this mighty country will not tarry, and we will not fail in our love and our quest for freedom.

I told the people last night that one of the things we discovered in Afghanistan in the caves was that they've got designs on our homeland still, of course. We also believe they've trained thousands and thousands of killers that are around the world. That's why we're not going to rest. That's why we're going to remind the nations around the world that we can't rest. We have no choice, and we're not going to.

I also made it clear that if you're a nation that's going to develop weapons of mass destruction, you too—you too—are on our radar screen. You too, if you've got a history of repression and violence and disregard for human rights and are developing a weapon of mass destruction, you too are now on notice that the United States of America will do whatever it takes to defend our security.

And therefore, the budget I sent to Congress makes a priority for national defense. Our soldiers deserve the best equipment, the best training, and a pay raise as we fight this war against terror.

I also want Americans to know that we will do everything we can to secure the homeland. And therefore, I submitted a budget that increases homeland security, increases the monies for homeland security. Tom Ridge is developing a coordinated strategy that will provide research for vaccines to fight bioterrorism, that will send more equipment and training money to first-responders—those are the police and firefighters all across America. We'll keep a closer eye on our border. We want to make sure we understand who's coming in and who's going out. We want to do everything we can to secure America, to secure our Nation.

Part of the initiative I called on will call upon people to help us with the homeland security, and I will explain that a little later. But you've got to know that every day your Federal Government and law enforcement officials are doing everything we can to find them, to make sure they don't hit us, to protect the American people. My most important job is the security of America, is the security of Americans. I will not rest until we finally win this war on terror, because I understand the best way to secure America is to find terrorists where they live and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what this country is going to do.

I also spent some time last night talking about economic security. We're talking about homeland security, and part of having a secure homeland is to make sure people can work, that there are jobs available for people who want to work. And so on the one hand, I think Congress ought to help those who are unemployed. But I understand people don't want an unemployment check; they

want a steady paycheck. And so the thing Congress has got to do is create jobs, jobs for Americans, jobs for people who want to work.

You probably remember the debate on taxes. Thank goodness we cut taxes when we did. The best way—the best way to help an economy recover is to let hard-working people keep more of their money. When they get more money in their pocket, they spend more money, and as they spend more money, it helps create jobs. Tax relief is an important way to battle recession.

And for those who want to do away with tax relief, you don't know what you're talking about. You don't raise taxes. We don't raise taxes in the middle of a recession. We've got to trust people with their own money. I'm not sure what textbook some of them are reading up there. *[Laughter]* But obviously, it's not the same one we've been reading here in this room.

I will tell you another way to create jobs is to open up markets. Listen, our farmers in America are the best in the world. We've got the best agriculture sector. If we're the best at something, it seems like we ought to sell it. The more we can sell, the more jobs there are. The more markets that open for U.S. producers, the more jobs there will be for U.S. workers.

I'll tell you another way to create jobs is to have an energy policy, is to finally get an energy policy that does several things. First of all, if you're trying to create jobs and you're not sure what the price of energy is going to be, it makes job creation less certain. If there's a price spike, it's harder to hire somebody. If there's uncertainty in supply, it's harder to plan for the future. And therefore, having an energy policy makes sense. It makes sense from an economic perspective. We've got to conserve more. We've got to utilize technology more. But for the sake of national security, we must find more oil and gas at home to become less reliant on foreign sources of oil.

I'm proud of the work we did on an education bill. I know a lot of you here are concerned about your public schools, and so am I. I want the best, and so do you. I want to make sure every child learns and no child gets left behind. We worked well together.

I said last night in the middle of the speech that I was proud to work with Republicans, proud to work with Democrats. I was even proud of the efforts—very proud of the efforts of Ted Kennedy.

Now, I understand in North Carolina—[laughter]—and in parts of Texas—[laughter]—they may not understand a good conservative Republican like me saying nice things about liberal Ted Kennedy. [Laughter] But I'm going to tell you something: He cares about public schools like I do. He, too, doesn't want any child left behind. We set aside our parties and focused on America and did what was right for the schoolchildren of America.

A good job means good education. A good education means good jobs. In order to have good jobs, you've got to have a good education system. And so, therefore, we passed a good piece of legislation—provides more money for at-risk kids but also trusts the good people of North Carolina to make the decisions for the children of North Carolina. The people who care more about the children who live in Winston-Salem are the moms and dads and community leaders of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

And we've obviously got more to do, and we're going to get a lot done if we focus on America, if we focus on results, if we don't play the politics of the old days where you try to tear the other guy down in order to get ahead. We've got to get rid of that attitude in Washington, and when we do, the country will be better off for it.

And that's what the country expects. This country expects the best—the best. This country is taking an assessment right now of what's important. The evil ones thought that we were weak. They didn't understand us. As I say, they were probably watching too much daytime TV. [Laughter] This is a strong nation. This is a compassionate nation. This is a decent nation. And this is a nation that will not let terrorists change our way of life.

As a matter of fact, what the terrorists have done has caused us to take an assessment of what's important. And one of the things of my job is to capture this new spirit. I had been concerned for too long about a culture that says, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it. I believe that this Nation is strong

enough and focused enough and dedicated enough to usher in a culture that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

Part of our responsibility understands that if you happen to be a mom or a dad, that your most important job will be to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

Part of our responsibility is corporate responsibility. And corporate America must be open about its books and accounting systems, so that shareholders and employees know the full truth about what's going on on balance sheets.

Part of being a responsible society—part of being a responsible society is for people to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And part of being a responsible society is to serve your community. And so my call to America is, I hope and ask that you serve your community you live in and your Nation by 2 years of service, 4,000 hours of service over your lifetime.

Now, many of you do that, I know. Many of you go to your Sunday school class and figure out ways to help a neighbor in need. Some of you walk across the street to a shut-in and say, "I love you. Can I care for you?" Many of you mentor. I hope you keep doing that. That's part of the 4,000 hours I asked for you to do for your Nation, for the good of your community.

Some don't know where to start, and I've got, obviously, a good idea, and that is for the USA Freedom Corps. It's a chance to serve your Nation in three different ways.

One is to be a part of making sure your community is prepared for any emergency that might happen. I went over with the chief today earlier and saw a community collaboration that is very strong and powerful that you have here in Winston-Salem. You need to be proud of it, proud of the fact that your police chief and your fire chief and your mayor, your emergency responders, the National Guard have developed a—hospitals and docs and nurses—have developed an emergency response plan, a plan that will help the citizens deal with an emergency, should it occur here in Winston-Salem. It's an integral part of preparing your community.

By the way, by preparing your community for an emergency, you also leave a legacy behind that will make your community better. The more the police and fire work together, the more likely it is your communities will be safe.

But one of the things we're asking is for people to volunteer. Ex-policemen or ex-firefighters, retired docs or nurses, make yourself available to be a part of your emergency response teams in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, or any other community in North Carolina or the country, for that matter.

A second way that we can serve our community is through AmeriCorps. I want to expand the size of AmeriCorps by 200,000 volunteers, many of whom will end up teaching in inner-city schools. I'm going to Atlanta, Georgia, tomorrow to herald a great program called Teach For America. It is a place where youngsters—or oldsters, for that matter—who are interested in serving their community can teach. I can't think of a more noble profession and a better way to serve your community than teaching.

We're going to expand Senior Corps, as well, to give our seniors a chance to continue to lend their expertise and judgment and wisdom in the communities in which they live.

And finally, I believe that one thing we must do—and I spent some time talking about it last night—was to expand the Peace Corps, revitalize the mission, encourage the Peace Corps to go into the Islamic world to spread the message of economic development and really share the compassion of a great nation, and that is America.

These are ways you can help. These are ways that you can be a part of serving your Nation.

Along these lines, I've asked a friend of mine who has served my administration well to be the Director, the Executive Director of this USA Freedom Corps. He is an integral part of our team. And by taking him off the Domestic Policy Council and putting him in charge of USA Freedom, I am obviously making a strong commitment to the future of this organization. He'll be held accountable. When we say we're going to get more people involved, I'll be asking him on a regular basis, "How are we doing? If we're not doing that well, how come? What can we do

to make it better?" But I'd like you to welcome the new Executive Director, John Bridgeland. [Applause]

Now, in order to make sure people who want to sign up—if you listened to the speech last night, you know, people were saying, "Well, gosh, that's nice. He called me to action. Where do I look?" Well, here's where: at usafreedomcorps.gov. If you want to find out how you can join the USA Freedom Corps or, for that matter, figure out how to help to serve your community outside of the USA Freedom Corps—because, as I understand, we've got it tied into websites, for example, the community services in Winston-Salem—dial up usafreedomcorps.gov.

Or you can call this number—it sounds like I'm making a pitch, and I am. [Laughter] This is the right thing to do for America: 1-877-USA-CORPS. If somebody out there is interested in figuring out how to serve, it's 1-877-USA-CORPS.

Now, people ask me all the time, "What can I do to help? How can I be a part?" And oh, by the way, I look forward to working with my old rival on this initiative. One of the things that John McCain spent a lot of time talking about when we ran against each other and still spends a lot of time talking about is service. He's a man who understood service to his country. He's a man who knows that America will be better off as we serve our country. And I look forward to working with Senator McCain and Senator Bayh of Indiana to get this legislation through the Congress.

People, though, come up to me all the time and say, "Well, gosh, that's good. We're winning." I say, "We are, and we've got a lot more to do, and it's going to take a while." They say, "What can I do to help?" You know, you've heard me talk about this, probably, but I really, truly view this as a conflict between good and evil. And there really isn't much middle ground—like none. [Laughter] The people we fight are evil people. They have no regard for human life. They believe in tyranny. Their history has shown exactly what I'm talking about. Imagine a society where women are brutalized, children aren't educated, young girls have no chance of getting an education. It is a backward, barbaric

point of view. And those are the kind of people—but the people we’re after embraced that point of view.

And obviously, if you want to fight evil, we’ve figured out a way to do so militarily. That’s one way. But at home, you fight evil with acts of goodness. You overcome the evil in society by doing something to help somebody. It’s the collection—what I called last night the momentum of a million acts of kindness. That’s the collective soul of the country, millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place not because of the Government but because this is a nation of heart, a nation that cares, a nation of fine, fine people.

If people want to fight terror, do something kind for a neighbor; join the USA Freedom Corps; love somebody; mentor a child; stand up to evil with acts of goodness and kindness. Not only will our country be better, but we’ll show the world—we will show the world that values, universal values, must be respected and must be adhered to. And as a result, the world will be more peaceful. History has called us to action, and action we will take.

It is such an honor—I want to repeat where I started—it is such an honor to be the President of such a great land, to be given the opportunity to lead a land full of such great people. Fight on, America. I love you. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to Linda Davis, chief, Winston-Salem Police Department; Martha and David Burr, parents of Representative Richard Burr; former Senator Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth Dole, candidate for U.S. Senator for North Carolina; Mayor J. Allen Joines of Winston-Salem; Patrick J. Ballantine, senate minority leader, North Carolina General Assembly; and John Gist, chief, Winston-Salem Fire Department.

Statement on the National Economy *January 30, 2002*

Today’s GDP report is positive, but we cannot take growth and job creation for granted. For the sake of America’s workers, I call on Congress to pass an economic security package that will protect American jobs

and prosperity because I remain concerned about the economy. I’m pleased that consumer spending contributed to today’s report, demonstrating that last year’s bipartisan tax relief plan was the right thing to do for the American people and the American economy.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the United States Air Force Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada

January 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the “Act”), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 18, 2001, I issued Presidential Determination 2001–27 (copy attached) and thereby exercised the authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination 2001–27 exempted the United States Air Force’s operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified, and its disclosure would be harmful to national security. Continued protection of this information is, therefore, in the paramount interest of the United States.

The determination was not intended to imply that, in the absence of a Presidential exemption, RCRA or any other provision of law permits or requires the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. The determination also was not intended to limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force’s operating location near Groom Lake except those provisions, if any, that might require the disclosure of classified information.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks on Arrival in Daytona Beach, Florida

January 30, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I'm glad to be back in the great State of Florida. I love to come to States where they've got a great Governor. As Americans make their travel plans, more of us need to think about coming to Florida.

One of the last times I came was when I went to the racetrack owned by Mr. France, right next door to here, where Teresa's good husband was driving cars. It was such an honor to be with Mr. France and his wife and Teresa Earnhardt. And may God rest Dale's soul, and may God bless her family, too.

I don't know if you all know this, but you sent a good one up to represent you in Congress, John Mica. And I appreciate John being here. In politics, they've got the talkers, and they've got the doers. John is a doer. I worked closely with him on an airport security bill that will make sure that, when Americans get on their airplanes, it is as safe as can possibly be. And I want to thank John for his leadership and his hard work on this vital piece of legislation.

I know we've got some from the statehouse in particular—the Speaker of the House Feeney. I'm so honored that people came down from Tallahassee to say hello to Jeb's “little” big brother. [*Laughter*] I am so thrilled to be here.

I hope I didn't speak to long last night.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. I didn't mean to keep people up too late, but I had something to say. The state of our Union is strong; this is a great nation. We've got some challenges ahead, but this country is going to rise to the challenges.

We've got a big task ahead, and that is to rid the world of terror. I know people say, “What does that mean?” Well, it means that in order to keep America safe, we've got to

make it clear to any person who thinks they want to be a terrorist that this great Nation and its coalition will find you and bring you to justice. It means that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist.

Our mission is more than just Afghanistan, although we've been pretty darn successful there, thanks to the United States military. And for those of you who have a loved one in our military or in the military, I want to thank you from the bottom of our heart. I'm so proud—I'm so proud of the men and women who wear our uniform.

And you need to be proud, too. We've sent them into a tough mission, and they've accomplished that mission exactly the way that I hoped they would. We routed the Taliban, and by the way, there's nothing that makes me more joyous than to know our great military have been liberators, liberators of oppressed women and children, liberating people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

We're still in that theater. We will be in that theater with our military until we bring Al Qaida to justice. This is a dangerous phase of the first theater in the war on terror because there's a lot of caves. And we're trying to find people who, on the one hand, send youngsters to their death and, on the other hand, hide. On the one hand, they say, “It's okay for you to go kill yourself.” And on the other hand, they're running and hiding.

But see, what they don't understand about this Nation is we are patient; we are determined; we are steadfast. We're going to keep them running, and one of these days, we'll bring them to justice.

But the mission is more than just Afghanistan and Al Qaida. We need not be focused on one person, because we're fighting for freedom and civilized civilization. We fight to make sure our children and our children's children can grow up in a peaceful world, a world based upon values that respect dignity of life and the individual—values, universal values.

We fight evil people, people who want to murder us, people who hate America and what we stand for. And that's why we'll be relentless and steady. The world looks to us for leadership. If we blink, they may go to

sleep. That's why we're not going to blink. That's why we're going to be after them. That's why we're going to disrupt their finances. That's why we're going to hold people accountable. That's why we're going to say, "If you develop weapons of mass destruction and you aim and ruin the security of us or our allies, we will hold you accountable." That's why this Nation is going to stand tall and strong and not relent in the face of terror.

My biggest job is to secure our homeland. I walk into that magnificent Oval Office in the morning, and I look at a threat assessment, where the enemy may try to hit us again. And make no mistake about it, they'd like to. My biggest job is to rally the resources of our Government to prevent anything from happening to the innocent life in America. And I take it seriously, and so does our Government. We're doing everything in our power to seek down leads, to alert people if necessary, to gather as much intelligence as we can and share it quickly.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's major mission now is to keep the homeland safe, is to prevent another attack. So for all the law enforcement officials who are here, I want to thank you very much for your diligence, your hard work, for keeping your eyes and ears alert.

Traveling around the country, talking about a homeland initiative that's going to enhance more spending for—to fight bioterrorism; more money for first-responders, like the fire and the police, to make sure the emergency plans are in place; more money for the health agencies around the country; more money to make sure that we understand who's coming into our country and who leaves our country; more money—[*applause*] No, they've put us on notice, and we're after them. The best way to secure our homeland in the long term, however, is to take this war wherever a terrorist tries to hide and get them. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I sent a budget—one of the things a President does is put out a budget. I sent a budget up. It starts with this number one priority: If you wear our uniform, you deserve the best training, the best equipment, and another pay raise. The second budget request I put

in there is for a homeland security, and the third is for job security. I know there are some people hurting in this State, and my interest is to make sure we do wise things to increase the job base. We're going to help people with an unemployment check, but what Americans want is a steady paycheck.

Oh, I know there's been a lot of talk about, you know, revenues here and spending here and all that. Let me just tell you something about the tax relief plan that you helped us pass. Thank goodness we passed it. It came at the right time. If you want to fight off a recession, if you're interested in job creation, one of the best ways to do so is to let people keep their own money so they can spend it and therefore create more jobs.

We did exactly the right thing in Washington, DC. We made the exact right decision. I know there are some who have got a different theory about economics; that is, if you take more money out of people's pockets and increase the size of Government, the economy recovers. That's not what we think. That's not—and most economists will tell you if you encourage a tax rise in times of recession, it will make matters worse. That's economics 101. Evidently, some of them up there forgot to pick up the textbook. [*Laughter*] This tax cut says we trust people with their own money, and it also reminds people that we're dealing not with the Government's money but with the people's money.

We need to stimulate more economic growth by encouraging investment in plant and equipment, which means jobs, and by stimulating consumer spending by accelerating the tax relief plan, which means jobs. Jobs is the central core of any stimulus package.

And let me remind you something else about jobs. In order to make sure people can find work and the job base of America expands, folks, we need an energy policy. We need a policy that has reliable energy for America. Imagine an employer wondering whether or not they're going to run out of energy. That person is not likely to hire somebody. Or if we get tight on energy, the price of energy goes up—it means somebody is not going to be able to find work. We need an energy policy. We need to encourage conservation. We need to build infrastructure,

and we need to encourage exploration amongst—in the United States. A good energy policy is job security. But a good energy policy that reduces dependency upon foreign oil is a matter of national security, as well.

Like I said last night, I have been in awe of the American people.

Audience member. We love you! [*Laughter*]

The President. I'm at a loss for words. I'm speechless. [*Laughter*] May be hard to believe, after 49 minutes of talking last night. [*Laughter*] But I do want to tell you that this is a fabulous land, as you know. And we've got a great opportunity. The enemy hit us. As I like to kind of tease the enemy, they must have been watching too much daytime TV. They thought we were soft. They thought we were materialistic. They thought we wouldn't fight for what we believed. They thought we would cower in the face of terror. And my, my, are they wrong. Quite the contrary has happened. This great Nation is unified and steadfast, and this Nation understands that if you want to fight evil, you do so with acts of goodness.

I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help?" People say, "Well, gosh, I want to be a part of the war against terror." And my answer is: Love somebody; be a good mother or dad. I answered the call last night for—many of you, I know, are spending a lot of time in your communities and helping people in need, worrying about kids in school, helping the schools, teaching in the schools, perhaps. But I'm calling on America—and I did last night, and I will continue to do so—to serve 2 years, or 4,000 hours, for the rest of your life, in service to your community.

And if you don't have a place, we've started what's called the USA Freedom Corps. It's a chance for retired police officers or firemen to help out the local law enforcement authorities to be on alert. I'll give you an interesting idea that took place in Maine. They've got—Maine lobstermen are now patrolling the coast on a volunteer basis to make sure that somebody in a—somebody carrying something they don't want to carry in a boat shows up on the coast.

I mean, there's all kinds of ways to serve the community. We're looking for people to be mentors. We're looking for teachers to

teach in neighborhoods that may need teachers. Tomorrow—I'm here because I want to go by a Senior Corps program where senior citizens are signed up to help lend their talents and their valuable experience in the communities. There's all kinds of ways, all kinds of ways, that Americans can serve their communities and their neighborhoods. And by doing so, we stand square in the face of evil. We tell the enemy, "You can't get us. You think so—you think you can tear down the spirit of America, but quite the contrary. We are stronger than we have ever been as a nation."

Nobody wishes this evil had ever happened, but as a result of evil, there's some amazing things that are taking place in America. People have really begun to challenge the culture of the past that said, "If it feels good, do it," to welcome a new culture that says, "I'm responsible for the decisions I make in life."

This Nation has a chance—this Nation, this great Nation has a chance to help change the culture. We have a chance to stand up for being a mom or dad by just loving your kids more. We have a chance to fight evil by walking across the street to a shut-in, saying, "Somebody cares." We have a chance to say to the thousands of children whose moms or dads and parents, to match them with a mentor—in prison—and match them with a mentor, so these youngsters know there's hope in our society, that they know there's love.

We have a chance to change our culture for the better. We have a chance to turn this evil—to turn the evil deeds and the evil acts into incredible, long-term good for our Nation. I ask you to seize the moment. I ask you to understand that we've got to be patient; we've got to be steadfast in our drive overseas; and we've got to be loving and decent and compassionate at home. And when we do—and when we do, we will have proved to the world once again that every time, good overcomes evil.

It is such an honor to be here, back in Daytona Beach. And it's such an honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:35 p.m. in the Daytona Beach Jet Center Corporate Hangar at Daytona Beach International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; William C. France, chairman and chief executive officer, International Speedway Corp. and NASCAR, and his wife, Betty Jane; Teresa Earnhardt, widow of NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt; and Speaker Tom Feeney, Florida House of Representatives.

Remarks to Senior Corps Volunteers in Daytona Beach

January 31, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Well, it's good to be here with my little brother. [Laughter] Last night when we arrived, I had the honor of saying hello to, it looked like, a couple thousand citizens there. And I said I always like to go to States that have got a really good Governor. [Laughter] And I did.

I want all the moms here to know that any success I've had, any success Jeb has had, is the result of having a strong mother. So my advice to the young in Florida is, always listen to your mother. [Laughter]

Jeb and I know one thing, and that is that America can change, one heart, one soul at a time. We understand that a compassionate tomorrow and a safe tomorrow requires Presidents and Governors and mayors and county officials to rally the true strength of the country, which is our people.

You know, the enemy hit us the other day, a while ago. They didn't understand America. They thought we were weak and materialistic and soft. Instead, they have found a patient, determined, compassionate nation that stands in the way of their efforts to spread evil.

In my State of the Union Address the other night, I chose to spend time talking about the spirit of unity in our country. To me, it is one of the most—as I said, I stand in awe of the American people, individually and collectively. I know—I know how strong we are as a nation. And now our job is to take that spirit and extend it for years to come.

I like to describe it this way: Our culture has said, if it feels good, do it. Our dream

or my dream for the country is that we usher in a culture that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. We're responsible for loving our children. We are responsible for serving goals greater than ourself, and that means becoming involved in the communities in which we live.

And so we're here today in Volusia County to herald a Senior Corps program that embodies the spirit that I was defining in my speech, a program that recognizes the power of recruiting volunteers to work side by side with police and fire and emergency rescuers to make sure that this county is more secure in its future.

I want to thank Terry White, who is the Florida secretary of elder affairs. I mention the Florida office because we understand at the Federal Government, since I had been a Governor, that sometimes the Federal Government can help, and sometimes it can get in the way. I want to be—I want to have an administration that helps and doesn't thwart the efforts of local people. So I look forward to working with your Governor, and I look forward to working with the cabinet he's put together, to pass power out of Washington to local governments. The government that's closest to the people is that which works the best, as far as we're concerned.

And somebody who understands that is Congressman John Mica, and I want to thank John for being here, as well. I want to say a word about John. One of the—obviously, right after the attack, we realized the Federal Government had a responsibility to make sure our air travel was more secure. And as a result of his leadership and the leadership of others—but John had a major role to play—I was able to sign a good airline security bill that made traffic as secure as it possibly could be.

And thanks to the result of our efforts, Brother was informing me today that people are beginning to travel more, coming back to this great destination State called Florida. I'm glad they're traveling more. I hope they travel more to Florida. It's good for our economy, and it's good for our Nation when people do that. But John, thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

I also am so glad the chairman of the Corporation for National and Community Service is with us, the former mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana, a man who understands what compassionate conservatism is all about, a guy who did a fabulous job of revitalizing Indianapolis through a faith-based initiative that was strong and powerful and locally derived, and now a man who is in charge of making sure that the initiatives I'm outlining get instituted, and that's Stephen Goldsmith. Thanks for coming, Steve.

And with him is the CEO, Les Lenkowski. In my speech, I talked about making sure AmeriCorps and Senior Corps expand. Les's job is to follow through. I'm one of these accountability guys. I understand, sometimes in the political process, all you hear are words. I like to back them up with action. I like it to be known that——

Audience member. You bet!

The President. You bet. [*Laughter*] I like to know that it's one thing to lay it out; it's another thing to follow up. I'm a followup guy. Les understands that. And so, when we say we're going to have an active effort to recruit, I will be asking Les and John Bridgeland, who is now working for me, head of the USA Freedom Corps, "What are the results? Have we been able to deliver what we said?" And I'm confident we will, particularly since the spirit in this country is so strong. I'm confident—when I stood up in front of the Nation and said, "I ask you to dedicate 2 years of your life, 4,000 hours for the rest of your life, to service for your country"—and I believe America will respond. I truly believe it.

One thing we've got to do is make sure that people understand how to respond. Now, don't get me wrong; I understand there are thousands of Americans who are now volunteering in America. And for that, I am incredibly grateful. I know there are hundreds and thousands of man-hours being given to make sure communities are better off, and we applaud those efforts. What I'm saying is, to those who are already volunteering, "Keep going. We need your help."

And some aren't sure where to go; you see, some aren't sure how to help. And so we set up the USA Freedom Corps. And I want people to understand that if they want to

help, they need to call 1-877-USA-CORPS. If you want to be a part, just call that number, and we will help direct your heart to a program that needs your help. Or if you happen to be an Internet surfer, we've got a Web page, usafreedomcorps.gov—usafreedomcorps, spelled c-o-r-p-s, .gov. It will give you a chance to find out what we're talking about. It will give you a go-by as to how you can help.

And there are some fantastic programs right here in Volusia County that others ought to recognize, that work. One is Citizens on Patrol. We basically—we, the county and the State, have said there are numerous seniors who have got a lot to offer, people who might be retired but their brains haven't retired and their experience hasn't been retired, so let's figure out how to get them involved in the community. So they've got a program called Citizens on Patrol. More than 200 volunteers put in 51,000 hours in the year 2001 to help serve as eyes and ears of local law enforcement. If a child is missing, they help look. If something is odd, they help notice.

I don't know if you remember, but I talked about, digging into those Al Qaida caves in Afghanistan, we found some of their aspirations in terms of creating harm for America. For example, they targeted some of our cities or some of our infrastructure. Citizens on Patrol here in Volusia County patrol the water treatment plants and water treatment facilities in this county. I was up in Maine the other day, and I was informed that as a result of a collaborative effort with the Coast Guard and the FBI, lobstermen now patrol the coast of Maine, looking for something unusual. Part of having a homeland defense is to have people on alert. And I appreciate this program. So if people in this part of the world want to help be a part of the first defense on homeland security—and that is, help patrol neighborhoods or patrol areas or industrial complexes to make sure nothing unusual is happening—a great program is Citizens on Patrol, right here in Volusia County.

Part of the homeland security initiative that I outlined is to make sure that there is a proper strategy in place for responding to an emergency. That's why we're focusing resources on bioterrorism, airport security, a

better border—better border programs. We've got to understand who's coming in and who's coming out of the country in a better way, it seems like to me. But one of the things we also need to do is to have emergency response strategy. If something were to go wrong, there needs to be a collaborative strategy between city and county and all jurisdictions within that will be able to respond properly.

One of the interesting programs here through Senior Corps and the senior programs in Volusia County is the Community Emergency Response Volunteers, CERV. They have got lists of seniors who they call if there's an impending emergency. They help put kits together to make sure that if there's an emergency, people are well treated. They have been assigned schools to go to if there's an emergency during evacuation.

All this, by the way, is transferable to our war against terror, is to make sure the homeland of the United States is more secure. And so I want to thank the seniors in this county. And the innovative entrepreneurial spirit of convincing people of how to volunteer in a constructive way is so good here.

And America—Americans are asking how you can help. Here's another way to help: to serve your Nation by being a part of an emergency response team. There are retired doctors, retired nurses that can help hospitals; there are retired policemen and firemen that can help fire—there are people that want to help. Here's a good way to help.

And finally, one of the things that—one of the incredible parts of 9/11 is that the Nation understands how important compassion is. I mean, the way I view this is that we're fighting evil, and I don't see any shades of gray. And the best way to fight evil is with acts of kindness. The best way to fight evil is for people to love their neighbor.

People say, "Well, I want to be a part of the war on terror." Okay, go love a child. Find somebody who needs help. One thing we ought to do in the Nation is to find those children whose parents may be in prison and team them up with a mentor, so that that child understand there is at least somebody in our society that says, "I love you."

And there is an important role for seniors, people who understand the importance of

love. And so, there's a Foster Grandparent Program here, as a part of Senior Corps. It's a program that says, if you care for children—and most foster grandparents obviously have had a little experience with raising children—please, we want your help. We want you to serve as a mentor. We want you to provide a part of a hopeful future for a child.

I'm fully aware of the importance of Senior Corps for the future of the country. That's why I'm here, to herald successful programs within the Senior Corps fabric. Our goal is to recruit 100,000 new Senior Corps volunteers—100,000. We've got a Web site. We've got a phone number you can call. Please pass the word. It is an initiative that will help really solidify the spirit of compassion, a responsibility era that's beginning to emerge in our country.

I leave here to go to Atlanta, Georgia, to talk about the need for us to recruit teachers in classrooms. Part of fighting terror is to make sure our children are educated. And we need more teachers, and particularly hard in neighborhoods where some teachers may not want to teach. And so I'm going to herald a great program later on today that's as successful as the Senior Corps program here in Volusia County. Obviously, you can tell that I've got great optimism for the country, a great hope for our future.

My most important job as the President is to protect America, is to make sure that we've got a homeland defense that's well coordinated and active. And even though the enemy thinks they're going to hit us again, you need to know your Federal Government is doing everything we can to stop them.

We are on full alert. Our FBI, for example, has got a new mission, and that is to prevent attack. Oh, they've got their other jobs to do, but their primary focus is, "What can I do, what can I do as an FBI agent, to gather as much intelligence as possible to prevent a possible attack from happening?"

Another way, we've got to make sure we share information with local authorities. When we get a piece of information, I can assure you we'll be on the phone notifying people about the appropriate response. But we're looking, and we're listening, and we're

active. And the enemy knows that they have awakened a mighty giant.

But the best way to make sure we secure our homeland, the best way we make sure that children can grow up in a peaceful world, a world that understands the power and promise of freedom, is to find the enemy where they hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what this Nation is going to do.

Oh, I know some of the people around the world are saying, "Well, you know, he can't possibly mean that, now that they've looked like they're successful in Afghanistan. Gosh, don't you think it's about time they just kind of go on home?" No. It's now time to stand for freedom and to make it clear to terrorists and/or nations that are willing to develop weapons of mass destruction that could be used against us that we will not tire and we will not falter.

This great Nation has been given a chance in history to make the world more free, and I promise you we'll seize that opportunity. We'll be wise and deliberate about how we pursue our grand objective, but we'll pursue it.

Time isn't on our side. As these nations develop these sophisticated weapons, they need to know—not how, but our intention is to hold them accountable. And the rest of the world needs to be with us, because these weapons can be pointed at them just as easily at us. And we cannot let terror and evil blackmail the United States or any other freedom-loving country in the world.

I'm proud of our country. I'm proud of the spirit of America. I am proud to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. I said in my speech that one way we'll overcome evil is through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency and compassion. And I'm proud to be in a room of part of that momentum.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. at the Volusia County Fire Services Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks to the Community in Atlanta, Georgia

January 31, 2002

Thank you all very much. Saxby, thanks so very much for your kind words in your introduction. This country is fortunate to have such a good man be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Defense. It's important that we have good leadership in roles that relate to making sure our land is secure, and the State of Georgia sent a good one up there in Saxby Chambliss.

I'm honored to be in the company of other members of the Georgia delegation. As you know, I'm a proud member of the Republican Party. I'm traveling today with proud members of the Democrat Party, but we're all proud Americans, first and foremost.

I'd like you all to welcome Cynthia McKinney and Congressman John Lewis from Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you all. I appreciate your being here. I got a little Georgia briefing on the way in from the airport from a man who understands this State pretty darn well, a marine—I was about to make a huge mistake and say former marine—[laughter]—and your former Governor, Senator Zell Miller.

I want to thank other locally elected officials for being here, and I particularly want to thank a member of my Cabinet. This man is a man who understands public education. He understands it well. You see, I picked him out of the trenches. I didn't find somebody, somebody who can talk theory to be the Department of Education—head of the Department of Education. I found somebody who has practiced. And when I asked him to join my team, he was the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, a school district that was committed to make sure there was excellence for every child, and no child—I mean no child—would be left behind. Please welcome the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige.

We are on our way, after this chance for me to tell you about how I think things are going, to Booker T. Washington High School to talk about the need for folks to teach. I'm going to spend a little time at the end of this talk, talking about that. But Rod is here

to highlight our passion and focus on education.

I also am here to tell you that, even though we're at war and even though we're in recession, this Nation has never been stronger.

You know, I like to tell people that the enemy must have been watching too much daytime TV. *[Laughter]* They thought we were soft. They thought we would weaken. They thought we were so materialistic that we'd be unable to put something greater than ourselves as a priority. But my oh my, did they make a huge mistake.

This Nation is united. It is patient. It is determined to do the right thing, and that right thing is to rout out terror wherever it hides and wherever it exists, so the world can be free for our children and our grandchildren.

I knew that when I called our military into action, our military would perform brilliantly. They have not let us down. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, thank you from the bottom of our heart, and please thank them on behalf of the Commander in Chief.

We sent them on a mission, and the mission was to hold those accountable who attacked us, but it wasn't just those who attacked. There's a new doctrine. It says that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban found out that we say what we do in America. We held them accountable, and by holding that barbaric government accountable, this great Nation liberated a people. We liberated women and children from the clutches of a government that did not believe in respect for women and rights for children.

I can't tell you how proud I am of our commitment to values. And as I said in my speech, that commitment to values is going to be an integral part of our foreign policy as we move forward. These aren't American values; these are universal values, values that speak universal truths.

But we've only accomplished part of our mission in the first theater on the war against terror. We're still going to get Al Qaida. Now, these are—remember, this is a difficult stage of the war, because these are the fellows that like to commit somebody else's sons to sui-

cide missions while they, themselves, burrow into caves. But there is no cave deep enough for the reach of the American military and American justice.

They can run, and they can hide, but they can't run and hide forever. This patient Nation will stay the course until we bring the killers to justice. We seek not revenge; we seek justice. But we seek something else. We understand this is a struggle for freedom, itself. We understand that we face an enemy that knows no value, does not share the same values we do. For the sake of the civilized world, for the sake of stability for the world, for the sake of a peaceful world, we must not only find them in Afghanistan; we must find them wherever they hide, in any country that harbors terrorism around the world.

And we will—and we will. In my speech to Congress, I said that not only would we find, rout out terror and terrorist training camps—and by the way, the evidence we found indicates that there's been thousands of people trained in these camps. So they're moving around. We can't rest; we can't weary. We've also sent another message, that if you're one of these nations that develops weapons of mass destruction, and you're likely to team up with a terrorist group, or you're now sponsoring terror, or you don't hold the values we hold dear true to your heart, then you too are on our watch list.

People say, "What does that mean?" It means they better get their house in order, is what it means. It means they better respect the rule of law. It means they better not try to terrorize America and our friends and allies, or the justice of this Nation will be served on them, as well.

My hope, of course, is that nations make the right choice. And I believe some nations are doing just that by being steadfast with our coalition and our friends and allies, that nations choose a peaceful course, that they reject terror. And as I say, many nations are realizing when we say, "You're either with us or against us," we mean it. There's no middle ground when it comes to freedom and terror.

And so, my hope is, is that those nations we put on notice and other nations around the world will make the right choice. But they should not make any mistake about it:

We will defend our national security. The security of the United States of America is my most important job. And I take it seriously, and I will follow through.

And that's why the budget I sent to Congress says this: To those who wear our uniform, you deserve the best training, the best equipment, and you deserve a pay raise. The number one priority of my budget is the defense of the United States of America, and the good news is, is that our Congress is unified. There is no difference between the Republicans and Democrats when it comes to freedom and security, and for that, I'm grateful. And I'm confident that my budget—the military aspect of my budget will not only get a fair hearing but will be passed by members of both political parties.

Secondly, we've got to protect our homeland. I wake up every morning, get into the Oval Office—by the way, it is still an awesome experience to walk in the Oval Office—[laughter]—every morning. What an honor it is to walk in there. And even Spot, the dog, is impressed. [Laughter] Barney's not invited in. The carpet's too new. [Laughter] Don't tell Barney. I hope he's not watching C-SPAN. [Laughter]

But I sit at that grand desk in the Oval Office and read a threat assessment, read about the intentions of the enemy. And it reminds me that this Nation's got to be alert. Now, what does that mean? Well, it means if you see something unusual, tell the local police. They're on alert. It means that we've got to make sure Federal law enforcement officials know that their most important priority is to prevent another attack.

I'm proud to report that Director Mueller and the FBI have changed the culture. We're still going to be after spies and white-collar crime, but their most important function is to make sure that we get as much intelligence as possible and act on it to prevent the enemy from hitting us again.

And so, my fellow citizens, I know the farther we get away from 9/11, we hope that the world becomes more secure. But you just need to know that I take nothing for granted. Time and distance from when the evil ones hit does not diminish my intensity for doing everything we can to protect our people. And that's why I asked Tom Ridge to put together

a homeland defense strategy. That's why I'm asking Congress to pass a significant budget increase, to focus on bioterrorism, to provide money and support for local law enforcement and fire folks, to make sure there's emergency plans in place, to make sure that our INS knows exactly who is coming into our country and who is leaving our country, to make sure that homeland—to make sure our homeland is as secure as possible.

But I want to remind you all and remind those who wonder about our activities overseas, the best way to secure the homeland of our country is to find the terrorists where they hide, and get them.

No, the enemy made a mistake, and they don't understand our country. And they could not have predicted what would have happened in America. While we hate what happened on September the 11th, I welcome—I welcome—the changes that are taking place in our country. I stand in awe of the American people. I do. I'm the President of a land of people who are so compassionate and so decent and so kind that evil people can't possibly, possibly put that into their calculation. This is a land where neighbors are helping neighbors.

I view this as a unique moment not only to fight for freedom, a unique moment to fight for peace, but a unique moment to help change our culture from one that says, "If it feels good, do it," to a new culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life."

Part of a responsibility culture starts at home. And it says, if you are a mom or a dad, the most important job you will ever have is to love your children. That's the most important job, but a responsibility culture also says that we're responsible for the citizens—our neighbors. We're responsible for loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

And by the way, there's corporate responsibility, part of the responsibility here, which says that let's make sure when you account for losses and profits, that you put it all on your books so everybody understands.

I have asked America to fight evil with acts of kindness. You see, I believe that the best way—people say, "Well, what can I do to help?" Well, there's ways you can help by

being alert. But I'm asking people to fight evil with good. As you can probably tell from my speeches, I don't see any shades of gray in the war against terror. It's either evil—[*applause*]. I also believe that we as a nation can overwhelm the evil ones by rising up and support a new culture of responsibility by volunteering.

And so I've asked the Nation, each of us, to volunteer 4,000 hours, minimum, over the rest of our lifetime, or 2 years in service to your country. And I know many in Atlanta do that, and I thank you for that. You come out of your churches or synagogues or mosques, and you've got a program based upon faith, and you're working hard to change people's lives. You're already doing it. Just keep doing it. It's good for America, and it's good in the fight against evil.

But some don't know where to help, and so we've started what's called the USA Freedom Corps. And it's a chance for people to participate in homeland security or participate in spreading American values and kindness and generosity around the world through the Peace Corps or to participate at home in inner-city neighborhoods. Join Teach For America, for example, which is a fantastic program that I'm going to go herald at Booker T. Washington High School. There's a way to join Senior Corps, and there's all kinds of ways to help our country. And if you're interested, call 877—[*laughter*]
—USA—CORPS, or
usafreedomcorps.gov.

My fellow Americans, if you want to join the fight against terrorists, join up. Volunteer to make your community a better place. Spread love and compassion throughout our country. The way I like to define it is, we will overcome evil through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency.

And after all, it's going to happen, because you know why? This is such a decent and compassionate country. We're a country based on fabulous values. We're a country open to everybody. We're a country based upon the principle that says, "Freedom is important. Freedom is essential. Freedom is nonnegotiable."

No question in my mind these are tough times for America, but there's no question

in my mind: We'll prevail. Right is on our side. And we'll prevail because we're a fabulous nation, and we're a fabulous nation because we're a nation full of fabulous people.

It's my honor to be your President. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:41 p.m. in the Marquis Ballroom at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

Remarks at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta

January 31, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Nice to be here at the home of the mighty Bulldogs. Whew, I'm glad I'm not on the other team. I'm so honored to be here.

I was specially interested to learn this was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, high school. And I want the students to understand something about his life. It goes to show that an individual can make a huge difference in the lives of our fellow citizens. In his case, he made history. In your case, it could be just loving somebody. The lesson of Martin Luther King is a powerful lesson and is part of my—what I want to talk about today.

But before I do so, I've got some introductions I want to make. First, I am honored that your Governor is with us, Governor Roy Barnes. I appreciate it—and the first lady. And like me, he married above himself. [*Laughter*] First lady of Georgia, it's good to see you. Thank you.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation coming. Oh, I know generally a Democrat is not supposed to show up when a Republican shows up, and a Republican's not supposed to show up when a Democrat shows up. But there is a new attitude in America today. I'm a proud Republican. Cynthia McKinney and John Lewis and Zell Miller are proud Democrats. Saxby's a proud Republican. Cleland is a proud Democrat. But first and foremost, we're all proud Americans.

I appreciate so very much members of the House and the Senate—State House and the Senate—for coming over to say hello today. I'm honored that your mayor is here. Thanks for coming.

I'm so pleased that a member of my Cabinet came. I picked a good man when I picked the Secretary of Education. I didn't pick somebody who dwelt on theory. I picked on somebody who is experienced. You know, you have a chance to—got to choose all kinds of people when you pick your Cabinet. I wanted somebody who actually understood how public education worked because he had lived in public education. This man ran the toughest, biggest, orneriest school district in the State of Texas, the Houston Independent School District, and he did a great job there. And he's doing a great job as the Secretary of Education. I appreciate you.

I want to thank your superintendent of schools here in Atlanta, Dr. Beverly Hall. Thank you for coming, Beverly.

One lesson I have learned not only as Governor but as President, that a school really functions well if it's got a fine principal. And you've got a fine principal. They love you. I want to thank all the teachers who are here. I'm honored to be in your presence. I want to thank not only the Teach For America teachers who are here, I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Yours is a noble, important profession.

For those of you who have yet to graduate from high school, who are wondering what life might hold for you, wondering what your career might be, please give teaching a consideration. Please look at teaching. There is no better way to leave a mark, a positive mark on the life of America.

One of the things I like to do is herald kind of the quiet heroes of our society. In this case, I want to talk about a social entrepreneur, someone who had a dream and a vision and implemented it. And that's the founder and president of Teach For America, Wendy Kopp. Now, for those of you who don't—she brought some of her family members here. [*Laughter*]

It is—Wendy shows that, with strength of purpose and setting goals and striving for a better tomorrow, it is possible to make a huge difference. Out of an idea came the desire to convince folks to teach in schools that are having trouble to get teachers. And she had succeeded way beyond what people thought a single person can do. There are 8,000 Teach For America teachers and alumni

around the country. I am proud to stand up and talk about the best of America in Wendy Kopp. Wendy, thank you for what you do.

I am proud of a country that is unified and strong. You know, I like to put it this way: The enemy must have been watching too much daytime TV. They thought we were weak. They thought we would roll over by one single attack. My, my, were they mistaken. The enemy thought that we were too materialistic, too self-absorbed, that we would tire and weary. No, this United States is united. We are strong. We are determined. We are patient. We are resolved to rout out terror wherever it exists to save the world for freedom.

And it's important to do so. History has called us into action. And we cannot weary. Oh, I know some are—some, the farther we get away from September the 11th, are going to say, "Well, gosh, do we really need to go through this?" Listen, I want you all to know, every morning I walk into a fabulous office, the Oval Office, and I sit down in my desk, and I read a report, a threat assessment about what the enemy wants to do. There are still designs on America. The evil ones can't stand a nation that is free. Evil people can't stand free people. And so, they still want to hit us. My most important job is to make sure that this Nation is secure and safe.

We're doing everything we can at home to find out, to track down anybody who would dare hurt innocent United States citizens. And we're making pretty good progress. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's major task now, its most important job, is to protect the homeland. We've got thousands of agents tracking down any hint, any lead, making sure that America is safe.

I've got a Homeland Security Office, all designed to work to make sure that a bioterrorist attack can be responded to, to make sure our heroic police and firefighters have the tools necessary to respond, to be active and first-responders, to make sure we understand who's coming into our country and who's leaving our country.

We're doing everything we can at home. But I want to tell you all, as plainly as I can, the best homeland defense, the best way to make sure America is secure and free, is to find the enemy where it hides and bring

them to justice. And we're making good progress, and I appreciate the resolve and patience of our country. I appreciate the unity that stands behind the men and women who wear our uniform.

I sent such brave, brave men and women into a tough conflict. And I want to tell you, they haven't let us down. I see some students with your uniforms on. If you choose to go into the military, I want to thank you and let you know that your Government will stand squarely behind you. Whatever it takes to win the war on terror, we will pay it.

I said to the people who killed thousands of Americans that we're coming after you, that we won't let your evil acts stand. I also said that if you hide one of those people, if you feed one of those people, you're just as guilty as those who attacked America. And the Taliban has learned the lesson of that doctrine. They no longer are in power, thank God, for women and children in Afghanistan. Our Nation has liberated—we not only served to bring justice—not revenge but justice—we have liberated women and children who lived under the most oppressive regime—one of the most repressive regimes in this history of mankind. I am proud of this great country.

When you graduate this year if you're a senior, you're the first—yes, sir—you're the first—[laughter]—you're the first senior class that has graduated after America has been attacked on the homeland. Think about that. That is historic, and it's not over unless we pursue our mission.

And so, therefore, the mission is not just those who flew into the building. These people, the Al Qaida people, trained thousands of people in their camps before we started moving on them. I say thousands of ticking timebombs ready to go off. And therefore, we must be relentless in our pursuit, not just in Afghanistan, but wherever they hide.

That's why it's so important to have a vast coalition of nations, friendly nations together. And it's why it's important for our country to continue to lead, to make sure that part of the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us or you're against us," is enforced. It is so important that we fight for freedom, so young can grow up in a free society.

We're also in a pretty dangerous phase of the first theater in the war against terror. Because, remember, we're chasing down people who, on the one hand, send youngsters to their suicide deaths, and on the other, try to burrow in the ground in caves as deep as they can come. But they're about to learn this lesson from our country: They can run, and they can hide, but they can't run and hide long enough, because this patient people are going to bring them to justice, no matter how long it takes.

I also talked yesterday about countries that are developing weapons of mass destruction that could be used to hurt ourselves or our allies or our friends. And we're just not going to sit back and let them do it. They now have been warned. They can change their behavior, and I hope they do.

Some nations are already changing their behavior as a result of the United States leading a strong coalition. Now they know, and now they can change. But one thing they've got to know is for certain: We will not let them use their weapons of mass destruction to threaten the security of the United States of America. They are on notice, and I expect them to make the right decisions about being a peaceful nation, a nation that doesn't want to harm our allies and friends, a nation that respects common values, and a nation that adheres to freedom. We have that obligation to future generations of Americans, and it's an obligation I assure you that I will keep.

Out of this evil came some incredible good. No one wished what happened on September the 11th happened. But out of evil came great good in the country, and I want to share some of that with you. The country has taken an assessment of what's important in life. We've kind of stepped back and said—one thing we've said in Washington is, politics is important, but it's not nearly as important as winning a war. Politics is important—listen, we're all politicians; anybody who's holding office saying they're not a politician isn't telling the truth—but at least we can put something greater than self, at least we can figure out how to do something more important than political party. And we did so, by the way, with an education bill.

I know, you're not supposed to stand up if you're a Republican and say something

nice about Ted Kennedy. But I did, for a right reason, because we worked together, Republicans and Democrats, to fashion a really good piece of legislation that empowers the Governors and local people to make the right decisions, but also says, we're not going to stand for a system that simply shuffles children through. We know who gets harmed in a system that gives up on kids early. And we're not going to stand for it in America because every child can learn, and no child should be left behind in this country.

There are ways to fight terror other than wearing a uniform. A teacher fights terror every day by walking into a classroom and teaching children how to read and write and add and subtract. A church group can do it by helping people in need. A synagogue can organize ways to help elderly, for example. There's all kinds of ways to fight evil.

People ask me, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help?" Well, if you're dedicating your time to volunteer work, you're already helping. And I ask America, young and old alike, to dedicate at least 2 years of your life, 4,000 hours over your lifetime, to service to your fellow man, to service to your Nation, by serving somebody else.

And it's happening. Listen, I know Atlanta, Georgia, and I know the country. There are thousands of people dedicating thousands of hours. And for that, I am grateful. Just keep doing it. But some are asking, "What can I do to help?" As a matter of fact, some in our society have never been challenged to help. After all, we've been living through an era that said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it." My dream is to change that culture to one in which each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you have a child, you're responsible for loving the child. If you're in a community, you have a responsibility of loving your fellow man, just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, we can change, use the evil to help usher in a period of personal responsibility. And part of an era of personal responsibility is to help somebody, is to help somebody in need. And so I've set up a program called the USA Freedom Corps. If you're looking for someplace to help, here's a chance. If you want to participate in the good of your country, here's your opportunity to do so, and all

you've got to do is pick up the phone and dial 1-877-USA-CORPS. [Laughter] That's all you've got to do, and they will help you.

And we've got some ideas for you. If you're a senior citizen, join Senior Corps and help make your community more alert to the potential of attack or help develop an emergency response team. If you're a retired doc, participate with your local health systems to prepare your community and your neighborhood for what we hope doesn't happen.

If you want to participate in USA Freedom Corps, it's usafreedomcorps.gov, if you're one of these computer-literate type people. [Laughter] If you want to help, and you feel like you want to take your compassion overseas, we're going to expand the Peace Corps mission. And we're going to send people into the Islamic world for the first time, or one of the first times, to make sure we spread America's compassion and hope.

And you need to help at home, as well. One way you can help is to become a mentor. One way you can help is to find a child who needs somebody older in their life who can put their arm around them and say, "I love you. There's hope for you. What can I do to help you succeed in America?"

And another way you can help—and I hope young Americans all across the country think about joining Teach For America—it is a part of AmeriCorps. And our goal is to expand AmeriCorps by 200,000 volunteers this year. And I thank my friend Steve Goldsmith for helping shepherd this program forward. He's a former mayor of Indianapolis. He understands how to rally community-based programs for the greater good.

And so, my fellow Americans, if you care about America, put 4,000 hours of service toward America. It will help defeat what the enemy wants.

You know, I tend to speak, I hope, plainly enough for people to understand. I view this as good versus evil. There is no middle ground as far as I'm concerned. And therefore, in order to fight evil, what this Nation must do is to gather the collective hearts, the good decency of our American people and show the world we're not going to be intimidated. We will not be intimidated overseas. We will not change at home.

What we will do is take the momentum of millions of acts of decency and convert that to the greater good. We've got a huge challenge against us—for us, a huge challenge, a huge hill to climb in America, winning the war on terror and changing the culture for the better. But guess what we're fixing to do? We're fixing to show the world the strength of America. We're fixing to overcome our obstacles. We're going to lead the world toward a more compassionate, more decent, more free tomorrow.

It is such an honor to be the President of such a great nation. And we're a great nation because we're a great people. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:56 p.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Governor Roy E. Barnes of Georgia and his wife, Marie; Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta; Shirley Kilgore, principal, Booker T. Washington High School; and Stephen Goldsmith, chair, board of directors, Corporation for National and Community Service.

Remarks Following Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany

January 31, 2002

President Bush. Well, we've had a substantial discussion with my friend the Chancellor of Germany, Gerhard Schroeder. I appreciate him coming over to say hello again. We spent a great deal of time talking about our mutual desire to rid the world of terror. And I'm so pleased with Germany's cooperation. They've provided troops in Afghanistan, troops that have performed really well, according to our military, and I want to congratulate you for that.

I also thanked the Chancellor for hosting the Bonn convention, which made a substantial stride toward an Afghanistan that will be able to survive after we have ridded it of the Taliban. I appreciate so very much the Chancellor's willingness to help Afghanistan help herself, in terms of training a police force. I told him we're in the process of setting up a plan to help Afghanistan develop her own military. So we're linked up well in

our mutual desires to leave the world more peaceful.

So, Mr. Chancellor, I'm so honored you're here. I want to welcome you.

Chancellor Schroeder. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I can only absolutely confirm what His Excellency, the President, has just said regarding our discussions, particularly focusing, obviously, on the fight against terrorism but also about the fight that has happened in Afghanistan and that the support that has been rendered by us, too.

We, as you all know, are very committed to the participation in the peace corps in Afghanistan, under the umbrella of the United Nations. Obviously, and as the President has just pointed out, we are very interested in committing ourselves to training police forces, law enforcement forces within Afghanistan because we find it crucially important that such intra-Afghanistan proper homegrown police forces can be built up in the process. And in the more long term, obviously, a military structure will be needed here, too.

I, obviously, wouldn't like to forget the fact that I have congratulated the President on the economic performance that the country has obviously been able to show. We do see some positive signs here; things are being fueled again, which obviously is not just positive and good for the U.S.—American economy but also for the global economy, too.

I'm very pleased, indeed, that obviously there are now some hopeful signs here because, obviously, as soon as the economy runs smoothly again here that is going to be good for the global economy and, therefore, good for Europe and certainly for Germany, too.

President Bush. Thank you, Gerhard.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

February 1, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome our close friend His Majesty, from the country

of Jordan, back to the Oval Office. We have had a chance to visit several times during the course of my tenure as the President, and every visit has been very constructive and very positive.

I appreciate so very much his support on our mutual concerns about making the world more peaceful, our desire to rout out terror. And Your Majesty, thank you for your strong support.

I also look forward to having a good discussion with His Majesty about how we can work together to improve both our economies. King Abdullah is serious about his desire to improve the lot of his people and wants to make sure that whatever we do, we do together with one thing in mind, and that is to extend our mutual prosperity so people can make a living and have a better life. I appreciate so much his compassion for the people of Jordan. Every time I've talked to him, he's expressed his concern to make sure that the moms and dads of Jordan have got a capacity to provide for their children.

I look forward to also discussing his desire to make sure that we share our strategies about how to make sure both our people are educated in a way that will provide a hopeful future.

So, Your Majesty, welcome back to the Oval Office, and I'm glad to have you here, sir.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, Mr. President. As always, it's a tremendous honor and pleasure to be back to see you.

As you've said, our meetings have been growing in strength and cooperation every time that we have met. It is really such an important relationship between our two countries. Not only have we been able to work with you on improving the economic situation in Jordan, as you've just mentioned, but equally as important, you've been so kind to listen to our views on the area and the region, and we're very grateful for your effort. And I know, Mr. President, where your heart is on many of the regional issues to try and bring peace and stability to the area. And we're very grateful for your vision in that and for your courage and determination to really bring a better world in our part of the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you. We'll answer a couple of questions.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, good morning. Prime Minister Sharon spoke yesterday about his sorrow not to eliminate President Arafat in Lebanon, as if it was a mistake he would like to correct now. Do you have any comment on Mr. Sharon's sorrow?

President Bush. Yes. I think the best way to peace is for us all to keep the focus on what derails peace, and what derails peace is terror. And the more quickly we eliminate terror, the more likely it is we'll have a peaceful resolution in the region. And that's all I want to comment on the situation.

Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Evil Axis/Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, first, real quickly, to Your Majesty. Do you think there is——

The President. You want two questions——

Q. Only one each.

The President. Okay, in that case——

Q. Real quickly, sir, Your Majesty, do you think there is an evil axis in the world, and is Iraq part of it? And Mr. President, what are you doing or what can you do about the Wall Street Journal reporter who is hostage in Pakistan?

King Abdullah. Well, sir, after the September 11th tragedy, I think it's very obvious that there are those that are on the side of good, those that are on the side of bad, and there's some countries in the middle that haven't made up their minds. I think that the policy of the United States and the rest of us have been to be very clear to everybody on which side you want to choose, and that the President has been very articulate from the beginning of the 11th of September that there is a new world, there's a new expectations of how countries are supposed to react, and those countries better make up their minds pretty quickly. And I endorse tremendously that view and that position.

President Bush. I talked to the FBI Director this morning, Ron, about the American who is in Pakistan being evidently held

against his will. We are working with the Pakistani Government to chase down any leads possible. For example, we're trying to follow the trail of the e-mails that have been sent, with the sole purpose of saving this man, of finding him and rescuing him.

We've been in touch with the Wall Street Journal, and obviously we're deeply concerned, as is the Pakistani Government. And we will continue to do everything we can to rescue him.

Q. You said you have talked to the Journal or your people have?

President Bush. The FBI Director did.

Iran and North Korea

Q. Mr. President, have you abandoned efforts of pursuing a peaceful dialog with Iran and North Korea?

President Bush. No, of course not. My hope is—I said in my speech, I hope nations hear our call and make right decisions. A wrong decision will be to continue to export weapons of mass destruction. And I certainly hope that North Korea, for example, listens to what we suggested, and that is, they pull back some conventional weaponry to make a clear declaration of their peaceful intentions on the Peninsula and that they not export weapons. We would be more than happy to enter a dialog with them if that would be the case.

All the three countries I mentioned now are on—are now on notice that we intend to take their development of weapons of mass destruction very seriously. It's not just "we"; I'm talking about other nations that respect the rule of law and freedom. And I look forward to having this discussion with our friend King Abdullah. He has obviously made a very clear statement about his understanding of what it takes to bring peace and order to the world.

But having said that, all options are on the table as to how to make America and our allies more secure.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what are the future plans that—steps that the United States is planning to take to restore calm and enhance peace in the Middle East?

President Bush. Well, the first thing is, Mr. Arafat has to make a—has to show the world that he is willing to join our fight against terror. I felt like we were making pretty good progress, up until the time when we discovered, the world discovered that there had been a significant shipment of arms ordered from Iran for only—it seemed like to us, only one purpose, and that is to prevent—is for terrorist purposes. And we can't let that stand. And frankly, that's in total contrast to what he assured us, not only through his decisions at Oslo but verbally, that he would help us fight against terror. Mr. Arafat must lead.

Q. Mr. President, what kind of help do you expect from Mr. Arafat if he's actually under house arrest? And second, what do you think of Mr. Sharon's policy of destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority and possibly the removal of Mr. Arafat from office? Do you really think of the post-Arafat era?

President Bush. I think what we need to do is to fight terror on all fronts in the Middle East, so that at some point we can get into the Tenet and then Mitchell accords. There is a plan for peace, but it starts with a full-focused effort to fight terror. And Mr. Arafat must do a better job. We believe he can do a better job, and he must do a better job of doing so.

Little Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News].

Daniel Pearl

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Just to follow up on the situation with the Wall Street Journal reporter. Do the Pakistanis—are they familiar with the group holding him?

President Bush. No, according to the press, they're not; according to my information, they're not necessarily familiar with the group. On the other hand, we have some leads, for example, the e-mail—e-mails could provide a lead—and we're chasing them down. We're very concerned about the Wall Street Journal reporter. We are in touch with the Pakistani Government. We're in touch with the Wall Street Journal, and we've got both the—you know, our agencies in the area actively involved in trying to rescue him.

Federal Reserve/Stimulus Package

Q. Can I just follow on another point? Given the Fed's decision not to act——

The President. Given the——

Q. I'm sorry, the Fed's decision not to act on interest rates here a couple of days ago——

President Bush. Oh, the Fed—a new subject, okay, go. [Laughter] I'm kind of “the Feds,” and we're acting—in terms of Pakistan. I got you. [Laughter]

Q. I'm trying a Fournier.

President Bush. But it's not quite as subtle as Fournier. See, Fournier is good about it because he actually addresses the two questions to two people. You're now going with the—it's a sole two-question, and it's a very—it's brazen, but go ahead. [Laughter]

Q. It is a stretch——

President Bush. I'm very impressed. It is a stretch—Little Stretch. [Laughter]

Q. If I could remember what I was going to ask—[laughter]—given what the Fed said and the growth numbers for the fourth quarter, are you as convinced that a stimulus package is still needed?

President Bush. One thing I'm—I believe we're still not out of our economic problems. We've still got problems. The economy is still soft. Too many people aren't working. There's not enough job creation. And I believe, like I said in the State of the Union, we need a stimulus package. Until Americans can find steady work, I am going to be relentless in my desire to enhance economic growth, and that means jobs. And we've got to work with Congress to figure out how to enhance economic vitality. There are some positive numbers, but not enough positive numbers to satisfy me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, and the June 13, 2001, Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan negotiated by CIA Director George J. Tenet.

**Remarks Announcing the
Appointment of James Towey as
Director of the Office of the Faith-
Based and Community Initiatives**

February 1, 2002

The President. Good morning. Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, welcome to the Roosevelt Room in the White House. We're honored you all came. Thanks for being here.

I know all of you are here today to be a part of a great cause, and that is how best to serve our neighbors in need and to serve our community and our country. Really, it's to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Our goal is to rally all Americans to our cause. I mean all Americans. And I'm proud to have an outstanding man in Jim Towey to join me on this cause. First, I want to welcome the Towey family, all of them. [Laughter] Mary, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, welcome, guys. And I'm glad Mom is with us. Florence, welcome, sure glad to have you here.

And I want to welcome Your Eminence, Cardinal Bevilacqua; sure good to see you, sir. I've had many a good heart-to-heart visit with His Eminence, and I've always come away a better person after having visited with him. Thank you for being here. And I want to thank everybody else for being here, as well.

A year ago this week, I announced one of the most important commitments of my administration, the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The purpose was to apply the compassion of America to help solve the problems of our country. The purpose of this initiative recognizes the power of faith in helping heal some of our Nation's wounds. The purpose of this initiative is to rally the armies of compassion which are spread throughout the United States of America. The purpose of the initiative is to recognize our greatest strength, the hearts and souls of the American people, and apply that strength to help solve problems which afflict many of our citizens.

Since the attacks of September the 11th, it has become obvious to everyone how essential the community and faith-based groups are to the well-being of our Nation.

They have saved lives. They provide hope. They have helped heal the Nation's wounds.

We have a tremendous opportunity now to take the spirit and apply it to problems like poverty and addiction, abandonment and abuse, illiteracy and homelessness. These are incredibly tough problems. But I believe with the help of faith, we can solve the problems. I have faith that faith will work in solving the problems.

For the past year, the Office of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has done a terrific job. And I'm proud of the folks that work in the office.

And today I'm honored to name Jim Towey as its new head and new Director. He has served a Republican Senator and a Democratic Governor. He understands there are things more important than political parties. And one of those things more important than political parties is to help heal the Nation's soul. He's run a statewide Department of Health; in other words, he's an administrator. He also worked with Mother Teresa for more than a year—for more than a decade.

He brings to the job managerial skills and a servant's heart. He will be a great Director, and I look forward to working with him to advance a bold initiative.

In the next year, Jim will work to eliminate barriers that discriminate against community and faith-based organizations. Government cannot stand in the way of the good works of the people in our neighborhoods. Government must expedite and stand on the side of faith-based programs. We should not discriminate at the Federal level against people who are trying to help us solve the Nation's problems.

He'll work closely with Members of Congress from both parties to pass legislation that will put Government squarely on the side of our faith- and community-based groups. Jim will have the full support of a new Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, in which he will participate along with five Cabinet secretaries and Steve Goldsmith, the Chairman for the Corporation of National and Community Service.

The Council will be chaired by USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland. I was proud to announce "Bridge" 2 days ago when

he made his national debut, and I must say he handled the pressure quite well. [*Laughter*] But he's a good fellow who, along with Jim, is going to make an enormous difference about fulfilling a vision that I truly believe is going to help America help herself, is truly, going to believe, lift the spirit of this country. After all, that's my job. My job is to unify our country around common, big goals, and there is nothing more important than to help the hopeless see hope, to help the addicted see a better life, to help the collective will of our country to have a better tomorrow, realize its potential.

I'm so proud that Jim has decided to join our team. I'm grateful for your sacrifice to your country. I love your heart. America will be better off by your service. Welcome.

[*At this point, Mr. Towey made brief remarks.*]

The President. Good job, Jim. Thank you. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:18 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mr. Towey's wife, Mary, and their sons, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, and Mr. Towey's mother, Florence; and His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Towey.

Remarks at the Congress of Tomorrow Luncheon in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia February 1, 2002

President Bush. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. It is rare that a fella can give two 50-minute addresses in the same week. [*Laughter*] I knew you'd be thrilled. [*Laughter*]

J.C., thanks for those kind words, and thanks for your leadership. One of us didn't get the dress code right. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. You didn't get the memo.

President Bush. Yes, I didn't get the memo. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, I'm delighted to be here; I am. First, I want to say something about the

leaders of the two bodies represented here. Your Speaker and the majority leader—I call him majority leader—are two really good men to work with. I have loved my experience working with Denny and Trent last year. I really enjoy the candid discussions. But most importantly, what I really appreciate is the desire to work together to do what's right for the country. We're lucky to have two such strong and good men leading the country. And so it's an honor to be with the Speaker and Senator Trent Lott. And I look forward to a fabulous year working with the two men in 2002.

I think this is going to be a great year; I do. I've never been more optimistic about anything in my life. In the Oval Office there's a painting by a friend of mine named Tom Lea. And when you come in the Oval Office, you'll notice it's the western-looking painting right by the door where Logan used to sit. By the way, this is Logan's last day working for me, which is—I didn't fire him; he voluntarily left. But anyway, if you were to work where Logan used to be, there's a painting that shows a great expanse of west Texas. It is the—the guy who painted the painting was the person who wrote the quote I used at the end of the convention, which I'm sure most of you have memorized by now. *[Laughter]* It says, "Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone."

It's so important for a President to see a day that is coming, that is positive. And I do. In clear and vivid ways, I see a day that is much better for not only America and Americans but the world. We have an historic opportunity to fight a war that will not only liberate people from the clutches of barbaric behavior but a war that could leave the world more peaceful in the years to come.

None of us asked for this war. None of us wished that what happened on September the 11th happened, and we continue to pray for the victims. But now that it's happened, this Nation is ready to seize the moment. And I'm so proud that the people in this room and on this podium understand the historic opportunity we have, and I want to thank you for joining this most noble and just cause.

We fight for freedom, and we stand for freedom, and we won't relent until we defend freedom at its core. And that's why the budget I sent up there has got a significant increase in defense spending, because we owe it to the defenders of freedom to give them the best equipment, the best housing, the best training, and another pay raise.

Now in my speech, I tried to educate the American people about what we're up against. I talked about the fact that thousands of people had gone through Al Qaida killer camps, and they're still roaming around. And so long as they're roaming around with the intention of hurting us, this Nation will hunt them down.

I've been traveling the country, as you know, and I'm so pleased with the fact that the American people are incredibly patient and resolved and share our determination to achieve our noble objective. They know that we have succeeded in one phase of our war in Afghanistan; we liberated women and children by demolishing the Taliban and its repressive government.

They also know that the stage we're now in, which is hunting down the cave dwellers, is going to take a while. They understand that, and I am grateful for the people's understanding. They understand that this is a dangerous phase of the war. But they have also been assured by me and by you all that we're not going to weary. We're not going to rush our military. We're going to be steady and relentless until we achieve the objective of getting the Al Qaida killers and bringing them to justice.

But they also understand that we are not preoccupied by one or two people, that while bin Laden thinks he can hide in a cave or Mullah Omar thinks he can run, it's just a matter of time. I don't know how much time, and I don't worry about the time about when he is brought—or they are brought to justice. That's just not one of my concerns. It's going to happen. And you know, we've got them running, and it's just—we'll get them.

But that's not our—we're preoccupied. And the American people understand that, because they understand our goal is broader than just two individuals. It is terror wherever terror exists, and it's upholding that doctrine, forcefully upholding the doctrine that

says if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you too are as guilty as a terrorist.

But the moment is broader than just destroying terrorist training camps or finding terrorist trainers and bringing them to justice. The moment that we must seize says that in order for the world to be peaceful for our children and grandchildren, we've got to prevent nations which develop weapons of mass destruction from mating up with terrorist groups that will threaten the United States and our allies.

Now we've got nations on notice as a result of the speech last Tuesday night. Of course, I hope they change behavior on their own. I hope they hear the message of not only the United States but a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries as we clearly say, get your house in order; don't develop weapons of mass destruction. And then people say, "What are the consequences?" They'll find out in due course if they can't get their house in order. The mighty United States will do whatever it takes to defend our security. Make no mistake about it, if you threaten us with weapons of mass destruction, if you threaten our allies and friends with weapons of mass destruction, we will do whatever it takes to protect our people.

And that's what we're doing at home. And I want to thank you all for working with us. There's been some great ideas that have come out of the Congress about how best to protect the homeland, and we've incorporated a lot of them in the initial strategy that we're outlining, not only in our budget but over the course of the last couple of weeks, and we'll continue to do so. And Tom Ridge and our team is open for more suggestions about how to protect the people.

And so our bioterrorism initiative is substantial and real. And I want to thank you for working on it. Our first-responder initiative, where we're working with local governments, through Governors, is going to be real and meaningful. Our airport security measures are strong. I mean, we're doing everything we can, and the American people need to know that.

And so when you go back to your districts, I thank you very much for sharing our mutual concern and our knowledge that the enemy

still wants to hit us, but our Government is responding forcefully. You need to know, and I know you know this, that the FBI, under Bob Mueller, has changed its culture. It's still after spies and white-collar criminals, and that's important. But the primary focus of 4,000-plus agents, is to disrupt the enemy, is to find out any information possible and run it down. We take every lead seriously. We take every hint of evidence seriously. We understand the intentions of the enemy, and your constituents must know that this Government is doing everything in our power to make America safe.

But the best way to secure the homeland for the long run is to get them, get them where they hide, get them where they train, and bring them to justice. And you just need to know something about your President; I am not going to tarry like I—wary—weary, on this subject, like I said in my first speech in September after the war. I understand the call. My determination today is as strong as it was when I addressed you all in October, and my determination 3 years from now will be just as strong then as it is today. I understand the call. I understand the mission. And this great country will defend freedom to its core.

I said in my State of the Union that I stand in awe of the American people, and you know what I'm talking about. You've seen it in your communities when you go back home. You've seen it in your coffee shops. You've seen it in your different clubs. You've seen it when you've seen your neighbors. I mean, this country is a country that is not only strong and determined, but it's a compassionate country, as well.

People often ask me, "What can I do to participate in the war against terror?" And as you know, in this particular issue, I see things pretty clearly, in just plain terms. Since this is a war of good versus evil, those of—who want to participate in the war against terror can do acts of kindness to overwhelm the evil done to the country. People can participate in the war against terror all kinds of ways. You can help serve as eyes and ears; you can alert, be alert. But you can love a neighbor. An American, in fighting the war against terror, can walk across the street to a neighbor who is shut in and say, "I care

for you.” And it’s those millions of acts of kindness on a daily basis that define our country and stand defiantly in the face of evil.

And so one of the things I’ve tried to do is to capture the magnificent spirit of the country. And we’ve set up what’s called the USA Freedom Corps. And somebody who is interested in joining can dial 1-877-USA-CORPS, or if you happen to be computer-literate, usafreedomcorps.gov. And it’s a chance for citizens to heed my call, which says we’d like you to serve your country for 2 additional years, or 4,000 hours over your lifetime.

Now, I understand many in this room and many of your constituents are already—have heard the call. And keep doing—my call is, keep doing it. But some don’t know where to start, and here is a good place for people to start. And if they call the USA Freedom Corps number, they will find ways to—if you’re a senior citizen, participate in Senior Corps; or if you want to teach, Teach For America; or if you want to go to the Peace Corps, we’re expanding the Peace Corps to take our values and compassion into the Islamic world, for example. There’s all kinds of opportunities to serve. And we’re calling on the American people to do so. And it’s really to help change our culture. That’s how I view it.

A lot of us grew up in a culture which has said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it; if you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else.” See, I believe out of this evil can come a new cultural—a new culture, a new assessment of what America is all about. Our hope is that the country’s culture changes to one of responsibility, that each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are a mom and dad, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you’re a compassionate neighbor, you’re responsible for helping a neighbor in need. If you’re corporate America, you’re responsible for making sure you reveal all your assets and liabilities to your shareholders and your employees. So part of the ushering in the responsibility era, not only from the individual basis but on the corporate basis, I have proposed some pension reforms I would like to outline briefly for

you today and ask you to take them up as quickly as possible.

We are announcing some proposals to protect pensions. My plan will strengthen the workers’ ability to manage their own retirement funds by giving them more freedom to diversify, better access to professional investment advice, and quarterly information about their investments.

Employers should be encouraged to make generous contribution to workers’ 401(k) plans. It’s a positive development when employers give stock to people who work for them. About 42 million workers own 401(k) accounts with a total of \$2 trillion in assets, and that’s a critical part of retirement security for workers all across America.

But workers should also have the freedom to choose how to invest their retirement savings. And so the proposal I’ll submit to Congress and work with Members here in this room will allow workers to sell company contributed stock and diversify into other investment options after 3 years of participation in their company’s plan.

To ensure that blackout periods are fair, the plan will ensure that company executives be bound by the same blackout restrictions they impose on their workers. If it’s okay for the sailor, it ought to be okay for the captain. My plan also requires that workers be given a 30-day notice before any blackout period begins, so workers can plan to make changes in their investments. It’s a matter of fairness. It’s a matter of openness. It’s a matter of respect for the process. And I look forward to working with you to get something done.

I also look forward to working with you to continue the progress we’ve made on a lot of issues. I think America appreciates it when people come to this body or your respective bodies and work hard for what’s good for the country. We’ve made good progress doing that.

I am so proud of working with you. I’m proud to be able to call you a colleague here in Washington, DC. It’s been a remarkable experience for me. It’s a joy to exchange ideas. It’s been sometimes a joy to watch the legislative process. *[Laughter]* Generally, it’s an amazing experience to watch. *[Laughter]* But I’m looking forward to working with you to make sure that the legislation that does

come out is positive and hopeful for the American people.

Thanks for your friendship. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. in the Colonial Hall at the Greenbrier. In his remarks, he referred to Representative J.C. Watts, Jr., of Oklahoma; outgoing Presidential Aide Logan Walters; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Mullah Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

February 1, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy Toward Burma" in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104-208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

- 1) progress toward democratization in Burma;
- 2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and
- 3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit the attached report fulfilling these requirements to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for publica-

tion of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 26

During the day, at Camp David, MD, the President met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda. Later, he returned to Washington, DC. In the evening, he attended the Alfalfa Club dinner.

January 28

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter Terpeluk, Jr., to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans: Frank Hanna and Patricia Janette Mazzuca, who will serve as Co-Chairs upon confirmation; Micaela Alvarez; Christopher Jeffrey Barbic; Jose Guadalupe Conchola; Jamie Alfonso Escalante; Charles Patrick Garcia; Norma Sanchez Garza; Alexander Gonzalez; Miguel Angel Hernandez, Jr.; Jose Eugenio Hoyos; Francisco Jose Paret; Altagracia Ramos; Enedelia Schofield; Ofelia Saenz Vanden Bosch; Rene Vasquez; and Octavio Jesus Visiedo. The following individuals will serve as ex officio members of the Commission: Rod Paige; Hector Baretto; Paul O'Neill; and Mel Martinez.

January 29

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis J. Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt.

January 30

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he dropped by a birthday celebration for Vice President Dick Cheney in the Vice President's office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Winston-Salem, NC, and later to Daytona Beach, FL.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Monterrey, Mexico, to participate in the International Conference on Financing for Development on March 22 and to meet with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the visit of Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov of Russia to Washington, DC, and New York, NY, on January 30-February 4.

The President announced his intention to nominate Guy F. Caruso to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles F. Bolden to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

January 31

In the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced that Jay Lefkowitz was named Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger Francisco, Jose Angel Fourquet, and Adolfo Alberto Franco to be members (Government representatives) of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the White House Commission on the Na-

tional Moment of Remembrance: Blanquita Walsh Cullum, Michael Edward Reagan, Carson Ross, and Webster Aaron Two Hawk, Sr.

The President announced his intention to appoint Edwin Jacob Garn and Herbert D. Kelleher as members of the Advisory Board of the National Air and Space Museum.

February 1

In the morning, the President traveled to White Sulphur Springs, WV. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Dennis Ray Boxx; Benjamin Franklin Payton; Arlene Cassandra Ackerman; Hazo William Carter, Jr.; Lawrence Arnett Davis, Jr.; Harold Emanuel Doley, Jr.; Elson Sylvester Floyd; Charles Alphonso Hines; Ernest Leon Holloway; William English Kirwan; Ronald Francis Mason, Jr.; Marie Valentine McDemmond; Bernard Joseph Milano; Girard Cecil Miller; James Carmichael Renick; Ricardo Romo; Dianne Boardley Suber; Joyce Elaine Tucker; Timothy Gregory Walker; Michael Lucius Lomax; and John Kenneth Waddell.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 28

Roslynn R. Mauskopf,
of New York, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for a term of 4 years, vice Loretta E. Lynch.

Paul I. Perez,
of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida for a term of 4 years, vice Donna A. Bucella.

Submitted January 30

Stephen Gilbert Fitzgerald,
of Wisconsin, to be U.S. Marshal for the
Western District of Wisconsin for a term of
4 years, vice Dallas S. Neville, term expired.

J. C. Raffety,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the
Northern District of West Virginia for a term
of 4 years, vice Leonard Trupo, term expired.

James Anthony Rose,
of Wyoming, to be U.S. Marshal for the Dis-
trict of Wyoming for the term of 4 years,
vice Juan Abran DeHerrera, term expired.

John Schickel,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of Kentucky for the term of 4
years, vice Joe Russell Mullins, resigned.

William R. Whittington,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the
Western District of Louisiana for the term
of 4 years, vice James Robert Oakes, term
expired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released January 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations for U.S. At-
torneys for the Eastern District of New York
and the Middle District of Florida

Fact sheet: Strengthening Medicare

Fact sheet: U.S. Programs To Assist the Peo-
ple of Afghanistan

Released January 29

Excerpts of the President's State of the
Union Address

Advance text of the President's State of the
Union Address

Announcement: White House Web Site Of-
fers First Live State of the Union Webcast
and Historic Look at Annual Address

Released January 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer and USA Freedom
Corps Executive Director John Bridgeland

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of
Russian Prime Minister Kasyanov

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presi-
dential Waiver of Section 907 of the FREE-
DOM Support Act

Statement by the Press Secretary on the
President's upcoming visit to Monterrey,
Mexico

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Mar-
shals for the Northern District of West Vir-
ginia, the Western District of Wisconsin, the
Western District of Louisiana, the Eastern
District of Kentucky, and the District of Wy-
oming

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps—Citizen
Corps

Announcement: Homeland Security Direc-
tor To Conduct Media Briefing on Home-
land Security Chapter of FY 2003 Budget

Announcement: Backgrounder on Oval Of-
fice Redecoration

Announcement: President To Discuss New
Citizen Corps Initiative

Released February 1

Transcript of remarks by National Security
Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Conserv-
ative Political Action Conference

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Action
To Protect American Workers' Retirement
Savings

Announcement of appointment of Director
of the Office of Faith-Based and Community
Initiatives

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, February 8, 2002

Proclamation 7521—American Heart Month, 2002

February 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

A new era in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases has created renewed hope for those suffering from heart-related disorders. Anticoagulant drugs and other technologically innovative artery-opening treatments, like angioplasty, are enabling doctors to better treat cardiovascular problems in their early stages. Armed with the knowledge that lifestyle plays a significant role in the prevention of heart disease, more and more Americans have recognized the importance of not smoking, getting regular exercise, and maintaining a healthy diet.

Despite these advances, cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remains the leading cause of death in the United States and greatly increases disability among Americans. This year, cardiovascular disease will be the primary or contributing cause in about 60 percent of all deaths and will cost our Nation more than \$330 billion in lost wages, diminished productivity, and medical expenses. It is a little known fact that heart disease is the leading cause of death among women, with over 370,000 deaths every year.

According to the Archives of Internal Medicine, most heart attack patients wait more than 2 hours before seeking emergency care, primarily because they do not recognize the symptoms of a heart attack. Delayed awareness of the onset of a heart attack means that only one in five heart attack victims gets to the hospital quickly enough to benefit from life-saving medical treatments.

Fortunately, many new public-private partnerships are working to educate Americans about the warning signs of a heart attack

and the need for rapid response. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association have recently joined with other national organizations to sponsor a campaign called “Act in Time to Heart Attack Signs.” This public awareness initiative emphasizes preventing heart attacks, recognizing sometimes subtle heart attack symptoms, and immediately calling 911 when those symptoms first appear.

The AHA has developed an educational campaign, “Operation Heartbeat,” that focuses on reducing sudden deaths from cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest, an abnormal heart rhythm that stops the heart from effectively pumping blood through the body, usually results in death within 10 to 14 minutes. Currently, only about five percent of those who experience sudden cardiac arrest survive. Operation Heartbeat is educating the public about the signs of cardiac arrest, reinforcing the importance of calling 911 immediately and promoting the benefits of knowing and administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation, until advanced care can be given to restore a normal heartbeat.

At this observance of American Heart Month, we pay tribute to the researchers, physicians, and other health professionals, public education professionals, and volunteers for their tireless efforts in preventing, treating, and researching heart disease. We recognize the critical importance of developing tools that will increase survival rates from heart attacks and cardiac arrest. By incorporating these new tools into aggressive education programs and partnerships, we can save tens of thousands of lives annually.

In recognition of the important needs in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 101), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as “American Heart Month.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2002 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 6.

Proclamation 7522—National African American History Month, 2002

February 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During these extraordinary times, America looks forward to new challenges and opportunities with a reinvigorated sense of unity and common purpose. We are a strong and vibrant Nation, thanks to the creativity, fortitude, and resilience of people of every race and background. During National African American History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development.

In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Through that Association, he began pressing for the establishment of Negro History Week as a way to bring national attention to the accomplish-

ments of African Americans. He hoped to neutralize the apparent distortions in Black history and to provide a more objective and scholarly balance to American and World history.

Dr. Woodson's dream became a reality in 1926. He chose the second week of February for the observance because of its proximity to the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two individuals whom Dr. Woodson felt had dramatically affected the lives of African Americans. And in 1976, the Association succeeded in expanding the observance, which then became Black History Month.

The theme of National African American History Month for 2002 is "The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?" The observance calls our Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that fully lives up to its democratic ideals. This commitment includes ensuring a high-quality education for all Americans, so that no child is left behind, and challenges us to continue to rebuild and restore our communities, to fight crime and violence, and to pursue equal opportunity and equal justice in every part of our society. At the same time, the United States must look beyond its borders and take an active role in helping to alleviate poverty, stimulate economic growth and trade, enhance democracy, and combat HIV/AIDS in Africa.

This annual event gives all Americans a chance to recognize and commemorate the global history of people of African descent. As we celebrate National African American History Month, I join with all Americans in celebrating our diverse heritage and culture and continuing our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2002 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all of the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight and

honor the myriad contributions of African Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 6.

The President's Radio Address *February 2, 2002*

Good morning. In my State of the Union Address, I committed our Nation to three great goals: To win the war; to secure our homeland; and to defeat the recession.

In recent days, we have heard some encouraging reports on our progress and our work to defeat the recession. But many workers have lost their jobs and their retirement savings when their companies went bankrupt. Employees who have worked hard and saved all their lives should not have to risk losing everything if their company fails, so my administration is proposing important safeguards to our pension laws to protect the retirement savings of workers.

First, we want to give workers greater freedom to diversify their retirement portfolios. Many companies require their workers to hold company shares long after their workers wish to sell, even when the company's shares are dramatically dropping in value. I propose that workers be permitted to sell company-contributed shares in their retirement account and diversify after they have participated in a 401(k) for 3 years.

Next, we need to make sure that companies have a single standard for their executives and their employees. It is unfair for workers to be denied the ability to sell stock when executives are free to sell their stock. Right now, though, companies can create what are called blackouts, when they switch the management of their retirement accounts

from one investment firm to another. During the switch, employees don't have access to their 401(k)s and can't buy or sell. These blackouts usually happen because the company is looking for better service for its employees. But when employees can't sell, executives shouldn't be able to sell, either, so I am proposing that company executives be prohibited from selling any and all of their stock during these blackout periods.

Third, workers should be informed in advance that a blackout period is coming. Under my administration's reforms, workers must be given 30 days' notice before employers make any changes that would stop them from selling their stock.

Fourth, companies will be put on notice when employees are blacked out; company executives with power over 401(k)s will be held accountable for treating their workers' assets as carefully as they treat their own.

Fifth, workers should have the benefit of solid, independent investment advice. Right now, the law deters companies from providing employees with sound advice such as information about the benefits of diversification, and that doesn't make sense. We need to encourage companies to provide workers good advice, not punish them for doing so.

And finally, employers should be required to provide regular information to their workers about the current value of their accounts and their right to sell and diversify. Right now, employers need to give an accounting to workers only once a year. We're going to tell them they must do so every 3 months. These measures will be a major benefit for American workers and for America's employers.

Our country's employers welcome the highest standards of conduct, because high standards are good for business and good for America. I thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:40 p.m. on February 1 at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks to the Armed Forces at
Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton
Beach, Florida**

February 4, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you very much. I appreciate your warm welcome. It is an honor to be here with the men and women who wear our uniform. It's an honor to be at Eglin. And it's appropriate that I was delivered to your door on an Air Force jet.

I not only want to thank all of you who wear our uniform, I want to thank your families, as well. I understand that military life makes a lot of demands on those who serve, and I also understand the family's sacrifice. And for that, your Nation is grateful. Every family member here today can be certain that our Nation's cause is right, and our Nation's cause is just. You can be sure of something else: In this war against terror, the forces of freedom will prevail.

I always enjoy coming to States which have a great Governor. Enough said. *[Laughter]* It's clear that both of us were listening to our mother. *[Laughter]* My advice to all you youngsters out there is: Listen to your mother. *[Laughter]* Right, Buddy?

I'm also honored to be here with Ched Bob. As you know, I like nicknames. I never heard a general called Ched Bob before. *[Laughter]* But General, thank you for your leadership. I also want to thank General Lyles and General Stogsdill, as well, for their leadership for our country. I'm proud of the men and women who wear the uniform. And I'm proud we've got some of the finest—finest—Americans who are leading our brave troops, including General Hester.

I also want to thank Congressman Miller. Congressman Miller flew down with me today on Air Force One. He's a young Congressman; he just got up there. But I can assure you one thing: When it comes to supporting the men and women in the military, you've got a strong supporter in Jeff Miller.

Not only am I pleased to be with so many from Eglin, I'm also pleased to be from—men and women and families from the headquarters of the Special—the Air Force Special Operations Command in Hurlburt—*[ap- plause]*—the quiet professionals. You don't

sound so quiet today, however. You perform with daring and dedication. You've made an impression on the enemy. You've given the terrorists around the world their first glimpse at their fate.

The 16th Special Operations Wing has a motto: "Any Time, Any Place." You spend every day training, testing, and preparing for any mission that may come. It makes me feel good to be the Commander in Chief of people who train hard for any mission that may come. You perform your missions with success and with honor, and you've made America proud.

I understand that one young man has returned from the war zone in time for the birth of twins. My congratulations to Staff Sergeant Christopher Avery and Erica. Staff Sergeant, you can take it from the Commander in Chief and a father of twins: You're going to be a busy man. *[Laughter]*

Our military has a new mission for the 21st century. It came suddenly, but you were ready. The 919th Special Operations Wing is part of a tremendous fighting force that assembled across the world in a matter of weeks. You destroyed Afghans' terrorist training camps and freed a country from brutal oppression. Our military not only proved themselves on the battlefield, but our military were liberators, freeing women and children, giving them a chance to breathe the fresh air of freedom. For that, I'm so grateful and proud.

When America was attacked, our men and women in uniform felt it in a personal way. A reporter asked an Air Force pilot if he had any direct connection to the victims of September the 11th. The pilot replied, "I think we all do. They were Americans." That's how we all felt. When you strike one American, you strike all Americans, and you can expect to hear from us.

The terrorists are beginning to realize they picked the wrong enemy. As I like to put it, they must have been watching too much daytime TV. *[Laughter]* They thought we were soft. They thought we would roll over. My oh my, they haven't got us figured out. But they're beginning to understand us. You see, we're a patient and deliberate people. We are absolutely resolved to find terrorists

where they hide and to root them out one by one.

Some people may grow weary, but not me, and not you. History has called us into action, and we will not stop until the threat of global terrorism has been destroyed.

This message has been made clear to the enemy. It has been made clear to the world. It has been made clear to those who think they can harm America. And that message is being delivered by the finest military ever assembled, the United States military.

In a short period of time, we're making great progress. It hasn't been all that long ago that I called the military into action. I know it seems a long time for many of the family members. But when history looks back, we haven't been at this for very long, but we're making huge progress. We've built a fabulous coalition of many nations in every region of the world. They know that in this conflict there is a choice to make: Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists; either you're with freedom and justice, or you're on the side of tyranny and oppression. And the good news is, civilized people everywhere are taking the side of freedom and justice.

Our first objective in the first theater against the war against terror has been achieved; the Taliban are out of business. They're gone, and the people of Afghanistan don't miss them one bit. A few months ago, some warned that military action would cause an uprising in the streets. Well, when we defeated that brutal regime, people did take to the streets, but they came out to celebrate. They came out to express their joy. They came out to cheer the fact that their oppressors had left and freedom had returned.

And we're working on our next objective. And that's to run down the Al Qaida and the rest of the terrorists and maybe give them a free trip to Guantanamo Bay. This will take time. It's going to take a while. The American people understand that, and for that, I'm grateful. And you need to know, I'm a patient man. I don't have a set calendar. All I know is, we've got them on the run. And we're after people who, on the one hand, send kids to suicide missions, and on the other hand, try to bury deep inside some cave. But there's

no cave deep enough. There's no place they can hide long enough for the long arm of American justice to find them and get them.

Afghanistan is only the first step, the beginning of a long campaign to rid the world of terrorists. We're just starting. In the caves they ran from, we found evidence of more plans to attack us. And while we're on alert at home and doing everything we can to protect innocent life in America, the surest way to defend America, the surest way to make sure our children grow up in a peaceful and free society, is to be relentless in our pursuit of those who would harm America, those who hate freedom, and bring them to justice.

We believe that they've trained thousands of killers, and they view the entire world as a battlefield. And that's why we're not going to quit, and that's why we're going to rally the nations of freedom, and that's why we're going to protect the American people.

Another objective is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. We must be deliberate as a nation. But time isn't on our side. Terrorist states and terrorist allies are an axis of evil, seeking weapons of mass destruction. But I've put them on notice. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons. It is now up to them to change their behavior. It is now up to them to join peaceful nations, but they're on notice—they're on notice.

And this cause, this historic moment, this great opportunity to fight for freedom and to promote the peace for the long term requires a strong military. And we must keep it strong with new investments in equipment, and we must keep it strong by attracting and retaining the best and the brightest in our country.

We're learning a lot about modern warfare in the first theater, Afghanistan. We're learning about weapons and how to use them better. It's proof that in this first phase that expensive precision weapons not only defeat the enemy but spare innocent lives. And the budget I submit makes it clear we need more of them.

We need to be agile and quick to move. We need to be able to send our troops on the battlefields in places that many of us never thought there would be a battlefield. We need to be agile and mobile. And therefore, we need to replace aging aircraft and get ready to be able to defend freedom with the best equipment possible. Our men and women deserve the best weapons, the best equipment, and the best training. And therefore, I've asked Congress for a one-year increase of more than \$48 billion for national defense, the largest increase in a generation.

We need one other thing. As I said, we need to recruit and retain the best. This budget I submitted has another military pay raise for those who wear the uniform.

We're unified in Washington on winning this war. One way to express our unity is for Congress to set the military budget, the defense of the United States, as their number one priority and fully fund my request. The budget I submit recognizes the vital role the military will play and recognizes we have only one alternative, and that is victory.

One of the great honors I have is the opportunity to work with people in our military, from the troops to the former pilot who serves as the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld, my administration's matinee idol for the seniors. [Laughter] I've also appointed an Air Force general as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. And he brings to the job great discipline and duty and service above self. I'm proud of General Myers.

The Air Force has a great ethic, a family ethic. You stick together; you take care of your own; and you bring out the best in each other. And you know the stakes of this cause. Our enemies want every person on Earth to live in tyranny or live in fear. We seek a world that lives in peace and freedom. And you know what? There's no doubt in my mind, we're going to prevail.

In the months and years to come, our Nation will be asking much of the Air Force and every branch of our military. You have my confidence, because you've earned it. You earn it every day in the difficulties you accept and the dangers you face. You're each here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You're here because you believe in America, and America believes in you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. in the King Hangar. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Brig. Gen. Robert W. "Ched Bob" Chedister, USAF, commander, Air Armament Center; Gen. Lester L. Lyles, USAF, commander, Air Force Materiel Command; Brig. Gen. Thomas "Mark" Stogsdill, USAF, commander, 919th Special Operations Wing; and Lt. Gen. Paul V. Hester, USAF, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command.

Proclamation 7523—National Consumer Protection Week, 2002

February 4, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Each year, we recognize the important role played by public and private organizations in ensuring that the American consumer is protected from unfair practices. The theme of this year's National Consumer Protection Week is "Consumer Confidential: The Privacy Story." By focusing on consumer privacy and the protection of personal information, this week will help Americans learn more about securing their personal information and preserving privacy.

Advances in computer technology have enabled the more efficient use of information, which has benefitted society as a whole and individual consumers in particular. Americans now enjoy better access to credit and financial services, shopping choices, and educational resources. However, as personal information becomes more accessible, consumers, corporations, and government agencies must take precautions against the misuse of that information.

One of the most harmful abuses of personal information is identity theft. This occurs when someone steals a Social Security number, a birth date, or some other important piece of personal information to open new, fraudulent charge accounts, to order merchandise, or to borrow money. Victims usually find out about such frauds when collection agencies pursue them for payment on

these illegally created accounts, or they are denied credit because of unpaid debts accrued by identity thieves.

While vigorous law enforcement is vital to preventing the misuse of personal information, consumer education is the first line of defense against this kind of fraud and deception. An educated consumer is a confident consumer; and it is confident consumers who drive the economy of our Nation.

A number of public and private entities are joining forces this year to highlight consumer education efforts throughout the Nation. These efforts will help consumers learn more about securing personal information and privacy issues. The entities involved include the following: the Federal Trade Commission, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, the National Consumers League, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Better Business Bureau, the Consumer Federation of America, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Federal Consumer Information Center. These groups will help consumers understand how information and privacy issues affect their lives and the decisions they make in the marketplace.

During National Consumer Protection Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to safeguard their personal information, recognize fraudulent telemarketers, and identify fraudulent e-mail. Through these measures, individuals can better protect their financial security and ultimately contribute to the long-term strength of our economy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 3 through 9, 2002, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide consumers information about the use and misuse of personal information. This will help safeguard the economic future of all Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 7.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

February 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 4, 2002.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Extension of the China-United States Fisheries Agreement

February 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China extending the Agreement of June 24, 1985, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the "1985 Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes in Beijing on April 6 and July 17, 2001, extends the 1985 Agreement to July 1, 2004.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the People's Republic of China, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 4, 2002.

**Exchange With Reporters During
Tour of University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center in Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania**

February 5, 2002

Voluntarism

Q. Mr. President, Dick Armev today came out against your volunteer program, saying it's not the Government's business to teach Americans charity. What's your response to that?

The President. I think the country needs to provide opportunities for people to serve. Expanding AmeriCorps, expanding Senior Corps—it's a good way for Americans to fight evil, and there's all kinds of opportunities. Senior Corps is one opportunity; AmeriCorps is one; church, synagogue, or mosque programs are another.

As I said in my speech, if you don't know where to serve your 2 years of public service or 4,000 hours over the rest of your lifetime, here's a really good opportunity.

Q. Is his opposition—does that threaten the program, threaten—

The President. No, I don't think so. I think Congress understands that we need to provide opportunities for teachers to teach in the inner-city schools and seniors to provide homeland defense volunteer activities. The key thing, the key point I was making in my speech is that many in the country are asking how they can help, how they can help fight terror. And one way to do so is through acts of kindness and compassion and decency. And the good news is, a lot of Americans are responding.

Enron/Pension Reform

Q. Mr. President, Senator Hollings yesterday asked for a special counsel to investigate

your administration's relations with Enron. How do you feel about that, sir?

The President. I feel like Congress needs to pass my pension reform legislation I sent up there. I sent up a good piece of legislation that will help protect workers, and they ought to get after it and respond to that. Listen, this is a business problem, and my Justice Department is going to investigate. And if there's wrongdoing, we'll hold them accountable for mistreatment of employees and shareholders.

Q. You don't see a need for a special counsel?

The President. I see a need for laws, and I see a need for a full investigation, and that's what we're providing. The Justice Department is gathering information, and we're going to determine whether there was any wrongdoing. And if there is, there will be consequences.

In the meantime, I've sent up pension reform legislation that Congress needs to get after. It's a good piece of legislation, it will help workers, and we ought to do it now.

Thank you, all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:05 p.m. at the clinical microbiology lab in Scaife Hall. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Remarks at the University of
Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh**

February 5, 2002

Thank you very much. Thanks for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in Pittsburgh. Never did I think I'd come back and say, "America is under attack." Never did I dream I'd come back to this beautiful city and say, "We've got to be on alert." But here I am, and that's what I'm saying.

I walk in the Oval Office every morning—and by the way, walking in the Oval Office is a fabulous experience. [Laughter] It's unimaginable. I can't tell you what an honor it is. It is—it's great. It is a beautiful office. I get there early in the morning. Spot, the

dog, goes with me. *[Laughter]* I don't let Barney go. Got a brand new rug, so he doesn't get to go. *[Laughter]*

But I sit at this magnificent desk. It's a desk that was used by President Roosevelt, President Kennedy, and President Reagan. And I read threats to the United States of America. Every morning, I'm reminded that my most important job is to make our country secure, is to protect the homeland of the United States of America. And that's what I want to talk to you all about today, how best to protect the homeland.

The best way to start to do so is to pick a good general, somebody who knows how to organize, somebody who's tough, somebody who's smart, and somebody who can articulate the issues we face. And I found a good one right here in Pennsylvania in your former Governor.

I've also got a great team, a wonderful team of Americans who are there to serve something greater than their own self-interests. Not only do I have a great foreign policy team, I've got a wonderful domestic policy team. And one of the key members of that team is a former Governor, friend of mine, who is doing a fabulous job, and that's Tommy Thompson of Health and Human Services.

I'm sorry your current Governor couldn't be here, but he's giving his budget address. I completely understand why he's not here. But I also want to thank him publicly for his work in coordinating the antiterrorist activities of the State of Pennsylvania—the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—with the Federal Government. He's doing a fine job, and you need to be proud of his efforts and his desire to make Pennsylvania as safe a place as possible.

I also want to thank two Members of the United States Congress who are here: one Democrat, Mike Doyle; one Republican, Melissa Hart. The reason I bring them up with their party affiliations is there is no difference, as far as I can tell, in Washington, DC, about love for country. You don't have to be a Republican to love the country or a Democrat to love the country. We all love our country. And one of the healthy things that I think is beginning to happen in Washington, DC, is we're beginning to recognize

that it's time to put aside partisan differences and focus on what's best for America and do what's right for our citizens. So I want to welcome you both here. Thank you.

I also want to thank those who have briefed us on some of the innovative work that is going on here at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as with Carnegie Mellon: Mike Wagner and Andrew Moore. They gave us a fascinating presentation of a program I'm going to explain briefly in a second.

I appreciate D.A. Henderson, the Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness, who's traveled from Washington with us. D.A., where are you? Thank you for coming. D.A. D.A.'s got a big job. His job is to take some of the interesting things that have been developed in places such as Pittsburgh and make sure they're duplicated around the country, make sure others go to school on what you've done at this school, so that America is safe as it can possibly be.

I also want to welcome Tony Fauci here of the NIH. Tony, thank you for coming. Tony does a fabulous job at the NIH. He represents a very important part of the research and development arm of the United States. We've significantly boosted the NIH budget, not only to help fight the war against terror but also to help fight the war against disease. And I'm proud of the efforts of our NIH folks, and thanks for coming, Tony.

I want to thank Mark Nordenberg for letting us come. It kind of strains the resources when the President shows up, I fully understand. But thanks, Mark, for letting us use your beautiful campus. And Jared Cohon, as well, from Carnegie Mellon, thank you for greeting us and briefing us today. And Arthur Levine, I want to thank you, as well. You did a fine job of explaining what's going on. And I look forward to kind of sharing some of that with the American people.

Homeland defense takes many forms. One, of course, is to secure our borders, to make sure we understand who's coming in and out of our country. Part of making sure America's safe is to have as good information as possible about what takes place in our ports of entry. That's why I spent a little time in Maine the other day, talking about how we're going to boost the presence of the Coast Guard, for example, to make sure our

border and our homeland is secure as possible.

Part of having a secure homeland is to have a good airport system that's safe for people to travel, an airport system that is inspecting bags by inspectors who are qualified to inspect bags. Part of a homeland defense is to have good intelligence sharing between the Federal, the State, and the local level. Part of homeland security is to have a first-responders mechanism that's modern and current. And part of homeland security is to be prepared to fight any kind of war against bioterror, and that's what I want to spend some time talking about today.

Some of us remember that back in the fifties we had what was called the DEW line on the Arctic Circle, to warn us if enemy bombers were coming over the North Pole to attack America. Well, here in Pittsburgh, I had the honor of seeing a demonstration of the modern DEW line, a real-time outbreak and disease surveillance system, developed right here, which is one of the country's leading centers on monitoring biological threats.

What we saw was how to take real data on a real-time basis to determine if there was a outbreak of any kind, including a terrorist attack. The best way to protect the homeland is to understand what's taking place on the homeland, so we can respond. And so the modern-day DEW line, to me, was fascinating. And I appreciate those who have worked so hard to come up with an incredibly useful tool for America, a useful tool to protect ourselves.

I also appreciate the fact that the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon Institute launched what's called a biomedical security institute to help protect the Nation in all ways from the insidious biological attack.

You know, I've come to realize, having spent some time in Pittsburgh and particularly after hearing the briefings today, that while Pittsburgh used to be called "Steel Town," you need to call it "Knowledge Town." There's a lot of smart people in this town, and I'm proud to report to my fellow citizens, they're working in a way to make America safe.

A lot of the money, obviously, comes from the State Government, and for that we are

grateful. But the Federal Government has a role to play, as well. I'm proud to say the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services all provide financial support to the Biomedical Security Institute. But as you can tell from reading the newspapers and tell from my—hopefully, if you listened to my State of the Union Address, I have made the homeland security a top budget priority. And I ask Congress to respond in a positive way to this request.

For example, we're asking for \$1.6 billion. This is additional money for State and local governments to help hospitals and others improve their ability to cope with any bioterror attack. One, it's important to be able to recognize what's happening, and secondly, we've got to respond, respond in a modern way, a way that will help the American people survive any attack if it were to come. I want to make sure that each region around the country has the proper equipment and the right amount of medicine for the victims of any attack, should it occur.

We've got to upgrade our communications, not only between the Federal Government and the State Government but between State Governments and local communities and between counties and local jurisdictions. We've got to be able to talk to each other better, so that there's real-time communications, so that we can share information in a crisis. Information sharing will help save lives. And so part of the money is to bring our systems up to speed, to make them more modern and more responsive.

The budget also adds \$2.4 billion to develop new test protocols and new treatments for bioterror weapons. We were able to save lives during the anthrax outbreak, but some infections were identified too late, and some people were too badly infected to save. We must do everything in our power, everything to protect our fellow Americans. We need better testing, better vaccines, and better drugs if America is going to be as safe as it can possibly be.

And there's some hopeful news. Scientists tell us that research we do to fight bioterrorism is likely to deliver great new advances in the treatment of many other diseases, such

as tuberculosis, pneumonia, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. The monies we spend to protect America today are likely to yield long-term benefits, are likely to provide some incredible cures to diseases that many years ago never thought would be cured. It's an investment that will pay off not only for better security but for better health. And I ask Congress to support me on spending this money.

We're also going to expand our Nation's stockpile of antibiotics and vaccines. We're going to have more of these important antibiotics and vaccines readily available. By the end of the current fiscal year, we'll have enough antibiotics on hand to treat up to 20 million people for anthrax, plague, and other bioterrorist diseases. We're preparing for the worst. We'll provide funds to States to make sure they can distribute medicines swiftly.

And we're also going to expand our bioterror intelligence service. During the Korean war, we created what was called an Epidemic Intelligence Service to help defend America if any of our cold war enemies tried to use bioweapons against us. Now we need to adapt the EIS to a new era and to a new mission. We'll make the commitment to expand and modernize the service and to work with scientists in this country and friendly nations around the world.

All in all, my budget will commit almost \$6 billion to defend ourselves against bioterrorism—as Tom mentioned, an increase of over 300 percent. It's money that we've got to spend. It's money that will have a good impact on the country. It's money that will enable me to say that we're doing everything we can to protect America at home.

But I want to remind you all, the surest way to protect America at home is to find the enemy where it hides and bring them to justice. The surest way to protect America is to unleash the mighty arm of our United States military and find the killers, wherever they hide, and rout them out and bring them to justice.

History has called us into action, here at home and internationally. We've been given a chance to lead, and we're going to seize the moment in this country. As we've mentioned more than once, what we do here at home is going to have lasting impact for a long time. And I want to tell you what we're

doing abroad is going to have lasting impact, as well.

I view this as an opportunity to secure the peace for a long time coming. I view this as a struggle of tyranny versus freedom, of evil versus good. And there's no in-between, as far as I'm concerned. Either you're with us, or you're against us. Either you stand for a peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren, either you're willing to defend freedom to its core, or you're going to be against the mighty United States of America. I truly believe that by leading the world, by rallying a vast coalition, by holding people accountable for murderous deeds, the world will be a more peaceful place for our children and our grandchildren. And I'm honored, and I'm proud to report this country understands what I just said.

We are patient; we're deliberate. Oh, I know the news media likes to say, "Where's Usama bin Laden?" He's not the issue. The issue is international terror. I like our chances against bin Laden, however. [*Laughter*] There's no cave deep enough for him to hide. He can run, and he thinks he can hide, but we're not going to give up until he and every other potential killer and every other body who hates freedom will be brought to justice.

You know, the enemy hit us, and they said, "Oh, this great country is going to wilt. They're not great. They're weak." I like to needle them by saying they must have been watching too much daytime TV. [*Laughter*] They got the wrong impression of America, because quite the opposite is happening. We're unified; we're focused; we are deliberate; we're patient. We're certain of our values and sure of the need to defend freedom. And for that, the enemy is going to pay a serious price.

You know, I'm asked all the time here at home, "What can I do to help?" Well, when I look out and see the docs, every day you show up for work you're helping, by helping develop some antibiotic or perhaps helping some poor person who can't afford health care.

The reason I bring that up is because I think the way to fight off evil is to do some acts of goodness. See, the great strength of the country is the hearts and souls of our

fellow Americans. And the best way to declare our position, the best way to make our position known to the world, is through what I like to call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion and decency, acts of compassion and decency which take place on a daily basis, in all kinds of ways.

People say, "How can I help?" Well, just walk across the street and tell a shut-in you love her, and what can you do to visit, to make her day complete? Or how about mentoring a child in a school and teaching that child how to read? Maybe if you're interested in helping fight the war on terror, you should become a mentor to a child whose mother or dad may be in prison, so that child can have somebody put their arm around them, and say, "I love you. In America, it belongs just as much to you, as it does to me."

Now, there's all kinds of ways to join this war against terror. And it starts by Americans leading with their heart. There's no doubt in my mind we'll make the right decisions here at home. There is no doubt in my mind that the United States will prevail in the war of terror. And there's no doubt in my mind that out of the incredible evil that was done, great goodness will come, and America will be better off for it.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Ball Room at the Masonic Temple. In his remarks, he referred to Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, who introduced the President; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; Michael M. Wagner, director, Biomedical Security Institute, Mark A. Nordenberg, chancellor, and Arthur Levine, dean, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Andrew W. Moore, director, Biomedical Security Institute, and Jared L. Cohon, president, Carnegie Mellon University; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Returning From Pittsburgh and an Exchange With Reporters

February 5, 2002

Stimulus Package

The President. I was just informed that the Senate will not vote out a stimulus package. I'm very disappointed. There's a lot of workers who hurt, and they need help. Our economy, while there's some good news, needs more stimulus. I still think we need to pass a bill that will help workers and help stimulate the economy. You know, we got a good bill out of the House, and I believe that we had a good chance to get a good bill out of the Senate last fall; there was enough votes to pass the bill. And I'm just disappointed. I think—I think we need a good stimulus package.

Q. [*Inaudible*—for a regular breakfast this week?

The President. No, no, we're meeting next week. But I mean, I don't need to have a meeting, a breakfast to express my disappointment. I'm disappointed. I think people need to—workers need help, and I think we need to stimulate the economy with some wise policy. And we're working hard on this issue. I talked about it—gosh, I remember going to the Midwest to talk about it; I think I talked about in the Midwest right after the attacks. We've been working with both Republicans and Democrats to try to forge a good package. You know, I'm just sorry it hasn't happened. I hope they do reconsider and pass a good bill.

Q. [*Inaudible*].

The President. I can't hear you.

Q. Are you saying they're not listening?

The President. You need to talk to them. I'm just—what I'm saying is, I'm disappointed we don't have a package. Workers need help, and we need to stimulate the economy.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters During Tour of the Police Department Command and Control Center in New York City

February 6, 2002

Support for New York City

Q. Can you answer a quick—about the \$20 billion?

The President. Yes, absolutely.

Q. When are we going to get it, and why does there seem a reluctance—

The President. Oh, there's no reluctance. The \$20 billion needs to come to New York. And that's \$20 billion, by the way, not including the Victims' Compensation Fund. And I look forward to working with the New York delegation, the Governor, and the mayor to make sure that the Liberty Zone and the Liberty Bonds become reality. Now, that's one way for us to help New York rebuild herself, and a vital part of our economy and economic growth is to have a vibrant New York City.

And so the \$20 billion is coming. A lot of it has already come; there's more to come. And I look forward to working in a way to get it done.

Q. Have you had any chance to talk to Mitch Daniels and say, "Be a little nicer to New York"?

The President. No, Mitch understands my pledge. He understands what I said—when I said \$20 billion, I meant \$20 billion. And I'm the kind of fellow who does what I say I'm going to do. And I think it's important for the country to know that a vibrant New York City is vital for our economy. We've got to have a strong New York City.

It's not only a part of our economic scene at home, it's important for New York to be strong for international reasons, as well. And so I look forward to working with the mayor and the Governor to make sure we get this done.

Stimulus Package

Q. Any thoughts on the stimulus?

The President. Yes. Let me—one question on the stimulus. One answer on that is, at the minimum they need to take care of the workers, at the very minimum. But it's important for Congress to realize that our economy has not yet fully recovered. And therefore, I believe we still need to provide stimulus for economic growth so that there's jobs. People need work. And everything Congress ought to do is to take care of those who've lost their jobs but also recognize that people want more than an unemployment check; they want a steady paycheck. And so jobs ought to be what the people up there in Washington are asking themselves: How do we create jobs so people can find work?

Q. Why can't they get it done?

The President. You're asking the wrong man. I'm in the executive branch of Government.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:54 p.m. During the exchange, the President referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Police Department Command and Control Center Personnel in New York City

February 6, 2002

Please be seated. Thank you all. It's nice to be back in New York City, and I am so proud to stand here today with New York's finest and New York's bravest. I have a message for you from your fellow Americans: Police and firefighters of New York, you have this Nation's respect, and you'll have this Nation's support.

The budget that Tom talked about increases the Federal commitment to our Nation's first-responders by more than 1,000 percent. It is the right thing to do, and you all are the right—to help us continue to fight this war on terror.

I want to thank Tom Ridge for taking on a job. He was a good Governor; he's a very

good Homeland Security Director. I know he comes from Pennsylvania—[laughter]—but I'm proud of the job he's doing. He's helping to develop a national strategy that starts with understanding that the best responders and the best response starts at the local level. And the role of the Federal Government is to facilitate the job done at the local level. And so, Governor, thank you so much for taking on this big assignment.

I want to thank your Governor. You know, it's very important to have a steady hand, an anchor in the wind, in a time of crisis. I think that's how you determine whether or not somebody knows how to lead. And your Governor showed your State and the country that he is a leader. And I'm proud to call him friend. I hope you're proud to call him Governor.

I appreciate your mayor. He's come in with a tough job, but he's going to tackle it with a lot of savvy. And New York made the right decision when they picked Mayor Bloomberg. He's got a lot of financial background; he's going to help New York City guide itself. [Laughter] It's important that you picked somebody who understands numbers over a politician, because he's going to be able to help guide you through this tough period. It's important. I think you made a good choice; I really do. And I'm proud to work with him.

I want to thank Vito for being here, as well. He's a fine Member of the United States Congress. Vito likes to bring his sister to every event—[laughter]—five sisters. Only one of them yelled. [Laughter]

And I want to thank—I want to thank Commissioner Kelly. It's good to see you again, Commissioner. I'm proud of your record, proud of your accomplishments.

Last week I reported to our Congress that the state of our Union has never been stronger, that despite a war, a recession, despite continuing danger, we are strong, really strong, because our people are strong. And there's no stronger people than the men and women who wear the uniform here in New York. There's no stronger people than those who kind of set the new standard of courage and honor.

There's a new ethic in America—at least I think one's coming on—a new culture, a

culture to replace “If it feels good, do it” with one of responsibility, with one defined by those brave words, “Let's roll.” But that's nothing new for the firefighters and the policemen of New York. That's been your ethic for a long, long time. That ethic's been around here way before September the 11th, and a lot of people are lucky the ethic was around.

As you rebuild your ranks, every new recruit walks in the path of heroes. And as a result of some of the courageous action here, not only is a new ethic evolving, but there's some fantastic examples for young recruits to follow.

Peter Ganci—many of you knew him. He was the highest ranking uniformed officer in the New York Fire Department. His deputy, Michael Regan, saw him for the last time on the morning of September the 11th, after the first building had collapsed and while the second building was still burning. Michael Regan recalled this: Peter directed every citizen and every firefighter to go north to safety, and he went south, directly into danger. Let's roll.

Brian McDonnell. Or, maybe—maybe you knew Brian well here. His wife called him a cop's cop. He was a former Army paratrooper. He was known for always putting his colleagues first. September the 11th, he was last seen charging into the South Tower to help his fellow citizens.

On the worst day this city has ever known, we saw some of the finest people New York has ever produced. We mourn every loss. We remember every life. But they will not have died in vain. I told our country and I told the world that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And I want to assure you all, those who have been touched by this terrible tragedy, justice will be meted out.

I unleashed the mighty United States military, and they have not let us down. In 5 short months, in a brief period of time, we have completely routed the Taliban. I've said loud and clear, “If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist,” and the Taliban found out what we meant.

This is a patient nation. We are a determined nation. We're a nation that will not rest until we have brought justice not only

on the Al Qaida killers and governments which support and house them but on terrorism everywhere. Now we must seize the moment. History has called this Nation into action; history has given us a chance to defend freedom, to fight tyranny. And that's exactly what this country is going to do. We defend freedom.

Not only do we owe it to those whose lives were lost on September the 11th, but we owe it to the living, as well. We owe it to our children and our children's children, to protect a way of life, to defend freedom, to defend our values, to fight evil. And we will not tire nor will we rest until justice is done.

Oh, some around the world may grow weary. Some of them may grow exhausted by our drive for freedom. But not me, not our Government, and not our Nation.

I have submitted a budget that recognizes that Afghanistan is only the first theater on the war against terror. We significantly increase the budget for national defense. After all, it is our number one priority. It is the largest increase since the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose 91st birthday we celebrate today. His budgets helped rebuild the military power of the United States, and for that our Nation should be grateful.

But what was true in his day is true today, that whatever it costs to defend our security and whatever it costs to defend our freedom, we must pay it. I ask Congress to pass this budget. Our men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military deserve the best training, the best equipment, another pay raise, the best support of the United States of America.

And for those of you who have a relative who wear the uniform of the United States military—the moms and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters—on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you very much.

I'm fully aware of the task at hand. I know that in order to defend America in the long term, we've got to be successful overseas, that the best homeland defense is to rout out terror wherever it exists. I know that. And I know some of them are going to try to hide in caves, but there is no cave deep enough for us. They're going to try to run, but they can't run forever. They cannot run forever.

And in the meantime, until we achieve our objective, no matter how long that takes, we will secure our homeland.

I have a great honor of going into the Oval Office as your President. Every morning that I walk in there, I'm thrilled and honored. I take the dog in with me, and she seems to be thrilled and honored too. *[Laughter]* I sit down at the fantastic desk—it's a desk that the Roosevelts used; it's a desk John Kennedy used; Reagan used; it's a desk I'm honored to use. And the first thing I do is, I look at threats to the United States of America.

They're still out there. The enemy still wants to get us. And I want to assure you all we're doing everything in our power to prevent them from doing that, that my main job and the main job of Ridge and the FBI and Kelly and everybody else involved with law enforcement is to protect the American people, is to keep American families safe, that we're pouring all our energy into doing our job, which is the security of the country.

We've changed the attitude of the FBI. I mean, we're interested in spies; we're more interested in Al Qaida killers. We're going to run down white-collar criminals, but our focus is on finding any cell that may exist in our country and getting them. We're going to run down every piece of evidence we find and share it with State and local authorities. We're on the hunt. We're on the hunt, and we're not going to rest. We're just not going to rest. The American people need to know we're doing everything in our power to strengthen the security at home.

And we're preparing for—we're preparing responses. Yesterday Tom and I went over to Pittsburgh and talked about a bioterrorism response as a part of our homeland security package. We're loading up with medicines. We're going to have the health services communicate better with each other. We're ready—we're getting ready.

We're doing a better job of securing our border. We're going to figure out who's coming into our country and who's leaving our country, to make sure that people—*[applause]*. Listen, we're a great nation. We welcome people in. We just want to know why you're here. *[Laughter]* And if you're not supposed to be here more than a period of

time, then maybe you ought to just go on home. It's important that we have good information so we can secure the homeland. It's important that our airports be secure. And so, we worked with Congress to get a bill out to make air travel more safe. And it's important that we understand that in the first minutes and hours after attack, that's the most hopeful time to save lives. And so that's why we're focusing on the heroic efforts of those first-time responders. That's why we want to spend money to make sure equipment is there, strategies are there, communications are there, to make sure that you have whatever it takes, prepared to respond.

But the interesting thing about making sure our homeland is more secure is that, as a result of focusing on first-responders, neighborhoods will be more safe in the long run. As a result of focusing on bioterrorism, perhaps we'll develop vaccines and medicines and cures for other diseases. As a focus on making sure our health systems talk better, we'll leave behind a better health care system. As a way of making sure that our borders are more secure, we'll have a stronger Coast Guard. And so, the short run, we're focusing on attacks; the long run, the country will be better off for the doubling of the homeland security budget that I submitted to the United States Congress.

And part of making sure we're secure is to make sure there's economic security for New Yorkers and for the country. Obviously, I'm deeply concerned about the recession, and I understand the shocks to our economy, what 9/11 did. And I'm worried about the fact that many New Yorkers aren't working. And we want them to work. And that's why I am committed to defeating not only terrorists but the recession.

These are—I want you to know something: When I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it. I told the people of New York that we will work to provide at least \$20 billion to help New York rebuild herself, and that includes money apart from the Victims Compensation Fund. And when I say 20, I mean 20.

FEMA is on the spot. And we're now spending a lot of money here to help New York and the emergency side of things. And we need to restore the infrastructure. We

need to quickly rebuild the highways. And you know what else we need? We need the Liberty Zone in lower Manhattan. We need to provide job incentive—incentive to create jobs in the area that was affected by the attack. Congress needs to put the Liberty Zone, the Liberty Bonds in a stimulus package and get it to my desk so I can sign it for the good of New York City.

It is important that New York City be vibrant and strong. It's important when people not only here at home but around the world look at this fantastic city, they see economic vitality and growth. I'm confident we can recover together. It's going to take Federal and State effort. I'm here to tell you the Federal help is coming.

You know, I don't know what went through the enemy's mind when they attacked us. I think they thought we were soft. I like to needle them by saying they must have been watching too much daytime TV. *[Laughter]* They probably thought that, oh, we'll attack, and we'll just kind of roll over, gnash our teeth a little bit, wring our hands, mourn for the dead, and forget. Boy, they really miscalculated.

See, they don't understand America. They don't understand us. We're understanding more about ourselves as a result of what went on. We understand heroism. We understand now what it means to recite a prayer, tell your wife, "I love you," on the phone, and drive a plane in the ground to save others' lives. We're beginning to understand more about sacrifice, personal responsibility.

See, I believe out of this terrible evil can come some great good. I believe there's a better understanding of the sacrifice the policemen and firefighters make, and that's good for America. I believe there is a different culture evolving, one that says each of us need to be responsible for the decisions we make; each of us ought to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself. There's a different culture evolving as moms and dads now understand their most important job is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul.

People ask me all the time, "What can I do to help fight terror, fight the evil ones?" Well, I believe since this is a struggle between evil and good, the best way to do it

is to do some good in your neighborhood, is to mentor a child who may be lost, is to help a shut-in, is to walk across the street to a neighbor in need and say, "What can I do to help you?"

Many of you are already doing that, by loving the widows and the children of those who lost their life. It's these thousands and millions of acts of kindness all across America on a daily basis that define the character of our Nation. The way you fight evil is with millions of acts of good. It's the cumulative effect of the heart and soul of America that stands tall against the evil ones. Not only will we prevail militarily in the long run, but we will have overcome evil by being a nation that is more compassionate, more decent, more loving to our fellow citizens.

I'm so proud of how America has responded. I'm proud of New York City and the strength and character you have shown. I loved it when our pilots found on some of the munitions this simple sign, "I Love New York." America loves New York. We love your strength. We love your resolve. We've loved your courage in the face of incredible difficulty.

Keep on, and my God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly of New York City; and Maggie McDonnell, widow of Officer Brian McDonnell.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for New York Governor George E. Pataki in New York City

February 6, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in New York City. It's the home of such courage and strength and resolve. It's shown the world and the country what it means to be a community that refuses—refuses—to back down in the face of evil and terror. I'm proud to be the President of a country where we've got such a fabulous city called New York City.

I want to thank the party chairman for his hard work. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor for being here. She certainly brightens up the stage. [Laughter] She's smarter than all of us, too. [Laughter]

I want to thank the mayor. I appreciate the mayor taking on the awesome responsibility of being the mayor of this huge city. He could have easily have just continued to run his successful business and said, "What the heck, I'm not interested in serving." But he made a personal sacrifice for the good of the people. And the city is going through tough times, but you made the right decision to have a man who knows how to lead to be your mayor.

And I look forward to working with the mayor. George is right; we're going to work hard to make sure that New York City gets the help she needs. And it's comforting to me to be able to tell the spenders up in Congress that when we send the money here, it's going to be well managed by Mayor Bloomberg.

And I want to thank you all for coming to support my good, close friend George Pataki. He has done a—[applause]. If for no other reason you ought to send him back, it's because, like me, he married well. [Laughter] But he's got a fabulous record. He has been a breath of fresh air here in New York State. He's done in office what he said he would do. He's a plain speaker and just goes out and does it.

Audience members. Like you! [Laughter]

The President. He's one of these candidates who can actually run on his record and be proud of it. [Laughter] Some of them run away from their record. He's running on it. He's running on a great record.

But there's another reason to send him back. As you know, we're in tough times here in America. As I said in my State of the Union, we're at war; we're in recession; but we've never been stronger. And one of the reasons we're strong is that this important State has got a leader who, in the face of danger, in the face of an emergency, stood strong and steady and was reliable. In tough times, what this State needs is somebody who you can count on, somebody who won't

panic, somebody who won't play politics with the situation, somebody who knows how to lead. And that somebody is Governor George Pataki.

He's got a good record. He's proven that he knows how to lead. And it also makes sense for New York State to have a Governor whose phone calls will be returned from the White House. *[Laughter]*

We do have some tough times ahead of us. But you've got to know, I've never been more optimistic about the future than I am right now. I'm optimistic because I know what we need to do. And what we need to do is to make a clear statement and a stand for freedom—never relenting, never tiring, and pursuing a grand and noble objective, and that objective is to rid the world of terror.

The enemy, in attacking New York City, made a terrible mistake. They must not understand what America's character is like. I like to say they must have been watching too much daytime TV. *[Laughter]* They—they miscalculated. They thought we were soft. They thought we were so materialistic and selfish that we couldn't think beyond ourselves, that we couldn't think in terms of a grand idea, that we wouldn't cherish freedom to the point where we would fight for it. And that miscalculation has been most notable with the Taliban Government in Afghanistan.

I unleashed the mighty United States military on a clear objective. I said that not only would we find the killers and bring them to justice, but if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist.

There's been some proud moments for this country, nothing more proud for me than to see our military liberate a people—liberate women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Not only are we fighting for justice, we're liberators. We free people so they can realize their potential. This great country is not only tough and resolved, but we stand on principle. And freedom is our principle. We love freedom at the core. And we will not relent—we won't relent in our quest to not only make the world more free but to make the world more peaceful.

I want you to know I'm a patient man. I don't feel any great anxiety toward achiev-

ing objectives on the moment. And therefore, those who think they can hide can't hide long enough. Those who think they can run can't run far enough. We are deliberate. We are patient. But make no mistake about it, we will deliver justice.

The country is united, and for that I am really grateful. I appreciate the support of members of both political parties in Washington, DC, for this most important cause, this most important campaign. History has called us into action, and we'll respond. It's our chance to leave a better world.

And so I want to tell you that the first theater on the war against terror is going well. But there will be other theaters. So long as the enemy wants to harm us, so long as people believe they can get away with terror, this Nation will lead our vast coalition with firm resolve, dedicated to a peaceful world.

The other day I spoke very clearly about some choices countries get to make. I talked about an axis of evil because I firmly believe that nations need to be put on notice that this Nation will not allow our citizens to become threatened, not only by terrorist acts but by nations which develop weapons of mass destruction which could easily or eventually be used against us. We will not be intimidated. I will not allow nations to hold us hostage or our friends and allies hostage. Terror is our mission—*[applause]*.

And so, my fellow citizens, I appreciate our Nation's resolve and understanding and adherence to some important principle. I also want you to know that every morning I walk into the Oval Office and sit at this magnificent desk that had been used by the Roosevelts and by President Reagan—by the way, today is his 91st birthday—and other leaders and sit down there at the desk and read a threat assessment. It's a summary of the intent of the enemy. And you've got to know that there are still ambitions against us. But I also want to assure you, our great land is doing everything we possibly can to protect our American citizens.

We're on alert. The law enforcement agency at the Federal level, the FBI, is now focused on prevention. We're running down every lead; we're seeking every opportunity to disrupt potential cells in America; we're working overtime. I'm proud of the way our

law enforcement officials have responded. You need to know that we are doing—my most important job and the most important job of your Government is to protect the American people, and we will do so with all our vigor and all our might.

As I said in my State of the Union, I stand in awe of the American people and in awe of the citizens of New York City. This great city refused, absolutely refused, to be intimidated. This city, it stood in defiance of evil. And America watched, and America was impressed, and so was your President. I've been impressed—[*applause*].

I'm asked all the time by people, "What can I do to help?" You see, as you probably can tell, I don't see many shades of gray in this world. Either you're with us, or you're against us. Either you support evil, or you support good. This great Nation stands on the side of good. And for those who want to help, you can do so by acts of kindness. You can do so by showing compassion to your neighbor.

And it doesn't require much. Walking across the street to a shut-in to say, "I care for you; I hope you're okay," is an act of kindness that will stand in the face of evil. Mentoring a child who can't read is an act of kindness which stands in the face of evil. Saying to a child whose parent is in prison, "America belongs to you just as much as it does to me," is an act of kindness in the face of evil. The gathering momentum of a million acts of kindness and compassion is how America can stand strong in the face of evil. And make no mistake about it, that is how America is responding.

I believe out of this great evil will come great good. I believe the world will be more peaceful when we accomplish our mission. And I know our country is beginning to make different kinds of choices. The old culture said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it. Now we've learned a new ethic, and it had to do with Flight 93. When people on that airplane said a prayer, told their wives they loved them, and drove the plane in the ground to save others' lives, we're beginning to get a sense of sacrifice.

We saw it here in New York City, where firefighters and policemen rushed into buildings to save others. This Nation is in the proc-

ess, I believe, of ushering in a period where we said, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. We're responsible for loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves. We're responsible for loving our children. We're responsible for the communities in which we live.

No, they hit us, and they're going to pay a terrible price. But as a result, our Nation will be stronger and more compassionate and more decent. It will hold more promise for people who are lucky enough to call themselves Americans.

I love being the President of a nation whose strength is not its Government, whose strength is the American people. I'm proud to be here.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:40 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Sandy Treadwell, chairman, New York Republican State Committee; Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue of New York; and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

**Executive Order 13255—
Amendment to Executive Order
13227, President's Commission on
Excellence in Special Education**
February 6, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the reporting date of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13227 of October 2, 2001, is amended by deleting "April 30, 2002" in section 3(b) of that order and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 2002".

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 6, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:44 a.m., February 7, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 8.

**Remarks at the National
Prayer Breakfast**
February 7, 2002

Thank you very much, John. Laura and I are really honored to join you this morning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Prayer Breakfast. And Admiral Clark, whatever prayer you used for eloquence, worked. [*Laughter*] I appreciate your message, and I appreciate your service to our great country.

I want to thank Jon Kyl and Judge Sentelle for their words, and CeCe for your music. I appreciate getting the chance to meet Joe Finley, New York City firefighter. He's a living example of what sacrifice and courage means. Thank you for coming, Joe.

I want to thank Congressman Bart Stupak. I really appreciate the fact that my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, is here to offer prayer. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to say hello to the Members of Congress.

I'm particularly grateful to Lisa Beamer for her reading and for her example. I appreciate her example of faith made stronger in trial. In the worst moments of her life, Lisa has been a model of grace, her own and the grace of God. And all America welcomes into the world Todd and Lisa's new daughter, Morgan Kay Beamer.

Since we met last year, millions of Americans have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, for protection in a time of uncertainty. Many, including me, have been on bended knee. The prayers of this Nation are a part of the good that has come from the evil of September the 11th, more good than we could ever have predicted. Tragedy has brought forth the courage and the generosity of our people.

None of us would ever wish on anyone what happened on that day. Yet, as with each life, sorrows we would not choose can bring wisdom and strength gained in no other way. This insight is central to many faiths and cer-

tainly to the faith that finds hope and comfort in a cross.

Every religion is welcomed in our country; all are practiced here. Many of our good citizens profess no religion at all. Our country has never had an official faith. Yet we have all been witnesses these past 21 weeks to the power of faith to see us through the hurt and loss that has come to our country.

Faith gives the assurance that our lives and our history have a moral design. As individuals, we know that suffering is temporary, and hope is eternal. As a nation, we know that the ruthless will not inherit the Earth. Faith teaches humility and, with it, tolerance. Once we have recognized God's image in ourselves, we must recognize it in every human being.

Respect for the dignity of others can be found outside of religion, just as intolerance is sometimes found within it. Yet for millions of Americans, the practice of tolerance is a command of faith. When our country was attacked, Americans did not respond with bigotry. People from other countries and cultures have been treated with respect, and this is one victory in the war against terror.

At the same time, faith shows us the reality of good and the reality of evil. Some acts and choices in this world have eternal consequences. It is always and everywhere wrong to target and kill the innocent. It is always and everywhere wrong to be cruel and hateful, to enslave and oppress. It is always and everywhere right to be kind and just, to protect the lives of others, and to lay down your life for a friend.

The men and women who charged into burning buildings to save others, those who fought the hijackers were not confused about the difference between right and wrong. They knew the difference. They knew their duty. And we know their sacrifice was not in vain.

Faith shows us the way to self-giving, to love our neighbor as we would want to be loved ourselves. In service to others, we find deep human fulfillment. And as acts of service are multiplied, our Nation becomes a more welcoming place for the weak and a better place for those who suffer and grieve.

For half a century now, the National Prayer Breakfast has been a symbol of the vital

place of faith in the life of our Nation. You've reminded generations of leaders of a purpose and a power greater than their own. In times of calm and in times of crisis, you've called us to prayer.

In this time of testing for our Nation, my family and I have been blessed by the prayers of countless of Americans. We have felt their sustaining power, and we're incredibly grateful. Tremendous challenges await this Nation, and there will be hardships ahead. Faith will not make our path easy, but it will give us strength for the journey.

The promise of faith is not the absence of suffering; it is the presence of grace. And at every step we are secure in knowing that suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 a.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Senator John Edwards of North Carolina; Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona; Judge David Bryan Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit; entertainer CeCe Winans; Lisa Beamer, wife of Todd Beamer, who died in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, and their daughter Morgan Kay Beamer.

Remarks During a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

February 7, 2002

Faith-Based Initiative

President Bush. I want to welcome Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum and the delegation of U.S. Senators from both parties here at the Oval Office, to herald a great accomplishment, which is an agreement to move a Faith-Based Initiative out of the United States Senate.

All of us in this room share a priority and insist that people who don't have hope can find hope; people who wonder about the American Dream will realize the American experience is meant for them. One way to ensure that is to unleash these fantastic ar-

mies of compassion which exist all across the country.

And Government ought to stand on their side. We're in complete agreement that Government should not discriminate against faith-based programs, but it should encourage them to flourish. And so I welcome so very much the Senators here to get this really important piece of legislation through.

This legislation will not only provide a way for Government to encourage faith-based programs to exist without breaching the separation of church and state; it will also encourage charitable giving, as well. And we have an opportunity to capture the compassion of the country, focus it in the right direction. And because of the Senators here, we're taking a big step in that direction.

So Senator Lieberman, the lead sponsor, thank you for being here, appreciate you coming.

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman. Thank you, Mr. President. Thanks for your leadership on this, and thanks to Senator Santorum and all our colleagues and our staffs that worked very hard on this. I have always believed that faith, right from the beginning of this country, was one of the great unifiers of the American people. And faith has been strong enough to unify all of us as we went forward to find a constitutionally appropriate way to have a Faith-Based Initiative, to help people who want to do good works and whose desire to do good works is motivated by their faith.

This proposal really will matter to people. It creates some very important tax incentives for greater charitable giving, including saying to nonitemizers—and Mr. Secretary, you correct me, but I think something like 75 percent of taxpayers do not itemize.

Secretary Paul H. O'Neill. That's right.

Senator Lieberman. And it will give individuals an additional \$400 deduction for charitable giving and couples an additional \$800. That's a lot stronger, with all respect, than the comparable House bill. And I think it really will motivate more charitable giving. There are other tax incentives, as well.

We also have an agreement to increase funding for a group of social service programs, including, particularly, the Social Service Block Grant Program, which is very

important to our States and very important to a lot of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations that now use it to do good works. We have also here—and I mention that this is constitutionally appropriate—but we have responded here in this proposal to the evidence presented by your Faith-Based Office, John DiIulio, last summer, I believe, and the study that showed that there was some sense of not fairplay totally toward faith-based groups as they applied for Government funding.

And this says that if you qualify otherwise, you can't be discriminated against in applying for a grant to do social service work if you have a cross on the wall or a mezuzah on the door or if you praise God in your mission statement. And that's the way it ought to be. So this is a real step forward.

I remember when we stood together last year over in Anacostia on the day you announced your desire to have this Faith-Based Initiative, I was proud to support you. And I said then, because we were talking in general terms, that the devil—if I may use that term advisedly—[laughter]—would be in the details. The details along the way, Congress being what it is, turned out to be quite devilish. But in the end here today, I think we've put the good Lord right into the details.

President Bush. Yes, thank you.

Senator Lieberman. And I'm proud to be part of it. I thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all. See you a little later on.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

February 7, 2002

President Bush. I'm going to make a statement; the Prime Minister will make a statement. We both have agreed we'll answer two questions from both sides. I'll call on somebody; the Prime Minister's press aide will call on somebody; and that's the way we're going to do it.

So it's my honor to welcome a good friend, the Prime Minister of Israel, back to the Oval Office. Mr. Prime Minister, I'm so glad you're here. Welcome back.

We just had an extensive discussion, first about our mutual desire to rid the world of terror. I assured him that our Nation is just beginning in a great objective, which is to eliminate those terrorist organizations of global reach. And by doing so, I firmly believe that the world will be a more peaceful place. My most important objective is to protect our homeland. The best way to do so is to rout terrorist organizations where they try to hide and bring them to justice.

Secondly, I assured the Prime Minister that we will continue to keep pressure on Mr. Arafat to convince him that he must take serious, concrete, real steps to reduce terrorist activity in the Middle East.

We had an interesting discussion about how we can help the Palestinian—those who aren't involved with terror. I'm deeply concerned about the plight of the average Palestinian, the moms and dads who are trying to raise their children, to educate their children. My government is—I've got \$300 million in the budget to go through NGOs to help Palestinians be able to realize a better life.

And finally, we had a good discussion about how best to work together to get the Mitchell process started, to get into Tenet and then in Mitchell. In other words, that we had wide-ranging discussions not only about international terror but security, about economic development for the Palestinians, as well as for the desire to achieve—to get into Mitchell so that there can be some long-lasting peace in the region.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate the candid discussion. I appreciate your friendship, and I want to welcome you back.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you, Mr. President. I was very glad to be again at the White House. We had discussions about strategic issues in the region. We talked about the need to fight terror and not to get into compromise with terror—one cannot get into compromise with terror. At the same time, we discussed steps that should be taken in order to improve the life conditions of those Palestinians that are not involved in terror.

That's my intention. It was always my intention. And of course, we'll try and see what can be done.

And altogether, I think that we can look forward with optimism, though it's not going to be a short struggle against terror. It's a long struggle. But I'm sure that we will win, as I have a real admiration, Mr. President, for the steps that you have been taking against terror in order to defend our values.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Hold on a second. And I'm going to do the calling on who gets the question. He's not through yet.

Are you through?

Prime Minister Sharon. Is there any questions?

President Bush. Yes, there's going to be. [Laughter]

Barry Schweid [Associated Press]. [Laughter] I'm the control guy. [Laughter]

Q. I'm new at this.

President Bush. Welcome. [Laughter] You don't look that new to me, Barry. But anyway, please.

Q. I did your dad.

President Bush. That's right.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. At this point, sir, is there a point for the U.S. to talk to Mr. Arafat? Is there a point for Israel to talk to Arafat?

President Bush. Well, Mr. Arafat has heard from us. I can't be any more clear in my position, and that is that he must do everything in his power to fight terror.

Obviously, we were at first surprised and then extremely disappointed when the *Karine A* showed up loaded with weapons, weapons that could have only been intended for one thing, which was to terrorize. And I made our Government's position about as clear as I could. I couldn't say it any more plainly, and I haven't changed my position.

And as to what the Prime Minister's position is, he can answer that.

Prime Minister Sharon. I personally, myself and my government, regard Arafat as an obstacle to peace. Arafat has chosen a strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror. Therefore, we believe that pressure should be put on Arafat in order, maybe, I hope,

to have an authoritative leadership in the future.

Q. Mr. President, the Israeli Defense Minister said today that Ms. Condoleezza Rice and also your Vice President Cheney said that they don't trust Arafat, they don't believe any words coming out of his mouth, and there's no point keeping talking to him. Do you think, as those officials, that there is a point to keep talking to him, to be in contact with him? Or do you think it is time to change the phase in the pressure on Arafat?

President Bush. Mr. Arafat has heard my message. I can't be any more clear about it, that he must do everything in his power to reduce terrorist attacks on Israel. And that—at one point in time he was indicating to us that he was going to do so, and then all of a sudden a ship loaded with explosives show up that most of the world believes he was involved with.

And I think it's very important that people realize that this great Nation wants us to get into Mitchell as quickly as possible, but we fully understand that it's difficult to have peace during terrorist times, and that our campaign against global terror should help the region.

And I am absolutely committed to fighting terror wherever terror exists. And I would hope other leaders do so. And Mr. Arafat has a chance to do so, and my hope is, is that he responds in a positive way.

At the same time, I am deeply concerned about the plight of the average Palestinian. I worry about stories and pictures I see of people going hungry and children not being educated and deep concerns etched on the faces of moms and dads who happen to be Palestinian. And my government—we've discussed this openly with the Prime Minister, and as I said, we budgeted money to go through nongovernmental organizations to help. And I think the world understands that there's a lot of folks over there who suffer because of the terrorist activities of a few.

Vice President's Upcoming Visit to the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, did Iran and Iraq figure in your conversations today with the Prime Minister? And why are you sending Vice President Cheney to the region next month,

and particularly the four countries that directly border on Iraq?

President Bush. I'm sending the Vice President because, one, he is a key player in our administration, and I want to get feedback from the world, from the world leaders. I want them to see firsthand, as well, our strong intent to fight terror.

There's nothing like looking somebody in the eye and letting them know that when we say we're going to fight terror, we mean it. And there's nothing like people getting a sense of the determination of this Government. There's a lot of folks who might have predicted that over time we would grow weary, and we'd get tired, and we'd kind of get faint of heart. The Vice President can deliver the message to many important world leaders that our Government is absolutely committed to fighting terror, and we expect people to join us in doing so.

As I said, either you're with or you're against us. And we fully understand that in order to be effective in our fight against terror, that we need others to join us. And so the Vice President, I think, is going to be very effective at convincing—at convincing our friends we mean business. And we would hope that they would do everything in their power to shut off money, to deny haven, and to join this grand coalition dedicated to one thing, freedom and peace.

As to whether or not we discussed other countries in the region: You bet. We discussed a lot of countries in the region, and we've had a very frank and open discussion.

Palestinian State

Q. President Bush, the Government of Israel decided not to let Chairman Arafat move—[inaudible]. Do you think this decision serves the goal of stability in the Middle East?

And one question for you, Prime Minister Sharon. You said a couple of months ago that you want to give the Palestinians a Palestinian state, for the first time. Do you still support the same—

President Bush. Do you want to go first?

Prime Minister Sharon. Yes. I believe that the end of the process first should be the perfect right to be a full cessation of terror and violence and incitement. And then

several steps will be taken by the Palestinians, like arresting—serious arrest of the terrorists, dismantling terrorist organizations and their infrastructure, collecting their weapons that should be handed to American representatives and destroyed out of the area. Once they would take serious preventive steps and stop completely incitement, then we'll start negotiations.

I believe that one day we'll be reaching a peace. Israel is committed to peace. And at the end of the process, I believe that the Palestinian state, of course, will be—we'll see a Palestinian state, but only at the end. And the final steps that should be taken in order to start negotiations—they cannot be done under terror. We are—my role and my government's role is to defend our citizens against acts of terror.

President Bush. We, too, of course, support a Palestinian state, one that's been negotiated by the parties, one that recognizes that Israel has got a right to exist. And Israel will be supportive of their right to self-govern. I think that's an ultimate aim that we all have got to work hard to get to. The problem is, there are some that don't want to get there and, therefore, terrorize.

My position on Mr. Arafat is clear as of today. I can't be any more clear about what I think he ought to do. And I'm confident if he were to make these strong steps toward reducing terror, it would help the world—it would help tell the world that he is fully dedicated toward achieving the objectives that we both described.

And it's going to be hard to have a peace process if—so long as there's terrorist activity. But we believe strongly that Chairman Arafat needs to put a 100 percent effort to achieve a peaceful—some peace, so that we can then get to a political process. And that's very important for us.

Listen, thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001, and the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George

J. Tenet. A reporter referred to Minister of Defense Binyamin Ben Eliezer of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks to the Cattle Industry
Annual Convention and Trade Show
in Denver, Colorado**

February 8, 2002

Thank you all very much. It's great to be here. Thank you very much. Well, thank you very much. I'm really honored to be here. I really appreciate my new hat. *[Laughter]* I'm looking forward to wearing it in Crawford. I don't get to spend enough time there, but when I do, I really enjoy being around the cows. *[Laughter]* I find it such a relaxing place, a place to stay in touch with what's important in life. And Laura and I love what we do. We love our new address. *[Laughter]* But I can assure you, when it's all over, we're going back to the ranch.

I want to thank my friend Lynn, for inviting me here. And thank you all for such a warm greeting and giving us a chance to come. I'm here to share with you some thoughts about our Nation, how to improve our economy and the strength of our character.

You know, I gave a State of the Union the other day, and I reminded the Nation we're at war. We've got tough economic times. We're in a recession, but our Nation has never been stronger. And someone who has shown incredible strength and calm during a time of national crisis has been my wife, Laura. A lot of it has to do with the fact that she had a great mom and a wonderful dad. I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that she was born and raised in the West. People around the country are now figuring out why I married her. A lot of them are trying to figure out why she married me. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so very much traveling today with our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman. Ann's doing a really good job for the country. You know, one of the things that concerned me a lot is to make sure that hoof and mouth never made it into our land. I talked to Ann a lot about it. I said, "Whatever

you do, you make sure we stop it." And she did, along with a lot of other good folks who work for the Agriculture Department. I'm proud of her efforts. I'm proud of her genuine concern about the farmers and ranchers of the country, and I appreciate her strong leadership.

I'm proud to be traveling with Members of the United States Congress who understand the importance of agriculture in the life of our country. One such man is a guy from west Texas. In 1978, I ran for the very seat he holds. I lost. He won. *[Laughter]* He's the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, a really good friend and a good man out of Lubbock, Texas, Larry Combest.

And we brought some other Members along: from the great State of Kansas, Senator Pat Roberts; Craig Thomas of Wyoming. I'm spending the night in his State tonight, in Jackson Hole. They tell me it's quite a spectacular place to look at. He said, "Don't worry, Mr. President. The high is going to be about 9." *[Laughter]* But I'm really looking forward to it. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so very much, as well, fine Senators from the State of Colorado, Wayne Allard—I hope Wayne comes back up there; he's needed in Washington, DC—and Ben Nighthorse Campbell.

I've spent a lot of time with this other Senator, roaming around Iowa. It seemed like everywhere he went, he said, "You know, old Joe owns this 160 acres, and he farms soybeans." And then we'd go down the road a little bit, and he'd say, "That's where Harry lives; he farms corn." This guy knows more about agriculture in the State of Iowa and more about Iowa than it could possibly be imagined. He's a fine, fine leader. He's the head of the Finance Committee at one time—I'd like to get him back to be the head of the Finance Committee—and that's Chuck Grassley.

This State has got an excellent Governor. I'm proud to call Bill Owens friend. He knows what he's doing. I think the people of Colorado appreciate his leadership—Governor Bill Owens. We've got another Member from the United States Congress with us from the State of Colorado, Tom Tancredo. Thank you for coming, Tom.

And finally, on the way to Wyoming, we're going to stop in Utah. [*Laughter*] I'm really looking forward to opening the Olympics. It's going to be a magnificent moment for Utah and our great country. And traveling with us today are the two United States Senators from Utah, Senator Bob Bennett and Senator Orrin Hatch. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate being with people who love the land and appreciate open space. I realize there's nobody more central to the American experience than the cowboy. But cattle raising is not only a big part of America's past; I view it as an incredibly important part of America's future. This Nation has got to eat. [*Laughter*] It's in our national security interests that we be able to feed ourselves. Thank goodness we don't have to rely on somebody else's meat to make sure our people are healthy and well fed.

I appreciate so very much the fact that the cattleman usually doesn't spend a lot of time asking something from the Federal Government, except for perhaps lower taxes. But one message that all of us on this stage heard loud and clear was this: "Let us pass our assets on from one generation to the next. Let us make sure my son and daughter is able to ranch the land that has been in my family for a long time."

I'm proud to report that finally—finally enough Members of Congress, including the chairman of the Finance Committee, understood the punitive nature of the death tax, and we've sent it on its way to extinction. But to make sure we finally put it where it belongs, to put the death tax to death, we need your help in making sure the Senate and the House hears that the tax relief we passed last winter must be permanent.

One thing I appreciate about cattlemen and the cattlemen, the families that ranch our land, is the values, the values represented right here in this great hall, the values of hard work, of faith and family, the values reflected in the determined attitude of American cattlemen, values that frankly represent a part of the American spirit, values that are incredibly important for our Nation to uphold during a time of national testing.

And make no mistake about it, this Nation is being tested. You know, when the enemy hit us on September the 11th, they must have

not figured out what we were all about. See, they thought we weren't determined. They thought we were soft. They obviously had never been to a national cattlemen's convention before.

Now what they're finding out is this great land is determined and patient and steadfast and strong to defend freedom. We've been called into action. History has called this Government and our Nation to action to defend freedom. And make no mistake about it, that's exactly what I intend to do.

I intend to find the killers, wherever they may hide, and run them down and bring them to justice. They think there's a cave deep enough. They're wrong. They think they're going to run out of patience. They are wrong. Those who hurt America and those who continue to want to harm America will not be able to escape the long reach of American justice.

I'm sure there's many out in the audience today who have got a relative who serves in the United States military. I want to tell you how grateful we are for the sacrifice and the honor the military has brought to the United States. I sent them on a tough mission, and my, have they made us proud. We haven't been at this very long, but we've accomplished a lot in a short period of time.

As you remember, I laid out a doctrine for our foreign policy that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists." And the Taliban found out what that meant. Our military not only upheld the doctrine, but in so doing, I'm proud to report, we liberated a people. We have freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I'm so proud of the United States military.

And we're just beginning. Afghanistan is the first theater in the war against terror. This Nation cannot afford and must not rest until we have done everything in our power to rally our coalition and rid the world of terror.

That not only means those who are associated with the terrorist networks of global reach; it also means nations which develop weapons of mass destruction aimed at destroying America and attacking our friends and our allies; nations that have had, as a

result of their past, have shown us clearly that they hate freedom, they hate transparency, they hate rule of law; nations which, if they were able to couple their mad designs with global terrorism, would threaten our children and our children's children's future. I will not let it stand, and neither will the United States of America.

And so I sent a budget to the United States Congress. I'm proud to report all of them on the stage are with me on this one. It's a budget that increases our monies for security, significantly increases defense spending. Those who wear our uniform deserve the best, the best training, the best equipment, another pay raise. The price of freedom is high. The price of security is high, but this Nation will pay it.

I want you to know it's a huge honor to walk in the Oval Office and sit at a great desk in magnificent surroundings. But now my job has changed after 9/11. Every morning, I walk in and read threat assessments to the United States of America. The enemy would still like to hit us, but you need to know that we're doing everything in our power to prevent it.

I'm proud to report that the FBI is well managed by a man named Robert Mueller and a great team. We're still interested in spies. We're still after white-collar crime. But the primary focus of over 4,000 FBI agents is my primary obligation, which is to protect the American people, protect American families from another enemy attack. We're running down every lead. We're following every hint. We're chasing down every opportunity to make the country safe.

I also want you to know that the Nation is developing a homeland security strategy. That's important. It's important not only for the short term, but it's important because after we implement the strategy, America will be better off for the long term. For example, preparing against a bioterrorist attack, we're spending a lot of money to make sure the Nation's health care system can communicate better, public health works better, that there's medicines available if there were to be an attack. Much of the research and development that's going on to make America better secure against bioterrorism could con-

ceivably lead to cures for diseases that have plagued us for a long period of time.

We've got money in our budget to make sure our first-responders, the heroic policemen and firemen all around the country, have got better equipment and can better communicate. As a result of hardening the homeland against bioterrorist attack with first-time responders, our neighborhoods will be ultimately safer for crime.

We're making sure our borders are more secure. We want to know who's coming in, and we want to know who's going out. We want to make sure that we do everything we can to be a hospitable nation. On the other hand, we want to make sure if people have overstayed their welcome, that they're welcome to leave. *[Laughter]*

And we're worried—and I talked a lot today to Senator Roberts about this subject, and to Ann Veneman—we're concerned about making sure our food supply is safe. We're investing in training and technology at the Department of Agriculture to detect biological and chemical weapons and agents. We're going to have an even swifter response to food contamination. We've tripled the amount of money in the budget to prepare America against the very worst.

But you need to know, we're doing everything in our power. We're on alert. We're wise. We're learning more about the enemy. We're looking. But the way to make sure America is secure in the long run is to find them, hunt them down, and get them. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

We're going to make sure we do everything in our power to win the war on terrorism. And we're going to defeat the recession, too. I'm deeply concerned about those who lost their jobs as a result of September the 11th. There's a lot of people hurting in the country, and our Government must respond.

I appreciate the fact that the Senate passed a bill to extend the unemployment benefits for those who have lost their work, and the House has already done so. It makes a lot of sense for the Government to respond in that kind of way. But the people in America who have lost their jobs, they don't want an unemployment check for the long run; they

want a paycheck. And the best think Congress needs to do is ask this question: How do we create more jobs? How do we invigorate the private sector to create more jobs so people can find work?

I know some of them over there—up there decided that the stimulus package is dead. The leadership in the Senate said, “No, we can’t get anything done.” I respectfully disagree. It seems like to me that we ought to focus on what’s best for the country, work together, and get a package which provides stimulus for job creation. We want to take care of the people who lost their work. We also want to invigorate the job-creating mechanisms of the United States of America so that people have jobs so they can put food on the table. We can’t let politics dominate Washington, DC. We need to set aside our parties and focus on what’s right for the country.

And part of making sure we’ve got a healthy economic outlook is to have a healthy agricultural sector. Our farm economy, our ranchers and farmers provide an incredible part of the Nation’s economic vitality. I mean, if you’re not vital, the Nation’s economy will suffer. A lot of Americans have got to understand this, that food and fiber accounted for nearly \$1.3 trillion of gross domestic product in the year 2000; \$1.3 trillion of our economy came from farmers and ranchers and all the people associated with helping people raise crop and raise beef. And so we’ve got to make sure that our farm economy is strong.

The farm economy employs nearly 24 million people. That’s a lot. And therefore, when we work on the farm bill in Washington, we must understand that we’ve got to have a good bill that not only enhances our Nation’s security by making sure we’ve got ample food but that we—by having good farm policy, good agriculture policy, we can help create jobs all across America.

And so I want to talk to you quickly about the farm bill. One bill passed the House; one bill looks like it’s getting ready to pass the Senate. It will go to what they call conference, and we’re going to work hard to get a good farm bill out. I’m really looking forward to working with Larry Combest and the conferees in the House, as well as looking

forward to working with the conferees in the Senate, to get a bill that meets these principles.

First, I want farm policy that is generous in our appropriations and affordable. Now, we’ve agreed that our farm bill should cost \$73.5 billion over the next decade. My administration will honor that agreement. I know the folks on this stage will honor that agreement. It looks like that’s pretty well settled in, and that’s good for the farm sector. But we’ve got to spend the money without—I guess you could call it political gimmickry.

You see, what we don’t want to have happen is, they take the bulk of that money and spend it early, so that in the out years the farm economy suffers. What we want is to make sure that when the bill is passed, that the \$73 billion is spent evenly or relatively evenly over the decade. In other words, to put it bluntly, what we don’t want to do is overpromise to farmers and underperform. What we don’t want to do is use the taxpayer’s money to try to cobble together a loose coalition to get votes early on which will ultimately hurt the agricultural sector of the United States of America.

A good farm bill must provide a safety net for farmers, without encouraging overproduction and thereby depressing prices. By setting loan rates too high, we could easily worsen a problem that loan rates were supposed to correct. I favor farm policies that strengthen the farm economy over the long run, policies that promote independence. But what I don’t want to do is to provide incentives into the marketplace that will hurt farmers. And so we’ve got to have good loan policy, and I look forward to working with the Members on the stage to provide that.

I want a farm bill that supports trade. Oh, I know there’s a lot of controversy around America on trade. Let me tell you how I look at it. Our ranchers and farmers are the best in the world at what they do. We can grow crops better; we can grow things better; and we can raise beef better. And if that’s the case, it seems logical to me that we want a more—want more opportunity to sell that which we’re best at, all around the world. We want people in China eating U.S. beef.

No, I know there’s some skepticism. People are always saying, “Well, you know, every

President comes along and he talks about agriculture, and then when it comes time to negotiating international trade agreements, they seem to forget.” Well, so far, our administration hasn’t forgotten. I told the people who are interested in this subject, when I was campaigning, we were going to make sure agriculture remained at a cornerstone of U.S. economic policy, not only at home but internationally.

I sent a team over there, with Ann and Zoellick, to talk to the Chinese. And I—just look at the record. There’s huge amounts of opportunity for American farmers and ranchers in that vast market. There’s been some discussions about world trade, and look at the record: The United States stood strong when it came to protecting the agriculture interests. We want to open up markets, and at the same time, we want to make sure others open up their markets for us and to make sure that we open up markets in places like Europe for America’s healthy beef.

You can help by making sure the Senate hears that message, that the Senate passes a trade promotion bill which gives me the authority to work hard to open up markets all around the world for those who work hard. I need that authority. It’s good for America to have that authority. It’s also going to be good for the world, because America’s great producers will help feed the hungry.

I also want to make sure the good farm bill establishes farm savings accounts to help farmers and ranchers manage risks that you run. I understand how risky agriculture can be. It wouldn’t be so risky if we could control the weather. That’s one of the things we haven’t figured out how to do yet. It wouldn’t be so risky if we could make it rain all the time; there’d be hay to feed the cows. Somehow, that doesn’t happen all the time. I know. I sat through the—as Governor, I watched the rains go away in the great State of Texas for many of the months in my last years as the Governor. You know, I’m a guy who runs out to my land or thinks about my land, and the first thing I ask old Kenneth who lives on it is, “Did it rain? Where’s the water?” But I understand the risks.

And there’s a risk of price, and the cycles make it difficult. But I think the Federal Government can help mitigate the cycles by

giving farmers and ranchers the opportunities to establish what we call farm savings accounts or ranch savings accounts. We’ll give you a chance to insure against risk. It makes a lot of sense. I know that Senator Grassley has been a big promoter of farm savings accounts, and we look forward to getting this additional tool to you all to be able to help you help yourselves.

A good bill finally will offer incentives for good conservation practices. Let me tell you exactly what I think about the land and how best to manage it. Every day is Earth Day for people who rely upon the land to make a living. The best conservation practices happen because somebody realizes that it’s in their benefit, their own economic interest, to practice good conservation in order to raise cows, for example.

I was traveling the ranch one time with Vladimir Putin and Mrs. Putin, and we’re driving around, showing it off. I’m a windshield rancher. *[Laughter]* And they were asking, “Well, can you”—I was explaining like I like to cut down—trim the new-growth cedar, because the new-growth cedar sucks out a lot of water from the—from the beautiful hardwoods we have. Many of you know exactly what I’m talking about. It enhances the beauty and the value of the land if you can get rid of the new-growth cedar. It enables our beautiful native pecans or live oaks to flourish, and that’s good for the country. And they said, “Well, you’re allowed to cut down your own trees?” I said, “Yes, if you’re wise about it.” And obviously there are some county restrictions, and of course, I pay attention to all that. But, yes, we—*[laughter]*—we trust people to—we trust people to manage their own land. We trust people with their own land.

And they said, “Well, that’s different in some places in Europe. You can’t do that.” And I said, “Well, here’s what we think in America. We think that the collective wisdom of those who own their land is a benefit to the Nation, that when individuals make proper choices because they own their own property, that all those decisions in a collective way makes better environmental policy, better land use policy than if it was dictated from a central source of people, many of whom have probably never been on the land.”

And so this farm bill has got to recognize the principle I just outlined and help ranchers and farmers. I strongly favor expanding EQIP program. I think it makes a lot of sense. Good conservation policy in a farm bill will enable ranchers and farmers to make better decisions. It's an important part of the farm bill, and I hope the Senate hears that. And I know the folks on this podium agree, on the stage agree with the principle inherent, and not only in that aspect of a good farm policy but the other four I described. I just want to assure you all that these just aren't opinions of mine; these are commitments of mine, commitments to good agriculture policy.

And so we're, as a nation, are dealing with some tough times, but I've never been more confident or optimistic. I think it's because I know the true strength of the country, and the true strength of the country is our citizens. We're a land of strong, hard-working, compassionate people.

I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" Well, you've probably figured it out by now that I don't see many shades of gray in the war on terror. Either you're with us, or you're against us. And it's a struggle between good, and it's a struggle between evil. And if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. And by that, I mean, show some compassion to a neighbor in need. You know, when people walk across the street to help a shut-in, they're doing some good. When people take time to mentor a child, that's doing some good. We've got children whose parents are in prison; they wonder, "Gosh, I wonder if America is meant for me?" There's a hopelessness that can creep in their lives. What America needs to do in order to fight evil is to have mentors all across the country who are willing to put their arm around a child and say, "I love you a lot. America counts for you as much as it counts for me."

No, if we want to fight good—fight evil with good, we can do so in many ways, all across America. My call to America is to help somebody in need. Many of you in this audience have probably either been or are on your school boards. It's a job tougher than being President; I understand that. But by helping your public schools or helping any

school, it's helping fight evil with good. By being active citizens in your church or your synagogue or, for those Muslims, in your mosque, and adhering to the admission to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, that's how we can stand up. It is the momentum of millions of acts of kindness that take place all across America. That's how we stand up to evil.

And if any country can do it, it is this country, because this is a nation that is loving and strong, compassionate, God-fearing, a nation that will not relent when it comes to our most precious value, and that value is freedom.

Thanks for having me, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:41 a.m. in Exhibit Hall A at the Colorado Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Lynn Cornwell, past president, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Kenneth Engelbrecht, foreman at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. The President also referred to EQIP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 2

The President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that on February 1 the President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter ice storm on January 30 and continuing.

February 4

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and then met with Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov of Russia in the Oval Office.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton

Beach, FL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft to congratulate the team on their February 3 Super Bowl victory.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed the Economic Report of the President, an annual report produced by the Council of Economic Advisers.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the visit of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to Washington, DC, on February 6–7.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique, and President Festus Gontebanye Mogae of Botswana to the White House on February 26.

February 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Pittsburgh, PA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

February 6

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed H.R. 400 establishing Ronald Reagan's boyhood home as a National Historic Site.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to New York City. In the afternoon, he met with Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York. Later, he attended a fundraiser at the private residence of Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his nomination of Adm. Thomas H. Collins, USCG, to be Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

February 7

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the Homeland Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Lima, Peru, on March 23 and to San Salvador, El Salvador, on March 24.

The President announced his intention to nominate James W. Pardew to be Ambassador to Bulgaria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Susanne T. Marshall to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and, until confirmation, to designate her as Vice Chairman.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter ice storm on January 29 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter ice storm on January 29 and continuing.

February 8

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Denver, CO.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Salt Lake City, UT, where they met with Gov. Michael O. Leavitt of Utah and his wife, Jacalyn S., in the Utah State Capitol, and then attended a reception in the Capitol Rotunda. Later, the President met with President Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in President Hinckley's offices at the Church Administration Building, and then met with U.S. Olympic athletes in the HPER Complex at the University of Utah.

In the evening, the President participated in opening ceremonies for the XIX Olympic winter games at Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Jackson Hole, WY.

The President announced that the following individuals will serve as members of the Presidential delegation to the XIX Olympic winter games: Dorothy Koch; Lance Armstrong; Hayden Fry; Johnny Morris; Cal Ripken, Jr.; Sheryl Swoopes; Darrell Waltrip; Colin Powell; Mel R. Martinez; Gale A. Norton; Tommy Thompson; Ann M. Veneman; and Christine Todd Whitman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jonathan Steven Adelstein to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 5

Guy F. Caruso,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, vice Jay E. Hakes, resigned.

Daniel L. Cooper,
of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs for a term of 4 years, vice Joseph Thompson, resigned.

Jose A. Fourquet,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2004, vice Mark L. Schneider, term expired.

Adolfo A. Franco,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring September 20, 2002, vice Jeffrey Davidow, resigned.

Adolfo A. Franco,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2008 (reappointment).

Roger Francisco Noriega,
of Kansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2006, vice Harriett C. Babbitt, term expired.

Eugene Scalia,
of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, vice Henry L. Solano, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Submitted February 6

Warren Douglas Anderson,
of South Dakota, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Lyle Weir Swenson, term expired.

Todd Walther Dillard,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 4 years (reappointment).

Theophile Alceste Duroncelet,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Charles Vincent Serio, resigned.

James Loren Kennedy,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years, vice Frank James Anderson, term expired.

James Joseph Parmley,
of New York, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Edward Joseph Kelly, Jr., term expired.

James Thomas Plousis,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey for the term of 4 years, vice Glenn Dale Cunningham, resigned.

Charles R. Reavis,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Mark Reid Tucker.

Michael Robert Regan,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Walter D. Sokolowski, term expired.

Robert H. Roswell,
of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs for a term of 4 years, vice Thomas L. Garthwaite.

Jesse Seroyer, Jr.,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of 4 years, vice Florence M. Cauthen, term expired.

Timothy Dewayne Welch, of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of 4 years, vice James Marion Hughes, Jr., term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 2

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Released February 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels on the President's fiscal year 2003 budget proposal

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge on the President's fiscal year 2003 budget proposal

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Angolan President dos Santos, Mozambican President Chissano, and Botswana President Mogae

Released February 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Council of Economic Advisers Chairman R. Glenn Hubbard on the Economic Report of the President

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama

Fact sheet: Defending Against Biological Terrorism

Released February 6

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the National Press Club Luncheon Tomorrow

Released February 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a statement by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer on the status of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Transcript of remarks by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge at a National Press Club luncheon

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Peru and El Salvador

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Fact sheet: Status of Detainees at Guantanamo

Fact sheet: President Highlights Principles for Strengthening American Agriculture

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Northern District of New York, Eastern District of North Carolina, Middle District of Pennsylvania, Northern District of Oklahoma, District of New Jersey, District of South Dakota, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Eastern District of Louisiana, and Southern District of Indiana

Released February 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman, and Brian Montgomery

Announcement of the Presidential delegation to the XIX Olympic winter games

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1762 and S. 1888

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 6

H.R. 400 / Public Law 107–137

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

National Historic Site, and for other purposes

H.R. 1913 / Public Law 107–138

To require the valuation of nontribal interest ownership of subsurface rights within the boundaries of the Acoma Indian Reservation, and for other purposes

Week Ending Friday, February 15, 2002

Remarks at a State of Utah Olympic Reception in Salt Lake City, Utah

February 8, 2002

Thank you. Well, Mike, thank you very much. That's a powerful introduction. It must have been the choir. *[Laughter]* It's such an honor to be here. Laura and I have really been looking forward to this spectacular day. I want to thank Mike for your efforts, your hard work to show really the very best of America to the whole world. I want to thank Jackie, as well. Mike and I both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]*

It's an honor to be here with many distinguished citizens of our country, the Utah congressional delegation. Senator Hatch and Senator Bennett, thank you both for being here. We had the opportunity of flying down on Air Force One together. These two men love Utah a lot. I want to thank members of the congressional delegation. Congressmen Matheson, Hansen, and Cannon, thank you all for being here, as well.

I appreciate the mayor. I also appreciate members of my Cabinet, Secretary of State Colin Powell—members of one of the finest teams a President has ever assembled have joined us. Thank you all for coming.

I want to thank Mitt Romney for being such a strong leader, for really kind of willing these games to go forward. I appreciate Jacques Rogge for being here, as well. Thank you, sir. It's my honor to have welcomed you to the—one of the greatest offices on the face of the Earth, the Oval Office. I loved our visit then. Thank you for coming. Thank you, Sandy, as well.

Kofi, it's great to see you, sir, the Secretary-General of the United Nations who does such a fine job of promoting peace and the world interests.

I've put together an official delegation to the Olympics, really fine people—a few reprobrates with them. *[Laughter]* Thank you all for coming. I'm honored that my sister has

joined the delegation, as well. As you know, I love my family a lot, and I love my little sister. She's my favorite one, even though she's my only one. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank all the citizens who have worked so hard to put these games on. You know, as I flew into Salt Lake City, I saw such a majestic part of our country, such a beautiful part of the American landscape. The State of Utah is the perfect site for these games. It's the perfect site because of her beauty. It's the perfect site because of her people. It's the perfect site because of the rich history of this State, from the early Native Americans who gave Utah its name to the mountain men and later settlers who carved cities and towns into this rugged landscape. It was here in Utah that America was connected from east to west by the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. It is here today that the world is united, in Utah.

It's such an honor to host the Olympics in any year, but it is even more significant in this year. Following the attacks of September the 11th, people from around the world expressed their sympathy and their strong support for our country, and for that we are grateful. They understand that America stands for a great cause, and that is freedom. We love, we cherish, and we will defend freedom at any cost.

This commitment to freedom is inscribed in our Nation's founding documents. The first of those documents, the Declaration of Independence, is right here in Utah in the State Capitol and will be available for viewing throughout the games. The Declaration is here thanks to a program created by Norman Lear. Norman and I don't always agree on politics, but we agree that the Declaration of Independence is fundamental to our Nation. And I want to thank Norman Lear for his vision of providing this document for not only the people of the world to see but for

our fellow Americans to review when they come to these great games.

I hope people do come and read the document because they'll understand why we're so insistent upon defending our values. We defend liberty and freedom for everyone, not just a few, not just people in Utah, but everybody who lives in this country and everybody who lives around the world. These are rights we hold self-evident. These are timeless ideals.

People may wonder, if they don't understand America, "Well, why have we reacted with such determination and patience and resolve?" It's because we believe so strongly in these ideals, liberty and freedom, and we know it is what will make the world live in peace, if we embrace those ideals without falter.

And the Olympics give the world a chance, in the midst of a difficult struggle, to celebrate international peace and cooperation. America's athletes will compete hard and, I know, will make us proud. But at the end of every event, the competitors will join to honor the winners, no matter their nationality. And they will stand at attention to honor the flags of many nations, which will be flying in pride and flying in peace.

For centuries, the Olympics have reinforced an important lesson. It's an important lesson for today. No matter how wide our political or cultural differences may be, some things are valued and enjoyed the world over. All people appreciate the discipline that produces excellence, the courage that overcomes difficult odds, the character that creates champions. The feelings and emotions that drive the Olympics are not expressed in any one language; they're expressed with tears and smiles of joy and of pride.

The world has shed many tears, tears of sorrow, over the past 5 months. It now gives the people of the United States and the State of Utah great pride to host these games, which will provide lasting memories of laughter and triumph for people of every nation.

I want to thank you all. Thank you so very much on behalf of our Nation for bringing western hospitality to this global tradition.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:56 p.m. in the Rotunda at the Utah State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Michael O. Leavitt of Utah and his wife, Jacalyn S.; Mayor Ross C. Anderson of Salt Lake City; Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Jacques Rogge, president, International Olympic Committee; Sandy Baldwin, president, U.S. Olympic Committee; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; the President's sister, Dorothy Koch; and Norman Lear, founder, People for the American Way. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and an Exchange With Reporters in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Mr. Hinckley. We're honored to have you here. We very much appreciate that you've come. We're all here, excited about the Olympics, and we think this is going to be a great thing for this area and for the United States of America.

The President. I agree. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. I'm looking forward to it. I want to congratulate the great State of Utah for putting on the games. It's going to be a—I know it's been a lot of hard work, and now we're here, and I think the world is going to see why we love the West so much here in the United States. People can get things done.

Mr. Hinckley. We're happy that they're here. We hope that all will go well, with confidence that all will go well and that it will be a great season for all of us.

The President. I might answer a few questions. You got anything, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] or Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]?

Security at the Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, are you confident about the security situation at the games?

The President. I'm so confident about the security condition, I've come. [Laughter] Fournier, you got anything?

Genealogy

Q. What did you talk about in there?

The President. Well, we just—interestingly enough, we talked about our family heritage, our lineage. The president kindly gave us our family histories, genealogies that have been researched here, and it's a wonderful gift.

And I said, "Before you tell me, are there any horse thieves in there?" [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. I want to tell you that he comes of good stock. [Laughter]

The President. That's right. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. And so does she.

Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, did you give any advice to the American athletes on carrying the flag from New York, the World Trade Center flag?

The President. No, I didn't.

Q. And is there a danger that an event like this takes on some political overtones, especially with the United States engaged in a war on terrorism?

The President. Well, I think the event is going the—the events are going to strike a proper balance between the patriotism that we all feel here and the international flavor of the games. As I understand it, they've reached what appears to be a reasonable compromise about the flag that flew over the World Trade Center.

And I think it's important for all Americans, obviously, to root hard for our athletes and recognize, however, this is an international event. And one of the things that is important is that there be world unity. And this is a nice place to have world unity, during the competition. You know, an athlete wins, people salute their flag and their anthem. And unfortunately, it's not going to be the American flag every single event. It'll be somebody else's country, but it gives us a chance to cheer for others and celebrate with others, as well.

So it appears to me that the proper balance has been struck. No question that tonight is going to be an emotional moment, though.

I mean, we're the host country, and we're a nation that has been under attack. And this proud country is unified and strong, and when they play the national anthem, I'm sure there's going to be millions of Americans who are proud to hear the anthem played in a unique setting and in an historic moment.

World Trade Center Flag

Q. Were you disappointed, sir, when you first heard that the flag was not going to be allowed in the ceremonies?

The President. I knew that there would be an accommodation reached. I talked to some friends about it. So I'm happy with the outcome of the accommodation. I think it's a nice balance.

Q. Did you weigh in at all on it?

The President. No, I didn't.

Meeting With President Hinckley

Q. Mr. President, why was it important for you to meet with President Hinckley today?

The President. Well, first of all, this isn't my first meeting. I was—it's kind of——

Mr. Hinckley. Reunion.

The President. Reunion, right. Thank you. I was searching for the word. [Laughter]

I was here in the summer of '99. And first of all, President Hinckley represents a great religion. He is a strong part of the American scene, and I wanted to come by and say hello and pay my respects, and I'm glad I did.

Also, by the way, looking forward to hearing the choir tonight. It is going to be a magnificent moment, an incredibly touching experience for all of us, particularly those of us who will be there live.

So thank you for tuning them up. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. They're all ready to go.

The President. Thanks.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. Good to see you, sir.

NOTE: The remarks began at 3:20 p.m. at President Hinckley's office in the Church Administration Building. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the United States Winter Olympic Athletes in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Well, thank you very much. I'm not deserving, but I'm proud to wear this jacket. I want to congratulate our great country's Olympic team. I want to thank you all for your efforts. I want to thank you for your hard work. The whole country is pulling for you, and we're really proud of you.

I want to thank all those who've worked to make these Games go well: Mitt Romney, Sandy Baldwin, Lloyd Ward, Dwight Bell, Bernie Machen. I want to thank your coaches and your families.

Today we're joined by three Port Authority Police Officers from New York City: Tony Scannella, Curt Kellinger, Frank Accardi. Where are they? There they are. [*Applause*] Thank you all for coming.

And as you know, they brought with them one of the flags that flew in front of the World Trade Center on September the 11th, which will be carried into the Olympic Stadium today. This flag serves as a symbol of this Nation's strength, of our resolve, of our determination to fight for freedom. These Games come at a perfect time for the country. In our time of sadness and determination and resolve, our Olympic athletes will represent the best of America. I can't wait for Americans to see our flag fly. It is such a proud moment for all of us. This Nation is steadfast and unified, and you, the athletes, are going to represent us with such class and dignity and courage.

It's a chance for the world to see that in times of war, we can come together in friendly competition to promote the peace. So not only you represent the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, you represent a spirit that is much bigger than evil and terror: You represent peace.

A lot of people are going to be watching you, particularly a lot of kids. You'll become heroes overnight. That's an awesome responsibility. I know you'll handle it with grace. I know you'll set the best example possible.

And so we're here to wish you all the best, to congratulate you. Let's roll. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Gymnasium A of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex at the University of Utah. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Sandy Baldwin, president, Lloyd Ward, chief officer, and Dwight Bell, cochair, International Relations Committee, U.S. Olympic Committee; and J. Bernard Machen, president, University of Utah. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Opening the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

On behalf of a proud, determined, and grateful nation, I declare open the games of Salt Lake City, celebrating the Olympic winter games.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. at Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 9, 2002

Good morning. Recently, I had the honor of welcoming Coretta Scott King and her children to the White House to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Shortly after the holiday I visited the school that young Dr. King attended in Atlanta, Booker T. Washington High School. It was a moving experience to see the place where this great American began his life of learning.

February is Black History Month, a time of learning for all of us. Ever since the historian and educator Carter Woodson put Black history on the calendar back in 1926, February has been a time to reflect on the contributions of African-Americans and the need to remember and celebrate all of our history.

Nobody can understand this country without understanding the African-American experience. It began when America began. And throughout our history, the experience of Black Americans has challenged every American to live up to the best ideals of our country: freedom, equality, and justice.

We have come far, and we have a way yet to go. But our goal is the same goal that Dr. King set for us, to be one people in fact as well as in name. And one way to realize this goal is the same way that Carter Woodson showed us, education.

Education is the beginning of opportunity. Through the historic education reform bill I recently signed, we are returning high standards and accountability to all our public schools. And my administration strongly supports the work and the mission of our historically Black colleges and universities.

My first budget pledged a 30 percent increase over 4 years and Federal support for historically Black colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving institutions. And my new budget, even in a time of recession and war, keeps us on track to reach that target. These are schools like Morehouse College in Atlanta, where Dr. King earned his first degree, schools like Howard University in Washington, DC, where Carter Woodson was dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Our historically Black colleges and universities opened the door to knowledge when other doors were barred. And today, they offer exciting opportunities to young people to contribute to their country.

February is a month rich in important anniversaries. It is the month in which Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born, two men, very different, who together ended slavery. It is the month of the birth of W.E.B. DuBois, whose eloquent histories opened our country's eyes to its own past and possibilities, and of the birth of Rosa Parks, who courageously refused to yield to injustice on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.

Today, we are fighting for freedom in a new way and on new battlefields. And we continue to press for equal opportunity for every American here at home. We want every American to be educated up to his or her full potential. We salute the accomplishments of our historically Black colleges and universities. And I hope all Americans will draw inspiration from the message of Black History Month.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:30 a.m. on February 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February

9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Princess Margaret of the United Kingdom

February 9, 2002

Laura and I are deeply saddened to learn of Princess Margaret's death. Princess Margaret was a proud mother and grandmother whose compassion and support for charities helped better the lives of many in need. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, grandchildren, and the entire royal family.

Remarks at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

February 11, 2002

Well, thank you very much, Tommy; I appreciate your introduction. Your heart may be in Wisconsin, but you've got to keep your address where it is right now. *[Laughter]* I'm counting on you. He's doing a fabulous job. I love Wisconsin for a lot of reasons. One, you produced Thompson. I love you so much I even come in the winter, which is hard for a Texan. *[Laughter]*

It is an honor to visit this distinguished place of learning which trains so many outstanding physicians. I happen to know something about Wisconsin doctors. I'm pretty familiar with them. After all, the White House physician is Colonel Richard Tubb, raised right here in Wisconsin. He's not only a fine doctor; he fortunately got special instructions on pretzel-related conditions. *[Laughter]* My advice is, swallow after you chew. *[Laughter]*

But the Medical College of Wisconsin represents the future of health care, here and throughout our country. It's a fitting place to address the great opportunities and challenges that the future will bring our country. Our health care system is in need of important reform and on the verge of amazing discovery. We must seize the moment for the benefit of all Americans.

And that's why I want to thank Scott McCallum for welcoming me here, and I appreciate his leadership for the State of Wisconsin. I want to thank the members of the congressional delegation, Barrett, Petri, Ryan, Sensenbrenner, for coming, as well. It's good to see all of you. I'm looking forward to working with you to do what's right for the citizens in terms of health care.

I appreciate Michael, his leadership, and his hospitality. I want to thank the docs who gave me a briefing. And I want to thank all of you for your warm welcome.

I want to talk about two things, and they both have to do with the challenges we face. I briefly want to talk a little bit about the challenge we face abroad. And then I want to talk about the challenge we face at home, particularly with health care.

First, the enemy made a bad mistake. They don't understand us. Let me rephrase that—they didn't understand us. They do now. We are patient. We're resolved people. But we are absolutely determined to defend freedom.

I'm pleased to report that out of the evil have come some good, one of which is that in Washington, there is no difference between Republicans and Democrats as to who is the most patriotic or who wants to win the most. All of us want to win the war against terror, for which I am grateful.

But I want to tell you all that we're just beginning, that I see this as a unique moment in history. And this Nation must seize the moment. And it's this: Either we defend freedom, so that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world, or we blink. And if we blink, the rest of the world will blink as well. I don't believe we have that luxury. I believe we must find terror wherever it hides and bring it to justice.

And so the Afghan theater is the first theater in the war against terror, and we've done a lot in a quick period of time. I laid out a doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists. And the Taliban found out what I meant. Not only have we thrown them out, but in doing so, we liberated—we liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, thank you, and I know you're proud of that relative, as well.

There's a lot of focus on one individual in this war on terror, but this is much bigger than one person. Oh, the guy, he can hide, and he can run, but there's no cave deep enough for the arm of justice of the American people. And it's just a matter of time. I have no artificial date deadlines. I really don't care if it's tomorrow or a month from now or a year or a couple of years. But Mr. bin Laden is going to meet his fate.

And in the meantime, the United States of America will continue to rally our coalition, to continue to cut off money from terrorist organizations, continue to share intelligence so we can react better, continue to defend our homeland, and continue to insist that freedom-loving nations find, incarcerate, and bring to justice anybody who would harm America, our allies, and our friends.

There was some concern amongst some that the farther we got away from the horrible day of September 11th, America would waver in our determination. They don't need to be concerned. We are determined. We are patient. We are tough. We're compassionate. We will not yield to terror.

There are a lot of challenges we face. We fight a recession. I'm optimistic we'll recover. But one of the big challenges is our health care system. I like to put it this way: We face a huge challenge of making sure that we're still the world's greatest health care system. That's our challenge. How do we maintain our edge? How do we make sure the American people get the best health care in the world?

And it starts by making sure that we attract the best and brightest to the medical profession. And that can start with the President saying, thank you for dedicating your lives to such a great calling. America appreciates the fact that you've chosen a profession that is so profound and so important. It's a model of service and excellence. And the achievements of our medical professionals set the standards for the entire world.

Life expectancy in America today is 8 years longer than it was in 1950 and 29 years longer than it was in 1900. That's a lot of progress.

And for millions, those extra years are more active and more healthy than anybody could have imagined. We're making great progress against many diseases, such as breast cancer and colon cancer and childhood leukemia. The death rate from coronary disease is down 40 percent since 1980. Our country leads the world in Nobel Prizes for science and medicine and in the invention of new drugs and medical devices.

I truly believe that this progress is one of America's greatest contributions to mankind. It is a tribute to the outstanding efforts of the medical profession and to a system of private medicine that encourages innovation and rewards hard work.

Yet our doctors and patients know that our system is far from perfect. Too many patients feel trapped by the system, with decisions about their health dictated by HMOs or Government bureaucracies. Too many doctors feel buried in paperwork. I've heard it said that some doctors feel they don't practice medicine, they practice insurance. At the same time, health care costs are rising sharply, and many people worry they won't be able to afford the treatments they need. Some procedures are overused, often as defensive measures to avoid litigation. And about 40 million Americans still have no health insurance at all.

We must reform health care in America. We must build a modern, innovative health care system that gives patients more options and fewer orders and strengthens the doctor-patient relationship.

Government has got to take an active role in reform. Yet it's important that Government's role is not to centralize, nor is Government's role to control the delivery of medicine. Other nations have tried this route, and it has led to long waits for treatment, low-quality care, and lagging technologies. And for many patients, their experience with centralized Government-controlled medicine leads them somewhere else, often right here to America, where they can get the treatment and care they need.

The role of Government in health reform is to fix the system where it's failing, while preserving the quality and innovation of a private, patient-centered medical system. All reform should be guided by some goals.

The first goal: All Americans should be able to choose a health care plan that meets their needs at affordable prices. When people have good choices, when people are given different options, health plans have to compete for business, which means higher quality and better coverage.

Most Americans get their health care coverage at work. Yet, higher costs are causing some employers to cut back on benefits or insist that the employee pay more, especially if they want to choose their own doctor or to avoid the complications of managed care. Many families end up in a health plan whose monthly premium puts a strain on their budget, and when they require care, they find what they need really isn't fully covered.

So here's what I propose: I propose we give workers more choice. I propose we reform the system to make the system more individualized by creating personal health accounts. Instead of paying a large premium every month for services you may not use, I believe we ought to have an account that allows a person to pay a much smaller premium for major medical coverage and then put the savings into a health account, tax free.

The money is your money. It's your money in the health account, not the Government's money. And you can use it for whatever health care need that arises. If you don't use it, it's yours to keep. And the more affordable—and for the more affordable premium, you also get catastrophic care, protection in case of serious illness.

The tendency for Government is one size fits all. If part of reform is to restore the patient-doctor relation and to give patients more choices, we have to change the tax system, too, and allow for patients to make decisions that is in their best interests.

I also propose to help workers get better and more affordable choices in health plans at work. Now, some large companies are—you're okay; you've got some choice. But many small businesses are unable to afford health insurance. And so—and that's because there's not much purchasing power. A stand-alone small business does not have purchasing power in the marketplace. Either they can't afford to cover, or they have to allow their employees to settle on a high premium, high-dollar single plan.

And so what I propose is that we ought to allow employers to pool together, through an industry association or perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, so that they can get the best deal for their workers, just as large corporations are allowed to do.

Too many workers get no coverage at all through their jobs. This is especially true among minorities, part-time employees, and seasonal workers. For those with limited means, my budget will provide new credits to afford health coverage, up to \$1,000 for an individual or \$3,000 per family. And they won't have to wait for tax time to get these health credits. We'll make them immediately available for qualifying families, giving them the help they need when they need it. And at the same time, we'll work with our Nation's Governors to create purchasing groups to negotiate with insurers for the people who use these health credits.

In other words, people who don't have insurance must be given incentive to purchase insurance; the States can help them pool, in order to get decent—decent coverage; but it's not a Government program. In other words, we trust the people. The Government incents individuals to make decisions in the marketplace. If the goal is to increase quality care by encouraging individual choice and a doctor-patient relationship, health credits is one way to help the uninsured do so.

I also strongly believe that the legislation that I proposed to help unemployed workers makes a lot of sense. And it's this: As soon as a person qualifies for unemployment benefits, the Government would cover 60 percent of the cost of continuing their health care. That's a proper role for the Federal Government. The role of the Federal Government is to help people who have been unemployed, not only with benefits but also with their health care costs.

And the same principle of encouraging choice and helping people help themselves must apply as well to two Government-sponsored programs, Medicaid and Medicare.

Medicaid and the SCHIP program provide essential coverage for low-income families and seniors and persons with disabilities. These Americans also deserve more choices. My budget gives States more flexibility to provide better options in Medicaid and

SCHIP and makes additional funds available for States to improve the coverage.

And the Medicare program is a source of security and dignity for tens of millions of our seniors. It is an incredibly important commitment that our Federal Government has made. I strongly support Medicare because it is so crucial in the lives of older Americans, but I understand that Medicare is antiquated. It has not kept pace with advances in medicine. For instance, when Medicare was established in 1965, health care usually meant hospital care. Today, we understand how important it is to prevent people from getting sick in the first place; yet Medicare does not fully cover preventive medicine.

In the past 37 years, many new medicines have arrived to replace invasive treatments and surgeries. These drugs can be more effective than surgery and are far less expensive. A serious stomach ulcer, for instance, once required a lengthy stay in the hospital and many thousands of dollars in medical bills. Today, the ulcer can be cured with prescriptions costing only hundreds of dollars. Yet Medicare would only cover the surgery, not the prescription.

We must bring Medicare into the 21st century, to expand its coverage, to improve its services, to strengthen its financing, and to give seniors more control over the health care they receive. I think we're making progress in Washington, progress toward convincing the Congress that all wisdom doesn't exist in Washington bureaucracies when it comes to health care for the elderly. We've got Republicans and Democrats and an independent from the United States Senate working on Medicare reform.

Seniors who are happy with the current system should be able to keep the coverage just the way it is. In other words, if there is a senior living in America who says, "I love Medicare just the way it is," nothing changes, and that's an important—it's important for a lot of Americans to hear that. But all seniors should be offered different options, a range of options from which to choose, in both the private sector and private markets, as well as a better Government plan with better Medigap options. And all of these choices—

all of them, however, must include prescription drug coverage.

The second goal of reform is quality, the ability for a patient to get the best care from the doctor of our choice.

Managed care plans have done a lot to make health care more affordable for many people. They can also unfairly deny coverage and step between the doctor and the patient. When such basic rights are lost, they've got to be restored by law. And that's why I urge Congress to get a Patients' Bill of Rights to my desk.

We're close to an agreement on this issue. I've given a message to Congress: Please send me a bill that protects all patients, not just a fortunate few. Send me a bill with comprehensive patient protections. No one should be charged extra, for example, for simply visiting the nearest emergency room. No one should have to run a bureaucratic gauntlet before he or she can see a specialist. And if health plans deny care, every patient should have the right to a prompt review by an impartial panel of doctors.

Finally, we should be serving the interests of the patients, not the self-interest of trial lawyers. There will always be matters that can and will be resolved in a courtroom, but with a strong review process, most disagreements between patients and health plans will end up in medical care, not in the courtroom.

Needless litigation does not—needless litigation does incredible harm to our health care system. It costs everyone time and money, especially patients who need care quickly, and can destroy the bond of trust between physician and patient. Frivolous lawsuits drive up insurance premiums for everybody and discourage employers from offering employee coverage at all. It is really important to remember that we want to help doctors to heal, not encourage lawyers to sue.

And the hostile legal atmosphere that doctors face is adding to costs and undermining the quality of health care in practical ways. At some hospitals, for instance, doctors have worked closely with one another to cut the rate of infection after surgery by more than half. Yet when they discuss that information openly or put it on a paper for the benefit of others, they also put themselves at risk of a lawsuit. We actually have a system that

penalizes doctors for trying to prevent errors and avoid complications in patient care. And that doesn't make much sense. These good-faith efforts do not deserve the punishment of a lawsuit, and Congress needs to do something about that.

When it helps patients, information must be broadly shared. In the Medicare system, we're giving people more information on the quality of nursing homes all across the country, and we plan to do the same thing throughout the health care system. Increased reliance on information technology will not only lower costs, it also holds great promise for detection and treatment and the development of new cures for disease. Personal medical information, however, must always be strictly confidential. A patient's right to privacy must be protected, and we will enforce those protections.

My final goal in health care reform is to make sure Government acts where it should, providing a strong health care safety net and promoting research on the frontiers of science. The Federal Government has accepted these responsibilities, and we must fulfill them.

Many of the poor and uninsured, including legal immigrants, are outside our system of health care entirely. Their neighborhoods often have few health care professionals or facilities. They have little or no access to preventive care, and most treatment takes place in an expensive emergency room.

Around the country, more than 3,000 community health centers are fighting these problems by giving immunizations, providing prenatal care, and treating illness before they become medical emergencies. I strongly support these community health centers because they're compassionate. They are compassionate; they are cost effective; and America needs more of them. And so I've set this goal: We need 1,200 more community health centers over the next 5 years to make sure our Government fulfills its commitment to the needy.

The Federal Government has a large role in medical research, as you well know here. And that role is now urgent. In response to the threats facing our Nation, we've committed more than \$2 billion to develop new

tests and new treatments for bioterror weapons. This research is not only important for the immediate, but it is likely to produce new insights into the treatment of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS. Our massive effort to ensure the safety of our people will improve the health of our people.

The National Institutes of Health is one of the most successful Government undertakings in our history. The work of the NIH has helped us defeat a long list of diseases and dangers to public health. Now, as scientists begin to read the codes of life itself, we are nearing incredible breakthroughs in the fight against disease. We may, in our lifetime, lift from humanity the curse of cancer.

This is a moment of great national challenge, and the work of the NIH has become even more urgent and promising. I'm asking Congress to give strong support to the NIH. And my budget achieves the goal I set out when I sought the vote, and that is, we will have doubled the NIH goal at the end of the year 2003.

Science is—on the very sources—is closing in on the sources of sickness and disease. By 2010, scientists predict, genetic tests will allow individuals to know if they are predisposed to certain conditions. Within 20 years, targeted drug and gene therapies will be available for diabetes and hypertension and other diseases.

As we pursue the promise of these projects, we must also be alert to their dangers. Genetic information should be an opportunity to prevent and treat disease, not an excuse for discrimination. Just as we addressed discrimination based on race, we must now prevent discrimination based on genetic information.

There is another danger to guard against, the use of genetic research to threaten the dignity of life itself. The powers of science are morally neutral, as easily used for bad purposes as good ones. In the excitement of discovery, we must never forget that mankind is developed—is defined not by intelligence alone but by conscience. Even the most noble ends do not justify every means. Life itself is always to be valued and protected. In biomedical research, we're dealing with the very makings of life, and the law

must be firm and clear in restraining the reckless and protecting the voiceless.

These are the goals of health care reform, principles to make a good system even better. We'll put our trust in the choices of patients and the decisions of doctors, the surest way to better coverage and better care. We'll protect patients and doctors from unfair treatment and unreasonable lawsuits. And Government will fulfill its unique responsibilities to provide a health care safety net and conduct the research that holds such great hope for all of us. With these reforms, new breakthroughs in medical research will reach the patients who need them, quickly and at the lowest cost possible.

I believe America can achieve anything it sets its mind to. I believe—I don't believe—I know we're going to win the war against terror. And I know if we honor our professionals and honor our patients and recognize the limited role of Government, if we trust Americans to make the right choices for their lives, we'll have the health care system that remains the envy of the world. There's no doubt in my mind that with the right reforms, the right philosophy, a philosophy of trust—trust in people—that America will remain on the cutting edge of medicine. And as America remains on the cutting edge of medicine, America will be the promised land for all of us.

It is such an honor to be here. I want to thank the youngsters who are going to be docs. I want to thank you for your service. Give them an "A" for attending, for sitting through this lecture. [*Laughter*] But I do appreciate it. And I also appreciate your professors. And I appreciate the chance to come and share with my fellow citizens about the future of health care in America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the Alumni Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; T. Michael Bolger, president and chief executive officer, Medical College of Wisconsin; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Fundraiser for
Governor Scott McCallum of
Wisconsin in Milwaukee**

February 11, 2002

Well, thank you, Tommy. Earlier today Tommy stood up and said, “You know, my heart is in Wisconsin, but I’ve got an address in Washington.” I’ve got bad news for you, Tommy. You’re not going to change your address for a while. *[Laughter]* Tommy is doing a fabulous job. People of the country are getting to know what the people of Wisconsin already know, is that if you give a man a tough job, he can handle it. And I appreciate your leadership.

And I’m proud to be here for Scott. I hope the people of Wisconsin send this man back for 4 more years as the Governor. And there’s a reason to: In a short time, he’s got a strong record of leadership; he’s not afraid to lead. You know, when times get tough in the political arena, sometimes you find those who duck or you find those who stand up and lead the people. And that’s exactly what Scott has done, and I appreciate his leadership. He’s following a good man. There’s been 15 years of strong leadership in this State, and when he gets reelected, there will be 4 more years of strong leadership in the State of Wisconsin.

And I want to thank you all for coming to help. You can’t win elections unless the people are with you. And this huge crowd shows that something’s happening here in Wisconsin that’s positive for Scott’s campaign.

I also want to thank all of you who worked hard to help me get where I am. I know I couldn’t have won without the hard work of citizens all across our land, people willing to man the precincts, blow up the balloons, make the phone calls. And it’s an honor to be in the room with so many who worked so hard, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And I appreciate Laurie, the first lady of the State of Wisconsin. Her steadfast support of Scott—she brings a lot of class to the office of first lady. Where are you, Laurie? *[Applause]*

I know something about good wives. *[Laughter]* The people of the country now

understand why I married Laura. They’re a little confused about why she married me. *[Laughter]* But I can’t tell you how proud I am of Laura Bush. She has done a fabulous job.

It’s my honor to say hello tonight to the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for coming, Governor.

I’m traveling today with members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, a fine group: Green and Petri, Ryan, Sensenbrenner. I’m looking forward to visiting with them on the airplane going back to Washington. But you’ve sent four fine Representatives to Washington, DC, and I’m proud of their service. Thank you all for coming.

I want to thank members of the legislature for being here. The Speaker is here, I understand, and I want to thank you all for coming. You know a good man when you see one.

I want to thank Rick Graber, the party chairman, and all of you who are involved with the Republican Party of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for your hard work, and thank you for what your fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote next November, to make sure this guy gets in.

And I appreciate Craig and the leadership and all the vice chairmen who worked so hard to make this event incredibly successful.

You know, I was watching how Scott handled the budget issue here in Wisconsin. And he’s handled it the way you’d want any leader to handle it: to stand up and make tough decisions, to not duck them. He proposed a budget that recognizes that when times are bad, you don’t raise taxes on the working people; that if times are lean, you do what families do, you pare back a little bit. But he also set clear priorities. To me, the most important job of any Governor is to make sure the public school system of a State is sound and healthy, to make sure children from all walks of life get educated. And in the budget he proposed, public education is the number one priority for the citizens of Wisconsin.

I understand he’s proposed an energy plan. That makes a lot of sense. The State of Wisconsin has an energy plan; the United States of America needs an energy plan, an energy plan that encourages conservation, but an energy plan as well that understands, if we rely upon foreign sources of crude, we

could have problems in the future. We need a plan that not only saves energy but finds more energy to become less dependent on foreign nations. It is in our national security interests to do so. And that includes alternative fuels, like ethanol. *[Applause]* We've got some corn boys here. *[Laughter]* Behave yourselves back there. *[Laughter]*

Scott signed into law Wisconsin's Senior Care Program. And that's important, because it provides prescription drug relief to over 200,000 Wisconsin seniors. Today I had the privilege of laying out a health care speech, a health care strategy. And included in my speech was the need to make sure we reform Medicare so that seniors have got prescription drug coverage.

As a result of Scott's leadership, Wisconsin is making great strides toward making sure seniors have got prescription drug coverage. Now, this guy has got a strong record, a record of leadership, a record of accomplishment, a record that Wisconsins need to be proud of. You've got a steady man here, a good man, a solid man who deserves 4 more years in office.

I had the high honor of going before the Congress for my State of the Union Address. And in my address I said that we're at war, and we're battling a recession, but the state of this Union has never been stronger.

When the enemy attacked on September the 11th, they made a huge mistake. They thought they were attacking a weak nation, a nation that was undisciplined, a nation so materialistic that we would put self above sacrifice. I said in my speech earlier—or last fall—that if you harbored a terrorist, if you fed a terrorist, if you hid a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And the Taliban has found out exactly what I meant, and so have hundreds of Al Qaida terrorists.

We're making great progress in the first theater on our war against terror. You know, I unleashed the might of the United States military with all the confidence in the world that they would get the job done, and my, have they performed brilliantly. For those of you with relatives who wear the uniform, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation. I sent a budget to Congress that recognized a couple of things: One, that the price for freedom is never too high; and sec-

ondly, those who wear our uniform deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best support, and another pay raise.

It is a large budget increase, because it recognizes that the war on terror is just beginning. In the caves in Afghanistan, we've discovered the fact that the enemy desired weapons of mass destruction, trained hundreds of potential killers that are now spread around the world. It reminds us that even though distance has passed since September the 11th, we've still got a mighty task ahead of us, and the task is so vital and so important. It's so important that our Nation continue to lead this vast coalition, because we fight for freedom; we fight for the liberties that we've taken for granted for a long period of time. We must stand up to terror now, in order to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world.

And are terrorists—and the threats to America not only are from the terrorist organizations that hate freedom and kill in the name of religion. Our mission also includes countries which develop weapons of mass destruction, nations with a history of brutality. If they're ever able to mate up with terrorist organizations, the free world will be threatened. And this President is not going to allow regimes such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea to threaten our way of life.

I appreciate the unity of this Nation. I appreciate the unity in Washington, DC. Republicans are patriotic; Democrats are patriotic. We're united in our resolve. The world has been amazed at the determination of this country. The world is seeing what we're really made out of.

You know, to me, one of the most defining moments of this war on terror came when some fellows were on a telephone on an airplane on September the 11th: They said a prayer; they told their wives they loved them; and they drove a plane into the ground to save others' lives. It's the ultimate sacrifice. It's such a statement, a powerful statement, of what it means to defend freedom.

Every morning I'll go into the Oval Office, and I read a threat assessment which tells me the enemy is still trying to come. And I want to assure you all that we're doing everything in our power to protect innocent life in America. The FBI is on full alert. Listen,

we're running down every lead, every hint. Every opportunity we have to disrupt potential attack, we're taking. Our law enforcement officials are working overtime, and I'm really proud of what they're doing.

We've got a plan headed by Tom Ridge that focuses on bioterrorism and airport security, border security. We now need to know who's coming in our country and who's leaving our country, so we make sure people don't slide in who want to harm us.

This Government is on full alert, and I'm proud of the way the Federal Government has responded, and I'm proud of the way the Congress is going to fund our homeland security efforts. But make no mistake, the best way to secure America is to find them and hunt them down, no matter where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

We've got a big challenge here at home, and that is people hurt because of the recession. People hurt because when the enemy hit us, it caused the economy to slide, and people lost work. And so long as people are out of work, I hurt for them.

And so I proposed an economic stimulus plan that says to the Congress, let's take care of the unemployed by extending unemployment benefits, and let's help them with their health care. But always remember, folks in America don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. So let's create more jobs by creating an environment in which people are willing to risk capital. Let's cut taxes on investment and on equipment and plants, so that people who employ people will have more cash to do so.

The House passed a good bill. It seems to have died in the Senate. Let's get it out of the Senate. Let's get a jobs package out of the Senate so people can get back to work in America. An energy plan means more jobs. Trade means more jobs. We need good farm policy out of the United States Congress to help us with jobs. I ask the Congress to think about one thing when it comes to economic policy, and that is jobs. Jobs provide dignity; jobs provide hope; jobs are essential to the future of this country.

The amazing thing that's happened to this Nation after September 11th is, out of the terrible evil has come some good. Out of the

evil has come some amazing compassion and kindness. I believe we have a chance to work together to change our culture in America for the better. You know, the culture was dominated by the if-it-feels-good-do-it era. I believe we have an opportunity now to welcome a culture that says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

The people on Flight 93 were responsible citizens by making the huge sacrifice they did. Our soldiers are responsible citizens. You know, I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" Well, you've probably learned by now, I don't believe there's many shades of gray in this war. You're either with us or against us; you're either evil or you're good.

The best way citizens in America can fight evil is through acts of kindness, is to do some good in your community. It doesn't have to be much. One can just walk across the street to a shut-in and say, "I care for you," or, "I love you," or, "What can I do to help?" That's an act of kindness. Or you can mentor a child. You know, we've got thousands of sons and daughters whose parents are in prison in America, people who wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them. In order to help fight evil, I hope people become mentors to one of those children. Put your arm around them and say, "I love you a lot, and America is meant for you."

You know, there are all kinds of ways that all of us can help make our communities much stronger. And a way to usher in a new period of responsibility is to remember that not only are we responsible for loving our children, not only is our most important responsibility in a responsible society is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul, but a responsible period, a responsible era says, "I want to love my neighbor just like I love myself."

It's the gathering momentum of a million acts of kindness and compassion all across America that will stand strong in the face of evil. It is the acts of generosity by generous Americans as they help people in need that will send a clear message to the world that the United States of America will not stand for evil. We will stand strongly in the face of evil. We will defend our freedom.

And out of the evil acts of September the 11th will come incredible goodness and kindness and compassion. And if any country on the face of this Earth can set that example, it is the great country called America.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Pfister Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Laurie McCallum, wife of Governor McCallum; Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow of Wisconsin; Speaker Scott R. Jensen, Wisconsin State Assembly; Richard W. Graber, chairman, Republican Party of Wisconsin; and Craig Leipold, financial chairman, McCallum for Governor, 2002.

Remarks on the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy

February 12, 2002

Well, thank you very much, John. This Nation has got some big challenges ahead of her. One big challenge, of course, is to defend freedom, is to remain united as we fight for the very values that we hold so dear.

And another big challenge is to battle drug use. Drugs undermine the health of our citizens; they destroy the souls of our children. And the drug trade supports terrorist networks. When people purchase drugs, they put money in the hands of those who want to hurt America, hurt our allies. Drugs attack everything that is the best about this country, and I intend to do something about them.

Today I'm proud to announce a national drug control strategy. It is a plan that will lay out a comprehensive strategy for our Nation. We're putting the fight against drugs in the center of our national agenda, and I'm grateful for all of you who are here.

I want to thank John and those who work with him for taking on this enormous task. I also want to thank Members of the United States Congress who are here: Senators Graham and Hatch, thank you both for coming today; I appreciate Elijah Cummings; and Ernest Istook from Oklahoma; and Sander Levin from Michigan; John Mica of Florida; Rob Portman of Ohio; and Chairman Sensenbrenner from Wisconsin; Mark Souder from Indiana. Thank you all for coming. Your presence here shows our mutual commit-

ment to put policy in place that will make a huge difference in the lives of many, many of our citizens.

I'm also so grateful for Admiral Loy for being here, of the United States Coast Guard. I had the honor of traveling to Maine recently to announce a significant initiative for the Coast Guard, a strong commitment by our administration to boost spending to make sure the Coast Guard is modern and capable of not only defending our borders but actively being engaged in the fight to interdict drugs that could be coming into our country overseas. Admiral Loy, I'm proud to have you here, and I'm proud of your team.

I also want to thank many Ambassadors who are here, Ambassadors from our neighbors to the south, the Ambassador to Russia. I'm so grateful that you all are here and willing to lend your nations' support in this great cause.

I also want to thank the citizens who are here. We've got a fabulous group of citizens from around the Nation representing groups that are—have made the decision to do something about drug use. We've got community groups and prevention groups and law enforcement groups, and I want to thank you for coming. And I hope you go back and, when you go home, thank the folks that are working with you on behalf of a grateful nation.

We've got a problem in this country. Too many people use drugs, and this is an individual tragedy. And as a result, it's a social crisis. There is no question that drug use wreaks havoc on the very fabric that provides stability for our society. Drug use wreaks havoc on our families. Drug use destroys people's ambitions and hopes.

More than 50 percent of our high school seniors have said that they've experimented with illegal drugs at least once prior to graduation. There's some new, "hip" drugs like ecstasy and GHB. They're kind of fads. But they're dangerous and lethal, and they're taking too many lives.

And we know the results. We know what can happen. The important bond between parents and children are fractured and broken, sometimes forever. Schools can turn

into places of violence and chaos, as opposed to places of learning and hope. Productive citizens can become so dependent, so addicted that they live a life of hopelessness. We've got to do something about it here in America.

Drugs constitute a huge challenge to the very health of our Nation. Illegal drugs cost our health care system almost \$15 billion a year, and illegal drugs are directly implicated in the deaths of almost 20,000 Americans a year. Drug use causes people to commit crime, making neighborhoods less safe and less secure for our families. Drugs help supply the deadly work of terrorists—that's so important for people in our country to understand.

You know, I'm asked all the time, "How can I help fight against terror? What can I do, what can I as a citizen do to defend America?" Well, one thing you can do is not purchase illegal drugs. Make no mistake about it, if you're buying illegal drugs in America, it is likely that money is going to end up in the hands of terrorist organizations. Just think about the Taliban in Afghanistan: 70 percent of the world's opium trade came from Afghanistan, resulting in significant income to the Taliban, significant amount of money to the people that were harboring and feeding and hiding those who attacked and killed thousands of innocent Americans on September the 11th. When we fight drugs, we fight the war on terror.

Today I'm pleased to announce a new strategy to combat drugs in America. We're determined to limit drug supply, to reduce demand, and to provide addicts with effective and compassionate drug treatment. Each of these steps is essential, and they're inseparable. And these steps must be funded, which is why the budget I submitted to Congress calls for \$19 billion to fight drug use.

We'll fight drug supply to reduce drug use and punish those who deal in death. More than 280 metric tons of cocaine and 13 metric tons of heroin enter our country each year. To stop drugs from reaching our borders, the budget I've submitted includes nearly \$2.3 billion dollars for drug interdiction, an increase of over 10 percent from last year's budget. With the Coast Guard's help and with our partners in other nations, with

the collaborative efforts with the leaders of all the nations in our neighborhood, we're going to fight drug traffickers whether they try to bring the drugs in this country by sea, by land, or by air.

I also want to target the supply of illegal drugs that are the source, particularly those in the Andean nations. That's why I've requested \$731 million for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, the countries of Bolivia and Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. And I look forward to making sure the program is effective, that crop substitution works and crop destruction goes forward.

I look forward to working with your Presidents and telling them pointblank how anxious I am to make sure that our efforts to interdict supply is effective and meaningful and measurable and real.

I've also asked our Homeland Security Director, Tom Ridge, to examine ways we can improve our national border management system to make sure we achieve what we want on our borders, which is commerce to move but to stop the illegal flow of drugs. A more effective management of our border for homeland security will lead to better drug interdiction in our southern and northern borders.

However, it is important for Americans and American families to understand this, that the best way to affect supply is to reduce demand for drugs, that we can work as hard as we possibly want on interdiction but, so long as there is the demand for drug in this country, some crook is going to figure out how to get them here. And so a central focus of this strategy is to reduce demand, is to convince our children that the use of drugs is destructive in their lives. And that starts with good parenting. It is essential that our parents understand that they're the child's most important teacher and that the message of our parents must be unequivocal: Don't use drugs.

And so one of the things we're going to work hard to do is to fire up the Parents Drug Corps, is to fund an initiative that will convince and rally parents to do their job. I say that if we want to usher in a period of personal responsibility, if we want a new culture that changes from "If it feels good,

do it” to one that says “We’re responsible for our decisions,” it begins with moms and dads being responsible parents, by telling their children they love them on a daily basis. And if you love somebody, you’ll also tell them not to use drugs.

We know that community involvement can help defeat demand. Congressman Portman and Congressman Levin know that firsthand. They have been involved in their communities to rally interests and concerned citizens to come with a local grassroots effort, all aimed at educating kids and all aimed at pulling community resources together to make a clear statement, a clear, responsible statement that drugs will destroy; don’t use them.

And so we support the Drug-Free Community Support Program, by \$10 million, to encourage these grassroots efforts, kind of the bottom-up effort to reduce demand in America. The money will help coalitions—the formation of coalitions, effective coalitions of business leaders and teachers and families and law enforcement and, oh, the faith community. We must never forget the faith community in America. Our Government must not fear the involvement of faith-based programs. As a matter of fact, we’ve got to welcome faith-based programs.

This initiative is coupled with a Faith-Based Initiative, will help rally the armies of compassion, those citizens who love their neighbor like they’d like to be loved themselves, to help send a clear message that we love you; we love you so much we’re going to convince you not to use drugs in the future.

We also know that early drug education defeats demand, and so in my budget there are \$644 million on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. That is a significant commitment. We also want to make sure that it is effective, that the message that gets into the schools is one that sends this clear message: Don’t use drugs, no ands, ifs, or buts. Don’t use them. And we know the media can have a powerful effect. And so we’ve got a \$180 million on the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, a series of messages which lay out the hazards of drug use. And so ours is a concerted effort to reduce demand. It’s central to making sure we’ve got an effective strategy.

As demand goes down, so will supply. As we reduce demand in America, it will take the pressure off of our friends in the south. It will make it easier for our friends in Mexico to deal with the drug problem. It will make it easier for Colombia to be able to deal with the growers and the mobsters who tend to wreak havoc in your country. The two are linked, but the reduction in demand is central to an effective strategy.

And finally, treatment: We must aggressively promote drug treatment because a nation that is tough on drugs must also be compassionate to those addicted to drugs. Today, there are 3.9 million drug users in America who need but who do not receive help. And we’ve got to do something about that. We’ve got to help.

We’re, therefore, proposing \$3.8 billion for drug treatment and research. This is an increase in our budget of over 6 percent. We’ll work with State governments to provide treatment where it is needed most, and the Federal dollars will be distributed to States to support efforts that work, not efforts that might sound good but efforts that actually accomplish the objective of saving people’s lives. This includes a \$100-million increase in treatment spending as part of a plan to spend \$1.6 billion over the next 5 years.

Now, one of the things in our strategy that I hope you find interesting and is important is that we’re actually going to start targeting treatment spending for those who are most vulnerable, people like pregnant moms, the homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, and teenagers. So while we’ve asked for an increase in treatment, there will be some targeted people we’re trying to help, to make sure that those get special attention and special help in our treatment programs.

I believe by moving aggressively, without hesitation or apology, in all three of these areas we can make an enormous difference in America. And progress must be measured. I told John when he signed on, I’m the kind of fellow that likes to say, “What are the results?” I’d like to know, actually, are we making a difference? And so here’s our goal; here’s the goal by which we’ll be measured; here’s the goal which I’ll be measured first, and then John will definitely be measured if I’m measured—[laughter]—I want to see

a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction in drug use, nationally, over the next 5 years. Those are our goals.

We understand we can't do it alone here in Washington, and that's why our approach is a community-based approach. That's why we recognize the true strength of the country is our people. And we know there's thousands of parents, thousands of educators, thousands of community activists, law enforcement officials, all anxious to come together to achieve this national strategy.

I know they're ambitious goals, but when we meet them, our Nation is going to be safer and more hopeful. You see, there is a moral reason for this fight. There is a moral reason to achieve this grand national objective, and it's this: Drugs rob men and women and children of their dignity and their character. Illegal drugs are the enemies of ambition and hope.

Thank you for joining the fight. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John P. Walters, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, who introduced the President. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy

February 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Illegal drug use threatens everything that is good about our country. It can break the bonds between parents and children. It can turn productive citizens into addicts, and it can transform schools into places of violence and chaos. Internationally, it finances the work of terrorists who use drug profits to fund their murderous work. Our fight against illegal drug use is a fight for our children's

future, for struggling democracies, and against terrorism.

We have made progress in the past. From 1985 to 1992, drug use among high school seniors dropped each year. Progress was steady and, over time, dramatic. However, in recent years we have lost ground. This Strategy represents the first step in the return of the fight against drugs to the center of our national agenda. We must do this for one great moral reason: over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character.

We acknowledge that drug use among our young people is at unacceptably high levels. As a Nation, we know how to teach character, and how to dissuade children from ever using illegal drugs. We need to act on that knowledge.

This Strategy also seeks to expand the drug treatment system, while recognizing that even the best treatment program cannot help a drug user who does not seek its assistance. The Strategy also recognizes the vital role of law enforcement and interdiction programs, while focusing on the importance of attacking the drug trade's key vulnerabilities.

Previous Strategies have enjoyed bipartisan political and funding support in the Congress. I ask for your continued support in this critical endeavor.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 12, 2002.

Executive Order 13256—President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

February 12, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to advance the development of the Nation's full human potential and to advance equal opportunity in higher education, to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide the highest quality education, and to increase opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, as do other colleges

and universities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is established, in the Office of the Secretary of Education, a Presidential advisory committee entitled the “President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities” (Board). The Board shall prepare and issue an annual report to the President on the results of the participation of historically black colleges and universities in Federal programs. The Board also shall provide advice to the President and to the Secretary of Education (Secretary) regarding the needs of historically black colleges and universities in the areas of infrastructure, academic programs, and faculty and institutional development. In the annual report to the President, the Board shall make recommendations on how to increase the private sector role, including the role of private foundations, in strengthening historically black colleges and universities. Particular emphasis should also be given in the report to enhancing institutional planning and development, strengthening fiscal stability and financial management, and improving institutional infrastructure, including the use of technology, to ensure the long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions.

Sec. 2. The Board shall be appointed by the President. The Board membership shall include sitting presidents of historically black colleges and universities, representatives of other higher education institutions, business and financial leaders, representatives of private foundations, and secondary school administrators. The President shall designate a Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members.

Sec. 3. The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Initiative), located in the Office of the Secretary of Education, shall: (1) provide staff, resources, and assistance to the Board; (2) assist the Secretary in performing the liaison function between the executive branch and historically black colleges and universities; and (3) serve the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities described in section 6 of this order.

Sec. 4. To carry out this order, each executive department and agency identified by the

Secretary may, consistent with applicable law and regulations, enter into appropriate grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with historically black colleges and universities. The head of each department or agency so identified shall establish an annual plan that will establish clear goals for how the department or agency intends to increase the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage historically black colleges and universities to participate in Federal programs. The department’s or agency’s annual goal should be clearly reflected in the department’s or agency’s annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget. To facilitate the attainment of these goals, the head of each department or agency identified by the Secretary shall provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to historically black colleges and universities regarding the program activities of the department or agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

Sec. 5. Each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall appoint a senior official, who is a full-time officer of the Federal Government, to report directly to the department or agency head with respect to department or agency activity under this order, and to serve as liaison to the Board and to the Initiative. To the extent permitted by law and regulations, each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall provide appropriate information requested by the Board and staff pursuant to the order.

Sec. 6. Each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall develop an annual plan for, and shall document the agency’s effort in, increasing the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to participate in Federal programs. Each department’s and agency’s plan shall describe new or existing department and agency programs and measurable objectives for proposed department and agency actions, in connection with those programs, to achieve the purposes of this order. These plans shall be submitted at such time and in such form as the Secretary shall require. In consultation

with the participating departments and agencies, the Secretary shall review the plans and develop, with the advice of the Board, an integrated Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for submission to the President. The Secretary shall provide the president of each historically black college and university with a copy of, and an opportunity to comment on, the proposed Annual Federal Plan prior to its submission to the President. Each participating department and agency shall submit to the Secretary an Annual Performance Report that shall measure each department's and agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the department's or agency's annual plan. The Secretary shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with the Annual Federal Plan after it is approved by the President.

Sec. 7. In developing its annual plan, each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall emphasize programs and activities that develop the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to contribute to the development of human capital and to strengthen America's economic and technological base through: (1) infrastructure development and acquisitions for instruction and research; (2) student and faculty doctoral fellowships and faculty development; (3) domestic and international faculty and student exchanges and study-abroad opportunities; (4) undergraduate and graduate student internships; and (5) summer, part-time, and permanent employment opportunities.

Sec. 8. Each year, the Board shall report to the President on the progress achieved in enhancing the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to serve their students, including findings and recommendations for individual departments and agencies in connection with their Annual Performance Reports, as described in section 6 of this order.

Sec. 9. The Board, in consultation with the Department of Education and other executive departments and agencies, shall develop a Private Sector Strategy to assist historically black colleges and universities in: (1) increasing voluntary private-sector contributions to support the enhancement of endow-

ments and the overall financial stability of such institutions; (2) improving and enhancing the quality and number of private-sector partnerships focused on academic program development, student achievement and faculty development, cooperative research and development projects, and faculty exchanges; and (3) improving information management, and facilities, and strengthening academic course offerings.

Sec. 10. (a) The provisions in this Executive Order shall be implemented to the fullest extent permitted by law.

(b) The Department of Education shall provide funding and administrative support for the Board and the Initiative.

(c) Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law;

(d) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the Board, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Department of Education, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 11. Executive Order 12876 of November 1, 1993, as amended, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 14.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Giving Notice of Reallocation of Funds Transferred from the Emergency Response Fund
February 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107-38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United

States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund. These reallocations reflect revised priorities in light of changing national security and homeland security needs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As provided in Public Law 107-38, \$220 million will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal for the Government of Pakistan and \$39.8 million will be made available immediately for International Assistance Programs and the Department of the Treasury.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 13. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this letter.

The President's News Conference With President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan

February 13, 2002

President Bush Good morning. It's my honor to welcome President Musharraf to the White House. President Musharraf is a leader with great courage and vision, and his nation is a key partner in the global coalition against terror. Pakistan's continuing support of Operation Enduring Freedom has been critical to our success so far in toppling the Taliban and routing out the Al Qaida network.

Yet President Musharraf has made an even broader commitment. He has declared that Pakistan will be an enemy of terrorism and extremism wherever it exists, including inside his own border. He understands that terrorism is wrong and destructive in any cause. He knows that his nation cannot grow peacefully if terrorists are tolerated or ignored in his country, in his region, or in the world. He is committed to banning the groups that

practice terror, closing their offices and arresting the terrorists themselves.

Terrorists operating in Pakistan recently kidnapped American reporter Daniel Pearl. We spent a time today in the Oval Office talking about our mutual desire to see that Mr. Pearl is returned home safely. I want to thank the President for his assistance and work on securing Mr. Pearl's release.

I also applaud President Musharraf's clearly stated intention to work for peace in Kashmir and lower tensions with India. I'm particularly pleased to note that he is going to be holding elections later on this fall.

The President has articulated a vision of a Pakistan as a progressive, modern, and democratic Islamic society, determined and serious about seeking greater learning and greater prosperity for its citizens. The United States is committed to working in partnership with Pakistan to pursue these objectives.

Together, our nations will continue to cooperate against terror and trafficking in drugs. We will strengthen ties of trade and investment between our nations. We'll work to improve educational and economic opportunities for all Pakistanis, especially women and children. And my Government stands ready to work with all parties on the subcontinent to foster dialog to lower tensions and resolve outstanding issues.

The forces of history have accelerated the growth of friendship between the United States and Pakistan. I believe the pages of history will record that this friendship was hopeful and positive and will lead to peace.

Mr. President.

President Musharraf. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your welcome and your kind words and sentiments expressed for me and for Pakistan and for my Government.

I recall with great pleasure our very productive meeting last November in New York. We have also spoken quite frequently on the telephone since then. I value most highly this opportunity to exchange views with you in person.

Our discussions this morning have been fruitful and constructive and will continue over the lunch. Our meetings and discussions with senior members of your administration continue as part of the ongoing dialog which

characterizes our close and cooperative relations.

For more than half a century, the relations between Pakistan and the United States have been friendly, multifaceted, and enduring. They represent an important element of stability in our region and beyond. The criminal terrorist attacks of September 11th and the momentous events since then have demonstrated the depth and strength of this relationship between the United States and Pakistan.

Pakistan has a firm position of principle in the international battle against terrorism. We reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations anywhere in the world. We will continue to fulfill our responsibilities flowing from our commitment.

I am gratified that my vision of Pakistan as a dynamic, liberal, progressive, peaceful, and genuinely democratic Muslim country and the decision I announced on 12 January have evoked a supportive response in the United States. I believe that Pakistan-United States relationship must draw strength from our past relationship as we move to a new century, a changed world and meet the challenges faced ahead.

I apprised the President of the massive and aggressive deployment of Indian forces on our borders and the serious security situation that it has created. The immediate return of Indian forces to peacetime locations and the early resumption of dialog between Pakistan and India is the way forward. We welcome the constructive role played by President Bush and Secretary Powell in urging restraint and defusing military tensions.

I am committed to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. All other differences existing between Pakistan and India should also be settled through peaceful means. We believe the United States can facilitate such a solution and help South Asia turn a new leaf.

The faithful implementation of the Bonn accord provides the best guarantee for the future of Afghanistan. The interim administration must be strengthened and its writ established over the entire country. Rehabilitation and reconstruction must begin in Afghanistan. The Tokyo donors conference has

provided a forceful and timely impulse to this process, which will also accelerate the return of millions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to their homeland.

Together, the United States and Pakistan can accomplish great things. We have embarked on a long-term partnership. We look forward to an era of robust collaboration. I look forward, Mr. President, to your visit to Pakistan, where a warm and cordial welcome awaits you from the people of Pakistan, who hold you in the highest of esteem.

I thank you, sir.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President; good job.

President Musharraf. Thank you.

Iraq/Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, your advisers have long said that there needs to be regime change in Iraq. Are you looking at military action to achieve that goal? How could Saddam be toppled?

And to President Musharraf, are you confident that Mr. Pearl is alive and will be released soon?

President Bush. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I meant what I said the other night, that there are some nations in the world which develop weapons of mass destruction with one intention, and that is to hold America hostage and/or harm Americans and/or our friends and allies. And I also meant what I said, that I look forward to working with the world to bring pressure on those nations to change their behavior. But make no mistake about it, if we need to, we will take necessary action to defend the American people.

And I think that statement was clear enough for Iraq to hear me, and I will reserve whatever options I have. I'll keep them close to my vest. President—or Saddam Hussein needs to understand I'm serious about defending our country.

I think one of the worst things that can happen in the world is terrorist organizations mating up with nations which have had a bad history and nations which develop weapons of mass destruction. It would be devastating for those of us who fight for freedom. And therefore, we, the free world, are going to—must make it clear to these nations they've

got a choice to make. And I'll keep all options available if they don't make the choice.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. President—

President Bush. Here's what's going to happen. Hold on for a second, please. Hold on for a second. These two press people are going to actually bring some order to this by calling upon individuals, and the President is going to speak about Daniel Pearl.

President Musharraf. Your first part of the question, whether Mr. Pearl is alive or dead—I am reasonably sure he's alive, and I really very much hope—we all hope that he's alive. About getting him released, well, let me say we are as close as possible to getting him released.

But I would like to emphasize here that I have taken certain steps in Pakistan to crush extremism, religious intolerance in the society. And therefore, I expected a certain degree of fallout of these steps. But however, I would like to say we are not deterred. These kinds of things were expected, and we will meet this challenge and try to resolve whatever negative influences it creates in our society.

I very much hope that with all our efforts and the combined efforts of all the intelligence agencies in Pakistan, we will be able to get Mr. Pearl released.

Kashmir

Q. Mr. President, it is evident that the Kashmir issue has not been resolved through bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. In the beginning, U.S. even voted for Kashmir, the United States and U.N. resolution. Now we hope that U.S. come forward for mediation and resolve this issue, because this is the main issue between India and Pakistan.

President Bush. Well, our hope is that we can facilitate meaningful dialog between India and Pakistan. The only way this issue is going to be solved is if the Pakistani Government and the Indian Government sit down and have serious, meaningful dialog to resolve this issue. And you heard the President of Pakistan say his hope is that there's a peaceful resolution. That's our hope, as well. And so the best thing our Government can do is to encourage there to be a—to come to the table and start to have meaning-

ful, real dialog. And that's what we'll continue to press for.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. On campaign finance reform, sir, are Republican—

President Bush. Is this to the Pakistani President, or me? [*Laughter*]

Q. For you, sir. On campaign finance reform, are Republican operatives trying to kill the bill? And will you sign Shays-Meehan if it gets to your desk?

President Bush. Well, I want to sign a bill that improves the system. And it seems like, to me, that if they get a bill out of the House of Representatives that improves the system, it ought to be in effect immediately. But we'll see what comes my way. And I would look at it very carefully and give it a good look.

Q. What about the Republicans—are they trying to kill the bill, working for the RNC?

President Bush. I've talked to many Republicans that are trying to improve the system, as well. And again, I repeat—I understand there's a chance to amend the bill that says, if it improves the system, let's have it in effect this year. And I support that. I think it makes sense. But I'll take a good look at it. It's making its way through the system, and I'll give it a good look.

Pakistan-U.S. Relations

Q. President Bush, you talked about history—

President Bush. Talked about—excuse me?

Q. You talked about history—

President Bush. Oh, history, yes. Getting a little hard of hearing.

Q. And history shows that the U.S. dumped Pakistan after the Afghan war in 1980. So a common Pakistani wants to know whether the U.S. will repeat the same history again, once again. And secondly, how do you plan to help Pakistan, the modernization of Pakistan in its struggle of survival against mighty and militarized India?

President Bush. Well, that's a very legitimate question. And it's—one of the reasons why President Musharraf and I are spending time together is, he has got to be confident in me and my Government willingness to stay

supportive of Pakistan. I think one of the things, in order for us to have a positive relationship, is that he realizes that when we say we're committed, we're committed. And we're committed to peace in the region. We're committed to fighting terror.

The President made a tough decision and a strong decision. It's not only a decision about fighting terror; it's a decision for the direction of his country. And we support that strongly.

So I can understand why some in Pakistan are saying, "Well, oh, this is just a short-term dance." But so long as we share the same ideals and values and common objectives, we'll work with Pakistan. And there are ways to help. The President is going to go see Secretary Rumsfeld today. We have—he negotiated and we willingly supported a strong aid package in the '02 budget. We're now discussing help in the '03 budget. We want to help facilitate the President's concerns about a debt burden on Pakistan. We want to talk about trade matters. We want to help him achieve his vision of elevating the average citizen by giving them a chance and a hopeful opportunity for life.

And so, I would suggest that people in Pakistan remember to think about the future and not dwell in the past. That's what the President has done with his vision, and I am proud to call him friend.

I want to remind people from Pakistan that I didn't mention many world leaders in my State of the Union. But I mentioned President Musharraf, for a reason. And hopefully, that's an indication of my sincerity of developing a strong and meaningful relationship.

Education Reform in Pakistan

Q. Mr. Bush and Mr. Musharraf, should secular schools be the standard in Islamic communities in Pakistan to prevent jihads and other terrorists attacks like 9/11?

President Bush. Let me first—and I'd like the President to speak on this, basically on the madrasa school issue in Pakistan. One of the things that most impressed me about President Musharraf, that gives me confidence in his vision, is that the last time we met in New York City, we spent a fair amount of time talking about education reform. And the President has placed a very

intriguing and very interesting woman in charge of the education system in Pakistan. She used to work in rural areas, a rural province of the country. He's elevated her to Cabinet position because she's a reformer. She understands the modern world requires an education system that trains children in basic sciences and reading and math and the history of Pakistan.

And the President laid out to me a vision, which he can share with you, about how to encourage madrasas to adopt a curriculum that will actually—will work and will provide a workforce, a trained workforce, and will give people hope.

And so our Government is committed to working with the Pakistani Government on education reform. We had a—as I understand that of the \$600 million, part of the aid package last year, 100 million of those dollars have gone into education reform. The President will make the decision as to how best to use that. There's 35 million—or 34 million additional dollars this year that will go help on education reform.

I shared with him my passion about education reform here in America, and I want to applaud him for making a visionary statement about education. He knows what I know: An educated child is one much more likely to be able to realize dreams and to be a productive citizen.

So, April [April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks], I think—let the President speak to this issue, if you don't mind.

President Musharraf. Thank you. We are involved in Pakistan, as I laid out in the 12 January speech, in a jihad—*jihad-e-akbar*, which I call a greater jihad, which is in our teaching in Islam, a jihad against illiteracy, a jihad against poverty, backwardness, hunger. This is the jihad that we are engaged now and we have initiated.

Now, within this jihad, education forms a focal area. And since the President wants me to focus particularly on madrasa, in education we are taking three areas of education. One is the madrasa education; the second is the primary and secondary education; and the third is higher education. I would just like to focus on the madrasa education. We have formulated strategies in each one of these three areas.

Madrasas, we must understand, are basically—there are about 600,000 to 800,000 students here in madrasas. Now, the positive aspect of the madrasa—which I did lay out in my speech also; I would like to highlight for everyone to hear—is that they are a welfare. They have a welfare and humanitarian aspect to them. They feed and house the poorest of the poor children. So this is the positive aspect of their providing free board and lodge to the poorest of the poor.

Now, the weaknesses of some of the madrasas only teaching religious—giving religious education to the children has to be removed. And the children in these madrasas need to be brought into the mainstream of life. And that is what we are doing.

We have asked the madrasas to introduce four subjects, and these are science, English, Pakistan studies, and mathematics. Now, with these four subjects introduced, we have also created a board for them to take their examinations from. And once they take their examinations through these boards, it will make them eligible to transfer to any other college or university, if I want to give them a scholarship and take them there, or to get them a job anywhere, in a banking area or in the military or anywhere, instead of focusing only into the religious field.

So this is the strategy that we have adopted to get these children into the mainstream of life in Pakistan. So the basic idea is, utilize their strength, the strength of their giving free board and lodge to such a vast population of the poorest of the poor, and eradicate their weakness so that they are drawn into the mainstream of life in Pakistan. This is the strategy we are following.

Pakistani-U.S. Residents

Q. My question is for President Bush. President, you know—

President Bush. Why am I not surprised? [Laughter]

Q. Almost more than 700,000 Pakistanis are based in the United States.

President Bush. Say that again? I'm sorry.

Q. Almost more than 700,000 Pakistanis are based in the United States.

President Bush. Right, right.

Q. But after September 11th, FBI and different law enforcing agencies, they made a

major crackdown against different communities. And Pakistani community has especially been targeted by law enforcing agencies, and hundreds of Pakistanis are in different detention centers. And there is a sense in the community they are treating them like a terrorist. And you know, very wrong messages are delivered back to Pakistan that in the United States, Pakistanis are treated like a terrorists. And on the other side, in Pakistan, is supporting all the way the United States in the war against terrorism.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. And the same White House—Mexican President, Mr. Fox, visited White House, and you promised that you will consider to give guest worker status to illegal Mexicans, 3.5 million. So keeping in, you know, the Pakistani—what they have done for United States, would you be kind enough to consider a legal status for a small number of illegal Pakistanis who are in process of legalization?

President Bush. Well, first, we need to reform our INS. There's no question the paperwork delays are way too long. It's frustrating for people. So for those who are amazed at the fact that paperwork can stay in a process for such a period of time, I can understand that.

Secondly, I've always believed that we ought to encourage a willing employee and a willing employer to come together. And as we discuss immigration law, that ought to be an aspect of the law.

And finally, this great Nation is a nation that will protect ourselves; we're still under threat. But we treat people with ultimate respect. I mean, people in this country have got a chance to get attorneys at law to help them. People are not being—we never said, let's go single out a particular group of citizens. Let's protect America. If we get any kind of lead or any kind of hint about anything that is—could lead to an attack, we're going to give people a chance to share information to protect America. That makes sense, if you're living here and you care about the country, that you ought to be given a chance to participate.

So I don't know who, specifically, you're referring to, but people are being treated incredibly humanely here—and in Guantanamo Bay, by the way. Perhaps you're referring to maybe some citizens there. I will just assure you, like I've assured the President, that people are getting fantastic health care, much better health care today in Guantanamo Bay than they were getting in Afghanistan, I can assure you.

And so our country is mindful of the need to respect people's rights. But I want to assure you, we will do, within our power, within the Constitution of the United States, what it takes to defend the American people. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans, and this is exactly what I'm going to do.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:34 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Minister for Education Zubeda Jalal of Pakistan. A reporter referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The President also referred to the Bonn Agreement, an agreement reached at a United Nations sponsored meeting of Afghan representatives on transitional political arrangements for the future of Afghanistan, which concluded December 5, 2001, and led to the Interim Afghan Administration; and the Tokyo donors conference, January 20–21, 2002, a meeting of 61 nations which pledged \$4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Statement on Senate Action on the “Farm Security Act of 2001”

February 13, 2002

I am committed to sound farm policy that supports America's farmers and ranchers and am disappointed that the Senate-passed bill doesn't get the job done. This bill front loads spending into the first 5 years, leaving vital programs underfunded in the years that follow. I look forward to working with conferees to produce a plan that will benefit farmers in the long term by encouraging conservation, establishing farm savings accounts, and promoting open markets and new opportunities for producers.

Executive Order 13257—President's Interagency Task Force To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

February 13, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, (22 U.S.C. 7103) (the “Act”), and in order to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. (a) The President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is hereby established.

(b) The Task Force shall consist of:

- (i) the Secretary of State;
- (ii) the Attorney General;
- (iii) the Secretary of Labor;
- (iv) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (v) the Director of Central Intelligence;
- (vi) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (vii) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and
- (viii) any additional officers or employees of the United States as may be designated by the President.

(c) The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 2. Activities. The Task Force shall, consistent with applicable law and the constitutional authorities and duties of the President, carry out the following activities:

(a) coordinate the implementation of the Act;

(b) measure and evaluate progress of the United States and other countries in the areas of trafficking in persons prevention, protection, and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, and prosecutions and other enforcement efforts against traffickers, including the role of public corruption in facilitating trafficking in persons;

(c) assist the Secretary of State in the preparation of the annual reports described in section 110 of the Act;

(d) expand interagency procedures to collect and organize data, including significant research and resource information on domestic and international trafficking in persons, while ensuring that any data collection procedures involved, respect the confidentiality of victims of trafficking in persons;

(e) engage in efforts to facilitate cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination, and such efforts shall aim to strengthen local and regional capacities to prevent trafficking in persons, prosecute traffickers and assist trafficking victims; shall include initiatives to enhance cooperative efforts between destination countries, transit countries, and countries of origin; and shall assist in the appropriate reintegration of stateless victims of trafficking in persons;

(f) examine the role of the international “sex tourism” industry in the trafficking of persons and in the sexual exploitation of women and children around the world;

(g) engage in consultation and advocacy with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, among other entities, to advance the purposes of the Act; and

(h) address such other matters related to the purposes of the Act as the President may determine.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The Department of State shall provide funding and administrative support for the Task Force, except as otherwise provided by the Act.

(b) At the call of the Chair, the Task Force shall meet as necessary to accomplish its mission.

(c) Task Force members may designate representatives from their respective agencies to represent them at Task Force meetings.

(d) Whenever the work of the Task Force involves a matter committed by law or Presidential directive to the consideration of the National Security Council, or by Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001, to the consideration of the Homeland Security Council, that work shall be undertaken, and any communication by the Secretary of State to the President shall be undertaken, in a manner consistent with such law, Presidential directive, or Executive Order.

(e) The Task Force shall have no directive authority or other substantial independent authority.

(f) As necessary and appropriate, the Task Force shall report to the President, through the Secretary of State, the following:

(i) progress on the implementation of the Act; and

(ii) recommendations for United States policy to monitor and eliminate trafficking in persons and to protect the victims of trafficking in persons.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order does not create any rights or benefits, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, its agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 13, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 15, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 14, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 19.

Remarks Announcing the Clear Skies and Global Climate Change Initiatives in Silver Spring, Maryland February 14, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to join you all today to talk about our environment and about the prospect of dramatic progress to improve it. Today I'm announcing a new environmental approach that will clean our skies, bring greater health to our citizens, and encourage environmentally responsible development in America and around the world.

Particularly, it's an honor to address this topic at NOAA, whose research is providing us with the answers to critical questions about our environment. And so I want to thank Connie for his hospitality, and I want to thank you for yours, as well. Connie said he felt kind of like Sasha Cohen; I thought for a minute he was going to ask me to talk to his mother on his cell phone. [Laughter]

I also want to tell you one of my favorite moments is to go down to Crawford and turn on my NOAA radio to get the weather. I don't know whether my guy is a computer or a person—[laughter]—but the forecast is always accurate, and I appreciate that. I also want to thank you for your hard work, on behalf of the American people.

I appreciate my friend Don Evans's leadership. I've known him for a long time. You're working for a good fellow if you're working at the Commerce Department or at NOAA. And I want to thank Spence Abraham and Christie Todd Whitman for their service to the country as well. I've assembled a fabulous Cabinet, people who love their country and work hard. And these are three of some of the finest Cabinet officials I've got.

I want to thank Jim Connaughton, who is the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. He's done a fabulous job of putting this policy together, the policy that I'm about to explain. But before I do, I also want to thank some Members of Congress who've worked with us on this initiative. I want to thank Bob Smith and George Voinovich, two United States Senators, for their leadership in pursuing multipollutant legislation, as well as Congressmen Billy Tauzin and Joe Barton. And I want to thank Senator Chuck Hagel and Larry Craig for their work on climate issues. These Members of Congress have had an impact on the policies I am just about to announce.

America and the world share this common goal: We must foster economic growth in ways that protect our environment. We must encourage growth that will provide a better life for citizens, while protecting the land, the water, and the air that sustain life.

In pursuit of this goal, my Government has set two priorities: We must clean our air, and we must address the issue of global climate change. We must also act in a serious and responsible way, given the scientific uncertainties. While these uncertainties remain, we can begin now to address the human factors that contribute to climate change. Wise action now is an insurance policy against future risks.

I have been working with my Cabinet to meet these challenges with forward and cre-

ative thinking. I said, "If need be, let's challenge the status quo. But let's always remember, let's do what is in the interest of the American people."

Today I'm confident that the environmental path that I announce will benefit the entire world. This new approach is based on this commonsense idea, that economic growth is key to environmental progress, because it is growth that provides the resources for investment in clean technologies. This new approach will harness the power of markets, the creativity of entrepreneurs, and draw upon the best scientific research. And it will make possible a new partnership with the developing world to meet our common environmental and economic goals.

We will apply this approach first to the challenge of cleaning the air that Americans breathe. Today I call for new clean skies legislation that sets tough new standards to dramatically reduce the three most significant forms of pollution from powerplants, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury. We will cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 73 percent from current levels. We will cut nitrogen oxide emissions by 67 percent. And for the first time ever, we will cap emissions of mercury, cutting them by 69 percent. These cuts will be completed over two measured phases, with one set of emission limits for 2010 and for the other for 2018.

This legislation will constitute the most significant step America has ever taken—has ever taken—to cut powerplant emissions that contribute to urban smog, acid rain, and numerous health problems for our citizens. Clean skies legislation will not only protect our environment, it will prolong the lives of thousands of Americans with asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as with those with heart disease. And it will reduce the risk to children exposed to mercury during a mother's pregnancy.

The clean skies legislation will reach our ambitious air quality goals through a market-based cap-and-trade approach that rewards innovation, reduces cost, and guarantees results. Instead of the Government telling utilities where and how to cut pollution, we will tell them when and how much to cut. We will give them a firm deadline and let them find the most innovative ways to meet it. We

will do this by requiring each facility to have a permit for each ton of pollution it emits. By making the permits tradeable, this system makes it financially worthwhile for companies to pollute less, giving them an incentive to make early and cost effective reductions.

This approach enjoys widespread support with both Democrats and Republicans, because we know it works. You see, since 1995 we have used a cap-and-trade program for sulfur dioxide pollution. It has cut more air pollution—this system has reduced more air pollution in the last decade than all other programs under the 1990 Clean Air Act combined and by even more than the law required. Compliance has been virtually 100 percent. It takes only a handful of employees to administer this program, and no one had to enter a courtroom to make sure the reductions happened. Because the system gives businesses an incentive to create and install innovative technologies, these reductions have cost about 80 percent less than expected. It helps to keep energy prices affordable for our consumers. And we made this progress during a decade when our economy and our demand for energy was growing.

The clean skies legislation I propose is structured on this approach because it works. It will replace a confusing, ineffective maze of regulations for powerplants that has created an endless cycle of litigation. Today, hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on lawyers, rather than on environmental protection. The result is painfully slow, uncertain, and expensive programs on clean air. Instead, clean skies legislation will put less money into paying lawyers and regulators, and money directly into programs to reduce pollution to meet our national goal. This approach, I'm absolutely confident, will bring better and faster results in cleaning up our air.

Now, global climate change presents a different set of challenges and requires a different strategy. The science is more complex; the answers are less certain; and the technology is less developed. So we need a flexible approach that can adjust to new information and new technology.

I reaffirm America's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention and its central goal, to stabilize atmospheric

greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate. Our immediate goal is to reduce America's greenhouse gas emissions relative to the size of our economy.

My administration is committed to cutting our Nation's greenhouse gas intensity, how much we emit per unit of economic activity, by 18 percent over the next 10 years. This will set America on a path to slow the growth of our greenhouse gas emissions and, as science justifies, to stop and then reverse the growth of emissions.

This is the commonsense way to measure progress. Our Nation must have economic growth, growth to create opportunity, growth to create a higher quality of life for our citizens. Growth is also what pays for investments in clean technologies, increased conservation, and energy efficiencies. Meeting our commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent by the year 2012 will prevent over 500 million metric tons of greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere over the course of the decade. And that is the equivalent of taking 70 million cars off the road.

To achieve this goal, our Nation must move forward on many fronts, looking at every sector of our economy. We will challenge American businesses to further reduce emissions. Already, agreements with the semiconductor and aluminum industries and others have dramatically cut emissions of some of the most potent greenhouse gases. We will build on these successes with new agreements and greater reductions.

Our Government will also move forward immediately to create world-class standards for measuring and registering emission reductions. And we will give transferable credits to companies that can show real emission reductions. We will promote renewable energy production and clean coal technology, as well as nuclear power, which produces no greenhouse gas emissions. And we will work to safely improve fuel economy for our cars and our trucks.

Overall, my budget devotes \$4.5 billion to addressing climate change, more than any other nation's commitment in the entire world. This is an increase of more than \$700 million over last year's budget. Our Nation

will continue to lead the world in basic climate and science research to address gaps in our knowledge that are important to decisionmakers. When we make decisions, we want to make sure we do so on sound science, not what sounds good but what is real, and the United States leads the world in providing that kind of research.

We'll devote \$588 million towards the research and development of energy conservation technologies. We must and we will conserve more in the United States. And we will spend \$408 million toward research and development on renewables, on renewable energy. This funding includes \$150 million for an initiative that Spence Abraham laid out the other day, \$150 million for the Freedom Car Initiative, which will advance the prospect of breakthrough zero-emission fuel cell technologies.

My comprehensive energy plan, the first energy plan that any administration has put out in a long period of time, provides \$4.6 billion over the next 5 years in clean energy tax incentives to encourage purchases of hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, to promote residential solar energy, and to reward investments in wind, solar, and biomass energy production. And we will look for ways to increase the amount of carbon stored by America's farms and forests through a strong conservation title in the farm bill. I have asked Secretary Veneman to recommend new targeted incentives for landowners to increase carbon storage.

By doing all these things, by giving companies incentives to cut emissions, by diversifying our energy supply to include cleaner fuels, by increasing conservation, by increasing research and development and tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean technologies, and by increasing carbon storage, I am absolutely confident that America will reach the goal that I have set.

If, however, by 2012, our progress is not sufficient and sound science justifies further action, the United States will respond with additional measures that may include broad-based market programs as well as additional incentives and voluntary measures designed to accelerate technology development and deployment.

Addressing global climate change will require a sustained effort over many generations. My approach recognizes that economic growth is the solution, not the problem, because a nation that grows its economy is a nation that can afford investments and new technologies.

The approach taken under the Kyoto Protocol would have required the United States to make deep and immediate cuts in our economy to meet an arbitrary target. It would have cost our economy up to \$400 billion, and we would have lost 4.9 million jobs. As President of the United States, charged with safeguarding the welfare of the American people and American workers, I will not commit our Nation to an unsound international treaty that will throw millions of our citizens out of work.

Yet, we recognize our international responsibilities. So in addition to acting here at home, the United States will actively help developing nations grow along a more efficient, more environmentally responsible path. The hope of growth and opportunity and prosperity is universal. It's the dream and right of every society on our globe. The United States wants to foster economic growth in the developing world, including the world's poorest nations. We want to help them realize their potential and bring the benefits of growth to their peoples, including better health and better schools and a cleaner environment.

It would be unfair—indeed, counterproductive—to condemn developing nations to slow growth or no growth by insisting that they take on impractical and unrealistic greenhouse gas targets. Yet, developing nations such as China and India already account for a majority of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, and it would be irresponsible to absolve them from shouldering some of the shared obligations.

The greenhouse gas intensity approach I put forward today gives developing countries a yardstick for progress on climate change that recognizes their right to economic development. I look forward to discussing this new approach next week when I go to China and Japan and South Korea. The United States will not interfere with the plans of any nation that chooses to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. But

I will intend to work with nations, especially the poor and developing nations, to show the world that there is a better approach, that we can build our future prosperity along a cleaner and better path.

My budget includes over \$220 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the global environmental facility to help developing countries better measure, reduce emissions, and to help them invest in clean and renewable energy technologies. Many of these technologies, which we take for granted in our own country, are not being used in the developing world. We can help ensure that the benefits of these technologies are more broadly shared. Such efforts have helped bring solar energy to Bangladesh, hydroelectric energy to the Philippines, geothermal electricity to Kenya. These projects are bringing jobs and environmental benefits to these nations, and we will build on these successes.

The new budget also provides \$40 million under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to help countries redirect debt payments towards protecting tropical forests, forests that store millions of tons of carbon. And I've also ordered the Secretary of State to develop a new initiative to help developing countries stop illegal logging, a practice that destroys biodiversity and releases millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

And finally, my Government is following through on our commitment to provide \$25 million for climate observation systems in developing countries that will help scientists understand the dynamics of climate change.

To clean the air and to address climate change, we need to recognize that economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand. Affluent societies are the ones that demand and can, therefore, afford the most environmental protection. Prosperity is what allows us to commit more and more resources to environmental protection. And in the coming decades, the world needs to develop and deploy billions of dollars of technologies that generate energy in cleaner ways. And we need strong economic growth to make that possible.

Americans are among the most creative people in our history. We have used radio

waves to peer into the deepest reaches of space. We cracked life's genetic code. We have made our air and land and water significantly cleaner, even as we have built the world's strongest economy. When I see what Americans have done, I know what we can do. We can tap the power of economic growth to further protect our environment for generations that will follow. And that's what we're going to do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Science Center at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In his remarks, he referred to NOAA Administrator Conrad "Connie" C. Lautenbacher, Jr.; and Sasha Cohen, figure skater, 2002 U.S. Olympic team. The President also referred to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol to the convention.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation

February 14, 2002

I applaud Congressmen John Boehner and Sam Johnson for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. Consistent with the principles that I outlined at the beginning of this month, their bill would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, and better access to sound investment advice. This bill also assures that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

This bill, and other good legislation like that introduced by Congressmen Portman and Cardin, will help provide economic security to both workers and shareholders. I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3762, the "Pension Security Act," and H.R. 3669, the "Employee Retirement Savings Bill of Rights."

**Remarks Following the Swearing-In
of Gaddi H. Vasquez as Director of
the Peace Corps**

February 15, 2002

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

When America was attacked on September the 11th, they thought our country would splinter into fear and selfishness. They thought we'd fall apart. They thought we didn't have any fiber or character. Instead, we've seen extraordinary acts of courage and compassion and a renewed dedication to service. A spirit of sacrifice and service gave birth to the Peace Corps more than 40 years ago. We needed the Peace Corps then, and we need the Peace Corps today.

My administration strongly supports the Peace Corps, and we're increasing our commitment to it. That starts by finding somebody who can serve ably as the Director. I have found such a man. I was honored to swear Gaddi in, in the Oval Office—or watch his swearing-in today in the Oval Office, and I know he'll do a superb job in leading this important organization.

Thank you for leaving your beloved California. Thank you for your sacrifice. And welcome to an administration that wants to do right by the Peace Corps.

I also want to thank Elaine for your sacrifice, as well. I know it's hard to pull up your family and head east, but it's the right thing to do. It's the right thing to do to serve your country. And I'm so honored both of you all have come. And Jason, thank you for being here, as well, to support your dad.

I want to thank the first Peace Corps Director, who joined us today. I can't thank you enough, Sargent Shriver, for taking time out of your busy schedule to show up here to see this good man assume this important office. We're honored with your presence. We appreciate your service to the country, and thank you for coming.

And we've got another former Director here today, too, a lady who serves in my Cabinet as the Secretary of Labor. She's doing a fabulous job there, just like she did for the Peace Corps, and that's Elaine Chao. Thank you for coming, Elaine.

And Gaddi was such a big draw that he got another member of my Cabinet here, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mel Martinez. Thanks for coming, Mel. I appreciate your being here.

Two Members of the United States House of Representatives have joined us: Gaddi's Congressman, Chris Cox—thank you for coming, Chris; I appreciate you being here—and a former volunteer, Tom Petri from Wisconsin. Thank you for coming.

We hear from a lot of Members of Congress about the importance of the Peace Corps but no more clear voice about that than Chris Dodd, the Senator from Connecticut. I look forward to working with Chris to implement our mutual vision for making sure the Peace Corps fulfills its mission and hope.

And speaking about that, I want to thank all the people who work at the Peace Corps, those who work there now, those who have been volunteers in the past, are current volunteers. We're honored that you serve our Nation, and you're welcome here in the White House, and thank you for coming.

And finally, I think it's a great tribute to the Peace Corps that we've got a lot of members from the ambassadorial corps who are here. I want to thank you all for coming and taking your time. You understand the importance of the Peace Corps, and your presence here is a confirmation of its importance. And so we welcome you. Thank you for coming.

For more than 40 years, the Peace Corps has sent Americans to serve their country by serving the world. America has a new kind of force today. I mean, we're not only a great country, a great economic engine, and obviously a great military, we're a great idea. The greatness of the country is in the values we believe in, freedom and hope and opportunity. We're a nation founded on just valuable principles. And the power of the idea cannot and will not be stopped at our borders.

The Peace Corps volunteers carry the American idea with them. They don't carry our culture; they carry universal values and principles that are so incredibly important for all of mankind. Peace Corps volunteers contribute in unaccountable ways to the countries to which they're assigned. They not only

teach reading, English language skills; they introduce new business and farming methods, help spark economic development, promote training and modern technology, help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. They make an incredibly important contribution to our fellow mankind.

You know, because we come from a society where women can be leaders, where people speak and worship freely, where the difference is a source of our strength, not a cause of war, a Peace Corps volunteer in the very life they live helps spread important values. Just the fact that somebody comes from a country that is so open, that in itself is an incredibly positive influence on the world.

You know, the war has thrust upon us an enemy who hates every good—everything the Peace Corps stands for. We long for peace in America. We've got to remember, we're fighting an enemy that really can't stand the values spread by the Peace Corps, which means that the Peace Corps must be reinvigorated. The Peace Corps, itself, stands for what we fight for. And if we weren't to understand the role, if we were to shrink in our obligations, if we were not to allow the Peace Corps to expand, we would be doing exactly what the terrorists want us to do. And we're not going to let them cause us to abandon what we hold dear.

I have called for twice as many Peace Corps volunteers over the next 5 years, to return the Peace Corps to the strength it had in the midsixties. Those new volunteers will be heading out to new destinations. They'll be returning to the republics of central Asia. And within 3 weeks, a team will leave for Afghanistan, to address how the Peace Corps can assist that country in reconstruction. The Peace Corps is committed to returning to Peru and to sending volunteers to East Timor, which will soon become the first country to gain independence in the 21st century. The Peace Corps will also explore ways to assist the governments of Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, and Chad, and Swaziland. And during my upcoming trip to Asia, I will explore with Chinese officials the possibility of an expansion of the Peace Corps program into China.

And when these volunteers return home, they can also help educate Americans about

the countries in which they serve. My administration has created what's called the USA Freedom Corps, to encourage citizens to give at least 2 years of their life to service to their country. And the Peace Corps is a vital part of this effort.

For Americans looking for service opportunities at home or abroad, they can find those opportunities in the USA Freedom Corps. If you're interested in the Peace Corps, get on the Web—on your computer and dial up the USA Freedom Corps Web page, which is usafreedomcorps.gov, or just pick up your telephone and dial 877-USA-CORPS. If you want to know about the opportunities the Peace Corps offers, call that number or get on the Web page. And we will help you serve our fellow mankind.

You know, when President Kennedy, Sargent Shriver's brother-in-law, signed an Executive order more than 40 years ago providing for the establishing of the Peace Corps, he spoke about a nation of men and women anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress. That mission hasn't changed. As a matter of fact, today the mission is needed more than ever.

I look forward to working with the Members of Congress to strengthen the Peace Corps, to reassert its independence, and to create new opportunities in other nations, as well as the ones I mentioned—new opportunities in Muslim nations for us to spread the good story about the values, the universal values, we hold so dear.

I believe Americans are still willing to sacrifice for causes greater than themselves. And the Peace Corps offers such a fantastic opportunity to do so. Gaddi Vasquez understands this, as well. And so it's with pleasure I introduce the newly sworn-in Director of the Peace Corps to the American people.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elaine Vasquez, wife of Gaddi H. Vasquez, and their son Jason Vasquez.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Recommending the Yucca Mountain
Site for the Disposal of Spent
Nuclear Fuel and Nuclear Waste**

February 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 114 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, 42 U.S.C. 10134 (the "Act"), the Secretary of Energy has recommended approval of the Yucca Mountain site for the development at that site of a repository for the geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste from the Nation's defense activities. As is required by the Act, the Secretary has also submitted to me a comprehensive statement of the basis of his recommendation.

Having received the Secretary's recommendation and the comprehensive statement of the basis of it, I consider the Yucca Mountain site qualified for application for a construction authorization for a repository. Therefore, I now recommend the Yucca Mountain site for this purpose. In accordance with section 114 of the Act, I am transmitting with this recommendation to the Congress a copy of the comprehensive statement of the basis of the Secretary's recommendation prepared pursuant to the Act. The transmission of this document triggers an expedited process described in the Act. I urge the Congress to undertake any necessary legislative action on this recommendation in an expedited and bipartisan fashion.

Proceeding with the repository program is necessary to protect public safety, health, and the Nation's security because successful completion of this project would isolate in a geologic repository at a remote location highly radioactive materials now scattered throughout the Nation. In addition, the geologic repository would support our national security through disposal of nuclear waste from our defense facilities.

A deep geologic repository, such as Yucca Mountain, is important for our national security and our energy future. Nuclear energy is the second largest source of U.S. electricity generation and must remain a major component of our national energy policy in the years to come. The cost of nuclear power compares favorably with the costs of elec-

tricity generation by other sources, and nuclear power has none of the emissions associated with coal and gas power plants.

This recommendation, if it becomes effective, will permit commencement of the next rigorous stage of scientific and technical review of the repository program through formal licensing proceedings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Successful completion of this program also will redeem the clear Federal legal obligation safely to dispose of commercial spent nuclear fuel that the Congress passed in 1982.

This recommendation is the culmination of two decades of intense scientific scrutiny involving application of an array of scientific and technical disciplines necessary and appropriate for this challenging undertaking. It is an undertaking that was mandated twice by the Congress when it legislated the obligations that would be redeemed by successful pursuit of the repository program. Allowing this recommendation to come into effect will enable the beginning of the next phase of intense scrutiny of the project necessary to assure the public health, safety, and security in the area of Yucca Mountain, and also to enhance the safety and security of the Nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 10

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Jackson Hole, WY, to Washington, DC.

February 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen to discuss cooperation against terrorism. Later, he had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

February 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had CIA, FBI, and homeland security briefings, and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President received the annual report of the Boy Scouts of America in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony P. Hall to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced that Ron Haskins has joined the White House on a temporary and part-time basis as Senior Advisor for Welfare Policy.

February 13

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

February 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary to express his appreciation for Hungary's efforts to combat terrorism. He also had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, in his capacity as President of the European Union, concerning global climate change.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Silver Spring, MD, and later returned to Washington, DC.

Later in the afternoon, in a ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Molelekeng Rapolaki of Lesotho, Tertius Zongo of Burkina Faso, Armando A. Panguene of Mozambique, John Wood of New Zealand, Syed Hasan Ahmad of Bangladesh, Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal, Elena Poptodorova of Bulgaria, Soemadi Djoko Moerdjono Brotodiningrat of Indonesia, and Diego Ramiro Guelar of Argentina.

In the evening, in the East Room, the President participated in the filming of a television production honoring gospel music, for future broadcast on the PAX network.

The President announced his intention to appoint John LeRoy Henderson as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

February 15

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines concerning cooperation against terrorism. Later, he had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. He then met with President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that, in the morning, the White House was reopened to tours for school groups.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeremy H.G. Ibrahim and David B. Rivkin, Jr., to be members of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Arts: Maribeth McGinley, David Gelernter, Deedie Potter Rose, Don V. Cogman, Katharine DeWitt, and Teresa Lozano Long.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations

to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 11

John B. Brown III,
of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement, vice Julio F. Mercado, resigned.

Eric F. Melgren,
of Kansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years, vice Randall K. Rathbun, resigned.

James W. Pardew,
of Arkansas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Leslie Silverman,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the remainder of the term expiring July 1, 2003, vice Ida L. Castro, resigned.

Sally Stroup,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Post-secondary Education, Department of Education, vice A. Lee Fritschler, resigned.

Submitted February 15

Don V. Cogman,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Patrick Davidson, term expired.

Katharine DeWitt,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice William P. Foster, resigned.

Gregory Allyn Forest,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Walter Baker Edmisten, term expired.

David Gelernter,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Hsin-Ming Fung,

Amy Apfel Kass,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Mary D. Hubbard.

Andrew Ladis,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Vicki L. Ruiz.

Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Nina M. Archabal.

Teresa Lozano Long,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Terry Evans, term expired.

Maribeth McGinley,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Ronnie Feuerstein Heyman, term expired.

Richard Monroe Miles,
of South Carolina, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Georgia.

James R. Stoner, Jr.,
of Louisiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Betty G. Bengtson.

Peter Terpeluk, Jr.,
of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Council of Economic Advisers member Mark McClellan on the President's agenda for health care reform

Fact sheet: President Outlines Agenda for Improving Health Security in the Best Health Care System in the World

Released February 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 700 and H.R. 1937

Transcript of a press briefing by National Drug Control Policy Director John Walters on the National Drug Control Strategy

Fact sheet: The President's National Drug Control Strategy

Released February 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Official Working Visit of President Musharraf of Pakistan: U.S. Programs To Assist the People of Pakistan

Released February 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit to Japan, South Korea, and China

Fact sheet: President Bush Announces Clear Skies & Global Climate Change Initiatives

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Attend the Florida Domestic Security Advisory Panel Meeting With Florida Governor Jeb Bush Friday

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 82, S. 737, S. 970, and S. 1026

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina

Released February 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear materials repository

Fact sheet: The President's Commitment to Strengthening the Peace Corps

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 8*

S. 1762 / Public Law 107-139
To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers, to extend current law with respect to special allowances for lenders, and for other purposes

S. 1888 / Public Law 107-140
To amend title 18 of the United States Code to correct a technical error in the codification of title 36 of the United States Code

Approved February 12

H.R. 700 / Public Law 107-141
Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2002

H.R. 1937 / Public Law 107-142
Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act of 2002

Approved February 14

H.J. Res. 82 / Public Law 107-143
Recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan

S. 737 / Public Law 107-144
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 811 South Main

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Street in Yerington, Nevada, as the “Joseph E. Dini, Jr. Post Office”

S. 970 / Public Law 107–145

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39 Tremont Street, Paris Hill, Maine, as the “Horatio King Post Office Building”

S. 1026 / Public Law 107–146

To designate the United States Post Office located at 60 Third Avenue in Long Branch, New Jersey, as the “Pat King Post Office Building”

Week Ending Friday, February 22, 2002

The President's Radio Address

February 16, 2002

Good morning. Today I'm flying west across the Pacific to visit Japan, South Korea, and China. The people of Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing touched all our hearts in the days after September 11, with moving displays of sympathy and support in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Today, all three nations are supporting our fight against terrorism.

I look forward to discussing our progress in ridding the world of this great threat to civilization, and we'll discuss our work to build a better world beyond terror, a world of greater opportunity and more open trade, stronger security and more individual freedom.

I will speak to the Japanese Parliament and thank Japan for five decades of friendship. Our great alliance has helped make possible the remarkable economic success of the Pacific region, which creates so much opportunity and so many jobs for Americans.

Today, Japan is in the midst of economic uncertainty and transition. But I have great confidence in Japan's future and in the unlimited potential of its people. And I'm confident that Japan will make the bold reforms needed to restore growth and opportunity, which will benefit the people of both our nations.

I will visit South Korea and travel to the Demilitarized Zone, one of the most dangerous places on Earth, where barbed wire marks a line dividing freedom and oppression. I will visit with American service men and women who defend this frontier and provide stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The people of South Korea have built a vibrant democracy and Asia's third largest economy. The people of the South are now reaching out to the North in a spirit of friendship and reconciliation. I support these efforts. Yet I will remind the world that America will not allow North Korea and other dan-

gerous regimes to threaten freedom with weapons of mass destruction.

In China, I look forward to seeing again firsthand the remarkable changes that are taking place as China opens to the world. America welcomes China's recent entry into the World Trade Organization, which will encourage American trade with China and encourage economic freedom and the rule of law in China itself.

I look forward to talking to the Chinese about their commitment to open up their markets to U.S. agricultural products. I'm also looking forward to meeting with Chinese students, because it gives me an opportunity to talk about the America I know, an America with strong values of family, community, faith, and freedom. And I will express my hopes that as China moves forward, it too will embrace the universal demands of human dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and value of every life.

The flight across the northern Pacific is a long one. But in our spirit of friendship and cooperation, the nations of the northern Pacific are drawing ever closer. All around this great ocean we see good friends, Canada and Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, the Philippines and Taiwan. And they will find in America a nation that is determined and patient and committed to the great cause of building a world that is more peaceful, more secure, and more prosperous.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:42 a.m. on February 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Troops at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska

February 16, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all. Colonel, thank you very much. It's nice to be back in Alaska. I was told I was the only President of the United States ever to live in Alaska. And even though that was in 1974, I have incredibly fond memories of such a beautiful, beautiful part of the world.

I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. And I'm so honored that, on my way overseas, that you all would greet Laura and me. I know—I'm confident that you're as proud of her as I am. A lot of people are. People all across America now know why I married her. *[Laughter]* A lot of them are still wondering why she married me. But we're honored to be here.

And I'm honored to be in a place where people understand the need for sacrifice and patriotism. There's no question that Anchorage, Alaska, the Anchorage Bowl is full of people who have dedicated themselves to serving our country, not only those who wear the uniform but the family members of those who wear the uniform. And I've come to Alaska to let you know that I'm proud of our United States military, that when I sent you into action, I knew you would not let this Nation down.

And I want to tell all of you, those who wear the uniform, the family members of those who wear the uniform, and those who support our United States military in Alaska, that our cause is just, our cause is noble, and we will defeat the forces of terror.

I want to thank Doug Miller, and I want to thank General Schwartz and Colonel Nickerson, and thank you all, as well.

As you can see, I'm traveling in some pretty fancy company today. I'm traveling with a man who has put together one of the greatest coalitions of freedom in the history of mankind, a man who has served our country with such incredible distinction and class, a valuable member of my Cabinet, Colin Powell.

And I appreciate—I appreciate the congressional delegation from Alaska, three really fine people, one of whom I traveled from Washington today with, and that's, of course, Senator Frank Murkowski. Thank you, Frank. He, along with Senator Stevens, does a fabulous job in Washington, DC, not only for Alaska but for the country—are tireless advocates for the people of Alaska. And so is Congressman Don Young. You've done a good job by putting good people in Washington, DC.

I don't know whether your Governor has admitted it or not, but he went to Yale. *[Laughter]* He probably slurs his words so it sounds like "jail." *[Laughter]* And we were classmates, and it's probably not politically correct to say it, but we were fraternity brothers. And I'm glad to be here with my old friend Tony Knowles.

I also found another George W., the mayor. I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here. I want to thank the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are here. I want to tell you something: We've got no better friends than Canada. They stand with us in this incredibly important crusade to defend freedom, this campaign to do what is right for our children and our grandchildren.

I want to thank the band, the Top Cover. I know we've got some members of the 3d Wing here today. As the Colonel mentioned, the 3d Wing of Elmendorf had a long and distinguished history of providing top cover for America. The F-15 Strike Eagle drivers and AWACS crews—*[applause]*—I didn't know the AWACS crews were quite that wild. I thought they were kind of a sedentary bunch. *[Laughter]* The radar operators have been providing the homeland defense for more than half a century, and America is grateful.

And I want to thank you for your efforts for Operation Noble Eagle. You've made a huge contribution to this—to our Nation. And as the lead air expeditionary force wing, the 3d Wing's mission is critical to maintaining peace and security around the world. You're good about getting people—the right people to the right place on time.

The people of Elmendorf and Anchorage welcome home more than 500 members of

the 90th Fighter Squadron. I'm glad you got back in time for Christmas. And that's exactly where I'm heading, over to South Korea, so if you've got somebody you want me to say hello to—[laughter]—never mind. [Laughter]

You know, I can't wait to take our message overseas. We're going to Japan and South Korea and China, where I'm going to continue to work with the leaders of those countries in our mutual concerns, starting with fighting the war against terror, making it clear that the resolve of this Nation is steady and strong—to be able to look these leaders in the eye and say, when it comes to defending freedom, the United States of America will not blink.

And I look forward to sharing with them my passionate belief in the values that we hold dear here in America: Freedom, freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to achieve your dreams. And it's those very values that came under attack on September the 11th. The good news is, our mighty military was ready.

You know, when we were attacked, it seemed like the people in the U.S. military took it personally. A reporter asked an Air Force pilot, he said—asked him if he had any direct connection to any of the victims of September the 11th. And he said, "You know, I think we all do. They're all Americans." You see, when you strike one American, you strike all Americans. And those terrorists are going to hear from us.

It's hard for me to figure out what was going through the minds of those who planned and attacked America. They must have thought we were soft.

Audience member. They were wrong!

The President. Yes, they were. They thought we were so materialistic that we didn't understand sacrifice and honor and duty. They must have been watching some lousy movies. [Laughter] They didn't know that this great Nation would rise up in unison to send a clear message that we will do whatever it takes to defend our freedoms, that this great Nation is resolved to find the killers, one by one, and bring them to justice.

But this cause is more than just an individual. Oh, I know sometimes the people on the airwaves like to say, "Well, someone is—

bin Laden's hiding here, and he's hiding there." But this cause is much bigger than a single person. This is about fighting terror wherever it hides. This is about defending America and our friends and allies, defending values. The world must understand that this Nation won't rest until we have destroyed terrorism, until we have denied the threat of global terrorism.

I can't tell you how passionate I feel on the subject. I look around and see your children and your grandchildren. This is an opportunity to defend freedom for them. This is a chance to say that your kids can grow up in a secure and peaceful America, and if they work hard and get a good education, they can realize their dreams in a peaceful world. We long for peace, but we understand that the terrorists must be brought to justice in order to achieve that peace.

Thanks to our military, we're making good progress, and it hasn't taken very long. If you think about it, we've been at this for a little less than 6 months, and we're achieving our objectives.

First, I mentioned the coalition the Secretary of State's working on. And we sent a clear message: Either you're with us, or you're against us; either you stand for freedom, or you stand with tyranny. And the good news is, many, many, many nations have heard that message, and I'm proud to report they stand squarely with the United States in the defense of freedom.

And you all also may remember that early on I said, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide comfort to a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. The Taliban now knows what we mean. They're gone. And guess what? People in Afghanistan don't miss them one bit. I am proud that our military has fulfilled our mission, our military mission. But in so doing, we liberated a people. We freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

But there's more to do in Afghanistan. We're entering a difficult phase of the first theater in the war against terror. They've got a lot of caves over there, but they can't hide long enough. See, we're patient, and we're determined, and we're a steadfast nation. We're steady in our resolve. And that's so

important, because we're trying to run down some people that, on the one hand, send youngsters to their death, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves. But there is no cave deep enough to hide from the long arm of justice of the United States military. We're going to run them down, one by one.

And it doesn't matter where they try to hide. There is no calendar; there is no deadline. There is no "If you don't do it by now, we're just going to go home and take a nap." [Laughter] That's not the way it works. Now that they have laid down the gauntlet, we're going to pursue them, and we're going to get them. And when we do, the world will be a safer place.

But we've got a bigger task than that. One of the most dangerous things that can happen to the future of our nation is that these kind of terrorist organizations hook up with nations that develop weapons of mass destruction. One of the worst things that could possibly happen to freedom-loving people, whether it be the United States or our friends or allies, is to allow nations that have got a dark history and an ugly past to develop weapons of mass destruction like nuclear weapons or chemical weapons or biological weapons which could, for example, be delivered by long-range missile, to become a part of the terrorist network. And there are such nations in the world.

Of course, we'd like for them to change their ways, and we'll continue to pressure them to do so. We'd like for them to conform to normal ways of treating their own people, plus their neighborhood, plus the world. We expect there to be transparency. People who have got something to hide make us nervous, particularly those who have gassed their own citizens in the past, for example.

And so we expect them—and so do other freedom-loving countries—to change their behavior. But if they do not, the United States will do what it takes to defend our freedom. Make no mistake about it.

This is a grand and noble cause, and it's going to require a strong and modern military. I sent a budget up to Congress. The good news is, I don't have to worry about two United States Senators and the Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Alaska.

The budget I submitted is the largest single increase in military spending in a generation. If we're going to fight for freedom, we have to pay the cost to fight for freedom, and it's worth it. And I also believe that any time we send our military into harm's way, they should have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible support. A grateful nation owes it to the United States military. And one other thing, you need another pay raise.

You hear a lot of talk about homeland security. And I want to assure you all, the moms and dads and everybody else here, that we are doing everything in our power to secure the homeland. I mean, we're chasing down every lead, every hint, every possible cell member. We're giving them a chance to share with us what they may or may not know. I mean, we are absolutely defending this Nation.

I can make no guarantees; I do know the enemy wants to hit us again. But every day, my administration discusses how best to make America a more difficult target. Every day, the FBI Director talks about how he has changed the culture of the FBI. We've got thousands of FBI agents working to protect the American people. We're making our borders more secure. We've now got a bio-terrorism initiative we're starting. We're doing a lot, and I'm proud of the efforts of people who are working overtime, constantly working to make the homeland secure.

But the American people must understand, the best way to secure the homeland is to unleash the United States military. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Oh, I know there's been a lot of focus overseas, but I'm also concerned about this: Any time anybody can't find work in America, I'm worried about it. I'm worried about the fact that the enemy, when they attacked us, hurt our economy. I'm worried about the fact that we need to have a stimulus program that will help people find work.

Listen, I'm more than willing to sign—and will sign legislation that provides people with an unemployment check. But people want more than an unemployment check in America. They want a steady paycheck, and Congress must understand that. I want a stimulus

package on my desk. There's too much politics in Washington. We need to be worried about those people who can't work. We need to be worried about those who can't find work, and understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which jobs are created.

And so one of the things we did up there—or over there, or over and down there—[laughter]—was we cut your taxes. We did it at the right time. And we did it at the right time. The best way to encourage economic vitality and growth is to let people keep their own money. When you spend your own money, somebody's got to manufacture that which you're spending it on. You see, more money in the private sector circulating makes it more likely that our economy will grow.

And incredibly enough, some want to take away part of those tax cuts. They've been reading the wrong textbook. You don't raise somebody's taxes in the middle of a recession. You trust people with their own money. And by the way, that money isn't the Government's money; it's the people's money.

There are some other things we can do and must do in order to create jobs. We've got to trade. I can't wait to talk to the Chinese leadership about getting them to honor their agreements for the American farmers and ranchers to be able to sell our foodstuffs into China. I said all along, there's many, many mouths in the world to be fed, and if I do my job by opening up markets, U.S. farmers and ranchers are going to feed them. We're the best in the world at growing crops and raising cows and hogs, and we ought to be feeding the world. And when we do, that will mean jobs for the American people.

But there's a way to create jobs for the American people right here in Alaska, right here in this important State. You know, I'm the first—I think we're the first administration in quite a while that has ever developed a national energy plan. See, I understand that we need a national energy plan. I understand it's in the national interests, the security interests of the United States of America that we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy. We'll all work hard to put measures in place that encourage conservation. It makes a lot of sense to do that. But folks, we've got to find energy in our own country,

and a great place to start is right here in the State of Alaska.

And a lot of people understand that not only is it in our national security interests that we drill for oil and gas in Alaska, it's good for jobs; it's good for working people; it's good for people to be able to put money on the plate—money on the table so they can feed their families. Listen, we need to be exploring for oil and gas in ANWR.

I've heard them all in Washington; I've heard all the skeptics say, "Well, you can't do that. It's going to ruin this or that." Listen, there's no doubt in my mind; there's no doubt in your Governor's mind; there's no doubt in the congressional delegation's mind; there's no doubt in the minds of people who take a sound, scientific look at this that we can do so without endangering the environment, that we can find energy for America's people and, at the same time, preserve the beauty of Alaska. What we need is a commonsense approach to energy.

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. There you are. [Laughter] Let me tell you how proud I am of America. I cannot tell you how fantastically I feel about the people of this country. You see, not only have we shown incredible resolve and strength; this is a nation that is full of compassion and kindness. We are a decent nation. The strength of our country is not the halls of Government. The strength of the country is the people.

And one of the ways—one of the things that people say to me is they say, "What can I do? What can I do to help in the war against terror?" Well, many of you are already answering that call here today, but others aren't. Others are wondering what they can do to help.

As you probably figured out by now, I view this current conflict as either us versus them, and evil versus good. And there's no in-between. There's no hedging. And if you want to join the war against evil, do some good. If you want to be a part of our Nation's stand against those who murder innocent people for the sake of murder, for those who believe in tyranny, for those who hijack a noble religion—if you want to take a stand, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to be a part of the war, walk across the street and say to a shut-in elderly person, “What can I do to help you,” or mentor a child, or get into your public schools here in Anchorage, or provide support for people, or go to your church or synagogue or mosque and walk out with a program that says, “I want to help somebody in need.” Feed the hungry. If you want to be a part of the war against terror, remember that it’s the gathering momentum of millions and millions of acts of kindness that take place in America that stands squarely in the face of evil.

The enemy hit us, and they made a huge mistake. Not only will our Nation seek justice, but out of the evil will come incredible goodness. Out of the evil will become America more resolved not only to defend freedom, more resolved to sacrifice, if necessary, to defend the freedom, but America resolved to show the world our true strength, which is the compassionate, decent heart of the American people.

It is such an honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming out to say hello to Laura and me, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in Hangar 3 at the base. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Doug Miller, USAF, vice commander, 3d Wing; Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, commander, Alaskan Command; Col. Richard Nickerson, USA, Alaska Chief of Staff; Gov. Tony Knowles of Alaska; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks to the Republican Party of Alaska in Anchorage

February 16, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you, Governor—I mean—[*laughter*]. Thank you all for coming. Listen, I’ve been in Alaska long enough to remember when Edith Holmes sang “The Star Spangled Banner.” [*Laughter*] God rest her soul. I actually met Edith when I was living in Fairbanks in 1974. I had the privilege of voting in the Republican primary in 1974. As you know, you’ve got a one-month residency requirement, and I met it. So I

voted. I can’t remember who I voted for, but I was a proud participant. I know I’m the only President ever to have voted in any kind of primary in Alaska. [*Laughter*]

But I have such fond memories of Fairbanks and the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. And as you know, there was a period of time when you had kind of weak immigration laws and a lot of Texans came up here—[*laughter*—many of whom were my friends. But such a fabulous State. And thanks for such warm hospitality. And who said your three electoral votes didn’t matter? [*Laughter*]

I’m real thrilled to be traveling with Laura, obviously. The last time I went overseas, she didn’t go. It was right after 9/11. I went to Shanghai for a quick meeting and came back. Now the people of the Far East are going to get to see a fabulous wife and a great mother and a great First Lady for the country.

I do want to thank all those folks who put this on today, and I particularly want to thank the members of the Alaska congressional delegation: Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young. These are three very accomplished, capable, smart people who also have got a little bit of seniority, which helps. [*Laughter*]

But Senator Stevens, I wish he were here because I would like for him to hear what I am going to say about him. He is a—he’s a great legislator who loves America, and he is smart, and I really, really enjoyed working with him. He is a wonderful representative of the State of Alaska, obviously. But those of you who know Ted Stevens, you can’t pigeonhole him just for one State. He really cares deeply about the Nation, as does Frank.

And Don Young and I worked a lot of times together on this airport security bill. And it’s a good piece of legislation, and he deserves a lot of credit for seizing a moment and getting some good legislation through. It was a period of time when it was so important for the country to see that the Government was actually doing something constructive at home to make—to kind of ease the nerves of the American people. And Don did a really good job of working that issue. And

I was proud to sign the bill that he had a major hand in getting to my desk.

And I also want to thank all the statehouse folks and the mayor, George W.—another George W.—[laughter]—there he is. But it's a thrill for us to be here.

We're on our way, obviously, to Japan, South Korea, and China. It's an important trip, because we've got a lot in common with those nations. We've got trading interests. And as I mentioned in the speech over there, that one of the things I am going to continually remind these nations, that trade ought to be a two-way street, you know, that if we open up our market, they ought to open up theirs. And I will work hard to do that, because we have got a competitive advantage in a lot of important areas, and one of which is agriculture. I truly believe that it is in our Nation's interests and the world's interests that we tear down these barriers to trade, so that we can feed people who are hungry.

I'm also going to talk about our values. The world obviously knows that we're willing to defend values, the values of freedom. And I'll explain to the leaders firsthand my absolute determination to do that.

I told the country at different times right after September the 11th that the farther we got away from the date, it's likely that people would grow weary and tired of the efforts. Not me, nor my administration. History has called us into action, and action is where we'll be. We've laid out a pretty clear set of objectives early on in the war against terror but—all focused on defending freedom. And it's as simple as that. It's good versus evil, and freedom is under attack.

My job, obviously, covers a lot of fronts, but there's nothing more important than the security of the American people and to prevent an attack. And as much as I wish I didn't have to say this, I still believe we are under attack. And I see threats every morning. Having said that, you can rest assured we're doing everything in our power to keep America safe. Everything possible, obviously, within the confines of the Constitution, we're doing.

And I'm proud to report that the team is really working hard. You know, when I first came into office—or, not first came into office—well, first came into office, and actually

right around the September the 11th period—the FBI's function was really to run down spies or white-collar criminals. And there's nothing wrong with that; that's an important function of the FBI. But I can tell you with certainty they've got a new major focus, and that's preventing an attack. We've got over 4,000 FBI agents around the country that are working hand in glove with State and local authorities, just to give—just to keep running down every lead and every hint and every opportunity to keep the country safe. And we are. And I'm pleased with the efforts being made.

But I'm also a realistic fellow. And I know that in the long term, in order to keep America safe, we've got to keep this vast coalition we've put together and rout out terror wherever it hides and wherever it exists. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're going to do.

The amazing thing for me is that the country is so patient and so determined and so resolved. And I am very grateful for that, as I'm sure you can imagine. It is such a powerful feeling to know that I represent a great land that is united in our efforts to secure freedom.

The other thing that I find interesting is that not only are we going to leave the world a safer and freer place, but I believe the culture is beginning to change. And one of the reasons I first ran for office in Texas and then eventually the Presidency was, I was concerned about a culture which, as I said in my State of the Union, said, "If it feels good, do it." The second half of that is, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." And my wish is, for the country, is that we usher in a period of personal responsibility.

That means, if you're a mother or a father, that your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. That's really what a period of personal responsibility means; we all rededicate ourselves to the parenting, if we're fortunate enough to have a child. Or it means that you'll love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Or if you're corporate America, it means you will have full disclosure on

all your assets and liabilities. *[Laughter]* Seriously, so that you don't mislead your shareholders or employees. There's certain responsibility that comes to those of us who have been entrusted with people's lives, in my case, or corporate America's lives, or individual lives, and we must seize that moment.

And you know, I—probably the most meaningful moment for me was on Flight 93, when the guys get on the airplane, and they hear—they get the word that something's happening in Washington. The plane's hijacked. They tell their loved ones they love them; they say a prayer; and they drive the plane into the ground. It is kind of the epitome of taking responsibility to save somebody else's life. It's the ultimate sacrifice.

I believe the country is asking, you know, how best to make ourselves better. And as I said in the speech in there, one way to do that, obviously, is to practice acts of kindness. And it's that—it's the compilation of these acts of decency and responsibility that will eventually define America and eventually win the war against terror.

We've got some—besides the military, besides the budget items, there's obviously an issue that's relevant here to Alaska that I am passionate about, and that is energy. It is so important that our Nation be wise about our energy policy and be—first of all, we've got to conserve better, and we will. There's new technologies coming on that will enhance conservation, and that's important, no question about it. And the less energy we use and still are able to grow our economy, the less dependent we are on somebody else's energy.

But we've also got to explore at home, and there is no better place to do so than in Alaska. There is a myth that somehow the environment cannot be protected if you find natural gas. As a matter of fact, natural gas will help protect the environment. *[Laughter]* And it is—we've got to do everything in our power to send a clear message about reality, that nature and exploration can coexist in a positive way.

I want to thank the Teamsters. Jerry Hood traveled with us today, and I've met with Jimmy Hoffa. He understands that this is more than just national security. We're also

talking about people's jobs. This is a chance for people to get to work and to make a living and to put—and to help battle this recession that we face.

So I am—I told Frank—I mean, I can assure you, this is not only important for our national security interests; it's right for America that we pursue this. And obviously you don't need to persuade your—any elected officials here. But if you happen to know somebody else in Congress that seems reluctant, tell them the truth; tell them how it works; tell them how important it is for the country.

But we're having the time of our lives, and it's been an—as you can imagine, a fantastic experience in many ways, sad in many ways, very emotional for a period of time. But I've never been more optimistic about a country or a philosophy. I believe that philosophy that our party honors is one that heralds the individual, recognizes everybody has got potential, and that the job of the Government is to help people realize their potential. It's not to create wealth but an environment in which people are willing to take risks so that the entrepreneur can flourish, you can own your own business. We believe strongly in the freedoms that we adhere so closely to, that—we believe in private property rights and the rights of every citizen.

And so it's a proud moment for me to be able to represent the Republican philosophy to the United States but, more importantly, show that it works. It works for people.

And then so the tax cut that I campaigned on that we worked hard to get not only has made a huge difference in the lives of our citizens, but it came right at the right time. Just as the economy was, you know, declared stagnant and dead in the water, we got a tax cut going, which means people have got more money to spend, which means it's kind of a boost in the arm for our economy. And I wish I could say we're out of recession. I don't think we are. But there are some positive signs happening.

So, all in all, I guess what I'm telling you is, one, I love being your President. I want to thank you for helping me get there. And I am incredibly optimistic, optimistic about the country, optimistic about peace, optimistic about our future. I just feel so strong, and it's great to be a President of a land of

so many good people. And they don't even have to be Republican, as far as I'm concerned—[laughter]—people from all walks of life.

So thanks for greeting Laura and me. Thanks for giving us a good sendoff as we go on to this important foreign policy trip. And may God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in The Gathering Place at the Alaskan Native Heritage Center. In his remarks, he referred to Alaskan gubernatorial candidate Senator Frank H. Murkowski, who introduced the President; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and James P. Hoffa, general president, and Jerry Hood, special assistant to the general president on energy policy, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

**The President's News Conference
With Prime Minister Junichiro
Koizumi of Japan in Tokyo, Japan
February 18, 2002**

Prime Minister Koizumi. This is my fourth meeting with President Bush, and we engaged in very candid and very friendly talks, and very useful meeting it was. I was able to renew our friendship and cement further our relationship of trust and reaffirm the importance of Japan-U.S. alliance.

In the fight against terrorism, Japan, on its own initiative, has been cooperating with the United States and in cooperation with the international community to eradicate terrorism. And we shall continue with this firm resolve and firm stance to fight against terrorism in the days ahead, as well.

I expressed my respect for the strong leadership that President Bush has exercised to date. On September the 11th, these unforgivable terrorist acts took place. But in this fight against terrorism, we shall continue—we shall need to sustain our cooperation, and under international cooperation we need to carry forward this fight against terrorism.

On these points, again, we saw eye to eye. On the issue of Afghanistan, the roles that Japan and the United States play will differ, but we should complement each other in order to make our own contributions to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Turning to East Asia, as a whole, the relationship between Japan and East Asia is important for the stability and the peace in the world. Japan attaches importance to our relations with China and Korea, and the close coordination between Japan and China and Japan and Korea is something that I would also like to work on to further strengthen.

On North Korea, Japan, through cooperation and coordination with the United States and Korea, would like to work on normalization of relations with North Korea.

With regard to China, we welcome China's accession to WTO, and it will be hosting Olympic games in the future, as well. And I very much hope that China will play important roles in the international community and also play its part in the international community, recognizing its important responsibilities. In considering the future of friendly ties between Japan and China and Japan and Korea, we also agree that Japan-U.S. relations would be very important.

And turning to economic issues, economic revitalization in Japan to imbue confidence once again in the Japanese economy, this is the greatest mission given to my Koizumi administration. Whether my support is high or low, I shall not slacken this structural reform efforts that I've made. This policy of structural reform will not change whatsoever. I explained this to President Bush, the measures against deflation and measures to prevent the financial unrest, but we will do all our best in this regard. So there will be absolutely no change to the structural reform efforts that the Koizumi administration has maintained. In fact, it may only be strengthened, but it will not change; the policy will not change.

Ten years ago, Japan perhaps was a little overconfident. Today, Japan has lost confidence in itself. But Japan has to regain confidence in itself, and with hope, if we work on the structural reform, then definitely Japan shall be able to revive its economy. And the potentials of Japan can also come to the fore. And it is to that end that the Koizumi administration has been working on structural reform. And President Bush has shown his understanding towards this and

has expressed his strong support for this policy of mine.

On global challenges, there is the global warming issue and Kyoto Protocol question. The United States has come up with a very positive proposal. The problems of environment and the problems of economy, these should proceed hand in hand, and they should not run counter to each other. On the future problems of the globe, the technological development in the interest of the environment will produce economic growth.

So economy and the environment do not run against each other. Rather, efforts to improve the environment will bring about science and technology—development in science and technology and, thus, also generate greater economic development. This perspective should not be lost.

Japan will aim at achieving both economic growth and environmental improvements. So Japan welcomes the positive proposal on global environment issue, and we appreciate the stance shown by the United States to contribute on that front, and we'll expect greater efforts in that respect.

On the environmental questions, economic questions, and so on, in these broad areas Japan wishes to engage in discussions with the United States and cooperate with the U.S. So I was able to have very candid exchange of views on all these and numerous other issues.

This, as I said, was our fourth meeting, but I feel as if we've met each other umpteen times already. In fact, we were able to exchange views on almost anything. Our relations are built on a deep mutual trust, and building on that, we'd like to further develop our relations. And I believe it will be important for Japan and the United States to cooperate on these and numerous other issues, because in doing so we'll contribute not just to Japan and the United States but to the entire world as well. And I think it was a great meeting.

President Bush. Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. It is a real pleasure and honor to begin my trip to Asia here in Japan. And the reason why our first stop is here in Japan is because Japan is one of America's greatest and truest friends.

I also want to thank my friend the Prime Minister. He is a man whose word I trust, a man whose advice I seek, and a person with whom I've got good personal relations. And I want to thank you for your friendship and your generous hospitality.

I believe the U.S.-Japanese alliance is the bedrock for peace and prosperity in the Pacific. Japan is a generous host to America's forward-deployed forces, providing an essential contribution to the stability of Asia. This enduring partnership benefits both our countries, but it also benefits the world. The peace of the world is now threatened by global terror. And we have had no better friend, and nobody provides such steadfast support than the Japanese Government.

I remember the phone call, Mr. Prime Minister, you gave me when I was in the Oval Office. It meant so much to hear—in this right after 9/11, it meant so much to hear your voice and your steadfast support, which has not wavered. And I want to thank you and the Japanese people for that.

Japan also understands that in order to complete the first theater in the war against terror, that we must help Afghanistan rebuild. And I want to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your government for hosting a very important conference. Today we had a—we spent some—a good deal of time talking about how to make sure that the Afghanistan of today, the post-Taliban Afghanistan, is stable and has a chance to achieve prosperity and security and peace for her citizens. And Japan plays an incredibly important role in that.

Japan also has aided people throughout the world. Japan is a generous nation, helping the developing nations with health and education needs, and for that we are also very grateful.

Prime Minister Koizumi and I not only reaffirmed the importance of the Japanese-United States security alliance; we also talked about our economies. I told him that our economy is still in a recession, but there are some hopeful signs that we're recovering. There are some signs that the tax relief plan that we put in place is having a positive effect, so that we're beginning to see some growth.

I also, obviously, talked to him about his strategy for the Japanese economy. And he mentioned about confidence. Well, let me tell you what my confidence level is like: I'm confident in this man's leadership ability; I'm confident in his strategy; and I'm confident in his desire to implement that strategy. And when he implements the strategy, it will help Japan's economy a lot. And that's important. It's important not only for our bilateral relations; it is important for the world's second largest economy to grow. It'll help the region, and it will help the world.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, it is my honor to come to your beautiful country. I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. Laura thanks you for your hospitality, as well. And I look forward to our meeting tonight and the chance to speak to the Diet tomorrow. And as importantly, I look forward to meeting the Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and the Empress.

Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions, please?

Reforming Japan's Economy

Q. First, a question for President Bush. In the early meeting, did you make any specific—did you ask the Prime Minister to take any specific actions on the Japanese economy? Much is said about the triple lows for the Japanese economy, and some speak of an impending financial crisis. Which would you like Japan to give priority to, structural reform or antideflation measures? And Prime Minister Koizumi, what sort of balance do you intend to strike?

President Bush. First of all, before I had a chance to bring up the economy, the Prime Minister brought up the economy. In our private discussion, he said, "I want to make it very clear to you exactly what I intend to do." And he talked about nonperforming loans, the deflation^o issue, and regulatory reform, and he placed equal emphasis on all three.

And I'm not here to give advice. I'm here to lend support. When he looked me in the eye and told me that he is going to take measures necessary to improve in all three re-

gions, I believe him. I believe that's his intent. And that is good news, because it's going to require a strong leader to deal with the difficult problems facing the Japanese economy.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister?

Prime Minister Koizumi. He asked about structural reform or measures against deflation. That question, itself, I think is built on a wrong perception. Whatever the situation may be, Japan needs to carry through its structural reform. Of course, there are many activities that are going on where Government is not involved, and we can invite the private sector to come into areas that were covered by the Government, and we should carry forward regulatory reform, as well. And there will be, of course, confrontation with the vested interest.

Whatever measures we may take, financial measures or deflationary measures or fiscal policy measures or what, changes will not take place. So it's not really a question of which should be given priority, structural reform or deflationary measures. Whatever the situation may be, we have to implement a structural reform. So the Koizumi administration will never slacken its efforts to work on structural reform.

I hope you understand that point full well. Some might think that I'm going to shift from structural reform measures. I'm aware of those voices, but that will never happen. Whatever the situation, structural reform needs to be implemented, and without that, there cannot be economic revival of Japan.

And having said that, deflationary measures or monetary easing, these are measures needed to accelerate structural reform. So whatever the situation may be, I will never slacken the structural reform.

Q. Mr. President, you expressed confidence in the Prime Minister again today. But he's been in office for about a year now, and he's been unable to enact structural reforms. Why do you think it's taken so long for the Japanese Government to enact the reforms you're talking about?

And to the Prime Minister, you called the President's alternative to Kyoto a positive proposal. That given, do you think the world's environment would have been better off if America had signed on to Kyoto?

^o White House correction.

President Bush. The second question is moot. What was the first question? [*Laughter*]

Q. Why has it taken——

President Bush. Oh, that's right, yes. Listen, sometimes it is very difficult to get a reform package done in any society, but particularly structural reform. And what the Prime Minister is proposing is a bold agenda, and it takes somebody who's willing to spend capital, political capital, to get the agenda done.

So I am—my main focus of this meeting was to judge intent and desire and willingness to work hard to achieve a bold agenda. And having listened to the Prime Minister at length today and looked him in the eye, I feel very confident that that's precisely what he is going to do, pursue a bold agenda.

And sometimes it is not easy to get others to follow, but that's his job, is to lead. And he knows that. And that's why, one, I like him a lot, because I appreciate bold leadership. And secondly, he is going to stay the course, and that's important as well.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Well, some might say we're slow, but we're moving steadily. It's been less than one year. Many people say there haven't been tangible results. But look at Thatcher reform or Reagan reform; none of these reforms were achieved within a year or two. In fact, the results of the Reagan reform came to fruition after he had retired. So it's been less than one year, and I would like to say that we are making steady progress. Of course, in certain areas we can achieve results in 9 or 10 months. But I hope you understand that there are areas where we have been making steady progress. Of course, there is a need for coordination with the Diet, with the parliament. And there are areas where we cannot proceed without their approval, but we are proceeding steadily. And of course, we are striving to move forward our reform, but we're not falling behind at all.

As for the Kyoto Protocol, Japan has been very tough on the environmental questions, and we've been very active. I certainly understand the circumstances in the United States, but of course we will continue to work so that we can cooperate with the United States. It is a question for the United States to de-

cide whether to take part in the protocol or not, but I hope we will continue with our efforts so that we can move in the same direction, as I said earlier. Both the economy and the environment can be improved together, and we'd like to see further efforts on the part of the United States.

Iraq, Iran, and North Korea

Q. A question for President Bush. You referred to Iraq as the axis of evil. And I wonder if in the meeting you referred to the possibility of exercising force and, if so, what did you say? And what role would you expect of Japan?

Mr. Koizumi, if the U.S. really exercises force, what specifically would Japan do?

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]*—*talked about my speech I gave to the Congress. Japan is one of our strongest allies and close friend. And I explained to the Prime Minister that there are some nations in the world which want to develop weapons that will hurt the United States and/or our friends and allies, and we've got to stop them from doing so.

I also reminded him, in the speech I talked about the need for nations to come together, to work together. And I reiterate that, that we've got a coalition of freedom-loving nations that can work together to, hopefully, help them change their behavior. I also explained to him that all options are on the table and that I will keep all options on the table.

Other than that, there are—there's nothing else to talk about. We want to resolve all issues peacefully, whether it be Iraq, Iran, or North Korea, for that matter. And as you know, I'm going to the Korean Peninsula to talk about that very subject. On the one side of a parallel, we've got people starving to death because a nation chooses to build weapons of mass destruction; and on the other side, there's freedom. And it's important for those of us who love freedom to work with nations to convince them to choose freedom.

But I've also said that they should make no mistake about it, that we will defend our interests, and I will defend the American people. And that's what we talked about.

Prime Minister Koizumi. With regard to this axis of evil, again we exchanged our views very frankly. Iraq, Iran, North Korea, we exchanged our views regarding these countries very candidly.

The expression “axis of evil,” I believe, reflects the firm resolve of President Bush and the United States against terrorism. President Bush, I believe, has been very calm and cautious vis-a-vis Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. He will not exclude any possibilities in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent terrorism. He will resort to all possible means to fight against terrorism, and I believe this resolve was behind the expression “axis of evil.”

Now, this fight against terrorism is not going to be a short one. I understand it’s going to be a drawn out and tough fight. And Japan, together with the United States and the international community, will, on its own initiative, cooperate very actively. And I believe Japan’s role in the fight against or eradication of terrorism will be very important. And Japan shall continue to support the United States. So that’s the sort of exchange of views we had.

Nature of the Coalition

Q. Mr. President, the French Foreign Minister called your “axis of evil” remarks simplistic, and a top European Union official has accused you of taking an absolutist position on this. If you do not get the kind of support that you just suggested from your allies, is the United States willing to go it alone?

President Bush. Well, first of all, the Secretary of State had, I thought, an interesting reply to the French Foreign Minister. And you might want to ask him afterwards what he meant by “vapors.”

People who love freedom understand that we cannot allow nations that aren’t transparent, nations with a terrible history, nations that are so dictatorial they’re willing to starve their people—we can’t allow them to mate up with terrorist organizations. In the war against terror, one of the worst things that could possibly happen is Al Qaida-like organizations becoming allied and operationally attuned to nations which develop—which have a weapon of mass destruction. Free-

dom-loving people understand that, and I’m going to continue making the case.

Now, listen, I understand what happens in the international arena; people say things. But the leaders I’ve talked to fully understand, exactly, what needs to happen. They understand the resolve of the United States of America. They understand that our commitment is not just in Afghanistan, that history has given us a unique opportunity to defend freedom. And we’re going to seize the moment and do it.

And I’m confident nations will come with us. Right here is a Prime Minister that has said he’s our friend; he is a part of a coalition; and he’s going to be steady in our coalition. And for that I’m very grateful. And the other world leaders I have talked to have expressed the same resolve and determination. And so I don’t accept the hypothesis of your question.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much. This concludes the press conference.

President Bush. But never mind. [*Laughter*] Thank you all.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 2:07 p.m. in the Prime Minister’s Residence. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, the President referred to Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hubert Vedrine of France. The President also referred to the Tokyo donors conference, the January 20–21 meeting of 61 nations which pledged \$4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Prime Minister Koizumi referred to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Remarks to the Diet in Tokyo

February 19, 2002

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Prime Ministers, distinguished members of the Diet, Ambassador and Mrs. Baker, Secretary Colin Powell and the American delegation, Japanese delegation, distinguished representatives of the great people of Japan: Laura and I are honored to be here. And thank you so very much for your invitation, and thank you

very much for the generous reception. Thank you so very much for the kind and generous reception that we have been shown by the Japanese people.

We look forward to the great honor of meeting Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, later on today. And we bring to you the respect and good wishes of the American people.

A century ago, our two countries were beginning to learn from and about one another after a long period of suspicion and mistrust. The great Japanese scholar and statesman Inazo Nitobe, a man who understood both our peoples, envisioned a future of friendship as he wrote, "I want to become a bridge across the Pacific." That bridge has been built, not by one man but by millions of Americans and Japanese.

My trip to Asia begins here in Japan for an important reason. It begins here because for a century and a half now, America and Japan have formed one of the great and enduring alliances of modern times. From that alliance has come an era of peace in the Pacific. And in that peace, the world has witnessed the broad advance of prosperity and democracy throughout east Asia.

From its very birth, our alliance has been based on common interests, common responsibilities, and common values. The bonds of friendship and trust between our two people were never more evident than in the days and months after September the 11th. We were grateful, so very grateful, for the condolences and compassion of the Japanese people and the Japanese Government. We were especially touched—especially touched that the people of Ehime Prefecture sent a donation to the families of victims, showing empathy for loss, even when their own loss was so recent. This is a gesture of friendship my Nation will never forget.

Last fall in Shanghai, the Prime Minister gave me a special gift, a samurai arrow in a box in which the Prime Minister had written, "The arrow to defeat the evil and bring peace to the Earth." He also said, "This is a fight we have to win to ensure the survival of freedom."

I assured him then, and I assure you today, freedom will prevail. Civilization and ter-

rorism cannot coexist, and by defeating terror, we will defend the peace of the world.

Japan and America are working to find and disrupt terrorist cells. Your diplomats helped build a worldwide coalition to defend freedom. Your Self-Defense Forces are providing important logistical support, and your generosity is helping to rebuild a liberated Afghanistan.

Your response to the terrorist threat has demonstrated the strength of our alliance and the indispensable role of Japan that is global, and that begins in Asia. The success of this region is essential to the entire world, and I'm convinced the 21st century will be the Pacific century.

Japan and America share a vision for the future of the Asia-Pacific region as a fellowship of free Pacific nations. We seek a peaceful region where no power or coalition of powers endangers the security or freedom of other nations, where military force is not used to resolve political disputes. We seek a peaceful region where the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction do not threaten humanity. We seek a region with strong institutions of economic and political cooperation that is open to trade and investment on a global scale, a region in which people and capital and information can move freely, breaking down barriers and creating bonds of progress, ties of culture, and momentum toward democracy. We seek a region in which demilitarized zones and missile batteries no longer separate people with a common heritage and a common future.

Realizing this vision, a fellowship of free Pacific nations, will require Japan and America to work more closely together than ever before. Our responsibilities are clear. Fortunately, our alliance has never been stronger.

America, like Japan, is a Pacific nation, drawn by trade and values and history to be a part of Asia's future. We stand more committed than ever to a forward presence in this region. We will continue to show American power and purpose in support of the Philippines, Australia, and Thailand. We will deter aggression against the Republic of Korea. Together, Japan and the United States will strengthen our ties of security. America will remember our commitments to the people on Taiwan. And to help protect

the people of this region and our friends and allies in every region, we will press on with an effective program of missile defenses.

In a few days, I'll visit China. America, like Japan, welcomes a China that is stable and prosperous and at peace with its neighbors. We're grateful for China's cooperation in the war against terror. We both supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization. And we will work with China in the great task of building a prosperous and stable Asia for our children and for our grandchildren.

In the United States, China will find a partner in trade. China will find the respect it deserves as a great nation. And America will find—and China will find that America speaks for the universal values that gave our Nation birth, the rule of law, the freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and dignity of every life. Those are the values of my country, and those are the values of our alliance.

America and Japan have joined to oppose danger and aggression. We have also joined to bring aid and hope to those who struggle throughout the developing world. We are the world's two largest economies and the two most generous contributors of economic and humanitarian aid. Japan's commitment to development is known and honored throughout the world. So is Japan's leading role in great international institutions, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the G-8, among others.

The challenges of development are often deep and difficult, persistent poverty, widespread illiteracy, terrible disease. Money is necessary. Yet money alone will not solve these problems. Lasting help will come as we help to rebuild honest government and effective law enforcement, quality schools and quality hospitals and growing economies. Progress will require a long-term commitment, and we both must provide it.

In the months ahead, our nations will take part in two world summits focused on development. Japan and the United States should work to expand our partnerships with the private sectors, to reform international financial institutions, to improve access to education for boys and girls in Asia and Africa and in the Middle East. In all our efforts we must

put resources where they do the most good, with the people and the communities we are trying to help.

Our two countries have unique strengths and a unique opportunity to combine them for the benefit of the world. In science, we're exploring new technologies to produce energy while protecting the environment. In medicine, we're exploring the human genome and nearing treatments and cures to extend lives and relieve suffering.

Japan is making these great contributions even in a time of economic uncertainty and transition that has caused some to question whether your nation can maintain these commitments and your leadership in the world. I have no such questions, and I'm confident that Japan's greatest era lies ahead.

Japan has some of the most competitive corporations and some of the most educated and motivated workers in the world. And Japan, thanks to my friend the Prime Minister, is on the path to reform. I value my relationship with the Prime Minister. He is a leader who embodies the energy and determination of his country. He and I have had very good visits. I trust him. I enjoy his sense of humor. *[Laughter]* I consider him a close friend. He reminds me of a new American star, Ichiro. *[Laughter]* The Prime Minister can hit anything you throw at him. *[Laughter]*

Over the years we Americans have seen our share of economic challenges. In the late seventies and early eighties, our competitiveness was weak; our banks were in trouble; high taxes and needless regulation discouraged risktaking and strangled innovation. America overcame these difficulties by reducing taxes and by reducing regulations. We moved nonperforming loans to market, making way for new investment. As we made reforms, foreign investors regained faith in us, especially investors from Japan.

We learned that, in times of crisis and stagnation, it is better to move forward boldly with reform and restructuring than to wait, hoping that old practices will somehow work again. Through bold action, we emerged a better and stronger economy, and so will you.

Over the past few years, Americans have increased our investments in Japan, further binding our nations and showing confidence

in your future. Japan has a proud history of moving forward, not through revolutions but through restorations.

One of the heroes of the Meiji Restoration, Yukichi Fukuzawa, was a student of the economic ideas that transformed the Western world. He saw these ideas spark prosperity and lift millions out of poverty, and he sought to introduce them to his people. As he translated an influential economics textbook into Japanese, he came across an English word with no Japanese equivalent, "competition". So he coined a new word, "kyoso," and forever enriched the Japanese language.

But kyoso is more than just a word. It is a spirit and an ethic. It is an engine that drives innovation and unleashes the potential of free people. More than a century ago, competition helped propel Japanese economy into the modern era. A half-century ago, it accelerated the Japanese postwar economic miracle admired by the world. Now Japan has embarked on a new restoration, a restoration of prosperity and economic growth through fundamental reform and the full embrace of competition.

In all the work that lies ahead, in the defense of freedom, in the advance of development, in the work of reform, you'll have a firm ally in the American Government, and you'll have a constant friend in the American people.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Chamber of the House of Councillors. In his remarks, he referred to Tamisuke Watanuki, Speaker, House of Representatives; Yutaka Inoue, President, House of Councillors; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker; Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; and Ichiro Suzuki, right fielder, Seattle Mariners.

The President's News Conference With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea in Seoul, South Korea

February 20, 2002

President Kim. I would like to give my presentation. First, on behalf of the Korean people, I would like to warmly welcome President Bush and thank him for taking time out of the war against terrorism to visit our country. This visit is the first by President Bush since his Inauguration, and it is also the first by an American President in the 21st century. It is for this reason that this visit will lay the foundation for future progress in Korean-U.S. relations in this century.

During today's meeting, President Bush and I recognized that the Korea-U.S. alliance is indispensable not only for stability on the Korean Peninsula but also in Northeast Asia as a whole. Furthermore, President Bush and I expressed satisfaction that the bilateral alliance is not limited to cooperation in security matters but that the comprehensive partnership has expanded and developed to all areas, including political, economic, and diplomatic arenas.

President Bush and I exchanged views about the war against terrorism and future course of action. I praised President Bush for the success in the war against terrorism under his outstanding leadership and indicated that Korea as an ally would do its utmost to cooperate and provide full support.

President Bush and I agreed to work with mutually consistent objectives and strategies in close consultation in pursuing the North Korean policy. I greatly appreciate President Bush's staunch support for our sunshine policy, as well as the U.S.'s unconditional proposal to dialog with North Korea.

President Bush and I also discussed in-depth issues related to the threat of WMD proliferation, such as the possibility of terrorists obtaining WMDs, and U.S. efforts to deter their spread across the world. In this regard, we also concurred that the objective is to resolve the issue of North Korean

WMDs and missiles at an early date through dialog. To this end, we agreed that Korea-U.S. joint efforts were necessary.

President Bush and I concurred that continued expansion and progress of bilateral, economic, and trade relations are in the interest of both our countries. Furthermore, we also agreed to further deepen cooperative relations at the multilateral level, such as the WTO Doha development agenda.

I am more than satisfied with the frank and open exchange of views I had with President Bush this morning on numerous issues. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Bush for the interest he has expressed in peace on the Korean Peninsula, for the unparalleled affection he has for Korea, as well as the efforts and enthusiasm he has demonstrated in the development of bilateral relations.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. It is such an honor to be here. Laura and I are grateful for your hospitality and the hospitality of First Lady Hee-ho. We look forward to a full day in your beautiful country.

The President is right; we had a great meeting. It was so good that we didn't want to go into the meeting room where there was more people. We had a very frank exchange. And that's important when you're friends, to be able to discuss issues in depth.

A lot of times I find in the diplomatic world that people want to gloss over issues; they don't want to spend much time really understanding each other's positions. Because of our friendship, because of the friendship between our countries, we had a very frank exchange and a positive exchange, and one that allows me to safely say that this relationship is 50 years old, the relationship between South Korea and America, and it's seen a lot of problems. And we've dealt with those problems together. And I'm confident we'll be dealing with problems 50 years from now in a spirit of cooperation and openness.

I understand how important this relationship is to our country, and the United States is strongly committed to the security of South Korea. We'll honor our commitments. Make no mistake about it that we stand firm behind

peace in the Peninsula. And no one should ever doubt that, Mr. President. No one should ever doubt that this is a vital commitment for our Nation.

It's also vital that we continue to trade together. And so we obviously discussed issues of the—security issues on the Peninsula. We also discussed ways to make sure our trade was more open and fair to both sides. I'm very impressed by the amount of investment capital, foreign capital that has come into South Korea in the last 4 years. It's a testimony to a country that understands open markets and freedom. And I'm going up to the DMZ here in a little bit, and it's going to be an interesting contrast, to talk about the benefits and the dividends of freedom. And part of those is an economy that is vibrant and improving, thanks to structural reforms.

I assured the President we're doing everything we can in our country, as well, to make sure our economy recovers. It's hard to be a good trading partner if you don't have a good economy, and we're beginning to see signs that there's economic vitality in America, which will be good for our partners here in South Korea as well.

And of course, we talked about North Korea. And I made it very clear to the President that I support his sunshine policy. And I'm disappointed that the other side, the North Koreans, will not accept the spirit of the sunshine policy.

We talked about family reunifications, the displaced family initiative that he started, which I think is a great initiative. And yet only 3,600 families, I believe it was, have been allowed to reunite. I asked him how many—what's the potential—what are the potential families on both sides of the DMZ that could reunite. He said, 10 million people.

In order to make sure there's sunshine, there needs to be two people, two sides involved. And I praised the President's efforts. And I wonder out loud why the North Korean President won't accept the gesture of good will that the South Korean President has so rightfully offered. And I told him that we, too, would be happy to have a dialog with the North Koreans. I've made that offer, and yet there has been no response.

Some in this country are—obviously have read about my very strong comments about the nature of the regime. And let me explain why I made the comments I did. I love freedom. I understand the importance of freedom in people's lives. I'm troubled by a regime that tolerates starvation. I worry about a regime that is closed and not transparent. I'm deeply concerned about the people of North Korea. And I believe that it is important for those of us who love freedom to stand strong for freedom and make it clear the benefits of freedom.

And that's exactly why I said what I said about the North Korean regime. I know what can happen when people are free; I see it right here in South Korea. And I'm passionate on the subject, and I believe so strongly in the rights of the individual that I, Mr. President, will continue to speak out. Having said that, of course, as you and I discussed, we're more than willing to speak out publicly and speak out in private with the North Korean leadership. And again, I wonder why they haven't taken up our offer.

This is going to be a great visit for us, Mr. President. It's going to be a great visit because it's a chance for me to say clearly to the South Korean people: We value our friendship; we appreciate your country; we share the same values; and we'll work together to make sure that our relationship improves even better as we go into the 21st century.

Mr. President, thank you, sir.

North Korea

Q. First, I have a question for President Kim. There is a difference between the axis of evil and the sunshine policy. Do you feel that the gap was overcome during this summit? And right now, the Korean people are concerned about how inter-Korean relations will develop following the summit. How do you perceive the inter-Korean relations to develop in the future?

President Kim. In my view, I believe that the U.S. policy and the Korean policy are fundamentally similar, and there are no major differences. We both believe in democracy and a market economy. Furthermore, we are allies. Korea and the U.S. are strong allies, and I believe that this is impor-

tant and vital for the national interest of both our countries. And so that's our top priority.

Furthermore, in matters related to North Korea, regarding the WMD or missiles or nuclear issues, our views have coincided. And during the summit meeting this morning, I believe that there was no difference in opinion between our two leaders. And we believe that it is through dialog that we will be able to resolve this issue, and we agreed on this point.

Therefore, recently in the press, there were some indications that there might be some difference of opinion. But during the conversation that I had this morning with President Bush, we were able to reconfirm that there is no difference of opinion between Korea and the U.S. And in the future, regarding North Korean issues, we were able to reaffirm that we have made the proposal to North Korea to dialog, and it is through dialog that we hope to resolve all of the issues. And so we hope that North Korea will, at an early date, accept our proposal and that inter-Korean dialog and dialog between North Korea and the U.S. will resume.

On September 15th, there was the fifth inter-Korean interministerial meeting, and several issues were decided. There were 10 agreements made regarding the meeting of separated families and the relinking of the Kyongui railroad line, and we are implementing these agreements. Thank you.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Mr. Jim Angle from Fox Television.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, some South Koreans, perhaps even President Kim, had some concerns about your comments about the axis of evil and North Korea. How do you think your approach fits with and helps the sunshine policy?

And if I may, President Kim, did you have any misgivings, sir, about the President including North Korea in the axis of evil? And secondly, why do you think that North Korea is genuine about opening up? We have heard here about their failure to participate in the reunification of families. They haven't built their end of the rail line, and they refuse to talk to the U.S. What makes you think they're sincere in wanting to open up?

President Bush. You know, during our discussion, President Kim reminded me a little bit about American history, when he said that President Reagan referred to Russia as the “evil empire,” and yet, was then able to have constructive dialog with Mr. Gorbachev.

I will believe—I will not change my opinion on the man, on Kim Chong-il, until he frees his people and accepts genuine proposals from countries such as South Korea or the United States to dialog, until he proves to the world that he’s got a good heart, that he cares about the people that live in his country.

I am concerned about a country that is not transparent, that allows for starvation, that develops weapons of mass destruction. I care very deeply about it because it is in the neighborhood of one of our very close friends. I don’t see—and so, therefore, I think the burden of proof is on the North Korean leader, to prove that he does truly care about people and that he is not going to threaten our neighbor.

We’re peaceful people. We have no intention of invading North Korea. South Korea has no intention of attacking North Korea, nor does America. We’re purely defensive. And the reason we have to be defensive is because there is a threatening position on the DMZ. But we long for peace. It is in our nations’ interest that we achieve peace on the Peninsula.

I also want to remind the world that our Nation provides more food to the North Korean people than any nation in the world. We are averaging nearly 300,000 tons of food a year. And so, obviously, my comments about evil was toward a regime, toward a government, not toward the North Korean people. We have great sympathy and empathy for the North Korean people. We want them to have food. And at the same time, we want them to have freedom. And we will work in a peaceful way to achieve that objective.

That was the purpose of our summit today, to reconfirm that our Nation—my Nation is interested in a peaceful resolution of the—here on the Korean Peninsula. And at the same time, of course, I made it clear that we would honor our commitments to help South Korea defend herself if need be.

I think we had a question for the President.

President’s Upcoming Visit to China

Q. Mr. Mike Allen of the Washington Post.

President Bush. He got cut off, I think. He just got filibustered. [Laughter]

Q. Mr. President, in Beijing, do you plan to meet with any political dissidents or Christian activists? How did you decide that? And what do you plan to do to try to persuade the Chinese Government to extend more rights to these individuals?

President Bush. Mike, I am not exactly sure of all the details of my schedule yet, since I’m focused here on this incredibly important relationship. I can tell you that in my last visit with President Jiang, I shared with him my faith. I talked to him on very personal terms about my Christian beliefs. I explained to him that faith had an incredibly important part in my life, and it has a very important part in the lives of all kinds of citizens and that I would hope that he, as a President of a great nation, would understand the important role of religion in an individual’s life. That’s why I put it in that context.

I then segued into discussions about the Catholic Church, and I will do so again. I will bring up the need that there be a—that I would hope the Government would honor the request of the Papal Nuncio to be able to at least have dialog about bishops that are interned there. And I also talked about the Dalai Lama, as well as Christian faiths, and I will do so again.

As to what my schedule is and who I’m going to see, I’m not sure yet, Mike.

North Korea/South Korea-U.S. Summit

Q. I first have a question for President Bush. During your presentation you said that you are ready to dialog with North Korea at any time, anywhere. If North Korea accepts, then will you continue with the economic aid to North Korea? And also, in order to tell Pyongyang that you are ready to dialog, are you willing to send an envoy?

My next question is to President Kim. You said that you are satisfied with the summit meeting. What do you feel is the biggest achievement of the summit meeting?

President Bush. Well, first, dialog or no dialog, we will continue to send food to the North Korean people. I reiterate, our issue is not with the North Korean people. As a matter of fact, we have great sympathy for the North Korean people. Any people that live under a despotic regime is—has our sympathy. And so I presume that's the economic aid we're referring to. We will send food.

As to how any dialog were to begin, it obviously takes two willing parties. And as people in our Government know, last June, I made the decision that we would extend the offer for dialog. We just haven't heard a response back yet. And how we end up doing that is a matter of the diplomats. The great Secretary of State will be able to handle the details. But the offer stands, and if anybody's listening involved with the North Korean Government, they know that the offer is real, and I reiterate it today.

President Kim. Yes, at this morning's summit meeting, I believe that I am most satisfied with the fact that we were able to have a frank and open discussion, and we were able to reconfirm that we are close allies; not only are our two countries allies, but I believe that we have become close personal friends as well. And so I believe that we will be able to learn a lot from each other and that we will be able to understand each other more and better in the future. And we were able to have an open and frank dialog, and I am most satisfied about that.

And the second point is that at today's summit meeting, even before we had the summit meeting, we had agreed that we would talk on the four main issues and that we wanted to have concrete results on four areas, and that is to reconfirm the Korea-U.S. alliance. The second was to fight against terrorism and that we would work on a global scale in order to uproot terrorism and that we would continue to cooperate in order to do so. And third is for the North Korean WMDs and missile issue must be resolved. And this is, more than any other country in the world, it is a matter directly related to the security issue of Korea. The fourth issue is that for inter-Korean relations, to resolve the current issues such as the WMDs and the missile issue, we must resolve these issues through dialog.

And so, regarding these four points, I concurred and I agreed with President Bush, and as was mentioned earlier, President Bush is more than ready to dialog with North Korea. And he has reiterated his position. And the Korean people, I believe, will be assuaged by this reiteration. And I believe that President Bush's visit to Korea will reaffirm the alliance between our two countries and will also lay the foundation for inter-Korean relations and improvement in those relations.

In the future, regarding economic issues, and also the Winter Olympics, which are being held in Salt Lake City, and also the World Cup, we are going to have to deal with security issues, and we agree that there will be a lot of cooperation between our two countries in order to ensure the security in those events.

This concludes the joint press conference. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:15 p.m. at the Blue House. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim's wife, Lee Hee-ho; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Jiang Zemin of China. President Kim spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at the Dorasan Train Station in Dorasan, South Korea

February 20, 2002

Mr. President, it's a great honor to be here as your guest. Your love of democracy and example of courage have changed Korea, have challenged Asia, and inspired the great respect of my Government and my country. All your life you have seen the hope of change and progress where few could imagine it. You have shown that sometimes the conscience and will of a single individual can move history. I admire your visionary leadership, and I thank you for your hospitality to Laura and me.

We gather today surrounded by reminders of the challenges to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. President Kim has just shown me a road he built, a road for peace. And he's shown me where that road abruptly ends, right here at the DMZ. That road has

the potential to bring the peoples on both sides of this divided land together, and for the good of all the Korean people, the North should finish it.

Traveling south on that road, the people of the North would see not a threat but a miracle of peaceful development, Asia's third largest economy that has risen from the ruins of war. The people of the North would see more than physical wealth; they would see the creativity and spiritual freedom represented here today. They would see a great and hopeful alternative to stagnation and starvation. And they would find friends and partners in the rebuilding of their country.

South Korea is more than a successful nation; it is an example to the world. When nations embrace freedom, they find economic and social progress. When nations accept the rules of the modern world, they find the benefits of the modern world. And when nations treat men and women with dignity, they find true greatness.

When satellites take pictures of the Korean Peninsula at night, the South is awash in light. The North is almost completely dark. Kim Dae-jung has put forward a vision that can illuminate the whole Peninsula. We want all the Koreans to live in the light.

My vision is clear: I see a Peninsula that is one day united in commerce and cooperation, instead of divided by barbed wire and fear. Korean grandparents should be free to spend their final years with those they love. Korean children should never starve while a massive army is fed. No nation should be a prison for its own people. No Korean should be treated as a cog in the machinery of the state.

And as I stated before the American Congress just a few weeks ago, we must not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I speak for these convictions even as we hope for dialog with the North. America provides humanitarian food assistance to the people of North Korea, despite our concerns about the regime. We're prepared to talk with the North about steps that would lead to a better future, a future that is more hopeful and less threatening. But like this road left unbuilt, our offer has gone unanswered.

Someday, we all hope the stability of this Peninsula will be built on the reconciliation of its two halves. Yet today, the stability of this Peninsula is built on the great alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

All of Asia, including North Korea, knows that America will stand firmly—will stand firmly—with our South Korean allies. We will sustain our obligations with honor. Our forces and our alliance are strong, and this strength is the foundation of peace on the Peninsula.

American forces receive generous support from our South Korean hosts, and we are very grateful. Together, we are increasing the effectiveness of our military forces, even as U.S. troops become a less intrusive presence in Korea, itself.

Americans are also very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support shown by the South Korean people following the terror of September the 11th. Today, both our nations are cooperating to fight against terror, proving that our alliance is both regional and global.

The United States and South Korea are bound by common interests. Our alliance is defined by common values. We deeply value our own liberty, and we care about the liberty of others. Like the United States, South Korea has become a beacon of freedom, showing to the world the power of human liberty to bring down walls and uplift lives.

Today, across the mines and barbed wire, that light shines brighter than ever. It shines not as a threat to the North but as an invitation. People on both sides of this border want to live in freedom and want to live in dignity, without the threat of violence and famine and war. I hope that one day soon this hope will be realized. And when that day comes, all the people of Korea will find in America a strong and willing friend.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea.

**Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by
President Kim in Seoul, South Korea**
February 20, 2002

Mr. President, Madam First Lady, thank you all so very much for your such generous hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here.

I'm told that in Korea, the color blue stands for elegance and dignity. Through your hospitality, Mr. President, these qualities are in abundance tonight.

Earlier today President Kim and I traveled to the Demilitarized Zone and saw the line where freedom begins and ends. I was reminded there of the tremendous sacrifices paid by both South Koreans and Americans in defending that line. I met with men and women from both our nations who defend that line today on behalf of everybody in this room. As always, their enthusiasm and dedication to duty and freedom and country was inspiring.

At the DMZ, President Kim and I also saw the railway and the road that symbolize our common hopes that families and commerce, culture and ideas may one day travel freely throughout the Peninsula. President Kim has offered the North a better way. He has offered them a vision of reconciliation over rivalry. He has offered them the chance to fulfill new hopes instead of feeding old suspicions. For the sake of all Koreans, I hope—and the American people hope—that the North does not miss this chance.

Mr. President, by your unyielding love for liberty, you have written on the pages of history a story of uncommon courage and determination. Sustained by your strong faith, you endured hardships that most can hardly imagine, all for a simple idea, the idea that freedom belongs to every person, not just every Korean or every American but every Asian and every person on this planet.

As you said in your Nobel lecture, and I quote, "Democracy is the absolute value that makes for human dignity, as well as the only road to sustain economic development and social justice."

President Kim, Laura and I thank you for your friendship and your warm hospitality, and the world thanks you for your leadership and your vision. The American people thank

you and the Korean people for the sympathy and support you have given our Nation during these past difficult months. And most of all, my country thanks South Korea for a half-century of friendship, a friendship that has brought great benefit to both our peoples, a friendship that has now matured into a great alliance for liberty.

My toast tonight is that, may God continue to bless Korea and America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:11 p.m. at the Blue House. In his remarks, he referred to President Kim's wife, Lee Hee-ho. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kim.

**Remarks to the Troops at
Osan Air Base in Seoul**

February 21, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. Well, thank you for that warm welcome. My fellow Americans, I'm on my way to China, and I hope you don't mind me stopping by to say a few words. I also thought you might want to say hello to a great wife and a wonderful First Lady, my wife, Laura.

We are so delighted to be here. It gives me a chance to bring a message from home. Your family are proud of you, and so is America. You walk in the path of thousands of soldiers who fought for freedom in the Korean war and all who kept the peace for half a century. Many millions of people are safe from harm because you're here. You're a credit to the United States of America, and I want to thank you for that.

I'm proud to be traveling with members of the fabulous team I put together, anchored by our Secretary of State, Colin Powell. We're making a huge difference on the Peninsula, not only because of our military presence but because of our diplomatic presence. We've got a great Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Tom Hubbard, and his wife, Joan.

One time I was Governor of the great State of Texas. Now I know we're going to keep the peace. [*Laughter*] And I went to Fort Hood and got to meet General Thorpe. I knew him to be a strong man then. I'm sure

glad he's here now. He brings great credit to the United States military. Mr. General, thank you, sir.

It is an honor to be here with General Lance Smith, as well. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for putting us—I've got kind of a sweet spot in my heart for fighter pilots. I hope they're behaving well these days. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be here with Denny Larsen. And I'm honored to be here with David Clary, as well. I want to thank those from the ROK who are here, the leaders. But most of all, I want to thank my fellow citizens, the members of the United States military, for being strong and steady, to keep the peace.

It is such an honor to be traveling in Asia, representing our country. This is an important journey. We're stopping in the capitals of Japan and South Korea and then, in a couple of hours, in China. All three Governments are lending their support in our war against terror. It gives me a chance to look the leaders in the eye, to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation, for their steady and strong support, as this Nation leads a coalition to defend freedom.

My trip was scheduled here for October, but we changed it after America came under attack. We had to change our plans. But since then, the killers and the Government that sponsored them had to change their plans, too. A few months ago, Al Qaida and the terrorists occupied Afghanistan. Now some of them are in cells in Guantanamo Bay. Not long ago, they were urging their followers to sacrifice their lives. Now they're running for their own. Those who attacked us and those who still want to try to hurt us are beginning to realize they picked the wrong enemy. They thought we were soft. They thought we were so materialistic that we would not be willing to sacrifice. They didn't realize that we're a patient nation, that we're a deliberate nation.

And they're now beginning to realize that we're resolved to find the terrorists, wherever they hide, and rout them out. And as my fellow Americans, you need to know that we won't stop until the threat of global terrorism has been destroyed. We have been called to history. We must not stop. After all, we defend civilization itself. We didn't

ask for this war; we're a peaceful nation. But we will do everything in our power to defend freedom and the universal values that are so important to our Nation and so important to a peaceful world. I made this message clear to our enemy, and the mighty United States military is delivering it.

I'm proud to report America and our allies are committed to this cause. If you haven't been back to America lately, I want to tell you, our Nation is strongly united. This isn't a matter of political parties. We're talking about national purpose. The people of America understand it's going to take a while, but they're ready. We've accepted new responsibilities.

There's a new way of thinking in America. It was defined by flight—the actions on Flight 93, when several people aboard an airplane got the word that that airplane might be headed to the Capitol or the White House, but certainly headed to hurt a fellow American. They were on the telephone with their loved ones. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. And then they said, "Let's roll."

There is a new spirit of sacrifice in America that understands that we must, in life, serve something greater than ourselves. And we're now called to defend freedom, and our allies understand that. And the United States military understands that, and freedom we will defend with all our might.

And that's what you're doing here on the Korean Peninsula, a free and peaceful nation, and its 47 million people count on you every day. And in this duty, the United States has a steady and courageous partner in the Republic of Korea.

During the years of partnership between our two countries, South Korea has become prosperous, and it has become strong. Its vibrant economy is an example of what free people and free institutions can achieve. And it shows the importance of America's presence in Asia.

The United States is a Pacific nation. History has led us here. Ties of commerce and friendship keep us here. And our friends and allies can be certain that we will always stand beside them. When America says, "We're your friend," we mean it.

We hope for a day when the stability of the Korean Peninsula is built on peaceful reconciliation of North and South. Today, however, the stability of this Peninsula is built on the military might of our great alliance. In our dealings with North Korea, we've laid down a clear marker. We will stand by the people of South Korea. We will maintain our presence here. And as I told the Congress and the world in my State of the Union messages, we will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us or our friends or our allies with weapons of mass destruction.

Those of you who are stationed here in Korea and members of our military throughout the world spend every day training and testing and preparing for any mission that may come. That's your responsibility, and you're the best in the world. And as your Commander in Chief, I have responsibilities to you to give clear orders, to set clear objectives, and to make sure you have everything you need to do your job.

So I'm asking Congress to pass more than a \$48 billion increase in our defense budget. It is the largest increase in military spending in a generation. It recognizes defending—the price for defending freedom will be high, but it's necessary to defend freedom. Our most important job is the security of the United States of America and the security of our friends and allies. And we will pay whatever price it takes to defend America.

I'm so grateful many of you have brought your families, who are here. A grateful nation not only thanks those who wear the uniform, but we thank the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and family members who sacrifice along with you. But in order to make sure that sacrifice is not quite such a hill to climb, in the budget that I've requested to Congress, I'm asking for another pay raise for the people who wear the uniform. It is necessary; it is the right course of action—

Audience member. We love you, George! [Laughter]

The President. —because in the months and years to come, our Nation is going to be asking more of the United States military. And you have my confidence, because you've earned it. You earn it every day, in the difficulties you accept and the dangers

you face. You're each here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You're here because you believe in America, and America will always believe in you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:04 a.m. at the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, USAF, commander, and Maj. Gen. Dennis R. Larsen, USAF, vice commander, 7th Air Force; and Brig. Gen. David E. Clary, USAF, commander, 51st Fighter Wing.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China in Beijing, China

February 21, 2002

President Jiang. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I would like to once again extend our warm welcome to you, Mr. President. We have just had a very good discussion about issues of utmost concern, and now I'm prepared to have a continued exchange of views with you on other aspects of the bilateral ties, as well as the international situation.

You will have the floor first.

President Bush. Well, Mr. President, first of all, thank you again for your gracious hospitality. I am so pleased that my wife, Laura, is traveling with me so that she can see the progress of your great country.

I also want to reiterate what I said inside about how thankful our Nation is, my Nation is, for your strong support in our war against terror and how gracious you were with your phone call right after September the 11th, expressing your condolences.

We look forward to finding areas where we can work together, such as energy cooperation—is a chance for us to explore technologies that will enable your country to grow and our country to grow at the same time, work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example.

I gave a speech in the United States the other day outlining our vision of making sure we have economic growth and, at the same time, employ new technologies that will help us reduce greenhouse gases. And I announced to the country that I look forward

to working with nations such as yourself, China, to explore ways that we can work together to deal with this issue in a cooperative spirit.

Another area where we can work together is on HIV/AIDS. I understand your Minister of Health is coming to the United States soon, and we can have a good chance for our Secretaries of Health to be able to work together and share information and share hope of able to deal with this very important issue, not only in our own countries but around the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Public Health Zhang Wenkang of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang in Beijing *February 21, 2002*

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by extending on behalf of the Chinese Government and people a warm welcome to President Bush.

This is my second meeting with the President. Four months ago, we had a successful meeting during the APEC Summit in Shanghai. In our talks today, President Bush and I looked back on the past 30 years of China-U.S. relations and had an in-depth discussion on bilateral ties and the current international situation. We have reached many important common understandings and achieved positive results in many areas.

We have agreed that under the current complex and volatile international situation, China and the United States, both with significant influence in the world, should step up dialog and cooperation, properly handle their differences, and work together to move the constructive and cooperative relations between us further forward.

We have agreed to intensify high-level strategic dialog, as well as contacts between various agencies at all levels, with a view to increasing mutual understanding and trust. I have accepted with pleasure and appreciation President Bush's invitation to visit the

United States in October this year, prior to the APEC meeting in Mexico. At the invitation of Vice President Cheney, Vice President Hu Jintao will visit the United States in the near future.

We have agreed to vigorously carry out bilateral exchanges and cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, energy, science and technology, environmental protection, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and law enforcement, conduct strategic dialog on regional economic and financial matters, and hold within the year meetings of the Joint Economic Commission, Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, and Joint Commission on Science and Technology.

President Bush and I have also had an in-depth discussion on the international fight against terrorism. We have agreed to step up consultation and cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit and to beef up the bilateral mid- and long-term mechanism for counterterrorism exchanges and cooperation. The two sides have also exchanged views on a series of major international and regional issues, and decided to enhance communication and coordination.

To properly handle the Taiwan question is vital to stability and growth of China-U.S. relations. In my meeting with President Bush, I have elaborated the Chinese Government's basic position of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" for the solution of the Taiwan question. And President Bush emphasized that the United States upholds the "one China" policy and will abide by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués.

Given the differences in the national condition of the two countries, it is natural for China and the United States to disagree on some issues, which President Bush and I have discussed with candor. So long as the two sides act in a spirit of mutual respect, equality, and seeking common ground while shelving differences, we will be able to gradually narrow our differences, enhance our mutual understanding, and advance our cooperation.

It is my hope and conviction that today's meeting will have a positive impact on improvement and growth of China-U.S. relations.

Thank you. It is your turn now, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate so very much your hospitality. We have just concluded some very candid and positive talks. It is true that I invited the President to the United States next fall. It's true he accepted.

This is the 30th year—30th anniversary of President Nixon's first visit to China, the beginning of 30 years of growth in the U.S.-China relationship. Our ties are mature, respectful, and important to both our nations and to the world.

We discussed a lot of issues, starting with terrorism. We recognize that terrorism is a threat to both our countries, and I welcome China's cooperation in our war against terror. I encourage China to continue to be a force for peace among its neighbors on the Korean Peninsula, in Southeast Asia, and in South Asia.

China, as a full member of the WTO, will now be a full partner in the global trading system and will have the right and responsibility to fashion and enforce the rules of open trade. My Government hopes that China will strongly oppose the proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies. President Jiang and I agreed that the United States and China could cooperate more closely to defeat HIV/AIDS.

Our talks were candid, and that's very positive. The United States shares interests with China, but we also have some disagreements. We believe that we can discuss our differences with mutual understanding and respect.

As the President mentioned, we talked about Taiwan. The position of my Government has not changed over the years. We believe in the peaceful settlement of this issue. We will urge there be no provocation. The United States will continue to support the Taiwan Relations Act.

China's future is for the Chinese people to decide. Yet no nation is exempt from the demands of human dignity. All the world's people, including the people of China,

should be free to choose how they live, how they worship, and how they work. Dramatic changes have occurred in China in the last 30 years, and I believe equally dramatic changes lie ahead. These will have a profound impact not only on China itself but on the entire family of nations. And the United States will be a steady partner in China's historic transition toward greater prosperity and greater freedom.

Thank you, Mr. President.

National Missile Defense

Q. Thank you, Mr. President, for your hospitality.

President Bush, on the question of strategic nuclear policy, you've said you want to develop a missile defense system in order to defend the United States and its allies from the threats and dangers of the 21st century. Do you envision circumstances where that includes Taiwan?

And President Jiang, if I may, with respect, could you explain to Americans who may not understand your reasoning why your Government restricts the practice of religious faith, in particular, why your Government has imprisoned more than 50 bishops of the Roman Catholic Church?

President Bush. I did bring up the subject of missile defenses in the broad context of protecting ourselves and our friends and allies against a launch by a threatening nation. I explained to the President that we've just recently gotten out from underneath the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and are beginning to explore the full options as to whether or not a system will work. And that's the extent of our conversation.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. Just now, President Bush mentioned that today marks the 30th anniversary of the first visit to China by President Bush. In few days' time, the 28th of this month will mark the 30th anniversary of the release of the Shanghai Communiqué. So my question to President Jiang is, how would you characterize the relationship over the past 30 years?

President Jiang. We will have in February the 30th anniversary of the first visit to China by President Nixon and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué. The visit by

President Bush coincides with this day, and his visit is highly meaningful. Thirty years ago, leaders of China and the United States acted together to put an end to mutual estrangement and open the gate for exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

History has proven that it was with great vision that our leaders took this major move. The growth of bilateral ties over the years has brought tangible benefits to the two peoples and played an important role in safeguarding peace in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

At present, despite profound changes in the international situation, China and United States have more rather than less shared interests and more rather than less common responsibility for world peace. The importance of the relationship has increased rather than decreased. So to build a constructive and cooperative relationship serves the desire of not only the people of the two countries but also of the people throughout the world.

The Chinese side is ready to join the U.S. side in reflecting on the past and looking to the future, increasing exchanges and cooperation and enhancing understanding and trust. I'm deeply convinced that so long as the two sides bear in mind the larger picture, take a long-term perspective, and abide by the principles in the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, the relationship will make even bigger strides forward in the years ahead.

Thank you.

North Korea/China's Role in the Coalition

Q. Thank you. President Jiang, do you agree with President Bush that there should be a regime change in Iraq? And if so, would you support the use of all necessary means to accomplish that? And with respect, sir, we're eager to hear the response to the original question about the arrest of Catholic bishops in your country and attention to religious groups in general.

And President Bush, you have thanked the Chinese for their cooperation in the anti-terror campaign. As that campaign evolves, can you say today what would be the single most important contribution that China could

make? And did you receive any assurance today that that will happen?

President Bush. Let me start. We discussed the Korean Peninsula, and I told the President that I was deeply concerned about a regime that is not transparent and that starves its people. I also—he reminded me that he had a conversation with Kim Chong-il last fall, urging Kim Chong-il to take up Kim Dae-jung's offer for discussion. That was constructive leadership.

I then told him that the offer I made yesterday in Seoul was a real offer and that we would be willing to meet with a North Korean regime. And I asked his help in conveying that message to Kim Chong-il, if he so chooses. If he speaks to the leader of North Korea, he can assure him that I am sincere in my desire to have our folks meet.

My point is that not every theater in the war against terror need be resolved with force. Some theaters can be resolved through diplomacy and dialog. And the Chinese Government can be very helpful.

Furthermore, in the first theater in the war against terror, part of the call for our coalition is to make sure that Afghanistan becomes a self-supporting, peaceful nation. And the Chinese Government is supportive of the aid efforts, to make sure that we aid the new post-Taliban Afghani Government in its opportunities to develop its own army, as well as its own economy, its own security. And so they've been helpful there, as well.

Thank you.

China's Economic Development/Catholic Bishops in China/Korean Peninsula/Iraq

Q. I have got a two-part question. First, in recent years, China has enjoyed rapid economic growth, and its national strength has increased. Some people in the United States have concluded that because of this, China has posed a potential threat to the United States, and they call for a policy of containment against China. What's your comment, President Jiang?

And secondly, in your opening remarks, President Jiang, you mentioned that the key to steady growth of Sino-U.S. relationship is the proper handling of the question of Taiwan. President Bush, in his opening remarks,

also elaborated on the U.S. position on Taiwan. President Jiang, could you comment on what President Bush has said on the question of Taiwan?

President Jiang. We're living in a world of diversity. As two major countries with different national conditions, China and the U.S. have, indeed, had certain disagreements. But they also share broad and important common interests. So the old mindsets which views the relationship between countries as either of alliance or confrontation, ought to be abandoned, and a new security concept which features security through mutual trust and cooperation through mutual benefit should be established.

It's true that since the inception of reform and opening-up program, China's national strength and people's living standards have somewhat improved in recent years. Yet, compared with the developed countries, our economic and cultural developments remains quite backwards. With a population of over 1.2 billion, the road ahead is still very long before we can basically complete modernization and deliver a better life to all our people. To focus on economic development and improvements of people's livelihoods is our long-term central task.

What China wants most is a peaceful and tranquil international environment with long-term stability, to not do unto others what you would not like others to do unto you. Even if China becomes more developed in the future, it will not go for bullying or threatening other countries. Facts have proven already and will continue to prove that China is a staunch force dedicated to the maintenance of peace in the region and the world at large.

Now, let me comment on the questions posed to me by the American correspondents as they raised questions for President Bush. President Bush, he has much more experience than I. [Laughter] I will do my best to answer your question.

In the first question, the correspondent mentioned that some of the Catholic Church people have been detained. I want to explain that since the founding of People's Republic of China, all our constitutions, various versions, have provided for the freedom of religious belief. In China there are many religions which include Buddhism, Catholicism,

Protestantism, Islam, and a typical Chinese religion, Taoism. And their religious faiths are protected by our Constitution.

I don't have religious faith. Yet this does not prevent me from having an interest in religion. I've read the Bible. I've also read the Koran, as well as the Scriptures of Buddhism. I often have meetings with the religious leaders in this country. For instance, when we are about to celebrate the new year or during the holiday season, I would have meetings with them and exchange views.

Whatever religion people believe in, they have to abide by the law. So some of the lawbreakers have been detained because of their violation of law, not because of their religious belief. Although I'm the President of this country, I have no right interfering in the judicial affairs, because of judicial independence.

You also asked about the Korean Peninsula issue. President Bush has also commented on this. In our talks just now, the two of us exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula. I want to make clear that we have all along pursued such a position. That is, we want the Korean Peninsula to have peace and stability. We hope that the problems between DPRK and ROK can be resolved through dialog. And we also sincerely hope that the contacts between the United States and DPRK will be resumed.

All in all, in handling state-to-state relations, it is important to resolve the problems through peaceful means, in a spirit of equality, and through consultation. And that's why I've explained our consistent and clear-cut position on the question of Korean Peninsula. It's quite near.

You asked about Iraq. Iraq is not as near. But I think, as I made clear in my discussion with President Bush just now, the important thing is that peace is to be valued most.

With regard to counterterrorism, our position has not changed from the position I made clear to President Bush when we last met 4 months ago. And that is, China is firmly opposed to international terrorism of all forms.

I'm very pleased to see that Afghanistan has now embarked on a road of peaceful reconstruction. I wish them well. I hope they

will succeed in rebuilding their country and enjoying national unity and peace.

Let me conclude by quoting a Chinese proverb: “More haste, less speed.” Despite the fact that sometimes you will have problems that cry out for immediate solution, yet patience is sometime also necessary. Or perhaps I could quote another Chinese old saying to describe the situation: “One cannot expect to dig a well with one spade.” So we need to make continuous our unlimiting efforts to fight terrorism.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 1:15 p.m. in the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea and President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea. President Jiang spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on Viewing the Cummins Bus Engine and an Exchange With Reporters in Beijing

February 21, 2002

The President. Well, thank you very much, Martha. I appreciate that explanation as to why trade is to the advantage of the United States worker and to the Chinese worker. I want to thank you very much for inviting me and the Secretary of State here and our Ambassador.

We’ve just come from a very fruitful discussion of key issues with President Jiang, and part of our discussion had to do with trade, and part of our discussion had to do with how do we make sure we’ve got a clean environment. And it’s very interesting to me that this presentation that you just made is a clear indication of how we can achieve both, prosperity and a cleaner environment.

Before I say a few comments, I do want to thank Mr. Shusen, as well, for being here. Thank you, sir, for your leadership. I also want to thank Tim Stafford and Steven Chew, as well, for bringing their product by.

As Martha said, China has bought about 2,000 U.S.-built bus engines that burn clean compressed natural gas instead of diesel fuel. The city of Beijing now owns one of the largest natural gas bus fleets in the world. It is—

it’s wise policy, because natural gas burns cleanly.

It is also wise policy that we trade together, because it means somebody is going to have a job. You know, there are some in the United States that fear trade. They want to erect barriers. I think this is a living example of why trade is positive and good. The bus engines China buys from America create jobs in North Carolina. The money that the workers earn in North Carolina can be used to purchase goods made in China. And as a result, both people benefit—both people, both countries, people in both countries are better off as a result of the commerce that takes place, in this case, as a result of automobile and bus engines and transmissions.

As well, one of the things that the President and I talked about was the need to address greenhouse gases in a way that recognizes that economic growth and a cleaner environment can go hand in hand. I addressed our Nation a couple of weeks ago and laid out my administration’s policy on climate change. In my address, I made it very clear that any policy must encourage economic vitality. Societies that are economically vital are those that are more able to afford the technologies that will end up cleaning up the environment.

And so, growth is essential for our country and for China. And wise growth and the use of technologies can clean up our environment, and that’s exactly what we’re looking at here, and so I want to thank you all for a vivid example of why I have been so strong for China entering the WTO and why I believe that good, constructive policy using modern technologies can clean up both our environments.

You know, we’ve got a strong relationship with China. China is a great country. China is a country that has got vast potential. And it’s in our Nation’s interest that we work with China on a variety of issues. It’s in our Nation’s interest that we trade with China. It’s in our Nation’s interest that China adhere to the rules of the World Trade Organization.

It’s in our Nation’s interest we cooperate with China on the war against terror. And

we are. And I appreciate the Chinese leadership for not only its quick response to the terrorist activities that hit our country on September the 11th and their compassionate response for the people of our country; I also appreciate the fact that we're working closely to battle terror around the world.

It's in our interest to have good, strong dialog. As I said in a speech earlier today in South Korea, a point I also mentioned in Japan, is that the United States is a Pacific nation. And as a result, we've got to have and will maintain close relations with Pacific—or other nations in the Pacific. And there's no more important nation than China. And we will have close dialog with China. Sometimes we will agree, and sometimes we won't agree. But in those instances where we don't agree, we will do so in a respectful way.

I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate this living exhibit as to why trade is positive for the people of America and trade is positive for the people of China.

Thank you.

Okay. How is everybody doing over here?

Upcoming Remarks at Tsinghua University

Q. Will you be asking China to embrace American values?

The President. You had your chance at the press conference.

Q. What's your message for tomorrow?

The President. My message, what?

Q. Your message for tomorrow. We have to pitch ahead. Tomorrow at the university, will you be asking China to embrace American values?

The President. I will be defending American values and talking clearly about American values. It's important for—starting with freedom. And I don't want to give it all away because you won't—

Q. I will.

The President. No, you won't. [Laughter]

Q. What will you be asking the Chinese to do—

The President. See, you're trying to get me to—I'd like you to come and pay attention to it word for word.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Martha Brooks, vice president of marketing and

sales, Cummins, Inc.; U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr.; President Jiang Zemin of China; Zheng Shusen, general manager, Beijing Public Transit Corp.; Timothy P. Stratford, vice chairman, General Motors China; and Steven Chew, commercial director, Allison Transmission China Operation. The exchange portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha, 2002

February 21, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Muslims across the United States as you celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday.

As you join in spirit with those gathered in Mecca to observe the traditions of one of your most sacred feasts, may you share joyful and reverent fellowship with family and friends.

During this special time, our Nation is reminded of the remarkable contributions of American Muslims to our history, culture, and way of life. Our spiritual foundation and common heritage will continue to guide us as we strive to strengthen our country and advance peace and goodness in our world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous observance.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks on Confirmation of the Death of Daniel Pearl in Beijing

February 22, 2002

Laura and I and the American people are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of Daniel Pearl's life. And we're really sad for his wife and his parents and his friends and colleagues, who have been clinging to hope for weeks that he be found alive. We are especially sad for his unborn child, who will now know his father only through the memory of others.

All Americans are sad and angry to learn of the murder. All around the world, American journalists and humanitarian aid workers

and diplomats and others do important work in places that are sometimes dangerous. Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts, need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror.

May God bless Daniel Pearl.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:21 a.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan; and his wife, Mariane.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at Tsinghua University in Beijing

February 22, 2002

The President. Vice President Hu, thank you very much for your kind and generous remarks. Thank you for welcoming me and my wife, Laura, here. I see she's keeping pretty good company, with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. It's good to see you, Mr. Secretary. And I see my National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, who at one time was the provost at Stanford University. So she's comfortable on university campuses such as this. Thank you for being here, Condi.

I'm so grateful for the hospitality and honored for the reception at one of China's and the world's great universities.

This university was founded, interestingly enough, with the support of my country, to further ties between our two nations. I know how important this place is to your Vice President. He not only received his degree here, but more importantly, he met his gracious wife here. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank the students for giving me the chance to meet with you, the chance to talk a little bit about my country and answer some of your questions.

The standards and reputation of this university are known around the world, and I know what an achievement it is to be here. So, congratulations. I don't know if you know this or not, but my wife and I have two daughters who are in college, just like you.

One goes to the University of Texas. One goes to Yale. They're twins, and we are proud of our daughters, just like I'm sure your parents are proud of you.

My visit to China comes on an important anniversary, as the Vice President mentioned. Thirty years ago this week, an American President arrived in China on a trip designed to end decades of estrangement and confront centuries of suspicion. President Richard Nixon showed the world that two vastly different governments could meet on the grounds of common interest, in the spirit of mutual respect. As they left the airport that day, Premier Zhou Enlai said this to President Nixon: "Your handshake came over the vastest ocean in the world, 25 years of no communication."

During the 30 years since, America and China have exchanged many handshakes of friendship and commerce. And as we have had more contact with each other, the citizens of both countries have gradually learned more about each other. And that's important. Once America knew China only by its history as a great and enduring civilization. Today, we see a China that is still defined by noble traditions of family, scholarship, and honor. And we see a China that is becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world, as demonstrated by the knowledge and potential right here in this room. China is on a rising path, and America welcomes the emergence of a strong and peaceful and prosperous China.

As America learns more about China, I am concerned that the Chinese people do not always see a clear picture of my country. This happens for many reasons and some of them of our own making. Our movies and television shows often do not portray the values of the real America I know. Our successful businesses show a strength of American commerce, but our spirit, community spirit, and contributions to each other are not always visible as monetary success.

Some of the erroneous pictures of America are painted by others. My friend the Ambassador to China tells me some Chinese textbooks talk of Americans of "bullying the weak and repressing the poor." Another Chinese textbook, published just last year, teaches that Special Agents of the FBI are used to

“repress the working people.” Now, neither of these is true, and while the words may be leftovers from a previous era, they are misleading, and they’re harmful.

In fact, Americans feel a special responsibility for the weak and the poor. Our Government spends billions of dollars to provide health care and food and housing for those who cannot help themselves. And even more important, many of our citizens contribute their own money and time to help those in need. American compassion also stretches way beyond our borders. We’re the number one provider of humanitarian aid to people in need throughout the world. And as for the men and women of the FBI and law enforcement, they’re working people; they, themselves, are working people who devote their lives to fighting crime and corruption.

My country certainly has its share of problems, no question about that. And we have our faults. Like most nations, we’re on a long journey toward achieving our own ideals of equality and justice. Yet there’s a reason our Nation shines as a beacon of hope and opportunity, a reason many throughout the world dream of coming to America. It’s because we’re a free nation, where men and women have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. No matter your background or your circumstance of birth, in America you can get a good education; you can start your own business; you can raise a family; you can worship freely and help elect the leaders of your community and your country. You can support the policies of our Government, or you’re free to openly disagree with them. Those who fear freedom sometimes argue it could lead to chaos, but it does not, because freedom means more than every man for himself.

Liberty gives our citizens many rights, yet expects them to exercise important responsibilities. Our liberty is given direction and purpose by moral character, shaped in strong families, strong communities, and strong religious institutions, and overseen by a strong and fair legal system.

My country’s greatest symbol to the world is the Statue of Liberty, and it was designed by special care. I don’t know if you’ve ever seen the Statue of Liberty, but if you look closely, she’s holding not one object, but two.

In one hand is the familiar torch we call the “light of liberty,” and in the other hand is a book of law.

We’re a nation of laws. Our courts are honest, and they are independent. The President—me—I can’t tell the courts how to rule, and neither can any other member of the executive or legislative branch of government. Under our law, everyone stands equal. No one is above the law, and no one is beneath it.

All political power in America is limited, and it is temporary and only given by the free vote of the people. We have a Constitution, now two centuries old, which limits and balances the power of the three branches of our Government, the judicial branch, the legislative branch, and the executive branch, of which I’m a part.

Many of the values that guide our life in America are first shaped in our families, just as they are in your country. American moms and dads love their children and work hard and sacrifice for them, because we believe life can always be better for the next generation. In our families, we find love and learn responsibility and character.

And many Americans voluntarily devote part of their lives to serving other people. An amazing number, nearly half of all adults in America, volunteer time every week to make their communities better by mentoring children or by visiting the sick or caring for the elderly or helping with thousands of other needs and causes. This is one of the great strengths of my country. People take responsibility for helping others without being told, motivated by their good hearts and often by their faith.

America is a nation guided by faith. Someone once called us “a nation with the soul of a church.” This may interest you: 95 percent of Americans say they believe in God, and I’m one of them.

When I met President Jiang Zemin in Shanghai a few months ago, I had the honor of sharing with him how faith changed my life and how faith contributes to the life of my country. Faith points to a moral law beyond man’s law and calls us to duties higher than material gain. Freedom of religion is not something to be feared; it’s to be welcomed,

because faith gives us a moral core and teaches us to hold ourselves to high standards, to love and to serve others, and to live responsible lives.

If you travel across America—and I hope you do some day, if you haven't been there—you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. We're a varied nation. We're home to 2.3 million Americans of Chinese ancestry, who can be found working in the offices of our corporations or in the Cabinet of the President of the United States or skating for the America Olympic team. Every immigrant, by taking an oath of allegiance to our country, becomes just as an American as the President. America shows that a society can be vast and it can be varied, yet still one country, commanding the allegiance and love of its people.

And all these qualities of America were widely on display on a single day, September the 11th, the day when terrorists, murderers, attacked my Nation. American policemen and firefighters, by the hundreds, ran into burning towers in desperation to save their fellow citizens. Volunteers came from everywhere to help with rescue efforts. Americans donated blood and gave money to help the families of victims. America had prayer services all over our country, and people raised flags to show their pride and unity. And you need to know, none of this was ordered by the Government. It happened spontaneously, by the initiative of free people.

Life in America shows that liberty, paired with law, is not to be feared. In a free society, diversity is not disorder; debate is not strife; and dissent is not revolution. A free society trusts its citizens to seek greatness in themselves and their country.

It was my honor to visit China in 1975. Some of you weren't even born then. It shows how old I am—[laughter]—and a lot has changed in your country since then. China has made amazing progress in openness and enterprise and economic freedom. And this progress previews China's great potential.

China has joined the World Trade Organization, and as you live up to its obligations, they inevitably will bring changes to China's legal system. A modern China will have a

consistent rule of law to govern commerce and secure the rights of its people. The new China your generation is building will need the profound wisdom of your traditions. The lure of materialism challenges our society—challenges society in our country and in many successful countries. Your ancient ethic of personal and family responsibility will serve you well.

Behind China's economic success today are talented, brilliant, and energetic people. In the near future, those same men and women will play a full and active role in your Government. This university is not simply turning out specialists; it is preparing citizens. And citizens are not spectators in the affairs of their country. They are participants in its future.

Change is coming. China is already having secret ballot and competitive elections at the local level. Nearly 20 years ago, a great Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, said this—I want you to hear his words. He said that China would eventually expand democratic elections all the way to the national level. I look forward to that day.

Tens of millions of Chinese today are re-learning Buddhist, Taoist, and local religious traditions, or practicing Christianity, Islam, and other faiths. Regardless of where or how these believers worship, they're no threat to public order; in fact, they make good citizens. For centuries, this country has had a tradition of religious tolerance. My prayer is that all persecution will end, so that all in China are free to gather and worship as they wish.

All these changes will lead to a stronger, more confident China, a China that can astonish and enrich the world, a China that your generation will help create. This is one of the most exciting times in the history of your country, a time when even the grandest hopes seem within your reach.

My Nation offers you our respect and our friendship. Six years from now, athletes from America and around the world will come to your country for the Olympic games. And I'm confident they will find a China that is becoming a *da guo*, a leading nation, at peace with its people and at peace with the world.

Thank you for letting me come.

Taiwan

Participant. Mr. President, yesterday I watched the press conference made by you and President Jiang Zemin. At the conference, you didn't clearly answer a question which is a concern by almost everybody. It's why the TMD system will cover Taiwan. And what's more, whenever you talk about the Taiwan issue, you always use a phrase just like "peaceful settlement." You never use the phrase "peaceful reunification." What's the difference and why?

The President. Thank you, very good question. First of all, I want to compliment you on your English. Very good.

The first thing that is important on the Taiwan issue is that my Government hopes there is a peaceful, as I said, dialog, that there is a settlement to this issue. But it must be done in a peaceful way. That's why I keep emphasizing peaceful. And by the way, peaceful is a word intended for both parties, that neither party should provoke that—go ahead, I'm sorry.

[*The interpreter continued the translation.*]

Interpreter. First of all—sorry.

The President. She's correcting my English. [*Laughter*]

Interpreter. I'm sorry, Mr. President.

[*The interpreter continued the translation.*]

The President. We've had many discussions with your leaders, and I've reiterated support for the "one China" policy. It's been my Government's policy for a long period of time, and I haven't changed it.

I also, in your question about missile defenses, have made it clear that our Nation will develop defenses to help our friends, our allies, and others around the world protect ourselves from rogue nations that have the—that are trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. To me, that is essential for peace in the world. We have yet to develop a system, and therefore, that's exactly what I said yesterday, and it's the truth. But we're in the process of seeing if we can't develop a system, and I think it will bring more stability to the world than less.

And let me just say one general comment that's very important for you to know, and it's also important for the people of my coun-

try to know: that my administration is committed to peacefully resolving issues around the world. We want the issues resolved in a peaceful manner.

And we've got a lot of issues that we deal with. We're dealing in the Middle East. And if you follow the news, it's a very dangerous period of time there. We're working hard to bring peaceful resolution there. We're working hard to bring a peaceful resolution to Kashmir, which is important for China. And I recently went to Korea, and I made it very clear that we want to resolve the issues on the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful way.

Another question, please?

Participant. I'll repeat my question in English.

The President. Thank you.

Participant. It's a pity you still haven't given us—sorry—give us a clear question about whether you always use the "peaceful settlement." You have never said "peaceful reunification." It's a pity.

The President. We're back on Taiwan again—[*laughter*—go ahead.

Participant. This is a question our Chinese people are extremely concerned about.

The President. Yes, I know.

Participant. Three days ago, during your speech in the Japanese Parliament, you said, the United States will still remember its commitment to Taiwan.

The President. Right.

Participant. But my question is, does the U.S. still remember its commitment to 1.3 billion Chinese people, abiding by the three Joint Communiqués and three notes? Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much. As I said, this seems to be a topic on people's mind, obviously. I can't say it any more clearly, that I am anxious that there be a peaceful resolution that's going to require both parties to come to a solution. And that's what I mean by peaceful dialog. And I hope it happens in my lifetime, and I hope it happens in yours. It will make a—it will be an important milestone.

And secondly, when my country makes an agreement, we stick with it. And there is called the Taiwan Relations Act, and I honor that act, which says we will help Taiwan defend herself if provoked. But we've also sent

the same message that there should be no provocation by either party for a peaceful dialog.

Next question. Yes, ma'am. That's not a ma'am; that's a male. Sorry. Actually, I said, yes, ma'am, but——

Future First Family Visits to China

Participant. Now, please let me repeat my question in English. Mr. President, I'm a student coming from the School of Economics and Management in Tsinghua University. As we can see, China and the United States have a bright future in scientific and cultural exchanges. Now—just now—you have made warm remarks about our universities. So my question is, if possible, do you—will you be happy to encourage your daughters to study in our university? Thank you.

The President. I'm afraid they don't listen to me anymore—[laughter]—if you know what I mean. Let me—first of all, I hope they do come here. It is an amazing country. You know, as I said, I was here in 1975. It is hard for me to describe the difference. It is an amazing transformation. I first saw that in Shanghai, earlier this fall—or last fall.

They would benefit from coming here, as would a lot of other United States students. I think our student exchange program is very important. I think our Nation must be welcoming to Chinese students who would like to go study in America. I think that would benefit the students, but as importantly, it would benefit American students.

It's so important for people to realize in both our countries that we're dealing with human beings that have got desires and loves and frustrations. Even old citizens like me and the Vice President—[laughter]——

Interpreter. I'm sorry, sir?

The President. Even older citizens like me and the Vice President—[laughter]—can benefit by spending time getting to know each other. Obviously, there are some issues in our relationship that we don't see 100 percent—don't have a 100 percent agreement on. But it is so much better to discuss these issues after you get to know a person, as a person.

We're human beings, first and foremost. There are just some important characteristics that are real. And you know, I talked about

my families in my speech. Family is just such an important, integral part of any society. And China has got a grand history of honoring family that is an important tradition, an important part of your culture. And I hope my country, as well, has a—is known for a strong tradition of family. That's a concept that is not owned by a particular country; it is universal. And when students get to know each other, they learn the universality of many values. And that's going to be important for peace in the world.

Another question?

China-U.S. Relations

Participant. Please let me translate my question in English. Mr. President, I'm a student from Center for International Communication Studies. Your younger brother, Neil Bush, visited our university just before last Christmas, and he mentioned that there are many Americans, especially politicians, have a lot of misunderstandings about China. So just like—just as our Vice President Hu Jintao and you mentioned, you all want to make efforts to promote the Sino-American relationship to go ahead smoothly. So my question is, being the President of the United States, what will it take—some action to promote the contacts and exchanges between the two countries, between the peoples at all different levels? Thank you.

The President. Well, thank you, that's a very good question.

Participant. Thank you.

The President. Well, first of all, my trip here and my discussion here helps promote—[applause]—people in my country are paying attention to my visit here. And it should interest you that I was here in the fall, and I'm back here again in the winter—twice, in a very brief period of time. That should say something about the importance of our relationships.

It's important for our political leaders to come to China. And I know many have, and more ought to come. It's important for the rhetoric, when we describe what we've seen, to be accurate and real. And when I go back home, I describe a great nation, a nation that has not only got a great history but an unbelievably exciting future.

Many people in my country are very interested in China, and many come, as you know. They come to not only see the beautiful countryside, but they come to learn more about the culture and the people. And we've got to continue to encourage travel between both our countries.

But you know, what's really going to make a significant difference in world understanding of your great country is the Olympics. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity—it is. It's going to be a chance for people from all over the world not only to come and visit and to stay in hotels and to see the modernization that has taken place, but everybody in the world is going to watch it on TV, too, and it's going to be a great opportunity. And I think that's one of the reasons why I think it makes sense to give Beijing the Olympics in 2008.

Yes, sir. Go ahead and yell it. There you go.

Participant. Now please, let me repeat it in English.

The President. Thank you.

Participant. Mr. President, you have been to China in 1975, and you have mentioned just now there are a lot of changes in the Chinese society. Have the effects—the programs in the economy—have you noticed any other social programs in the changing society?

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Let me tell you my most notable—the thing I have noticed most. And it has to do with the economy, but it also has to do with a different attitude toward the people.

In 1975, everybody wore the same clothes. Now, people pick their own clothes. Just look here on the front row: Everybody's dressed differently, because you thought this is what you wanted. You made the decision to wear a beautiful red sweater, and when you made that decision, somebody made it.

And in other words, the person, the individual—the demand for a product influences the production, as opposed to the other way around. Recognizing the desires of the individual in the marketplace is part of a free society. It is a part of the definition of freedom. And I see that as the most significant change that I can see, besides the new buildings and all the construction.

But the most important thing is the human dimension of freeing people to decide for themselves. And with that freedom comes other freedoms. So you can understand why the transformation from my memory of 1975 to today is significant. I mean, it is an amazing change—for the better, I might add.

I'll answer one more question, then I've got to go have lunch with your President. [Laughter] Yes, sir, in the blue.

Crime and Education in the United States

Participant. Thank you, Mr. Bush. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the last chance to ask you a question. I have read your autobiography, and in it you wrote about some social problem in the U.S. today, just like the violence in campus and juvenile delinquency, and such as the children in poverty. And we know a former schoolmate of our university, Tsinghua, and he studied in USA and was killed last year. And I feel so sad. And I know this kind of crime has become more and more serious in today U.S. As the President, do you have any good plan to improve the human rights today in the U.S.? Thank you.

The President. Sure. Well, first of all, I'm proud to report that violent crime actually is going down. But any crime is too much crime. I mean, anytime somebody is violent toward their neighbor, it's too much violence. And there's no question, we've got people living in poverty. But as I mentioned, our Government is very generous in the amounts of money we spend trying to help people help themselves. When we all campaigned for office, one of the big debates is how best to help people help themselves.

Foreign policy is an important part of our campaigns, of course, at least for President. But the American voter really is more focused on domestic politics, what's happening at home, as you can imagine. If the economy is soft, like ours is now, they want to know, "What's going to happen? What are you doing about the economy?" If the economy's good, then they don't talk much about the economy.

But always we talk about two key issues, to address your problem. One is welfare; how do we structure a welfare system that helps people in need and, in my judgment, should

not make them dependent upon their Government? And the other big issue is education. It's always not only an important part of campaigns, but it's an important part of being—once you're in office.

When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to always say, "An educated child is one less likely to commit a crime." As a Governor, and now as President, I have spent a lot of time working with members of both political parties to develop an education plan that starts making sure children learn before they just get shuffled through the system.

One of the saddest facts about my country is that there are a significant number of fourth grade students who cannot read at grade level. Imagine a child who can't read in the fourth grade is a child that's not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And if a child can't read in the eighth grade, it's likely that child's not going to be able to read sufficiently when they get out of high school and, therefore, won't be able to go to college. It's a shame in America that that's the case.

So as part of an education bill I managed to get through Congress last year, we've got a significant reading initiative, where we'll work with the States and the local jurisdictions to focus on an education program that emphasizes reading. This year I hope to work with my wife and others on a early childhood development program, so the youngsters get the building blocks to learn how to read.

I'm actually working my way to your question, I promise you—[*laughter*—]—because education is the best anticrime program. It's important to enforce law. It's important to hold people accountable for their actions. It is important to have consistent policy that says, "If you harm somebody, there will be a punishment for that harm." But in the best interests for my country, the long-term solution is to make sure the education system works for everybody. And when that happens, there will be a more hopeful future for people, and there will be less poverty, less hopelessness, and less crime.

Listen, thank you for letting me come. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the main hall. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Hu Jintao of China, who introduced the President; President Jiang Zemin of China; and

U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. A participant in the question-and-answer session referred to the TMD system, theater missile defense system. Participants asked their questions in Chinese and then repeated them in English.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 16

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Anchorage, AK.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

February 17

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tokyo, Japan. Following their arrival in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush met with employees and their families at the U.S. Embassy.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, Nancy Kassebaum Baker, at the Ambassador's residence.

February 18

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the Meiji Jingu Shrine, where they attended an archery demonstration.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at Ikura House, the Prime Minister's residence.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception at Ikura House. Later, they attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Koizumi at the Gonpachi restaurant.

February 19

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Japanese businessmen at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Seoul, South Korea, where they participated in an arrival ceremony. They then went to the U.S. Embassy, where they greeted employees and their families.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony at the Blue House, the residence of President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Observation Post Ouellette in the Demilitarized Zone, where he toured the facilities and had lunch with U.S. soldiers. He then traveled to Dorasan, and later returned to Seoul.

February 21

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Beijing, China, where they participated in an arrival ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr., and his wife, Sarah, at the St. Regis Hotel. Later, he greeted U.S. Embassy staff and their families at the hotel.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner hosted by President Jiang Zemin of China at the Great Hall of the People.

The White House announced that Zalmay Khalilzad, the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa, will travel to Afghanistan on February 20–25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to the White House on March 12.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister

Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to Washington on March 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Naomi Shihab Nye; Wilfred M. McClay; Michael Pack; James R. Stoner, Jr.; Andrew Ladis; Amy Apfel Kass; Celeste Colgan; Thomas Mallon; and Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles M. Younger, Gilbert S. Baca, and Marsha Johnson Evans to be members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

February 22

In the morning, the President had a working breakfast with Premier Zhu Rongji of China at the Diaoyutai State Guest House.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by President Jiang at the Zhongnanhai Compound. Following the luncheon, they toured the Great Wall of China.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to Washington on March 2–6.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes on the President and First Lady's luncheon with the Emperor and Empress of Japan

Advance text of the President's remarks to the Diet in Tokyo, Japan

Fact sheet: 2002 U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission

Released February 20

Excerpts From Remarks at Dorasan Train Station, South Korea

Released February 21

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Karimov of Uzbekistan to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the visit to Afghanistan by the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa

Released February 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin Powell

Statement by the Press Secretary: Elections in Zimbabwe

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Egyptian President Mubarak

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, March 1, 2002

**Statement on the Train Fire
in Al-Avyat, Egypt**

February 22, 2002

I am profoundly saddened by the terrible loss of life in the train fire in Al-Avyat. This tragedy is all the more horrible because it took place during the holiday of Eid al-Adha. Laura and I and all of the American people offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to President Mubarak, the Egyptian people, and especially to those families who have lost loved ones.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7524—Suspension of
Entry as Immigrants and
Nonimmigrants of Persons
Responsible for Actions That
Threaten Zimbabwe's Democratic
Institutions and Transition to a
Multi-Party Democracy**

February 22, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In light of the political and humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe and the continued failure of President Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwean government officials, and others to support the rule of law, and given the importance to the United States of fostering democratic institutions in Zimbabwe, I have determined that it is in the interest of the United States to take all available measures to restrict the international travel and to suspend the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of senior members of the government of Robert Mugabe and others detailed below who formulate, implement, or benefit from policies that undermine or in-

jure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of the following persons is hereby suspended:

(a) Senior members of the government of Robert Mugabe and other Zimbabwe nationals who formulate, implement, or benefit from policies that undermine or injure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy;

(b) Persons who through their business dealings with Zimbabwe government officials derive significant financial benefit from policies that undermine or injure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy; and

(c) The spouses of persons described in paragraphs (a) and (b), above.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant

to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility for implementing this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such termination shall become effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:51 a.m., February 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 26. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 23, 2002

Good morning. As I return from a successful trip to Asia, the United States Senate will return from its recess for an important debate on America's energy security.

As our economy continues to grow, U.S. oil consumption is projected to increase by about one-third during the next 20 years. Our demand for electricity is expected to rise by 45 percent. America is already using more energy than our domestic resources can provide, and unless we act to increase our energy independence, our reliance on foreign sources of energy will only increase. I have a balanced, comprehensive, and aggressive energy plan that will help address this challenge.

The plan has five main parts:

First, it promotes conservation. It increases funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and supports the development of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Second, my plan will modernize our energy delivery systems. America can't meet tomorrow's energy needs with yesterday's infrastructure. Just as the Internet has made our information more convenient, new technology can make our energy cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient by upgrading powerlines and connecting producers and consumers across the whole country.

Third, my new budget invests in new technologies such as fuel cells that may someday power our cars with hydrogen and emit only water.

Fourth, my plan offers tax credits and other incentives for the use of renewable energy sources like wind power, solar power, and fuels derived from crops. Renewable energy can increase our energy independence and help our farm economy.

Conservation technology and renewables are important. Yet they alone cannot solve our energy problems. We must also reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of oil by encouraging safe and clean exploration at home.

On my way to visit Asia, I stopped in Alaska, a place of tremendous natural beauty and important energy resources. I met with many Alaskans, including native leaders, who want to preserve the grandeur of their State while carefully developing the energy beneath a small fraction of it. New technology makes this possible; our national security makes it urgent.

Alaskans know firsthand that modern technology allows us to bring oil to the surface cleanly and safely, while protecting our environment and wildlife. We should listen to Alaskans who support exploring ANWR in a safe and clean way.

Passing my comprehensive energy plan is not just important for energy security, it is also vital to our economic security. Economic growth requires reliable and affordable energy, and labor organizations support my plan because they know my energy plan means thousands of new jobs across America.

We all remember the blackouts and the sky-high energy bills of recent summers. I urge Congress to protect consumers from these wild swings in energy prices for the future. The House has passed my agenda for energy independence; now I urge the Senate to act.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:30 p.m. on February 21 at the St. Regis Hotel in Beijing, China, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Memorandum on the President's
Report to Congress on Major Drug
Transit or Major Illicit Drug
Producing Countries**

February 23, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-07

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: President's Report to Congress on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries under the FY 2002 Modification to the Annual Drug Certification Procedures

This report is submitted under section 591 of the Kenneth H. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (P.L. 107-115) (the "FY 2002 FOAA"). Pursuant to section 591 of the FY 2002 FOAA, I hereby identify the following countries as major drug-transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam. I previously identified these same countries as major drug-transit or major illicit drug producing countries on November 1, 2001, pursuant to section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "FAA").

Pursuant to section 591 of the FY 2002 FOAA, I hereby designate Afghanistan, Burma and Haiti as countries that failed demonstrably, during the previous 12 months, to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and to take the counternarcotics measures set forth in section 489(a) (1) of the FAA. I have attached a justification for each of the countries so designated, as required by section 591.

Pursuant to section 591(3), I hereby also determine that provision of United States assistance to Afghanistan and Haiti in FY 2002 under the FY 2002 FOAA is vital to the national interests of the United States.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this report to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 4, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 25. The memorandum and the attached statements of explanation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association Dinner

February 24, 2002

Ladies and gentlemen, Laura and I would like to welcome you all to the White House. It's good to see a lot of our friends, and we're so honored you are here.

Tonight is a special night for us, but it's no more special—but especially special for three people. Three birthday people: Governor Siegelman, Governor Ryan, and Governor Swift. Happy birthday.

I also want to welcome members of my Cabinet and my team who are here. I've assembled a fabulous team. They bring a lot of experience to their jobs. I'm really proud of the Cabinet members who have been Governors: Tommy Thompson, John Ashcroft, Tom Ridge, and Christie Whitman. They understand firsthand the issues that Governors face every day. And my administration is

working hard to make sure the Federal Government is more responsive to your needs.

Since we met last, America has been attacked and has been wounded by terrorists. We've been inspired by acts of courage and generosity. And this Nation has confirmed a deep sense of national purpose. We're determined to protect the American people by fighting terror wherever it is found. This cause will take years, require the patience of the American people, and it will require participation of all levels of government.

And we've made a very good beginning. Our military has routed the Taliban, and we're hunting down Al Qaida. We've worked to take preventive measures to stop any attack, and we're prepared to respond should they come.

The Governors have taken threats seriously, and you've acted quickly to confront them. And our Nation is grateful.

At every stage of this crisis, I have benefited from your counsel. I've been inspired by your leadership. I was touched by my friend George Pataki's calm demeanor during the crisis in New York. I know our Nation needs to develop a national strategy to protect the homeland, and that's why I picked a fellow Governor, a former Governor, and a good friend, Tom Ridge, to lead the effort.

America's Governors have displayed leadership at a time when history demanded it. And so it's with deep respect and gratitude that I offer this toast to the Governors of the United States.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Don Siegelman of Alabama; Gov. George F. Ryan of Illinois; Gov. Jane Swift of Massachusetts; and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. This transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 25.

Remarks on a Comprehensive Energy Policy

February 25, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. I'm honored to be joined by Secretary of Energy Spence Abraham and Administrator Christie

Todd Whitman of the Environmental Protection Agency. We're here to discuss an energy plan, a comprehensive energy plan that recognizes that through technology, we can increase our national security and economic security by reducing demand for petrochemicals, and at the same time, we can clean up the air in our country. I want to thank these two leaders for having a practical vision as to how to achieve common objectives.

Any sound, comprehensive energy policy must both increase production and reduce consumption. It's important for Americans to remember that as we debate an energy bill, as we have a discussion about an energy plan, that America imports more than 50 percent of its oil—more than 10 million barrels a day. And the figure is rising.

This is dependence on foreign oil. And this dependence is a challenge to our economic security, because dependence can lead to price shocks and fuel shortages. And this dependence on foreign oil is a matter of national security. To put it bluntly, sometimes we rely upon energy sources from countries that don't particularly like us.

Now, it's also important to realize that the transportation sector consumes more than two-thirds of all the petroleum used in the United States, so that any effort to reduce consumption must include ways to safely make cars and trucks more fuel efficient. New technology is the best way to do so, and today we had a chance to see some of the best new technologies being developed by American ingenuity.

Hybrid cars, the likes of which we just saw over there, are already in existence. They run on a mixture of gas and electric power. They are several times more fuel efficient than most cars on the road today. I was told by the representatives of the manufacturing companies that more and more hybrid cars will be available in the marketplace next year. And this is good news. It's good news for our environment, and it's good news for American consumers who are not only worried about the environment but understand the ramifications of dependency on foreign sources of crude oil.

And then the fuel cells are being developed. Fuel cells will power cars with little or no waste at all. We happen to believe that

fuel cells are the wave of the future, that fuel cells offer incredible opportunity.

Now, there's a lot of obstacles that must be overcome in order to make fuel cells economically viable. And therefore, we're promoting more research and development. In January Secretary Abraham announced a \$150 million FreedomCAR plan, focused on development of fuel cell technologies that run on hydrogen, whose only emission is water vapor.

Imagine when that technology comes into being. Imagine how less dependent America will be on foreign sources of energy and how more easy it'll be to clean up our air. And we've got plenty of water, and if water vapor is the product, we'll be in good shape. But we need to have a focused effort to bring fuel cells to market, and that's exactly what my administration is dedicated to do.

There's been some breakthroughs already. After all, NASA developed fuel cells to generate electricity, heat, and water in space vehicles. Businesses started using them in 1995. And that's why we are optimistic that within a reasonable period of time, that fuel-cell technology will become more widespread.

We've also, in the bill I submitted, made it clear that any good comprehensive energy plan must encourage consumption by providing over \$3 billion of consumer tax credits, available for those who purchase hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles over the next 11 years. In other words, there is a role for the Federal Government, not only to encourage research and development but a role to provide tax credits to enhance the marketplace.

Technologies will also enable us to preserve our environment as we explore for natural gas at home. And I urge the United States Senate to pass a comprehensive energy plan quickly. The House has acted, and now the Senate must act. And the Congress needs to get a bill to my desk.

The other feature about the energy bill that is important is that it's a jobs bill. That's why the Teamsters strongly support the energy package we submitted to the United States Congress. This is an important piece of legislation, and I urge quick action.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks on Being Presented With the World Trade Center Bullhorn and an Exchange With Reporters

February 25, 2002

President Bush. Listen, I want to—I want to welcome Bob Beckwith to the Oval Office, and his wife, Barbara, and his two grandchildren and son and daughter who are here, and son-in-law.

As you may remember, I met Bob on the heap of a burnt-out fire engine in New York. And he didn't know, and I didn't know that we were going to meet on that day, and I had—I was traveling there with George Pataki and Rudy Giuliani. And it was my chance, after the National Prayer Service, to go to New York City and tell the good people of that town, that city, how the Nation stood with them. I had a chance to go and see the firefighters and the police officers who had been giving every ounce of their energy to rescue their fellow citizens.

And I was given a bullhorn, and it turned out to be one of those moments where I had a chance to speak to the world on behalf of the citizens of New York. And Bob was standing there by my side.

I told Bob when he came in, "You made me famous that day." But I want to thank you, Bob, for coming back, and I want to thank Colonel Wiese as well, who rescued the bullhorn and will let me keep the bullhorn for the library. There's a father-and-son exhibit that's going to go on at the Bush Library, "Bush 41" Library, at Texas A&M, and this will be one of the key parts of the exhibit. It's an historic—really an historic memento. Something we didn't choose, but it's one of those days that I'll never forget, and I want to thank you.

Mr. Beckwith. I'll never forget.

President Bush. It was an amazing experience. You know, I didn't realize at the time that you and I walked up on the heap of a burnt-out fire engine. I didn't realize that—and what's interesting, as a result of that, some people in Louisiana saw us standing on the fire engine and went and raised

money for a new fire engine for New York. So that event had a lot of interesting ramifications.

Governor Pataki. Mr. President, since September 11th, you've provided incredible leadership and really inspired the country. There are many unforgettable moments. But one that Bob and I and his family and much of America will never forget was 3 days after that attack when you came to Ground Zero. And it was exactly the right time.

As Bob can say, everybody was exhausted and worn out, and you didn't come for a photo op; you spent hours touring the site and shaking hands with the firefighters and the construction workers. And I'll never forget the moment when you and Bob stood on that wreck, and the President was talking, and one of the construction workers yelled out, "We can't hear you." And the President said, "Well, I can hear you. The whole world hears you, and pretty soon those evildoers will be hearing from us."

And Mr. President, they have heard from us, and your leadership has been inspiring. And this is what you said those words with, and I'm proud to present it to you for the Presidential Library. Americans will never forget.

[At this point, Gov. George E. Pataki of New York presented the bullhorn.]

President Bush. Thank you.

Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with Pakistan's response in the Daniel Pearl case? And is the United States interested in pursuing or indicting the primary suspect that's now in custody there?

President Bush. I am satisfied with the response of President Musharraf and the Pakistani Government. I got a phone call from him when I was flying back from China, and I could tell from the tone of his voice how distraught he was, how disturbed he was that this barbaric act had taken place in his country. He knew full well that those killers did not represent the vast, vast majority of the people in his own country. And he vowed to me on the phone that he would do everything in his power to chase down the killers and bring them to justice.

And yes, we're always interested in dealing with people who have harmed American citizens.

Economic Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, what are your thoughts on an economic stimulus package now? Do you think there's really an opportunity to work with the Democrats in the Senate, particularly given signs that, albeit slowly, the economy is beginning to recover?

President Bush. Well, I've got to tell you something: It's a matter of will and desire. If people put their mind to something, we can get things done in Washington, DC. I think we need an economic stimulus package. I think it's important for our economy. I think any time people are not working who need to be working, who want to work, we've got to do everything we can to make sure the environment is such that they can work.

Secondly, I'm going to talk to the Governors today and remind them that in the economic stimulus package was some emergency Medicaid money, as well as the national emergency grants, because it's what—emergency grant money to help Medicaid bills as well as grants for emergency situations to help people with their health care bills.

And yes, I think we need that bill. And I hope the Senate will take it up and pass it.

Pentagon Office of Strategic Influence

Q. Sir, have you told Secretary Rumsfeld to get rid of the office of disinformation that he's talking about?

President Bush. I told Secretary Rumsfeld—I didn't even need to tell him this. He knows how I feel; I saw it reflected in his comments the other day—that we'll tell the American people the truth. And he was just as amazed as I was about reading, you know, some allegation that somehow our Government would never tell the American people the truth. And I don't—I've got confidence, having heard his statement—I heard him this morning talk about it—that he'll handle this in the right way.

Superfund

Q. There was a report over the weekend, Mr. President, that questioned the administration's commitment to the EPA Superfund. Are you committed to fully funding the Superfund, sir?

President Bush. I'm committed to cleaning up the environment without enriching lawyers.

Q. I'm sorry?

President Bush. I think there's too much litigation when it comes to environmental cleanup. What I want is action and results. And so we're looking at ways to make sure the Superfund fulfills its mission. And you cannot sue your way to clean air and clean water and clean land. It's got to be a system that focuses on efficient, good ways to make sure we accomplish the mission. And I think—so yes, we're looking at ways to reform the system to make sure it works, make sure it actually accomplishes what the Congress wants it to accomplish.

Steel Decision/Hybrid Vehicles

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—and I was wondering if you could tell us if you're worried at all that your position on steel would hurt the automakers' ability—*

President Bush. I haven't made a decision yet on steel. I haven't made a decision on steel yet. I'm in the process of reviewing all—the facts. But I have made a decision on the need for the use of technologies to clean up our air and explore for more energy and change the automobile fleet.

One of these days, this little lady right here is going to be driving an automobile with a hybrid engine in it and a fuel cell in it. And it's going to work. And I hope I'm around to see it, too.

World Trade Center Bullhorn

Q. We thought the bullhorn had been lost. How were you able to find it?

President Bush. The colonel found it; it's the actual one, too.

Q. It never was lost? It's the real one? It's the actual one?

President Bush. Yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to retired New York City firefighter Bob Beckwith and his wife, Barbara; former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Col. Daniel Wiese, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, New York State Police and commander, New York State Police Executive Services Detail; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan, and later killed by his captors.

Remarks Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Voice of America

February 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm glad I came. [*Laughter*] Bob, I want to thank you very much for your hospitality, and I want to thank you very much for your willingness to take the reins of the Voice of America in such a critical time.

I also want to thank all the supporters who are here, those who support the Voice of America. And I'm glad to see so many friends of international broadcasting here: the Voice of America staff, the members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, former Voice of America Directors, former U.S. Information Agency Directors, staff and directors from Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Radio Marti. You all are dedicated professionals who serve your country and its highest ideals with honor and with purpose.

I also want to thank Marc Nathanson, who's the chairman of BBG—deserves a special thanks for his endowment of the Nathanson Fellows, between the Voice of America and the Annenberg School of Journalism.

Sixty years ago, only 79 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Voice of America broadcast across the Atlantic into Nazi Germany, with these words: Here speaks a voice from America. We shall tell you the truth.

For decades, the Voice of America has told the world the truth about America and our policies. Through a World War and a cold war, in crisis and in calm, the Voice of America has added to the momentum of freedom. And now, in a new conflict, I'm proud to

say that the Voice of America still speaks strongly and clearly.

To people whose governments broadcast messages of bigotry and hate, the Voice of America sends a message of tolerance and respect. To people who are told that democracy is soft and weak, the Voice of America shows freedom's strength and determination. To people who live under governments that sustain their power with lies, the Voice of America brings truth.

Under some regimes, like that in North Korea, simply listening to the Voice of America is treated as a crime. And the fears of these regimes are well-founded, because tyranny cannot survive forever in an atmosphere of truth. The Voice of America is not neutral between America and America's enemies, between terrorism and those who defend themselves against terror, between freedom and between tyranny. The Voice of America is a broadcaster with a special purpose, a special mandate, and a special trust.

As President Reagan said, "Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings." The Voice of America spreads that message throughout the world, with special emphasis on those countries where information is restricted and free voices are silenced.

The Voice of America broadcasts in 53 languages, to nearly every country on Earth, reaching an audience of over 90 million listeners. Many are listening right now, exercising their God-given right to freedom, free access of information. And their numbers are growing every day. The Voice of America's new Middle East Radio Network will offer music, reliable news and information in Arabic, and an opportunity to better understand American principles and American actions.

And I want to thank Norm Pattiz for his perseverance and dedication to this project. Even before our Armed Forces helped bring freedom to the Afghan people, the Voice of America was bringing them the news in languages of Dari and Pashtu. Since September the 11th, Voice of America has increased its programming in these two languages, serving as a vital partner in helping rebuild that country.

Throughout its history, Voice of America has applied the power of technology to the

advance of liberty. It has used every means possible—shortwave, television, and now the Internet—to bypass the barriers of tyrants. Radio waves are not hindered by borders, and as technology improves, the Internet will become less vulnerable to the censor's hand. No one knows what new information technologies will be available 60 years from now, but two things we do know: First, that the Voice of America will find a way to use them; and second, though these means of delivery may change, the message never will.

It's a simple message. It's a message of freedom, and freedom is worth defending. And the truth, no less than the force of arms, is needed for its defense.

Since 1942, you have defended freedom by speaking the truth to millions. You not only have the ear of the world; you have the gratitude of your country.

May God bless your efforts, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:16 p.m. in the Wilber Cohen Auditorium at Voice of America headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Robert R. Reilly, Director, Voice of America; and Marc B. Nathanson, Chairman, and Norman J. Pattiz, member, Broadcasting Board of Governors. The President's remarks were broadcast live on the Voice of America.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association

February 25, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Welcome back. I've got a few remarks I'd like to make. I understand a couple of Governors are going to make some remarks, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions if you have any.

First, I again want to say what I said last night. This has been a trying time for all of us. We've been tested here in the Nation's Capital, but you all have been tested, as well. And I want to congratulate you on your great leadership.

You know, the people of our country looked to all of us to determine how we'd react after September 11th. And I was impressed by the calm demeanor of the Governors and the steady resolve to lead the people. The country cried for leadership, and

billion over the next 5 years, on top of the grants that are already in place.

And so the fundamental question is, will there be enough local authority, enough flexibility at the local level to meet what I hope Congress passes, which are new work requirements. See, I think work ought to be the core of welfare reform. I think in order to make sure that welfare reform works, that there's flexibility at the States, that there's recognition people need training or drug rehabilitation, but work ought to be the centerpiece of a good welfare law.

And the bill I'm going to outline tomorrow, with Tommy at my side—where are you, Tommy? There he is—is going to take the positive pieces of the '96 welfare law, changing welfare as we know it, and we're going to make it better. There's more to do, and we look forward to working with you on that, as well.

And so those are the things that are on my mind. I know you've got things on your mind, and I look forward to hearing them. And we can have a good discussion today.

I want to welcome you back. I recognize I'm not exactly Bernadette Peters—[laughter]—but she did a fabulous job last night to fill this hall. It was such a joyous night, and it's particularly joyous for me and Laura to be with our old friends, the Governors.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Engler of Michigan; Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; and entertainer Bernadette Peters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2001, through January 31, 2002. The previous submission covered October 1 through November 30, 2001.

On January 16, Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash began direct talks on the island under the auspices of the United Nations. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to provide diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Reallocation of Emergency Response Funding

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund to the Department of Defense. This reallocation reflects revised requirements in light of changing security needs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As provided in Public Law 107–38, \$33 million will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal for continued deployment of the National Guard at our Nation's airports through the end of March.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 26.

Remarks During a Visit to the East Capitol Center for Change and an Exchange With Reporters

February 26, 2002

[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]

The President. —with healers, people of great and deep faith, who have come from some of the toughest circumstances known, to be leaders in their communities; people—one-time crack addicts, a heroin user, both of whom now are a good mom and dad; people who are helping others to learn that there's a better way.

And I just want to thank you all for sharing with me your experiences and your thoughts. You know, my dream for the country is that the welfare system work side by side with the faith-based programs, which can do a heck of a good job about changing people's hearts and their souls and, therefore, their minds and, therefore, their behavior. And you're living proof of what I'm talking about.

So I want to thank you for sharing your testimony with us. It only strengthens my resolve to make a good law that will propel the healers of America forward. And it only strengthens my knowledge about where the true strength of the country is, and it's in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

Thank you for your time, Curtis. Thank you for your leadership. I appreciate you inviting us to your program. I look forward to sharing some thoughts about some legislation.

Welfare Reform

Q. Are there enough jobs—

The President. I'm going to make sure the economy grows. And yes, there are.

Q. You stiffened the requirements. Do you think there's enough jobs in this economy?

The President. Yes, I do.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language tran-

script of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Welfare Reform Agenda

February 26, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome, and thank you for your kind introduction, Tommy. Tommy, as Bob Woodson noted, was on the leading edge of welfare reform in the State of Wisconsin, and the people of Wisconsin were better off for it. And fortunately, he's agreed to come to Washington, DC, to serve an incredibly important position as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. And the American people are going to be better off for his leadership, as well.

I appreciate Bob Woodson's spirit. I like to call Bob a social entrepreneur. And there's a lot of social entrepreneurs here in this room, and I want to thank you for caring about your communities. I had the privilege and honor of meeting with some neighborhood healers here a little earlier, soldiers in the armies of compassion, people whose lives were one time dark and hopeless, who now see a bright and clear future because of faith and are willing to share that future with others.

It was a powerful meeting for me. I sometimes get encapsulated in a bubble. It is important for me to, as often as I can, to hear the true stories of America. It reminds me of the strength of our country, and the strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of compassionate citizens. So thank you all very much for sharing your stories with me today.

I see that we've got some Members of the United States Congress here. I see a Senator, a couple of House Members. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to come and to hear what I hope happens when it comes to the welfare bill, its reauthorization. I'm really honored you took time.

And I also want to thank a couple of my Governor buddies. I see the Governors of Wisconsin, Colorado, and Tennessee are here. You all are awfully kind to come. Thank

you for being here, as well. We appreciate your presence.

I also want to thank Curtis Watkins. Curtis is a social entrepreneur, as well. He started the East Capitol Center for Change and provides support and care to countless lives. Curtis, thank you for your time, and thank you for what you do. See, this is something Government can't start. We can try, but we're not very good about inventing programs such as this. This program was invented because somebody loved their neighbor as much as they loved themselves. And as a result, there is a program—programs here which work on crime prevention and substance abuse treatment.

Listen, there's all kinds of ways to treat substance. I understand that. But one sure way to help, one sure way to help somebody kick the habit is to introduce them to faith.

Curtis' program has got mentoring and after-school activities. Mentoring programs are so important, because it gives somebody a chance to say to a young child, "I love you. America belongs to you just as much as it belongs to anybody else."

There's Bible studies here; there's job training programs here; there's forums to improve parenting skills and to strengthen marriage. This organization was built on a simple and powerful principle: Every life has equal value, and no life is beyond hope or help. This conviction motivates thousands all across our country, and this conviction must always be reflected in the policies of our Government.

Senator Hubert Humphrey once said that the moral test of a Government is how it treats those in the shadows of life. He was talking about the needy and the sick and the handicapped.

I believe Americans in need are not problems; they are our neighbors. They're not strangers; they are citizens of our country. And to live up to our national ideals, ideals of equality and justice, every American of every background must have access to opportunity. We must never be content with islands of despair in the midst of a nation of promise. We want all Americans to believe in the potential of their own lives and the promise of their own country.

So today I'm outlining the next steps of welfare reform, the next actions we must take to build a more just and generous nation. America began a war on poverty more than three decades ago, a story of good intention but conflicted results. There were important successes; no doubt about it, there were some good successes. Seniors were lifted out of poverty. Poor families got basic health care. Disadvantaged children were given a headstart in life.

Yet, many Americans, in Bob Woodson's words, were injured by the helping hand. The welfare system became an enemy of individual effort and responsibility, with dependence passed from one generation to the next. Between 1965 and 1995, Federal and State spending on poor and low-income families increased from around \$40 billion to more than \$350 billion a year. Yet, during the same 30-year period we made virtually no progress—no progress—in reducing child poverty, and the number of children born out of wedlock grew from 1 in 13 to 1 in 3.

By the mid-1990s, few denied there was need for change. In sweeping reforms passed by Congress, welfare benefits were transferred into temporary help, not a permanent way of life. The new system honors work by requiring work and helps people find jobs. States are required to promote independence, and they are given the flexibility to seek that goal in new ways, with dollars that were once used for welfare payments, for example, now being used for childcare and other ways to help working families.

Critics initially called these changes brutal and mean-spirited. Yet, the results of reform have proven them wrong. Many lives have been dramatically improved. Since 1996, welfare caseloads dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty than in 1996, including 2.6 million fewer children. Child poverty for African-American children is at its lowest level ever. For the first time in generations, the out-of-wedlock birthrate has leveled off, and the unwed teen birthrate has declined since the mid-1990s.

Many families understandably report financial difficulties in their lives after welfare. Yet, a majority also say that their lives are

better. Many are learning it is more rewarding to be a responsible citizen than a welfare client; it is better to be a breadwinner respected by your family.

Sherrie Jordan, a mother of four children and a former welfare recipient living in Buffalo, New York, described her experience this way: "It's overwhelming. I'm very happy. There aren't many words to describe it. I'm looking forward to being financially independent. I can do it myself now."

Sherrie and millions of others are good people facing a tough climb. They are gaining self-confidence. They are earning the respect of their fellow citizens and their Nation.

Some analysts try to dismiss all these gains as the product of good economic times. Yet, we have had good economic times before, and the number of people on welfare went up. Beginning in the mid-1960s, welfare caseloads often increased even as the economy grew and unemployment fell.

Overall caseloads increased substantially over the last 30 years, but thanks to the 1996 welfare reform legislation, the increases have ended. Welfare reform in 1996 was good and sound and compassionate public policy. It passed because leaders of both political parties agreed on what needed to be done, and we need that same spirit of bipartisanship today in Washington, DC, as we address this issue.

We are encouraged by the initial results of welfare reform, but we're not content. We ended welfare as we've known it, yet it is not a post-poverty America. Child poverty is still too high. Too many families are strained and fragile and broken. Too many Americans still have not found work and the purpose it brings.

Because these needs continue, our work is not done. We will continue a determined assault on poverty in this country. Later this year, the 1996 welfare law must be reauthorized by the United States Congress. I have proposed spending more than \$17 billion a year on welfare for years 2003 to 2007. These funds will be provided to States through block grants, giving them the flexibility to use the funds for their most pressing needs. The budget I submitted will continue to maintain historically high levels of childcare funding.

Yet, my administration will do more than spend money. We will pursue four important goals to continue transforming welfare in the lives of those that it helped. We will strengthen work requirements. We must promote strong families. We will give States more flexibility, and we will show compassion to those in need.

First, we will strengthen the work requirements for those on welfare. Work is the pathway to independence and self-respect. Yet, because of a quirk in the 1996 law, States on average must require work of only 5 percent of the adults receiving welfare. This is certainly not what Congress had in mind when it wrote the reforms in 1996, so I'm recommending that the law be changed and every State be required within 5 years to have 70 percent of the welfare recipients working, so that more Americans know the independence and the dignity of work.

Welfare recipients must spend at least 40 hours a week in work and preparing for work. Because many adults on welfare need new skills, my plan will allow States to combine work with up to 2 days each week of education or job training. So in other words, it's a combination of working and training. And for people who need intensive short-term help, our proposal offers 3 months of full-time drug rehabilitation or 3 months of full-time job training. And adolescent's mothers—adolescent mothers can meet their work requirements by attending high school.

At the heart of all these proposals is a single commitment to return an ethic of work to an important place in all American lives.

Secondly, we will work to strengthen marriage. As we reduce welfare caseloads, we must improve the lives of children. And the most effective, direct way to improve the lives of children is to encourage the stability of American families.

Across America, no doubt about it, single mothers do heroic work. They have the toughest job in our country. Raising children by themselves is an incredibly hard job. In many cases, their lives and their children's lives would be better if their fathers had lived up to their responsibilities.

Statistics tell us that children from two-parent families are less likely to end up in poverty, drop out of school, become addicted

to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, suffer abuse, or become a violent criminal and end up in prison. Building and preserving families are not always possible; I recognize that. But they should always be our goal.

So my administration will give unprecedented support to strengthening marriages. Many good programs help couples who want to get married and stay married. Isn't that right? We just talked about one such program. Premarital education programs can increase happiness in marriage and reduce divorce by teaching couples how to resolve conflict, how to improve communication, and most importantly, how to treat each other with respect.

There are also programs for couples with serious problems, alcoholism, infidelity, or gambling. Trained mentor couples who have had experience—who have experienced severe marital problems themselves now teach other couples how to repair their own marriages. Using this approach, one national program reports being able to save up to 70 percent of very troubled marriages.

Under the plan that I'm submitting, up to \$300 million a year will be available to support innovation and to find programs which are most effective. You see, strong marriages and stable families are incredibly good for children. And stable families should be the central goal of American welfare policy.

The welfare system can honor the family in other ways. Under current welfare law, State governments can keep some of a father's child support payments to defray the costs of welfare. I'll give States financial incentives to give more of a father's child support directly to his children, instead of putting it into the welfare system. Mothers and children will be better off, and the children will see that their father supports and cares for them.

I'm also proposing \$135 million for abstinence education programs. Abstinence is the surest way and the only completely effective way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. When our children face a choice between self-restraint and self-destruction, Government should not be neutral. Government should not sell children short by assuming they are incapable of act-

ing responsibly. We must promote the good choices.

Third, we will give States greater flexibility in spending welfare money. Right now, there are hundreds—hundreds—of Federal Government programs to help low-income Americans achieve better lives. Unfortunately, recipients often find the different rules very confusing. Conflicting regulations are keeping people from getting the help they need when they need it.

My proposal will provide waivers to allow States to completely redesign how many Federal programs would operate in their State. Rather than dictate to States how each major welfare and training program should operate, we must allow States to use their creativity to build a network of assistance for low-income families. Americans will get better childcare services and better job training and better housing and better nutrition programs if States have the flexibility and freedom to explore innovative ideas.

And fourth, even as welfare reform proceeds, we must encourage the essential work of faith-based groups and charities. Work and independence are the goals of welfare reform. Yet, compassionate help for an abandoned child is not a work requirement; it is a loving mentor. The answer to addiction is not a demand for independence; it is personal support on the hard road to recovery.

Charities and faith-based groups fill needs that no welfare system, no matter how well designed, can possibly fill. Our Nation needs men and women who rescue children from gangs, who tutor children in failed schools, who visit the sick and the dying. In times of personal crisis, people do not need the rules of a bureaucracy; they need the help of a neighbor.

America's neighborhood healers, like the place we are today, are indispensable, are irreplaceable, and deserve our support. I support legislation that encourages charitable giving and ends discrimination against faith-based organizations that compete for contracts to provide social services to people who need help.

Faith-based groups are reclaiming America, block by block, life by life, from the inside out. We must encourage their work without undermining their freedom or their

identity or their purpose. It is time for the United States Senate to pass the Faith-Based Initiative. The bill's sponsor, Rick Santorum, is here. I appreciate you, Mr. Senator, working hard. Get it out of the Senate, and get it on my desk for the good of the American people.

And at the same time, we must recognize that our Government has responsibilities to help people who cannot help themselves, that we've got a responsibility to help people who need a transition, that need a helping hand. We've got that responsibility. My budget reflects that responsibility. And there's one area that we need to improve help on: We need to restore nutrition benefits for legal immigrants.

The 1996 reforms imposed a 5-year ban on most welfare benefits for new legal immigrants, including a permanent ban on food stamps, unless immigrants have worked here for 10 years or have become citizens. We've proposed changing this law so that legal immigrants receive food stamps after 5 years, so that those who are eligible, those who need help, like an elderly immigrant farmworker, somebody who has worked hard all his life and cannot help himself, ought to get food stamps. Or a legal immigrant who has been working here for 5 years and raising a family and all a sudden gets laid off and needs a helping hand, ought to get food stamps.

This Nation must show compassion in a time of a person's need. These are the important goals that I've—that I want to talk to Congress about when the welfare reauthorization bill comes up: work, families, more flexibility to States, and compassion—a compassionate welfare system that knows the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

We can build on the advances of recent years, confident there's more progress to be made and, therefore, expand the promise of this Nation. More Americans will know the dignity of a job. More children will find shelter in strong families. More citizens will gain the tools to succeed in a free society. And more Americans in need will find love and hope that can help them rebuild their lives.

Everyone can join in the work of welfare reform by serving a neighbor. Americans can

heed that call in all kinds of ways, in local community groups. And if they're really interested, they can call the USA Freedom Corps or get on the Web site at usafreedomcorps.org to find out how you can help, how you can be a soldier in the armies of compassion, how you can put your good heart to work to make America a hopeful and strong and decent country for all of us.

We've made progress; there's no question the doors of opportunity that were shut and sealed have now been opened. Ask some of the folks on the stage here. They had that door slammed in their face, and now it's open, and there's a brighter day ahead.

Yet, there is no acceptable level of despair and hopelessness in America. We will not leave people in need to their own struggle, and we will not leave them to their own fate.

The success of the past few years should not make us complacent as a nation. They prove what is possible when we press forward, and I am determined to press forward to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:53 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change; Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; and Gov. Don Sundquist of Tennessee. Public Law No. 104-193, approved August 22, 1996, was the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation

February 26, 2002

I applaud Senators Tim Hutchinson, Trent Lott, and Judd Gregg for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. This legislation would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, better access to sound investment advice, and is consistent with the retirement security principles I previously outlined. This bill also assures

that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1969, the "Pension Security Act of 2002."

Statement Following a Meeting With Southern African Leaders

February 26, 2002

Today I met with three Presidents who can help bring peace and prosperity to southern Africa. Presidents dos Santos of Angola, Chissano of Mozambique, and Mogae of Botswana and I discussed our common interests in working with each other and through the Southern African Development Community to bring greater peace, prosperity, and stability to the region.

I reiterated that expanding trade is the surest path to sustainable development. I commended the three Presidents' leadership in developing a regional strategy to combat HIV/AIDS and promote economic integration. As part of that effort, I asked the Presidents to join my call for the World Bank to begin providing 50 percent of its assistance to the world's poorest nations in the form of grants rather than loans.

The three Presidents also discussed the tragic wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We agreed that peace is within reach of both countries. I urged President dos Santos to move quickly toward achieving a cease-fire in Angola. And we agreed that all parties have an obligation to seize this moment to end the war and develop Angola's vast wealth to the benefit of the Angolan people. President dos Santos has it within his power to end 26 years of fighting by reaching out to all Angolans willing to lay down their arms. Angolans deserve no less.

Finally, I commend the work of former President Masire, President Mbeki, and other SADC leaders—including Presidents dos Santos, Chissano, and Mogae—on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in South Africa. I remain committed to working with the lead-

ers of southern Africa to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

NOTE: The statement referred to former President Quett K.J. Masire of Botswana and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Relating to Cuba and of the Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels

February 26, 2002

On March 1, 1996, by Proclamation 6867, President Clinton declared a national emergency to address the disturbance or threatened disturbance of international relations caused by the February 24, 1996, destruction by the Government of Cuba of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba. In July 1996 and on subsequent occasions, the Government of Cuba stated its intent to forcefully defend its sovereignty against any U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft that might enter Cuban territorial waters or airspace while involved in a flotilla and peaceful protest. Since these events, the Government of Cuba has not demonstrated that it will refrain from the future use of reckless and excessive force against U.S. vessels or aircraft that may engage in memorial activities or peaceful protest north of Cuba. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Cuba and the emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage and movement of vessels set out in Proclamation 6867.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., February 27, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Cuba**

February 26, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27.

**Remarks Following a Roundtable
Discussion on Welfare Reform and
an Exchange With Reporters in
Charlotte, North Carolina**

February 27, 2002

The President. We are honored—I am honored to be here. We just had a great discussion with folks here in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. I am very impressed by the welfare-to-work program that has been instituted. There's obviously a sense of corporate responsibility in this community that is powerful, that recognizes that the bottom line is one thing but taking care of their fellow humans is another. The county—leadership in the county is forward-thinking and aggressive

as to providing resources to help people, help each individual succeed. They've got a spirit of innovation here in this county that needs to be heralded because of the successes.

So I'm proud to be here. But I'm most proud of the individuals who have made a conscious decision to improve their lives and, therefore, in many cases, improve the lives of their children: Women who have overcome terrible odds to become successful role models, articulate spokespeople for themselves, their families, a system that cares about their successes.

And so I want to thank you all for sharing with me your stories and your history. Ella, today she works at the Park Hotel. She was down and out. She made a decision to succeed. She received the help necessary. And she read us a poem today that was so moving to all of us that we asked her to share that, if you don't mind.

[At this point, discussion participant Ella Currence recited her poem entitled "The Struggle to Independence."]

Q. Sir——

The President. A couple of quick ones.

Republic of Georgia

Q. Yes, if you don't mind. Do you think there's Al Qaida influence in Georgia?

The President. I do. So long as there's Al Qaida influence anywhere, we will help the host countries rout them out and bring them to justice.

Q. What specifically are we doing to help Georgia?

The President. Mainly, equipment and technical advice. Obviously, in order for us to work closely with governments that have been invaded by Al Qaida cells, they're going to have to request—request help. And we've made it very clear that either you're with us or you're against us, and we've made it very clear that we hope that nations step up and do their jobs.

Obviously, we've got a presence in the Philippines because there's an Al Qaida-affiliated group of people there. And we've had some successes in Yemen, where we're working. We're working around the world.

When this war started, I told the American people that there would be a variety of fronts

on the war against terrorism, some of which would be very visible, some of which we wouldn't see much about. And the American people need to know that, one, we're maintaining our coalition and the efforts of the coalition, and two, any time we find terrorist organizations like Al Qaida, we will do everything we can to bring them to justice.

And so, yes.

Colombia

Q. Mr. President, what about Colombia? What can you do there? You have some legal constraints as to how far you can go.

The President. Well, we did have legal constraints. We were providing advice to the Colombian Government as to drug eradication, and we need to keep it that way. The law is very clear. If the Colombian Government decides to take military action against the FARC, which they—it looks like they may decide to do and continue to do, that is their business to do so. I applaud the efforts of the President, by the way, to try to bring order to the country. But we are restricted by law, and I intend to adhere to that law.

National Debt Ceiling

Q. Mr. President, what did you tell the congressional leaders this morning about the debt limit? And what ceiling are you comfortable with?

The President. Well, we'll leave the size of the debt ceiling to the Treasury officials. They will make the recommendation. But I told the—recommended to the Members of the legislation that we not play politics with the debt ceiling, that we're at war, we've got troops all around the world, we've got men and women whose lives are at risk. And now is not the time to be playing politics or using the debt ceiling as an excuse for some individual's cause.

We need to have a good, sane policy. And I think the Members there at breakfast agreed with me, that now is an inappropriate time to play politics with the debt ceiling. It's happened in the past. Both parties are guilty about playing politics with the debt ceiling. And I urge the Congress deal with the debt ceiling, deal with it in a professional way, and move it on.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Gallup Poll in Arab Nations

Q. Mr. President, the Gallup organization has run a poll in Arab nations showing that there is deep suspicion and resentment of the United States. What do you make of that? How big a problem? What can you do about it?

The President. Well, Terry, I saw that, briefly looked at—I haven't analyzed the sampling and who was asked and all that stuff. But here's my attitude. If the United States shows strong leadership when it comes to fighting terrorist organizations, the world will follow. And if we're determined and resolute at routing out murderers and killers, people who want to destabilize legitimate governments, the world, regardless of the nature of their population, the religious nature of their population, will respect that.

Secondly, there is no question that we must do a better job of telling the compassionate side of the American story. And I will give you one example. This kind and great Nation provides 300,000 tons of food a year to starving North Korean citizens. And yet, the North Korean citizen has no idea that we provided the food. We don't even know whether or not the food has gotten to the starving North Korean people. All we know is, we made a strong commitment, followed through on that commitment.

My point, Terry, is that it is essential for us to not assume that the kindness of the country is known. And therefore, we've got to do a better job of telling the story. And I'll give you one good example of how we perhaps can do that. Colin Powell went on international MTV, and the first question he was asked, by a lady from Brazil—and I'll paraphrase—was basically, "Why is the nation of America so evil?" And it floored him, like it would floor most Americans to think that people would think of our Nation is evil, when, in fact, defending freedom is good. We're the largest supplier of help and food and medicine in the world. But Colin was able, in his classy fashion, to answer the question and all of a sudden was part of an education process.

So we've got work to do. And people will realize we're peaceful, yet we're determined

and patient, and we use our strength for positive reasons.

Last question. I know you're awaiting my speech.

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, later today you're going to a fundraiser. As we move deeper into an election year that's also a year of war against terrorism, how much support can Republicans count on from their popular President?

The President. I'm interested in making sure that the Speaker of the House is Denny Hastert. I've made that very clear. I think my job will be easier if Denny Hastert is the Speaker. I'd like to see Trent Lott be the majority leader, and I will work to those ends.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to President Andres Pastrana of Colombia. He also referred to FARC, Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte

February 27, 2002

Thank you. Only in America. [*Laughter*] Frances, thanks. I appreciate your story; I appreciate your courage; and I appreciate your introduction. I'm also thankful that Tommy Thompson agreed to leave the State of Wisconsin to come and help make sure that Health and Human Services was run in the right spirit, in the right, compassionate attitude, one in which we fight for Federal funds that are reasonable and realistic but understand that the true wisdom and strength of the country is at the local level.

Speaking about the local level, I want to thank the mayor and Parks. Thank you very much for being here, as well. I appreciate both you all's leadership. The innovation that takes place in this community is positive and strong, and that's why we're here, to herald a program that actually works. Sometimes they sound good on paper. They read good, but the results are short. And that's not the case in Mecklenburg County when it comes

to putting people to work. So I want to thank you all for your leadership.

I had the privilege of flying down with Sue Myrick and Robin Hayes today on the airplane, two really good United States Congressmen from the State of North Carolina, people who understand that North Carolinians can best run North Carolina, and not people out of Washington, DC. So I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to thank Rodney Carroll, as well, for being here. I want to thank Carroll Gray and members of the Chamber.

A lot of times I talk about responsibility, ushering in a period of responsible behavior in America. There is such thing as corporate responsibility, corporate America not only making sure the balance sheets are real, that all assets and liabilities are exposed for shareholder and employee alike. But there's something about saying, "I'm going to do something in the community in which I live," working hard to take the extra step to employ somebody, to keep them on, to help them work through their difficulties. This is a community in which corporate North Carolina or corporate Charlotte has heard that call, and I want to thank the Chamber for being on the leading edge of encouraging corporate responsibility.

First, let me tell you that, as I said a while ago, the state of this Union is very strong. It is clear to me, when I sat in the room today, that the state of the State of North Carolina is strong and vibrant, at least in this corner of the State, if not the whole State. But the state of our Union is strong. We are steady; we're resolved; and we are a determined nation.

You know, the enemy attacked a nation that they thought was weak, and man, did they make a mistake. They thought the United States was so materialistic, so caught up in a false Hollywood vision of America, that we would accept their attack as part of the normalcy in America, that we would do nothing about it. And they've now learned that this Nation is absolutely resolved to defend that which we hold dearest to our heart, and that's freedom—that when somebody attacks freedom, that we'll defend it with all our force and all our might. And that's what we're doing.

I think the country has laid out a clear message: First, that either you're with us, or you're against us in the fight for freedom; that either you stand beside this great Nation as part of a coalition that will defend freedom and defend civilization itself, or you're against us.

I think the message has gotten out. The world is knitted up pretty tight when it comes to bringing the Al Qaida and other killers to justice. We've had over a thousand arrests around the world, different countries, different governments that are putting these Al Qaida people behind bars. We're slowly but surely, methodically and patiently demolishing Al Qaida so they cannot hit us again.

We have made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you train a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban Government in Afghanistan found out exactly what I meant, thanks to a strong and spirited, well-motivated, well-trained United States military, a military of which I am immensely proud.

We have liberated a country. This great Nation seeks not revenge but justice, and at the same time, we're not conquerors, but we're liberators. We have liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes history has ever known.

It was my honor to welcome Mr. Karzai and his Cabinet, including a woman minister, to Washington, DC, and hear him firsthand say how anxious he is to restore Afghanistan to normalcy, where women and children, young girls are educated, just like young boys, where people are given a chance in life.

The Taliban made a terrible mistake, and they paid a dear price. And I'm grateful for the United States military for the job it's done, but more importantly, so are the average citizens of Afghanistan.

I want to tell my fellow Americans that we're still in a dangerous period when it comes to the first theater in the war against terror—dangerous because, until we complete our mission, which is to bring all Al Qaida killers to justice, that we're going to hunt them down, that we will stay on task. The good news for our United States military is that the American people are very patient,

and they're resolved, just like our military is resolved.

But we're now facing people who send young kids to suicide—on suicide missions, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves; a leadership which is willing to send some mom's child on a fruitless mission in the name of religion, and they, themselves, are doing everything they can to hide and not be accountable for what they've done.

But they can't hide long enough. There's no cave deep enough for them to avoid the long arm of justice of the United States. And so it doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned. It doesn't matter if it's a month, a year—Al Qaida, the people who killed thousands of United States citizens, the thugs who want to challenge freedom wherever it exists, those who use religion in the name of murder will be brought to justice.

But it's not just Al Qaida. The mission is more than just one group or one individual. History has called us into action. History has given this Nation a chance to lead a coalition to fight terror wherever it exists.

There is a nightmare scenario that we must not let happen. Imagine, for example, if a faceless terrorist organization was able to team up with a nation which sponsored and developed weapons of mass destruction. Imagine how the balance of power in the world would change.

We're not going to let that happen. The United States of America cannot let nations that are not transparent, closed societies, societies which harm their citizens, societies which have a past history of being not a civilized nation, to develop a weapon of mass destruction, that could possibly team up with somebody like the Al Qaida organization, which would, therefore, then hold us hostage, hold the coalition hostage. We owe it to our children and our children's children to rid the world of terror now, so they can grow up in a free society, a society without fear, a society without the threat of attack on our own homeland.

The best homeland defense policy is to find out terrorists where they live, where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's what I'm going to do, so long as I am the President of the United States. I picked a good man to lead the homeland security

effort. Tom Ridge was the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The last time I was here in the State of North Carolina, I talked about a first-responders initiative, about how the budget I was going to submit to Congress not only was going to make national defense a priority but also that homeland defense would be a priority. I have since done that. We talked about first-responders to make sure that the police and fire had a strategy necessary to respond to emergencies if it were to occur. I'm also talking about a bioterrorism initiative. I'm also talking about a border security initiative.

One of the interesting things I think that the people of North Carolina will appreciate, that I hold in high esteem the United States Coast Guard. We've got a plan to beef up the Coast Guard, to modernize her ships, to make sure the Coast Guard is available around all the coasts of the country to protect the homeland. We've got a better intelligence-sharing system in place. We've got a strategy to defend the homeland of the United States.

And every day I ask the question to the FBI Director and others, "What have you done to make the homeland more secure?" My fellow citizens need to know we're doing everything in our power to protect innocent families.

There's a lot to be done in Washington, as well. Obviously, we've got to fight a recession. My view about the recession is that we'll help people with unemployment checks, and we must. But as Congress tries to figure out ways of how to deal with this, I always want them to remember that people want more than an unemployment check; they want a paycheck. And therefore, we ought to have jobs as a central aspect of any economic recovery plan, how best to create jobs.

What should we do? Well, I thought I did something pretty wise, and that was last year, when we got a sniff that the economy was pretty darn slow, was to fight for a tax relief package that gave people their own money to spend. When people have more money in their pocket to spend, it creates more demand, which means somebody is producing products, which means somebody is getting a job. The more money people have in their pockets to spend in the face of recession, the

more likely our economy is going to come out of a recession. And for those in Washington who think they want to roll back the tax relief, they're not going to get to do so. The tax relief was right. And it's important for the American people that we defend tax relief.

But there is more to do. I would hope Congress would pass an economic stimulus package that will encourage investment in plants and equipment. The more investment in plants and equipment, the more likely it is a textile worker is going to find a job. The more incentive there is for somebody to put a new piece of equipment in a factory, the more likely it is somebody is going to work. And so as they debate the stimulus package, it's important not only to remember we want to take care of those who have been affected by the attacks on 9/11, we also want to stimulate jobs, to encourage jobs.

We also—I submitted in my budget a priority for educating the American people, educating our kids. We talked today about the best welfare plan—best to make sure we keep people off welfare, besides helping them find work—is to make sure they're educated. And the State of North Carolina deserves congratulations for having a really good public school system. You were tied with Texas, and that's a big admission for a Texan to say. *[Laughter]*

I want you to know that we passed a good piece of education reform, and it ties in directly to what we're talking about today. It says, every child matters. We've got to challenge a system that tends to just shuffle children through without regard to whether they can read or write and add and subtract. We need to focus resources on Title I. We'll demand accountability. We'll pass flexibility out of Washington, DC, to the local level. We've got a reading program that understands reading is the new civil right; if you can't read, you can't succeed in the America of the 21st century. This is a great piece of legislation, sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats. It shows what can happen when we put our Nation ahead of political party, which we must do more of in Washington, DC, as far as I'm concerned.

In order to make sure our economy recovers, in order to make sure we've got a balance

sheet that is reasonable as we go into the out-years, I want to insist Congress hold the line in spending, that they not get carried away, that they not spend—that what they think sounds like—sounds good is not going to work.

One area in which I'm going to hold the line on the budget, though, is on TANF funds. My budget calls for over \$17 billion a year for TANF funds to be block-granted back to States. Now, there's going to be some in Congress that say we've got to reduce the TANF monies, welfare monies, because the caseloads have dropped. I don't think we ought to do that at this time in history. And so the budget I've submitted holds the line on TANF.

On the other hand, I do think we need some reforms, and I want to share with you some of those. But first, let me tell you that there has been great success when it came to welfare reform. We've actually changed the whole culture from dependency to self-sufficiency. And by doing that, the welfare rolls have declined dramatically, and the country's better off for it, but more importantly, so are the human beings.

It's so easy to get caught up in statistics, and forget about behind each number is a person. And today I have the honor of talking about—of hearing from the people involved, the human stories, the real-life stories of people that have overcome incredible obstacles.

I like to tell people, the toughest job in America is a single mom trying to raise her children. That's the hardest hill to climb in this country. And yet, as a result of a collaborative effort of public-private partnership here in Mecklenburg County, a place where government and business teamed up, many people have been moved from dependency upon government to work.

Now, the system worked, but in order for that to happen, it requires a will, a personal determination. Some person has to say, "I can do better and want to do better," just like my introducer, Frances Cunningham, did. She is a single mom with two teenagers. That, in itself, deserves a medal. [*Laughter*] She has started working with the Work First Program, obviously has a job. But I want to quote what she said: "The success of it is, my children see me go to work every day.

And that makes them go to school every day, because they see Mama isn't staying at home." The ability for somebody to realize kind of an independent life, less dependent upon government, not only affects that person but also affects a lot of other people, starting with the children—starting with the children.

I met with Michelle Venegas. Michelle is articulate. I told her she speaks better English than I do—[*laughter*—although she got hired as a translator. She's from Mexico, Tijuana, Mexico. She was working for a company that went out of business. She needed a little transition help. She found it here in Mecklenburg County. By the way, she, herself, is a mom, got a little *ninita*. She went to the county department of social services. She found out they needed someone with Spanish language skills. She's now employed full-time by the department.

Kathleen Collado, I met with her, as well. She's a single mom, recently divorced. She had no high school diploma. Imagine how tough her future looked. She needed to take a step up in life, and she found help. Kathleen was able to get her GED. She polished her interviewing skills and now works for U.S. Airways.

These are stories that are real. But the good news is, in this county and all across America, they have happened time and time again. There are 20,000 businesses nationwide that have helped 1.1 million people go from welfare to work. It is an essential ingredient of what the future bill ought to look like.

We need to make sure that work is an integral part of any welfare reauthorization, that the cornerstone of a good bill understands that when we help somebody find work—and I emphasize the "help somebody find work"—that leads to more independence, more self-esteem, and more joy and hope. And so, as Congress begins to reauthorize, I want to make sure that work is an integral component and a strong component. As a matter of fact, I believe that within 5 years, 70 percent of the welfare recipients must work. As part of the requirement, 70 percent of people being helped have got to get to work, and we'll help.

The bill must allow for there to be adequate time for training. Of a 5-day work week, 3 could be devoted to work and 2 to education and job training. For the tougher cases, there ought to be time set aside exclusively for job training or drug rehabilitation. And high school moms ought to be allowed to get credit for going to high school at the same time as part of their work requirement. In other words, the system ought to insist upon work but encourage work by making sure people have got the skills necessary to work or the help necessary to make them a responsible person in the workplace.

Secondly, our public policy must encourage families. Research shows that two-parent families are more likely to raise a child that is going to go to high school or college, that a child in a two-parent family is less likely to get addicted to drugs. Now, I understand there are some families that just simply aren't meant to be. I know that. I'm not—I'm wise about that. On the other hand, we ought to aim for a goal, a goal that recognizes the power and importance of two-parent families in America.

And therefore, the budget I'm submitting and the reform that I hope that Congress will insist upon recognizes that premarital counseling can work, conflict resolution after marriage is important, antigambling—help the old man get off the gambling habit will help. Drug and alcohol rehabilitation can be part of an important concept about keeping families together. We've got \$300 million—up to 300 million in the budget to encourage parenting and family programs to flourish at the local level.

And as well, I've got \$135 million in the budget for abstinence education programs. Now, let me be as candid as I can about this. Abstinence works every time—[laughter]—when it comes to making sure somebody may not have an unwanted child or someone picks up sexually transmitted disease. And this society ought to give children the benefit of the doubt. We ought not to assume that our culture is automatically going to lead a child to defy an abstinence education program. We ought to try it. We ought to work hard. We ought to shoot for the ideal in society and not get drug down by the cynics. And so part of making sure that welfare reauthorization

is going to achieve objectives is to promote family and to encourage right choices amongst American youth.

Thirdly, we must trust local officials to manage the money necessary to achieve certain objectives and goals. We have got to have flexibility at the Federal level. Tommy understands that. It's one of the main reasons I asked him to become the Secretary of Health and Human Services. He was a Governor; I was a Governor. We understand that the more flexibility there is at the local level, the more possible it is to meet local needs and, therefore, meet local and national objectives, to meet goals.

And so one of the things we're going to ask Congress is not to micromanage the system. There are hundreds of Federal welfare programs. For those of you who work in this line of work, you know what I'm talking about—hundreds of them, many of them with incredible hoops that need to be jumped through in order to be able to access funds. It is not necessary to have hundreds of welfare programs. What's necessary is to make a commitment to set goals, to expect results, and to trust local people in managing the dollars. And that's the spirit of welfare reform.

And we're going to push hard for this initiative in the United States Congress. I can't guarantee 100-percent success. But I can guarantee you, we're going to give it our best shot to make sure that we're able to achieve local objectives and, therefore, realize a national goal, and that is moving as many people as we can, as compassionately as we can, from welfare to work, helping people help themselves.

And finally, any part of a welfare authorization must understand the power of faith-based organizations and charitable organizations in our society. I have asked for legislation that will encourage charitable giving and, at the same time, allow faith-based organizations to access Federal dollars without discrimination, without causing the faith-based organization to abandon faith. You see, here's what I believe: I believe there are neighborhood healers and helpers all across America who want to love their neighbor just like they love themselves and ought to be encouraged rather than thwarted.

I know you've got a strong faith-based initiative here in Mecklenburg County. I want to applaud you for that. It makes sense to say to church and synagogue and mosque that if you want to help a neighbor in need, we encourage you to do so. It makes sense to recognize that sometimes a drug addict or an alcohol—person hooked on alcohol needs a change of heart in order to change behavior. And that doesn't happen through Government bureaucracies. It happens as a result of people of faith interfacing with neighbors in need.

And so I'm calling on Congress, the Senate—and I talked to Senator Daschle about this this morning, and he wrote a very positive editorial about the need for faith-based programs in our society. I hope they get this legislation passed and to my desk. It is essential that we rally the armies of compassion all across the country.

Yesterday in Washington, DC, I met with a guy hooked on crack cocaine. He found the Lord. He changed his life. He's married. He was a lousy dad; he's now a good dad, upholding his obligations. He feels so much better about himself. And as importantly, he's a part of a program that exists in inner-city Washington, DC, trying to find the next crack cocaine addict, to help that person help themselves.

The fabric—I envision a fabric in our Nation of healers and helpers and faith-based, compassionate people, all reaching out to a neighbor in need. People ask me all the time, "What can I do in the fight against terror?" And the answer is: Do something good.

You see, it's the gathering—what I like to call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness on a daily basis that stands strong against the evil which attacked our country. It is the ability for our Nation to show its compassionate side through acts and deeds of kindness and the willingness of somebody to put their arm around a child as a mentor and say, "I love you." Or just walking into a neighbor's house, an elderly neighbor's house, a shut-in, and saying, "I care about you. What can I do to help you today?"

This is the strength of the country. This is—we're not trying to reinvent something. We're tapping into the great soul of America.

The spirit of our country is one based upon neighborhoods, people helping each other, communities all bound up with one thing in mind, how to make people's lives better.

You know, they hit us; they attacked us; they took life; but they have not been able to dent the spirit of America. We are strong. We are compassionate. We're a loving nation. And as a result, I see a future that is so hopeful and so bright for every citizen who's fortunate enough to call themselves an American.

Thank you for letting me come. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte; Parks Helms, chairman, Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners; Rodney Carroll, president and chief executive officer, Welfare to Work Partnership; Carroll Gray, president, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; and Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10), and TANF, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Dole and Congressional Candidate Robin Hayes in Charlotte

February 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please, be seated. Your salad might get cold. [*Laughter*] Thanks so much for that warm welcome.

It's great to be back in the State of North Carolina. It just seems like I was here a couple of weeks ago—I was. [*Laughter*] I love coming to your State. The people here are wonderful and friendly. I love working the rope line at the airport when people say, "Mr. President, I'm praying for you." I can't tell you how wonderful that makes me feel.

I thank you for your support and your friendship. I thank you for getting ready to send a fabulous woman to the United States Senate named Elizabeth Dole. I appreciate all those who have come to contribute not only to Elizabeth but to my friend Robin Hayes's campaign, but also to the Republican Party of North Carolina.

Somebody said to me the other day—or, actually, asked me today, you know, am I going to campaign? “Here we are in war. Do you think it’s all right for the President to go campaign?” I said, “Yes, I do. I think it’d be a lot easier for me to accomplish what I want to accomplish with Denny Hastert as Speaker of the House of Representatives and with Trent Lott as majority leader of the United States Senate.”

So I want to thank you all for coming to support two good candidates in the party. I also want to say, although Elizabeth is going to make a great United States Senator, it’s been a joy to work with Jesse Helms. He’s been a strong voice. And like—you know, Robin is smart enough to send his wife. [Laughter] I should have sent mine. [Laughter] What a fabulous job she’s doing.

You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian, didn’t particularly care for politics—truth be known, politicians. [Laughter] And now she has been in a position of such important responsibility, and she’s handled her position with such calm and resolve. She’s been a wonderful comforter, not only to me but to the country, and I’m so grateful for her and the sacrifices she has made.

We’re doing great, by the way. I’ve never felt stronger in my life. I think it’s because my wife is so great. It’s also because I happen to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, and this country is united and resolved.

Another reason I feel confident in our ability to accomplish some important missions for the country is, I’ve assembled a great team. For those of you who have ever run a company or run an organization, you understand what I’m about to say—that you’re only as good as your team. And my national security team is strong and capable and experienced, and so is my domestic policy team, with Tommy Thompson playing an integral role. And Tommy, I want to thank you for serving the country, and thank you for being a part of my Cabinet.

We’re here today to talk about welfare reform. You do a good job in Mecklenburg County about making sure that businesses are responsible citizens in the county and helping people help themselves by finding

them work. And we understand that work is an integral part of any welfare reform, but we also understand that we’ve got to pass power out of Washington, DC, so the local folks can meet important goals and objectives. And speaking about local folks who we trust, you’ve got a fine mayor. We appreciate the mayor of Charlotte, and we appreciate his leadership.

And I also want to thank Sue Myrick. She is a fine Member of the United States Congress. Every other word is “Charlotte” when I’m around her. [Laughter] She did a great job as mayor.

And speaking about that, Robin Hayes—he needs to go back to Washington, DC. He needs to be reelected for the good of North Carolina, North Carolina workers, and North Carolina businessowners.

And I want to thank you, Barbara, for representing him. We’ve got—Barbaras have a sweet spot in our heart in the Bush family. And you did a fine job. I completely understand why Robin is not here. He wants to be working on behalf of the North Carolina people, which is what he has done every time I’ve met with him. He’s one of the best grassroots politicians I’ve ever met. He’s the kind of fellow that, when you’re driving through the district, he says, “There’s old Joe over there. He owns that business. And there’s this fellow over there. I got to know him when I went to shake hands with him.”

He also stood strong for the textile industry. When it became clear that there was going to be some trade negotiations going on, he said, “I want to make sure textiles are not dealt out of the mix this time.” And because of his leadership, textiles have not been dealt out of the mix.

The Secretary of Commerce was in your State the other day and made it clear that when it comes to trade, we’re for fair trade for U.S. products. And I want to thank Robin for his leadership. And the North Carolina people ought to be thanking him for his leadership, as well.

And I can’t wait to work with Elizabeth Dole. It’s important this State send her to Washington, DC. It’s important that you have somebody in Washington that when she calls over to the White House, they answer the phone. [Laughter] She’s been a long-time

friend. I trust her judgment. I know the integrity she'll bring to the office.

I've been so impressed about how hard she is working. It's so easy to come into a State and take things for granted. That's not Elizabeth Dole's style. She is going to out-work anybody who's running for the United States Senate because she loves the State of North Carolina. She's always loved North Carolina, and she's going to represent you with class and dignity in the United States Senate.

And we've got an important agenda in Washington. We're defending our country. You know, the enemy attacked us thinking we were soft, thinking our culture was corrupt, thinking we'd just kind of roll over and say, "Well, you know, okay, fine. We'll figure out if we can sue them." [Laughter] Man, did they make a mistake. They found a nation that's resolved. They have found out that we will defend freedom. They understand now that this Nation is slow to anger, but when angered, we will chase them down, and we'll bring them to justice.

I'm so proud of the United States military. For those of you who've got relatives in the military—I met one young wife whose husband was in the 101st—I want to thank you all for your sacrifice to our country, as well. And the budget I've submitted to the United States Congress clearly reflects the need to defend our country. It is the largest defense increase since Ronald Reagan was President of the United States. It says this: that if we put our troops in harm's way, if we ask young men and women to defend America, our allies, and our freedom, they must have the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible.

We have put together a mighty coalition of freedom-loving nations, nations all resolved to rout out terror wherever it may exist. It's going to require our Nation to be steadfast and strong in order to make sure that coalition stays focused. And it's easy for a nation, for a leadership, to assume that position when we've got a nation that is resolved and patient and determined.

I'm proud of the military, and I'm equally as proud of the people of the United States of America. We understand what is at stake. We understand our freedoms are now being challenged. We understand that civilization

itself is under attack, and we will not relent. We stand strong in the face of the evil ones, and we will be victorious, make no mistake about it.

The American people understand it's going to take time to accomplish our objective. We're just in the first theater in the war against terror. We were able to uphold a new doctrine which said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, you, yourself, are just as guilty as the terrorist. The Taliban, one of the most repressive governments in the history of the world, has found out what we meant when we said, "We will hold you accountable for harboring terrorists."

Our military, they're not conquerors; they're liberators. We liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, and I'm so proud of the accomplishment in Afghanistan.

And our troops are still in harm's way. We're now in a dangerous phase in accomplishing our objectives. After all, we're chasing down people who, on the one hand, send young boys to their death in the name of religion and, on the other hand, hide in caves. But there's no cave deep enough. They can't hide long enough, because I'm patient, and so is the United States military. We will take however long it takes to hunt them down and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what they deserve, the justice of a freedom-loving nation, a justice of a nation which will defend herself at all costs. The price of freedom is expensive, but we'll pay the price necessary to defend our freedoms.

But history has called us into something larger than just one organization. We must defend ourselves and, more importantly, our children and our children's children against future terrorist attacks. And so the cause goes way beyond one person or one country. Our cause is to rout out terror wherever it hides, is to rally a coalition and insist upon results, insist that we bring terrorists to justice.

It also recognizes a nightmare scenario, a scenario which recognizes that great harm could come to freedom-loving nations if we ever allow a terrorist organization to hook up

or become an alliance with a transparent nation which develops weapons of mass destruction. We cannot allow some of the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons, to hold America and our friends hostage. This administration will rout out terror wherever it exists and will hold people accountable if they harbor a terrorist or made up a terrorist or threaten the United States with terrorist weapons. *[Applause]* Thank you. Thank you all. Sit down.

My most important job is to protect innocent Americans. The best homeland defense is to pursue terrorists overseas. The best way to secure the homeland for the long run is to be successful. In the meantime, however, I found a good man, the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, who I've known for a long time, a friend of Tommy's and mine, to set up a national strategy to defend the homeland. We've got a first-responder initiative that's strong, that basically will rally police and fire departments at the local level to respond if there ever is a problem.

We're strengthening the Coast Guard to make our coasts more secure. We're going to make sure our borders are secure by understanding who's coming in and who's going out of the United States of America. We're doing everything in our power to rally the resources of law enforcement and intelligence communities to protect the American people. I'm proud of the efforts of the law enforcement level—at the Federal and State and local level. They will stay on alert so long as there is a threat to the United States of America.

And we've got a job to do at home, as well. You know, I was campaigning in Chicago, and somebody asked me, "Is there ever any time where the budget might have to go into deficit?" I said, "Only if we were at war or had a national emergency or were in recession." *[Laughter]* Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. *[Laughter]* But we're fine.

You know, I campaigned on tax relief because I knew it was the right thing to do. It became even more apparent it was the right thing to do when our economy started slowing down, before I got sworn in as President. Tax relief, fortunately for the American economy, passed the United States Congress.

By giving people more of their own money to spend, it'll help invigorate the economy.

Now, there are some in Washington who say, "Well, maybe we ought not to have tax relief. Maybe you ought to create uncertainty about the tax relief plan." Forget it. That's not going to happen. Tax relief for the American people happened at the right time. It was the right thing to do, and I stand strongly in support of giving people their own money back.

And for the good of a lot of people in North Carolina, in particular, the North Carolina farmers and ranchers, we put the death tax on its way to extinction. And you'll hear them screaming about the budget up there. But if they're worried about the budget, what they need to do is fund the priorities I've sent up there—national defense, homeland security, education—and then hold the line on spending everywhere else, and we'll be just fine.

And speaking about education, I'm proud that we passed a good bill, really good education bill. I know it shocked you, and I can guarantee it shocked the people in Crawford, Texas, to hear me say nice things about Ted Kennedy. *[Laughter]* He deserved nice things said about him in this case because he got the bill unstuck in the United States Senate. It is a bill which says the Republican Party understands that we've got to educate every child, that no child should be left behind, that we strongly believe in accountability in our public school systems, that we believe that poor children can read and write and add and subtract, that we insist that there be local control of schools, and we understand that reading is the new civil right for every child in America. This party now stands squarely with the children of America, to say that everybody ought to be educated, and we support our public schools, and we think they can do a better job, and the Federal role, while needed, is limited.

I was proud of the bipartisan spirit. We need more bipartisanship in Washington, DC. We need less people worried about their own personal political careers and more people focused on what's best for the United States of America.

You know, I was very impressed today by what I saw on the job training program. It

really reinforces in my mind that the best initiatives are always those that kind of spring out of the hearts of people who really care more about their communities than anybody in a distant Government could possibly care. And it reminds me of what I try to tell people when they say, "What can I do to help America? What can I do to help fight in the war against terror?" Well, if you're not wearing a uniform, I've got a suggestion for you: Love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's kind of a universal admonition. It doesn't pertain to one religion or another, but it's pretty good advice, it seems like to me. Because if you're worried about fighting evil, one way to do so is to do some good. One way this Nation can stand up to forces of evil is through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which take place every day, not because of Government but because a loving citizen has said to him or herself, "What can I do to help? What can I do to make my community a better place?"

Every time somebody in America walks next door to see a shut-in and says, "I care about you," that's part of the momentum of kindness that I was talking about. If you mentor a child and say to that child, "I love you," teach a child how to read, you really are standing in the face of terror and evil.

Now, the great strength of the country is really not in the halls in Washington; it's in the hearts and souls of the people of North Carolina and Texas and every other State in the Union. And my job is to capture the spirit of this country and to rally the strength, to stand tall in the face of evil. And there's no doubt we can do this in this Nation.

I believe that we're on the verge of changing a culture that will have lasting benefits. Not only do I believe that what we pursue overseas will make the world more peaceful for generations to come, I believe that what's taking place in America today could make America a more compassionate and kind place for years to come, as well.

A lot of us grew up during a time when the culture said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe this Nation is on the cusp of welcoming in a period of personal responsibility, a responsibility era,

an era which says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. And that starts with moms and dads understanding their most important job is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul. It also means, in a period of responsibility, that we love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

Personal responsibility extends to the corporate world as well, by the way. Corporate America has got the responsibility to disclose all assets and liabilities for shareholders and employees. It's also got a responsibility to treat the employees with respect and help. It's like the corporate responsibility I saw today when corporate Charlotte was working to help people find jobs and find work, understanding that in work they find dignity.

Now, I absolutely believe that America is going to make some right choices in life. And those choices collectively will help change the culture, and we'll be better off for it. The enemy hit us. They thought we were weak and soft. Instead, they found a nation that is strong and determined, but a nation, as well, that is compassionate and decent, a nation that will defend the values of freedom, but a nation that will also make sure the doors of hope and justice and opportunity are open to every person who's fortunate enough to be called an American.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. in the James Richardson Ball Room at the Charlotte Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte; and Barbara Hayes, wife of Representative Robin Hayes. Representative Hayes is a candidate for reelection in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Remarks to the National Summit on Retirement Savings

February 28, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate that warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be here with friends and those who are promoting an important cause, and that is promoting the security and dignity of Americans who are in retirement.

Americans can help secure their own future by saving. Government must support policies that promote and protect saving. And saving is the path to independence for Americans in all phases of life, and we must encourage more Americans to take that path.

I want to thank the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, for helping put on this conference, and I appreciate her service. I appreciate the Director of the Small Business Administration for being here; Hector, thank you for coming. It is good to see at least one fellow Texan, Sam Johnson. I appreciate you being here, Sammy; thank you for coming. And I appreciate Bill Roth, the former Senator from Delaware, for being here, as well. Thank you, Senator, for coming today.

Just over a hundred years ago, at the turn of the last century, the average life expectancy in America was only 47 years. Today, that number has increased by three full decades. This amazing advance in the health of Americans is also profoundly changing our society. Americans who retire today may have decades—decades—of healthy life before them.

This is time to volunteer, making seniors one of the greatest resources of compassion in America. This is time for family, to pass on values to grandchildren and to strengthen the bonds between grandparents and family members. And increasingly, retirement is a time of new beginnings, a time to travel and explore, a time to take up new hobbies, and a time to take up new careers.

Some 80 percent of baby boomers—I happen to be one—[laughter]—say they plan to work at least part-time in retirement. And smart employers will be wise to use their experience and their competence.

The choices seniors make in retirement should not be limited by arbitrary dates or obsolete stereotypes. Increasingly, the choices of seniors will only be limited by two things, the state of their health and the state of their savings.

Because the nature of retirement is changing, the needs of retirement are changing, as well. Older Americans now require a retirement nest egg large enough for decades of enjoyment and ambition. As medicine increases the length of life, adequate savings

must increase the options we have on longer lives.

Saving is never easy; it's hard for some to do. But it's always worthwhile. Particularly when you think about the power of compounding interest. The power of compound interest is one of the great advantages of American citizens, and they must learn to use it. If a worker starts saving just \$20 a week at age 22 and earns a 5.5 percent real interest rate on the investment, that adds up to a nest egg of nearly \$180,000 by age 65.

This summit was created by Congress to educate workers and citizens about the power and rewards of saving, and I want to thank you for participating. You've accomplished a great deal, but there's much more to do.

Americans are saving too little, often dangerously too little. The average 50-year-old in America has less than \$40,000 in personal financial wealth. The average American retires with only enough savings to provide 60 percent of his former annual income. This problem is especially acute for women and minorities.

We must encourage, for all our people, the security and independence provided by savings. I want America to be an ownership society, a society where a life of work becomes a retirement of independence.

Savings start as an individual responsibility, but Government can help by expanding the rewards of saving and by strengthening protections for saving. Last year, the Congress passed and I proudly signed powerful new incentives for retirement savings. Many of you in this room were involved in that effort, and I want to thank you.

We relaxed the restrictions on how much workers can invest in their individual retirement accounts and 401(k) plans. Last year's tax relief plan allowed workers over the age of 50 to make overpayments to their retirement plans. This is especially important for women who take time out of the labor force to stay at home with their children.

We passed some important reforms to give workers more choices and more rights. We created a new kind of 401(k) that allows workers to pay their taxes now and make tax-free withdrawals when they retire, just like

the way the Roth IRA works. And we required companies to vest their employees' retirement rights more quickly. Your retirement money becomes yours faster, now more than ever.

And finally, we made it easier to roll over retirement savings from one account to another. We know that American workers change jobs more frequently today than they used to. This means that people are seeing opportunity, and they're seizing it. But if workers are going to move, their retirement savings need to move with them without unnecessary bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork.

Thanks to the 2001 tax relief program, our Tax Code is now friendlier to saving than it has been in a long time. Not only am I proud of cutting taxes, I'm proud of reforming the savings, and I'm proud of the good work that Congress did on this matter.

But there's still more to do. Even when people are saving enough, they need to feel more secure about the laws protecting their savings. In recent months, we've seen how workers can lose a lifetime's worth of savings if their company were to fail. So my administration has proposed reforms to make sure that the money Americans put away in their working years grows safely, so it is available in their retirement years.

More than 40 million workers own 401(k) accounts totaling over \$1.8 trillion in assets. Many of these assets have been contributed by employers who match their workers' own savings. We know that employers contribute more when they have the option to give company stock as well as cash, and that option ought to remain as positive for American workers. But a worker should also have more freedom to choose how to invest their retirement savings.

Companies that contribute stock to employee 401(k)s should not be permitted to lock their employees into owning that stock for years and years. My proposal will allow workers to sell company stock and diversify into other investment options after 3 years in their own company's plan. We need action to give workers the right to put their savings—to put their eggs in more than one basket.

Another important reform addresses the issue of blackouts, times when employees are not free to change or access their retirement accounts. When companies black-out a pension plan, they temporarily take away a worker's freedom to choose for themselves. Workers should be given a 30-day notice before any blackout period begins, and company officers should not be allowed to sell their own company stock when workers cannot. What's fair on the top floor should be fair on the shop floor.

To make good investment decisions, workers need sound advice and timely information. Employers should be required to provide updates on workers' retirement account values every 3 months. And we should change current law to remove the threat of lawsuits from employers who provide sound third-party investment advice.

All these measures will help build faith in America's pension system, and I urge Congress to act. I want to thank Senators Tim Hutchinson and Chuck Grassley, and Representatives Boehner, Portman, and Cardin, for their bipartisan efforts to put forward good, commonsense legislation that seeks to achieve many of these pension reform principles.

Every American deserves to be an owner in the American Dream. That dream includes a sound pension plan and adequate private savings, and it is ultimately completed by Social Security reform. Some people like their Social Security exactly the way it is, and they'll be able to keep it exactly the way it is. But for younger workers who want to take advantage of the power of compounding interest, we should allow for personal retirement accounts.

Today, Social Security is not a personal savings program. Retirees' benefits are paid directly from the taxes paid each year by current workers. The average return on Social Security is less than 2 percent. And in the long run, Social Security can pay retirees less than 30 percent of what they earned before retiring, and that's not good enough as we head into the 21st century.

We can do better, and a lot of people know this. Someone retiring today after 45 years of work would be entitled to a monthly benefit of \$1,128 a month from Social Security.

If that same retiree—if those Social Security taxes had been invested in the stock market over the last 45 years, during the same period of time, that person would now have a nest egg of \$590,000, or income of more than \$3,700 a month.

Because there will be an expanding number of retirees for Social Security to support in the future, we must apply the power of savings, investing, and compound interest to the challenges of Social Security by introducing personal retirement accounts into the system. Americans would own these assets. After all, it is their money. They would see more retirement income, and that's necessary as people live longer lives. And as importantly, they would be able to pass these accounts on to their children.

Franklin Roosevelt told the U.S. Congress in 1935 that his goals for Social Security included providing a secure retirement to American workers and making sure all Americans could build their personal wealth. We must dedicate ourselves to both those goals.

At a time when older Americans have longer lives and more options than ever before, we need to ensure they have access not just to a monthly check but to personal wealth. And I mean all Americans, not just a few but all Americans, especially women and minorities who are often shortchanged by the current Social Security system.

Robert Johnson, the CEO of Black Entertainment Television, explains it this way, "African-Americans die earlier, therefore receiving less in the form of Social Security payouts. One of the ways to address this is through the use of wealth-generating private accounts that form part of an estate opportunity for African-Americans." And Lea Abdnor, a member of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, as was Mr. Johnson, said, "I believe very strongly that we have to give women the opportunity to create ownership and wealth for the first time." And I couldn't agree more.

My administration is working to expand growth and opportunity in our economy. That's why we cut the taxes. And we've got to make sure opportunity is available as a result of people being able to own something, own their own money so they can manage it themselves, own their own portfolio, have

the capacity to generate wealth. The generation of wealth should not be limited to a few in our society; it ought to be an opportunity for everybody. There's nothing better than providing the incentive to say, "This is my asset base. I own it. I will live on it in retirement, and I will then pass it on to somebody in my own family."

If you own something in America, you own a stake in America's future. And a good retirement vision, a good retirement future says that we must reform Social Security, not only for the good of the system but, as importantly, for the good of American workers who work all their life so that they can have an asset base to call their own.

So as you continue to meet, I hope that you will think not only about the short-term issues we face but how best to make sure that the retirement promises are kept, and how to make sure that as we devise—come up with new systems and new structures, that we fundamentally change America for the better, that we make the system open, and that opportunity extends its reach throughout every neighborhood. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the country, and I hope you join me in seizing it.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come by. Elaine is right; I do worry about the security of the American people. I worry about the security of those who retire. And I want you to know every day I'm worried about the homeland security, too. Every day we wake up—I wake up and go into the beautiful Oval Office and read about threats to the United States. And it reminds me that the security of this country is my most important job.

And I want to assure you all that our administration is doing everything that we possibly can to make sure innocent Americans do not lose their lives here at home. We're running down every lead. We're following every hint, every suggestion, every opportunity to chase down some possible clue of an attack. We are doing it. And I'm proud of our law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, and local level for their diligence.

But I also want to remind you that in order to make sure the homeland is secure as it

can possibly be for our children and grandchildren, that we must hunt down the killers and would-be killers, terrorists, Al Qaida terrorists, and bring them to justice. This is going to require more time than people may want. It's going to require a patient and determined nation.

But having traveled around the country some, having had a chance to listen to the American people, I'm proud of the fact that our Nation is patient and is determined. Because our Nation understands that we fight for freedom, and any time our freedom is challenged, we stand strong in the face of those who would take away our freedom.

Our military is making great strides. I'm proud of the U.S. military. And as fellow Americans, I will assure you that so long as I'm the President, I will do whatever it takes to protect the American people.

I want to thank you for letting me come by. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:23 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Capital Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, BET Holdings, Inc.; and Leanne Abdnor, former executive director, Alliance for Retirement Security.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Retirement Savings and an Exchange With Reporters in Des Moines, Iowa

March 1, 2002

The President. I want to thank Bill and the employees here at Printers for sharing with me their thoughts on the advantages and the importance of 401(k) plans. The 401(k) plan allows a person to invest his or her own money in a savings account which will enhance their asset base in their retirement years.

We talked about how important it is to have an ownership society, where people own assets. We talked about the importance of 401(k) plans for small businesses in America. And Bill very wisely has set up a really constructive and interesting plan, one of

which the owners—the whole concept is that this is the workers' money, that this is Diana's money or Judy's money, and they ought to be trusted in the management of that money.

And that's what this plan does here, it gives instant access to the Web site. They can make investment decisions, obviously, within the guidelines of the law. Now, there are some reforms that are necessary for privately held businesses, such as allowing for more investment advice to the workers, without fear of being sued.

But they've got a very constructive plan here. I want to thank Bill and thank you all for sharing with me the vibrancy of your 401(k) plan. A little later on I'm going to talk again about some of the reforms we're proposing in Congress, as well as some of the expansions to the 401(k) that we enacted into law during the last—during the tax debate.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Action Against Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, what did you make of Senator Daschle's comments yesterday with the war—Mullah Omar and Usama bin Laden are still out there?

The President. Well, I think most Americans understand that it's going to—it's going to take a while to achieve all our objectives, that by far the vast majority of Americans are patient. They know, when you're looking for one person who may be hiding in a cave, it may take a while. But what Usama bin Laden has got to understand, if we haven't already gotten him—I don't know where he is. But I think he now understands that this patient and determined Nation is going to hunt him down, that he can't hide long enough.

And the other point I'd like to make is, as I've said repeatedly—and most Americans understand this, as well—that our war against terror is far greater than one person, that in order to defend freedom and protect our children and our children's children, that we must rout out terror wherever it tries to hide.

And that's why we are working with our coalition on an active basis to deny safe harbor, to disrupt financial plans. And the American people are beginning to see that we have

been active beyond Afghanistan. We've obviously got activities interested—Philippines, activities in Georgia. And we're hunting him down. And I'm real proud of our military. We've been at this for about 6 months, and we've been very successful in a quick period of time.

Continuity of Government/Yemen

Q. Mr. President, is there a shadow Government in place since September 11th? And——

The President. A shadowy Government or a shadow Government? [*Laughter*]

Q. A shadow Government. And as part of the antiterror effort, are you considering granting some form of aid to Yemen?

The President. Let's see, there are two questions there. The first one is, we have—we take the continuity-of-Government issue very seriously, because our Nation was under attack. And I still take the threats that we receive from Al Qaida killers and terrorists very seriously.

I have an obligation as the President, and my President has an obligation to the American people to provide—to put measures in place that, should somebody be successful in attacking Washington, DC, there's an ongoing Government. That's one reason why the Vice President was going to undisclosed locations. This is serious business, and we take it seriously.

As far as Yemen goes, Yemen is a country that—I've had a very good discussion with the President of Yemen. I made it clear to him, as well as other Presidents of nations, that you're either with us, or you're not with us, and that if you're with us, we expect results.

I don't know if you remember my speech to the United Nations, where I said, thanks for all the condolences and flowers; now is the time for action, that if you're a part of our coalition, we expect you to work diligently and work hard to arrest Al Qaida killers. Al Qaida members are people who aid and abet Al Qaida. And the Yemen Government is responding.

I've oftentimes asked, what about—you know, what are the particulars you're doing, in a particular government? I'm not going to talk about ongoing operations. I will just

tell you that wherever we find an Al Qaida presence, we work with the government to rout them out. In other words, this war against terror is far broader than Afghanistan, and we're making good progress.

Energy Taskforce Documents

Q. Sir, some of the legal actions seeking documents from the energy task force have been successful. It looks like some of the documents are going to be released. Are you concerned——

The President. That's fine with me.

Q. Are you concerned about some of the information that's out there?

The President. No.

Q. Will it raise doubts about your energy plan?

The President. Not at all, no. I'm not concerned at all. As a matter of fact, I hope the Energy Department gets the documents out there as quickly as they possibly can.

I am concerned, though, about a Congress trying to make privileged the private conversations the President or the Vice President has. In other words, I receive advice, and in order for people to give me sound advice, that information ought not to be public. Somebody is not going to walk into the Oval Office thinking that the conversation is going to be public and give me good, sound advice.

And therefore, when the GAO overstepped its bounds to try to get advice given to the Vice President and me, we resisted. But in terms of the honoring the FOIA request, the freedom of information request to our Departments, in which different groups are legally entitled to do, you bet.

And we received interesting advice from a lot of people on our energy plan. First of all, we're the first administration to put forth an energy plan. And this Nation needs an energy plan. The more dependent we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the less secure our Nation will be. And it's about time somebody stepped forth with an energy plan.

And we listened to energy companies, which seems to make sense. If you're developing an energy plan, one place to start is to listen to people who know something about the business. We also listened to environmental groups. We listened to people that

were concerned about how to create more conservation.

And the end result was a plan that is now public, and every American has got the capacity to pick it up and read it and decide whether they think it makes sense or not. The House of Representatives evidently thought so, because they passed the bill. And for the good of the country, the Senate needs to pass an energy bill that encourages conservation, exploration, and modernizes the capacity and the abilities of the country to move electricity from one part of the country to the next.

Last question.

Continuity of Government

Q. Sir, back to the issue of the shadow Government. The reports out today said that one reason why the shadow Government was authorized was that there was a threat of nuclear attack by Al Qaida. Is that something that is still a significant threat?

The President. We take every threat seriously. And until this country has routed out terrorists wherever they try to hide, we're not safe.

Now, we're doing everything we can to protect the American people, and the American people understand that. They know that our Federal law enforcement, State law enforcement, local law enforcement are working day and night to protect the American people. I'm proud of the efforts. I believe—I know we've made America a tougher place to attack than before. It is much harder for somebody to get on an airplane to attack again. We are taking—you know, we've got better intelligence-gathering. We're doing everything in our power to protect the American people.

And I will tell you, there are people still in this world who want to harm America. And we're going to chase them down. And it's going to take a while. But I am a determined person, and as I told the American people, I'm not going to relent. I believe we've been called by history to lead the world. I believe this great, strong, compassionate country has been given a unique moment. And I'm not going to miss the moment, by leading the world to a more freedom-loving world. And the American people understand that, and

they're solid behind this administration's efforts to defend freedom.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the production control room at The Printer, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to William C. Benskin, president, and Diane Grimes and Judy Ford, employees, The Printer, Inc.; and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen. A reporter referred to Mullah Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees of The Printer, Inc., in Des Moines

March 1, 2002

Well, thanks for that warm welcome. It's nice to be back in Iowa. I spent some quality days here in Iowa. *[Laughter]* I used to tell people that Iowa was the friendliest State that I campaigned in, and I want to thank you for the hospitality, coming back as your President.

I appreciate the Governor being here. Governor, thanks for taking time. We had the honor of hosting the Governors—the national Governors at the White House last Sunday night. I'd just gotten in from China, rented my tux, and had the Governors over. *[Laughter]* But it was good to see your Governor, and thanks for being here. I'm honored you're here.

And I also appreciate so many friends and members of the Iowa House who are here. I see my friend Mary Kramer. I see the speaker. I want to thank you both for coming. I want to thank all the members. I hope the Governor is doing everything you tell him to do. *[Laughter]* That's not the way it's supposed to work.

I appreciate very much Leonard Boswell, the Congressman, for being here, and I want to appreciate my friend Tom Latham, as well, for traveling with me—two fine Members of the United States Congress. Anyway, I thank all the elected officials for coming. I appreciate a chance to say hello.

I also want to thank the Benskins for inviting me here. I didn't realize Bill—I guess

the employees probably didn't realize it either—he's such a silver-tongued devil. [Laughter]

But I appreciate so very much the chance to visit with Bill and some of the employees. Let me tell you what my first impression is, is that this is a company that deeply cares about the people who work here. And Bill and Marty understand that if you treat the folks that work with you well, you'll more likely have a good product, that if you care about the future of the people who are doing the work for your company, the company is going to have a culture of success. And I could feel that instantly when I came here, and I want to congratulate the Benskins.

See, small business is the lifeblood of the American economy. Most new jobs are created in small businesses. I'm a big believer in the entrepreneurial spirit. I'm a big believer in understanding that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which small businesses can flourish and people like the Benskins can realize their dream and, in turn, provide good, steady, honorable employment for the people who work in this company. So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk about security.

Before I talk about retirement security, I see people wearing our uniform—the uniform—and I've got to talk about national security from a defense perspective. I submitted a budget to the United States Congress that sets this priority: We will defend freedom at any cost.

The budget I submitted says basically this: If you wear the uniform of the United States of America and you're fighting to defend our freedom, you deserve the best equipment, the best training, another pay raise. And Congress best heed that call.

We're in for a long and difficult struggle when it comes to fighting terrorists. It's long and difficult because, unlike other wars, these kind of faceless folks, nameless folks hide and burrow into countries that may be weak. They hide in the caves. These are the kinds of people who send young advocates, young believers to their suicide, and they, themselves, hide.

When they attacked our country, they really didn't understand America. They thought

we were soft. They thought we had a culture that was so materialistic that nobody in this land would be willing to sacrifice for something greater than ourselves. And they made a huge mistake.

I made it absolutely clear to the world, a couple of points: One, that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists who attacked America, and you'll be held accountable. And that's exactly what happened to the Taliban. They wish they'd never heard of America.

But our country showed up not as conquerors but as liberators. Our United States military liberated a nation from the most barbaric—one of the most barbaric regimes history has shown, and now young girls get to go to school, and women are free. And I can't tell you how proud I am of the efforts of the United States military in Afghanistan.

I also made it clear to our coalition and our country that this is a new kind of war, that we've got to think about our children's future, that we can't rest until we have routed out terrorists wherever they try to hide, wherever they think they can accumulate and gather to hurt us again.

Listen, we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland of the country. Our law enforcement is on alert. Our FBI has got thousands of agents now chasing down every possible lead, every hint. Every opportunity to make the country safe, we're seizing it. We've got a national strategy in place to have a good first-time responders initiative. I know the Governor is working on that, along with local law enforcement officials, to make sure that if we're attacked, there is a good response mechanism in place. We're working on a bioterrorism initiative. We're strengthening our borders. We're going to have a better understanding of who's coming in and who's going out of the United States of America. And we've got better intelligence-sharing. We're doing everything we can.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase down those that would harm us and bring them to justice, and that is precisely what the United States of America is going to do. It doesn't matter how long it takes; it doesn't matter where we have to go.

We will protect freedom, and this administration will protect the innocent lives of American citizens.

I'm confident the congressional appropriators will not let our military down and will not let the American people down, because the American people are united and patient and strong and prepared to defend freedom. I can't tell you how proud I am of our country, how proud I am of those who understand the task ahead.

I also understand that part of my job is to battle a recession, and I spent a lot of time here in Iowa talking about the need for tax relief. And we passed tax relief right about the right time, because the best way to battle an economic slowdown is to get people your own money back so you can spend it. And as you spend it, it encourages new products and jobs.

There are some in Washington who want to argue that we shouldn't go on with tax relief that we passed. They're reading the wrong economic textbooks. They are mistaken. Tax relief is good for American workers, and tax relief is good for the American economy.

I know we need to take care of workers whose lives were affected as a result of the terrorist attacks on America. We need to extend unemployment benefits, and we need to help with health care. And I've laid out an initiative to do that. The House of Representatives passed a good bill to do that.

But people want more than an unemployment check in America; they want a paycheck. And what people in Washington ought to be asking is how—what do we do to create more jobs so people can find work; what does it require? And one of the things that I think needs to happen is, we need a stimulus bill, an economic growth bill, a jobs bill that will encourage more investment in plant and equipment. If companies invest more in plant and equipment, companies are more likely to hire more workers. We need a stimulus bill out of Washington, DC.

And we need a good farm bill to help with jobs. And I'm looking forward to working with Congress to get a good farm bill, one that recognizes a couple of things: One, farming is an incredibly important part of our economy. It's a huge industry in America.

And the more vibrant the farm economy is, the more vibrant our national economy will be.

Secondly, we've got to think about value-added processing when it comes to agriculture. I believe in ethanol. I believe ethanol is good for the quality of the air. I believe ethanol is important for the agricultural sector of our economy. I think it makes sense, and we've got to explore additional ways.

We've got to have a farm bill that provides a safety net but doesn't encourage overproduction. And at the same time, we must open up markets for Iowa corn growers and soybean growers. When I was in China, I spent a lot of time talking to the Chinese leadership, saying, "Buy those Iowa soybeans. You said you would do so. Open your markets." Because the more markets are open around the world for food products, the more likely it is American farmers, who happen to be the best at growing food in the world, are going to be able to sell their products. We ought to be feeding the world because we're the best at growing food. And so I want a good farm bill, and I expect to get one here pretty quick. And I look forward to signing it.

And also, we need an energy bill. Listen, we import over 50 percent of our energy from overseas. And that doesn't make sense. We have to do it because we're not conserving enough, nor we are producing enough. For the good of the national security of our country, we ought to encourage more exploration in an environmentally friendly way on American soil. We ought to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

And I also want to talk about retirement security today. And I came here not only because I wanted to herald the importance of small business in our society but because this company has a good 401(k) plan. A good 401(k) plan has got some features to it, one, that there is an encouragement for people to save. And Bill was telling me that one of the smart things they did was they put a certain amount of money in everybody's 401(k) plans to begin the process, and everybody said, "What is a 401(k) plan?" It got everybody's attention when they saw they had a little money, something set aside for them.

A good plan is one that—where the company says it's to your advantage to put as much money as you can away when you're younger and understand the power of compounding interest rates. In other words, watching that money grow on a tax-free basis makes a lot of sense. And the workers here at The Printer, Inc., understand that.

You see, we're going to have to encourage more savings in America because people are going to live longer lives. I mean, you and I, the baby boomers, if we behave ourselves, will live way beyond the average lifespan of 20 to 30 years ago. And I don't know about you, but I plan to be active after I've reached the so-called retirement age. And therefore, it is to our advantage to start putting more money aside early so we've got more money to spend and to live on later on.

And the 401(k) is a great way to encourage savings. And Bill was telling me, there's no guarantees, but on bonus years it goes in the 401(k)s, which is a way to encourage workers to pay attention to the plan.

He also tells me that there's a Web page designed for instant access to your money. This isn't the Government's money, by the way. This is your money; this is the workers' money; and you ought to be trusted with your own money. And a 401(k) recognizes who owns the money. And a good company is one that provides the instant access to accounting of your money, so you can see how it's growing. And then you have the option, obviously, within the law, to make investment decisions that you think is important.

Now, one issue that I am concerned about is that a company like right here cannot offer sound investment advice, third-party advice to the workers, because they're afraid to get sued. Now, that doesn't make any sense to me, that if on the one hand a business such as this sets up a 401(k) plan and encourages investment, that they can't bring a third-party adviser to sit down with the workers, to give people objective advice as to what's happening in the marketplace or what makes sense, without fear of lawsuits. We've got too many lawsuits in our society, to begin with. And it doesn't make any sense to force workers not to be able to have good advice because somebody is afraid of getting sued.

And so it seems like, to me, it makes sense for Congress to help reform pension laws by making it easier for people such as Bill to get good advice for the workers, without fear of some junk lawsuit or some throwaway lawsuit.

And so I'm proud of what's happening here in this company, and I know that we need to do more when it comes to encouraging savings. And we did some good stuff in the tax relief—the tax cut—tax relief bill I talked about last year. Let me tell you about some of the reforms we made to encourage others to save more.

One, we relaxed the restrictions on how much workers can invest in their individual retirement accounts and 401(k) plans; in other words, made it easier for people to invest.

Two, it allows people over the age of 50 to catch up, to put more money into their retirement fund. And why would that happen? Well, somebody might have been laid off for a while. Or, if you happen to be a woman and you stayed at home for a while to raise your kids and came back into the workplace late, you ought to be allowed to catch up. You ought to be allowed to put more money in to make sure your 401(k) was sound and whole.

We have—as well, we've reduced the tax burden on small businesses who want to start a 401(k) plan. As Bill will tell you if you were to ask him, it's pretty expensive to start one of these plans. You've got to hire a lawyer; you've got to hire an accountant. There are some startup costs. And a lot of small businesses take a look at the startup costs, and they say, "What the heck do I want to spend money on this for," and therefore don't. And the workers lose out on a fantastic opportunity.

And so it makes sense for the Government to make it easier for the small businesses to be able to deduct the cost of such startups on the tax credit basis, so that we encourage more 401(k) plans in America and, therefore, encourage more savings. The more savings there are, as Americans grow older, the more likely it is we'll have a vibrant society where people are more productive, more happy, and more healthy.

I also am deeply concerned about pension plan abuse. I'm worried about what's taking place, what we've seen in the newspapers here in America. First of all, there's such a thing as corporate responsibility. We've seen that here in this company, people responsible for the employees. Corporate America has a responsibility to disclose all the assets and liabilities of their companies.

As well, we need to make sure that workers don't lose everything if their company were to fail. In other words, there needs to be some safeguards in some of these 401(k) plans, particularly as it relates to publicly traded companies. And let me cite some of the reforms I think that Congress ought to pass.

First, workers would be free to sell any stock their company contributes to their retirement plan after participating for 3 years. In other words, if you've been a 3-year employee and your company has used stock as part of your retirement plan—which, by the way, is a good thing, I hope Congress understands it's a good thing to encourage companies to contribute their own stock to their employees as part of an incentive plan. On the other hand, an employee ought to be able to sell that stock after she or he has worked there for a 3-year period of time.

Secondly, they have what they call a black-out period sometimes, when they change a fund manager, for example. And here's what I believe ought to happen: If there's a black-out period in which employees can't conduct transactions, first, an executive shouldn't be able to sell if the employee can't sell. What's good for the executive ought to be good for the employees in America. If the boss sells, so should everybody else. And if everybody else can't sell, the boss doesn't get to sell.

There ought to be a guarantee that employees get to see at least quarterly reports on what's taking place in the 401(k) plans. Here, you get a minute-by-minute report. You know, the information flows so freely these days, it seems like it makes sense to give everybody instant access to what's going on in their accounts, and that's what ought to be happening. There ought to be, you know, at least quarterly reporting as well, as I mentioned, to make sure that small businesses have got an incentive to set up a plan,

as well as liability protection against those employers who are anxious that there be as much information and as much knowledge passed between adviser and employee.

The whole point is this: We ought to do everything we can in Washington, DC, to encourage people to own a piece of the future. The more somebody owns something, the more somebody builds up an asset base, the better off America will be. And whether it be in Social Security or 401(k)s, we've got to understand the power of compounding interest, the importance of savings, and the beauty of ownership in the American society.

And what a great society this is. America—you know, when they hit us, they didn't realize that out of this terrible evil was going to come some good. Nobody—nobody in America wishes what happened on 9/11 would ever occur again, of course. And we're still sad when we think of the events—at least I am. But there's going to be some incredible good that comes out of this. The world will be more peaceful if we're strong and patient and resolved, and we will be. But as a result, I think our communities are going to be better. I think the American people have taken a good, hard look at what's important in life. They understand that loving your child, if you happen to be a mother or dad, is the most important job you'll ever have. America knows that.

I like to tell people that, if you're interested in fighting evil and want to join in the war against terror, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's what I call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which define America and which enable America to stand tall in the face of evil. It's all these acts of goodness that take place in our society. Right here in Des Moines, Iowa, somebody walks across the street on a daily basis and says to a shut-in, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" It's that accumulation of all those acts which define our country.

What a great nation we are. We're a strong nation; we're a proud nation; and we're showing the world we're a deeply compassionate nation as well. Out of evil will come good. They thought they hit a weak nation, but instead they found a strong, strong group of people, and I'm proud to be your President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the bindery at The Printer, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Thomas J. Vilsack of Iowa; Mary Kramer, president, Iowa State Senate; Brent Siegrist, speaker, Iowa State House of Representatives; and William C. Benskin, president, and Martin L. Benskin, vice president, The Printer, Inc.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Representative Tom Latham in Des Moines

March 1, 2002

Thank you very much. Please be seated. It's an unbelievable honor for a guy from Midland, Texas, to be back in Iowa. [*Laughter*] As I recall, it started here, and I want to thank you all. I want to thank you for your support, and I want to thank you for coming out to support Tom Latham. And I want to thank you for your support for the Iowa Republican Party. And I want to thank you for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be back in your great State.

I too want to extend our most heartfelt sympathies to Katie Roth. As you know, Luke was—ran my campaign here in the primaries. I remember him as a joyous, fine, solid American. I talked to Katie the other day on the phone. I assured her the prayers of Iowa and Luke's friends are with her, and I know you join me, I hope, in praying for God's blessings on Katie and the family.

Somebody said to me the other day, "Do you plan on campaigning? You're the President of all the people." I said, "Sure I am. When I find somebody good, I'm going to help them." And Tom Latham is a good, good United States Congressman.

You bet I'm going to campaign. I'm going to campaign for a party that holds the values that I hold dear to my heart of heralding the individual and limiting the size and scope of Government, recognizing that all wisdom is not in Washington, DC, but is in local governments and individuals, recognizing that we must have a strong national defense to secure freedom. I am. I'm going to campaign. I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of

the House, and I want Tom Latham returned to the United States Congress.

And I want to thank you all for coming to help, and I appreciate your generosity. I also want to thank Kathy Latham for her patience and her support of Tom. And like me, Tom married above himself. [*Laughter*] Thank you for being here, Kathy.

Speaking about marrying above myself, Laura is doing great. As you may remember, she was a public school librarian when I married her. She really wasn't interested in politics or politicians, and now she is a fabulous First Lady for the United States of America. She sends her greetings. I'm going to see her here in a while, and I look forward to telling her that I saw a lot of our friends in Iowa today at lunch.

I also want to thank Elaine Chao. You know, one of the ways you judge a President is what kind of team does he put together. And as you've seen, I've put together a fabulous national security team, a team of experienced hands and people who are willing to express their opinion, willing to work for what's best for America. And I've also put together a great domestic team as well. And one of those members is Elaine Chao, who is the Secretary of Labor, and I want to thank you for coming, Elaine.

I see the party chairman; Chuck, thank you for coming here. I got to know Larson on the campaign trail. Never did I realize he'd be elevated to such a high standing in life. [*Laughter*] But now that he is, I hear that he's doing a great job. So Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking on a leadership role. I love your enthusiasm, and I love your zest for life.

I think Bob Ray is here. He set the standard for what it means to be a Governor. Terry Branstad I understand was going to be here, as well. If so, thanks for coming. There, Branstad, how are you? Hi, Bob. Thank you all for coming. It's good to see you both again. I know Mary Kramer told me she was coming, and I know the speaker is here and others from the State House. Mary, how are you? Again, thank you Speaker.

I want to thank you all for being here. I was back—met some folks back there, and this tall giant walked through. He said, "I used to mow down the Texas Rangers on a

regular basis.” And I said, “You’re not Cal Eldred, are you?” He said, “Yes, I am.” I said, “Well, I’m sorry to see you again.” [Laughter] But I’m glad to see him here. Where are you, Cal? There he is. Thanks for coming, Cal. I appreciate your being here. I know you’re sorry to be out of baseball, but Ranger fans are glad you are. [Laughter] At any rate, thank you all for coming.

Let me tell you a couple things about Tom Latham that it’s important for those who might be undecided to listen to. One, he’s on the Appropriations Committee. That’s important, to be on the Appropriations Committee. It requires somebody who has got a little extra—a little extra talent to be on that committee in the House of Representatives. It makes no sense for people in the congressional district in which he’s seeking to replace somebody on the Appropriations Committee with somebody who’s not. The Appropriations Committee is one of the most important committees there is in the United States Congress. And not only that, but he’s got some accomplishments that I want to tout.

One of them is—and this is an important issue that faces the future of America—he is a strong battler of illegal drugs. Methamphetamine, for example, has been a problem in the Midwest, a problem here in Iowa, and this good United States Congressman had the foresight and willingness to work to get a regional training center to fight methamphetamines. And I appreciate that very much, Tom, and so do the people of Iowa, and they’ve got to remember that when it gets ready to go into the polls.

As you know, in Washington we’ve got a lot of talkers. And what you need to do is herald the doers, the people who can get things done. One of the interesting issues, as you know, that obviously faces Iowans—and I learned this firsthand, of course—is the agricultural economy here. The farm bill is working its way through, and Tommy Latham understands a couple of points that are important. One, we need a safety net, but we don’t want to encourage overproduction. We want a wise farm policy, and part of that wise farm policy is to make sure that we open up markets for trade.

The Iowa farmers are the best farmers in the world. And it makes sense if you’re the

best farmer in the world—if you’re the best in the world, you want to be able to sell more, not sell less. And so when I was in China recently, I made it very clear to the Chinese officials with whom I met that they need to honor obligations and open up their markets, starting with soybeans from the United States of America. Those protectionist voices in Washington must not understand the Iowa farm community. The more product we sell, the better off it is for the Iowa farmer, and Tom Latham understands that.

He also understands, and I understand, the importance of value-added processing when it comes to agricultural products. I told the good people in Iowa, when I campaigned here, I supported ethanol. I supported ethanol as the nominee of the party, I supported ethanol as a candidate, and I support ethanol as the President of the United States.

But there are some other things we ought to do. We ought to do what Tom Latham has suggested and has done, which is to encourage more research and development between the Energy Department and the Ag Department, so that we can fully explore the potential of biomass. One thing you’ll hear me talk a lot about is we need less dependency on foreign sources of energy. And there would be nothing better than to be able to grow our way out of that dependency. But it requires leadership, and Tom Latham has provided that leadership for the good of Iowa, as well as for the good for the Nation.

And finally, an issue that he spends a lot of time thinking about and working on and talking to me about, is to make sure that there is equity for rural hospitals, particularly when it comes to Medicare reimbursements.

My point to the people of Iowa is that this is an accomplished man and a smart man who has got the interest of his district in his heart. And it makes a lot of sense, if you care about the future of Iowa—forget political party, if you care about the future of Iowa—to send this good man back to Washington, DC, come November.

And one other thing I like about him is he understands that the budget I sent up to Washington, DC—up in Washington, that prioritizes our national defense, is the right priority for the country. We’re defending freedom, and I sent a budget up there that

says, we're going to set a priority for defending freedom. And the Congress ought to pass that budget. It ought to recognize that the price for defending freedom is high, but whatever it takes, we ought to spend because our freedom is precious and dear.

This Nation has sent men and women who wear our uniform into battle to defend freedom, and they have performed brilliantly. But if we send them into battle, they deserve the best training, the best supplies, the best equipment. They deserve another pay raise. And Congress needs to fully fund the military and defense budget I sent up to both the Senate and the House because we're in for a long struggle. You know, I told the American people that this was a new kind of war. The enemy hit us. We've never been attacked like that before on the continental 48, and we realized that we're in a new era. And that's going to require patience of the American people, because we're chasing down a kind of a faceless enemy, an enemy who sends young men to die on suicide missions and they, themselves, try to hide in caves.

But you need to know how determined I am to defend America and our freedom. It doesn't matter how deep the cave is. It doesn't matter where the cave is. We're going to find them. We're going to slowly but surely hunt them down and bring them to justice.

In the course of this war, I laid out some doctrines that are pretty darn clear. One of them is, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide aid or comfort to a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant.

Our military took on a tough mission to uphold that doctrine, and it was a dangerous mission, and they performed brilliantly. We're not conquerors; we showed the world we're liberators. We liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I was to see the joy on the faces of women and little girls in Afghanistan with the realization that this mighty Nation has freed them to realize their dreams.

I also made it clear to the world that either you are with us, or you're against us, that either you're with the United States in defending freedom, or you're not with the

United States in defending freedom. And a lot of people have heard that Nation, and they're proud to sign up with us. And we've got a vast coalition, as we're hunting down the Al Qaida.

We've had over 1,000 arrests in places outside of Afghanistan. I mean, we're slowly but surely doing what we need to do to protect the homeland. And the coalition understands our determination, and they see our resolve.

I'm proud of the patience of the American people. The American people recognize the new type of war we're in. They understand that sometimes they'll see the action of the United States Government and sometimes we won't. But they also understand we must be strong and diligent as we defend freedom, because that's what we defend.

I made it clear that this is a war beyond just a single individual. One guy thinks he can hide, but he's not going to. We haven't heard much from him lately, by the way. *[Laughter]* But we fight terror wherever it exists. And this is for the good of our children. History has called us into action, and we must not and we will not blink. It's a chance to define freedom for future generations.

I made it clear that a scenario which I will not let stand is one in which a terrorist organization could team up with a nation that has had a history of mistreating her people, a nontransparent nation perhaps, a nation that is known to be developing weapons of mass destruction. We cannot let, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, terrorist organizations team up with nations that want to develop weapons that can be delivered from long distances that will hurt ourselves, our friends, and our allies. We're not going to let the world's worst regimes develop the worst weapons and threaten the United States of America.

We're doing everything at home to defend the homeland. We've got a good strategy in place. It starts, by the way, with having the best intelligence possible, gathering intelligence from all around the world, disseminating on a quick basis, and following every lead and every hint.

If we get any kind of whiff that somebody is trying to do something to the American people, we're moving. We've got thousands

of FBI agents whose major task, primary focus, is on preventing an attack. We're doing a much better job of coordinating with State and local authorities. We've got a national strategy in place to make our borders more secure, to make our Nation more responsive to a potential bioterrorist attack. I mean, we're making good progress, and our budget reflects that. But the best way to secure the homeland is to be relentless in our pursuit against terrorists, and that's exactly what's going to happen, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

You know, I remember campaigning in Chicago, and somebody said, "Would you ever spend a deficit?" And I said, "Only if we're at war or we had a recession or there was a national emergency." Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. *[Laughter]* It's going to be important for Congress to fund the priorities. But in order to make sure whatever deficit we have is short lived, they better hold the line on the rest of the budget. And that's why the President has the veto pen. It's important for there to be fiscal discipline in Washington, DC, right now.

Our economy is, as you know, has been sputtering. And thankfully, the Congress, working with me, did a smart thing. Last March, we cut the taxes on the people who pay the bills in America. Actually, I think it took place a little later than March. Last year, we cut the taxes. It happened at the exact right time. You see, in order to stimulate economic vitality and growth, when we give people their own money back, it enhances demand, which causes more production, which creates job stability.

Now, there are some in Washington that have been mumbling beneath their breath that maybe they think they want to prevent the rest of the tax relief package from going through. I do not know what economic textbook they're reading. One thing you don't do is raise taxes in the middle of a recession. In order to stimulate growth, you trust the American people with their own money, and that's what we did. I appreciate Latham's vote on that matter, and I'm going to hold the line when it comes to tax relief.

And I can remember standing on farms in Iowa, standing by a generation of farmers, saying one of the worst things that can hap-

pen to the Iowa agricultural economy is the death tax. We need to get rid of the death tax, and I'm proud to report the death tax is on its way to extinction.

I hope Congress gives me a trade bill so I can open up markets. I hope Congress gives me an energy bill so we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil and can conserve more energy. I hope Congress gives me a stimulus package that not only takes care of workers who lost their jobs but recognizes that people want more than an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And we need to stimulate economic activity by encouraging more plant and equipment, more investment in plant and equipment. The House has acted. The Senate has stalled. It's time to get some of these important measures to my desk so we can make progress in the country.

I, like everybody else in America, was heartsick on 9/11. I mean, I can't tell you how sad I was, just like you, and then I got a little angry. And then I realized upon reflection that out of this evil was going to come some good, and it has. Out of this terrible evil, we have a chance to keep the peace for a long time coming, and we will. And out of this evil, this Nation has shown the world what a compassionate, kind place we are.

I always used to say that one of my hopes was that this Nation's culture would shift from one that said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life." Unbeknownst to the evildoers, I think they've helped accelerate that cultural change.

I know millions of Americans are asking the question, "What can I do to fight terror? What is it I can do to fight evil?" And they're beginning to realize what I know, that in order to fight evil, do something good. In order to stand square in the face of evil, this good Nation, through the millions of acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis, stands opposite of evil. And as a result of neighbors looking after neighbors, of people caring for somebody in need, of somebody loving their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, people understand there's a new responsibility to be had. Mothers and

dads know that the most important job they will ever have is to love their children—is to love their children. Churches and synagogues and mosques, who have these fantastic neighborhood healing programs, need to be unleashed in America through the faith-based initiative that I have proposed. You see, Government shouldn't fear faith. We ought to welcome faith and the power of faith to change people's lives in a very positive way.

You know, I was working the ropeline over there at the retirement plan ceremony, and I ran into a guy I met in Colfax, Iowa, from Teen Challenge. It was a fantastic experience during the course of the caucuses because it gave me a chance to explain to people what I meant when—how faith changes life. But I'll never forget the heroin addict from Chicago standing up and saying he was clean because a power greater than himself entered into his heart.

These kinds of programs Government can't create. But these kind of programs exist in America because of the goodness of America. And this society is changing, as we unleash this compassion, as people understand that part of being responsible is not only responsible for your own family but responsible for loving a neighbor. And it's taking place in the country, and it's so powerful and positive, that leads me to say that out of this evil is going to come a stronger, more decent, more humble society.

There's defining moments that take place in our history, and I think a defining moment was Flight 93, when people on an airplane, on cell phones, told their wives they loved them, said a prayer, and drove a plane into the ground to save somebody's life, to serve something greater than yourself. It's the ultimate testimony to the American character and the American spirit which defines this Nation for what it is, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And I am really proud to be its President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:54 a.m. in the Des Moines Room at the Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Katie Roth, whose husband Luke Roth was the President's Iowa State campaign director; Kathy Latham, wife of Representative Latham; Chuck Larson, Jr., chairman,

Republican Party of Iowa; former Iowa Governors Robert D. Ray and Terry Branstad; Mary Kramer, president, Iowa State Senate; Brent Siegrist, speaker, Iowa State House of Representatives; and Cal Eldred, former pitcher, Chicago White Sox. Representative Tom Latham is a candidate for reelection in Iowa's Fifth Congressional District.

Statement on Establishing the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 1, 2002

A prolonged drought and complex Federal and State legal issues have made for difficult times in the Klamath River Basin. Today I am establishing the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group to address concerns raised by farmers, ranchers, fishermen, tribes, and others affected by these difficult conditions. I have directed Secretary Norton, Secretary Veneman, Secretary Evans, and CEQ Chairman Connaughton to advise me of the immediate and long-term actions necessary to enhance water quality and quantity and to address the other complex economic and natural resource issues in the Klamath River Basin. I have directed the Working Group to begin their efforts immediately. I want to thank Senator Gordon Smith and Congressman Greg Walden for their commitment to working together to find a lasting solution that meets the needs of the Klamath River Basin.

Memorandum on the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 1, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

Subject: Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

The 2001 drought in the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California, along with Federal legal requirements regarding water use, resulted in a scarcity of water available both for agricultural use and for maintenance

of water levels necessary to sustain threatened and endangered fish populations in the Klamath River Basin. Last year, the reduction in water available for irrigation caused severe economic consequences in the Basin. Ensuring that the farming community has access to sufficient water supply while complying with Federal environmental laws and respecting Tribal trust obligations will involve complex economic and legal issues that call for the immediate attention of Cabinet-level officials and others. Accordingly, I direct as follows:

1. *Establishment.* There is hereby established the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group, which shall consist of the following officers of the Federal Government or other such officers designated by them: the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as Chair; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Commerce; and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. Any designee named by a member of the group shall be a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government. The Secretary of the Interior may invite the participation of other Federal officials as appropriate and shall preside at meetings of the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group and shall direct its work.

2. *Mission.* The Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group shall advise the President on immediate steps and long-term solutions to enhance water quality and quantity and to address other complex issues in the Klamath River Basin. In formulating this advice, the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group or its members are encouraged to seek input from stakeholders, including members of the farming and fishing communities; residents of the Basin; representatives of conservation, environmental, and water use organizations, and existing coordinating entities; the States of Oregon and California; local governments; and representatives of Klamath River Basin Tribal governments.

3. *Funding.* The Department of the Interior shall, to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the need for funding as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, make funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior available to support the administra-

tive costs of the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group.

4. *Authority.* Advice is requested from the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group pursuant to the Opinions Clause of Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution and other applicable constitutional authorities of the President.

5. *Termination.* The Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group shall terminate 18 months from the date of this memorandum, or at my direction, whichever occurs earlier.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 25

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Alan Guhin for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as the U.S. Fissile Material Negotiator.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence E. Butler to be Ambassador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Watson Cobb to be Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

February 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to discuss the President's recent travel to Asia, the Prime Minister's recent travel to Germany and Russia, cooperation against terrorism, and various U.S.-Canadian trade issues. The President also had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, concerning

the situation in the Middle East and U.S.-Saudi relations.

Later in the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the evening, the President welcomed actor Mel Gibson to the White House and hosted a screening of the film "We Were Soldiers."

The President announced his intention to nominate John Peter Suarez to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Russell George to be Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

February 27

In the morning, the President had breakfast with congressional leaders. Later, he traveled to Charlotte, NC, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas Forrest Hall to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Leonard Helgeson to be Inspector General for the Central Intelligence Agency.

February 28

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Mohamed VI of Morocco to discuss the situation in the Middle East and the United Nations effort to resolve the Western Sahara dispute. He then met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney and then met with bipartisan Members of Congress to discuss steel policy.

The White House announced that the President will welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, to the White House on March 5.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg for a working visit on March 6.

The White House announced that the President and Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland will meet at the White House on March 13.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Patrick John Finn to be Ambassador to Afghanistan.

March 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Des Moines, IA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. The President and Mrs. Bush then went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Albert Casey to be a Governor of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen Geoffrey Rademaker to be Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack David as Chairman of the U.S. Section of the United States and Canada Permanent Joint Board on Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy: Tirso Del Junco, Frederick Meyer, Jane Ellen Newman, and Michael Stephen Steele.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 26

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., USMC, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice James R. Thompson, Jr., resigned.

Robert Watson Cobb,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Roberta L. Gross.

Michael Alan Guhin,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Fissile Material Negotiator.

Otto J. Reich,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), vice Peter F. Romero, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Submitted February 27

Lawrence E. Butler,
of Maine, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

J. Russell George,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Luise S. Jordan, resigned.

John Leonard Helgersen,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency, vice L. Britt Snider, resigned.

Victoria A. Lipnic,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Bernard E. Anderson.

Deborah Matz,
of New York, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2005, vice Geoff Bacino, to which position she was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Naomi Shihab Nye,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006 (reappointment).

Submitted February 28

Rene Acosta,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the remainder of the term expiring August 27, 2003, vice William B. Cowen, who was appointed to this position during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Christopher C. Conner,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, vice Sylvia H. Rambo, retired.

John E. Jones III,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, vice James F. McClure, Jr., retired.

Submitted March 1

John R. Edwards,
of Vermont, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of 4 years, vice John Hollingsworth Sinclair.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Annual Presidential Determinations for Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug-Transit Countries

Fact sheet: Overview of Annual Presidential Determinations on Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug-Transit Countries

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Address the National Emergency Management Association

Released February 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Reforming Welfare To Increase Independence & Strengthen Families

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the National Sheriffs' Association Mid-Winter Meeting

Released February 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on briefing remarks on the Middle East peace process

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Irish Prime Minister

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Lead U.S. Delegation to Mexico

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Released March 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Marshals for the District of Idaho, the Southern District of Illinois, the Northern District of Illinois, the Northern District of Iowa, and the District of Vermont

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, March 8, 2002

The President's Radio Address

March 2, 2002

Good morning. This coming week I will be highlighting measures to help America's public schools carry out the education reforms we enacted in Washington earlier this year. Our education reforms require accountability and results and give schools greater resources to achieve them.

Parents will have more information about the performance of their local schools and more say in how their children are educated. The No Child Left Behind Act is historic, ushering in a new era of accountability and education, but a lot of hard work is still ahead.

The effectiveness of all education reform eventually comes down to a good teacher in a classroom. And America's teachers are eager to put higher standards into action, and we must give them the tools to succeed. My administration has set a great goal for our public schools, a quality teacher in every classroom.

We can achieve this in two ways, by attracting capable men and women into the teaching profession, and providing teachers the training and support they deserve. Over the next decade, America will need more than 2 million new teachers. The budget I have signed into law for 2002 includes nearly \$3 billion for teacher training, recruiting, and hiring, an increase of more than 35 percent over the last year's budget.

We proposed to expand programs that recruit new math, science, and special education teachers by forgiving part of their college loans in exchange for a commitment to teach in poor neighborhoods for at least 5 years. We should open up the teaching profession, allowing people who have achieved in other fields, including veterans and parents with grown children, to share their learning and experience. And we must upgrade the teaching colleges, where many

teachers receive their training, the topic of a conference that will be hosted by our First Lady on Tuesday.

Today, only 36 percent of teachers, themselves, say they feel very well prepared for their jobs, so we'll focus on teacher training efforts where the need is greatest, in early childhood education, special education, math, science, and reading instruction. Through my administration's Reading First program, we are placing a new emphasis on the most basic of skills, and many of our teachers will need training in the best and proven methods of reading instruction.

Because learning only takes place in an atmosphere of order, we want our teachers to be in control of their classrooms. So we're protecting teachers from the threat of frivolous lawsuits that often result from enforcing reasonable discipline. Because committed teachers often buy school supplies for their students out of their own pockets, the budget I have proposed includes a tax deduction to cover some of those costs. And because I strongly believe in local control of education, I'll implement new flexibility for school districts. They'll be able to use Federal funds where the local need is greatest, to reduce class sizes or improve teacher training or to increase teacher pay.

In our new era of education reform we're asking a lot of our teachers, and we owe them something in return. We must treat them as the professionals they are. We must give them our respect and support. Teachers are among the most important people in our children's lives, and a good teacher can literally make a lifelong difference. I have confidence in the education reforms we enacted because I have confidence in the teachers who will carry them out.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:00 a.m. on February 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 2. The transcript was made available by the Office

of the Press Secretary on March 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7525—American Red Cross Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross is one of our Nation's oldest and most renowned charitable organizations. It provides help, hope, and healing when disasters or other crises strike countries, communities, or families around the world.

Founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross was chartered by the Congress in 1905 to provide aid in times of need. Each year, the Red Cross responds to more than 67,000 disasters nationwide. These include natural disasters, thousands of home fires, and catastrophic emergencies—such as the brutal terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Red Cross was among the first to respond to this unprecedented national crisis, providing direct assistance to more than 50,000 families, shelter for thousands of displaced persons, millions of meals for the hungry, and grief counseling for more than 200,000 individuals affected by the trauma. The Red Cross also provides assistance during international emergencies. Responding to my request, it helped create and now administers America's Fund for Afghan Children. American children were asked to donate one dollar to aid Afghani children, and this effort has already provided \$2.4 million in medicine and other supplies to Afghanistan. Last year, the Red Cross rushed immediate medical aid and other needed items to countries devastated by natural disasters, and it helped millions of people around the world to battle malnutrition and life-threatening diseases and gain access to safe drinking water.

Other Red Cross services include recruiting millions of people annually to donate blood and thereby provide hospitals with half of the Nation's supply of blood and blood

products. Red Cross personnel are now with our troops who are fighting terrorism in Afghanistan. They live alongside our soldiers in harsh conditions and work around the clock to fulfill an historic role. They help to keep service members and their families in touch with each other, and offer other small comforts to ease the strain of those who are serving the cause of freedom.

At home, the Red Cross' courses in life-saving skills, first aid, CPR, and water safety, provide Americans with information they need to help maintain safe and healthy lives. Our communities also benefit from Red Cross programs that provide hot meals and transportation for the homebound, as well as housing and job training for the homeless.

Over one million Red Cross volunteers help make our country stronger and more compassionate by relieving suffering and saving lives every year. The USA Freedom Corps initiative will provide the Red Cross with even more volunteers to help further its important mission. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I call on all our citizens to recommit to serving others in need. Collective acts of kindness and compassion point the way to a brighter future for our Nation and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as American Red Cross Month. Especially during this extraordinary time for our country, I encourage all Americans to support this organization's noble humanitarian mission.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Proclamation 7526—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America has been shaped by the principles of liberty and freedom, guided by the pursuit of justice, and enriched by the diversity of its people. Irish Americans have been an essential part of this development, greatly contributing to our Nation's progress and prosperity.

Our country's citizens come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, which has enabled us to realize the vision embodied in our first national motto: "E Pluribus Unum," meaning "Out of many, one." Our forbears discovered the value inherent in this ideal, building a Nation where all people can live free, be equal under the law, and find opportunity for success in our free-enterprise system. From all points on earth, people of different races, faiths, and ethnicities came to this land to become Americans and thus heirs and stewards of the Founders' vision. This convergence of cultures contributed to the rich fabric of our Nation, uniquely threading together many divergent ideas, tastes, and traditions. Today, we enjoy a society shaped by this history, one Nation under one flag. Our Nation's response to the terrible events of September 11 demonstrated vividly the reality of the unity and resolve of our diverse people.

Since our Nation's founding, millions of Irish have emigrated to this country to embrace the vibrant promise of new opportunity that America offers. Some came to America seeking the freedom to worship as they pleased. Others came in the wake of the devastating Irish potato famine of 1845–1849, which caused 1 million deaths in Ireland and led nearly 1.5 million Irish to emigrate. And the many successes of the Irish immigrants in America proved to be a continuing draw to their friends and family who remained in Ireland. The Irish brought with them a spirit of life and an ethic of work that helped to enliven our culture and enabled them to prosper in their new land.

George Washington's Continental Army had over 20 generals of Irish descent. Americans proudly claiming Irish heritage have held positions of national leadership, including Presidents George Washington, Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan and Supreme Court Justices William J. Brennan, Jr., and Sandra Day O'Connor. And numerous Irish Americans have enjoyed great success in the arts and entertainment field, including Buster Keaton, Stephen Foster, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Throughout our history, America has been greatly blessed by the innumerable contributions of Irish Americans. This month we celebrate these great people and the heritage of their beautiful ancestral homeland, Ireland.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by learning about and commemorating the contributions of Irish Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

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Proclamation 7527—National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

This year, more than 148,000 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and more than 56,000 people will die from this

disease. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, yet it is one of the most highly preventable forms of cancer. Early diagnosis is critical to survival. Research shows that 91 percent of patients with localized colorectal cancer survive for 5 years after diagnosis, yet only 37 percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage. The remaining 63 percent of cases are not discovered until the disease has spread throughout the body.

Because 75 percent of new cases occur in persons with no known risk factors, regular colorectal cancer screenings are crucial to prevention. Even for an individual without symptoms, screenings are extremely important. For those over 50 and for individuals with a family history of cancer, screenings should be scheduled on a regular basis. I am pleased to note that Medicare coverage for colonoscopies was expanded in 2001 to provide this screening to more beneficiaries, and many commercial health plans now cover this cost.

Many people avoid colorectal cancer screening due to fear or anxiety, however, it is important for all Americans to understand the importance of this routine procedure. During National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about this disease, to assist prevention efforts, and to recognize the importance of colorectal screenings.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from this disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

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was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Proclamation 7528—Save Your Vision Week, 2002

March 2, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Healthy vision is a precious gift that allows us to enjoy the beauty of nature, the smile of a loved one, and the many wonders in the world around us. Unfortunately for 14 million Americans, eye problems can interfere with daily activities and inhibit the enjoyment of life.

Health officials have identified the most significant and preventable threats to vision. According to the Department of Health and Human Service's *Healthy People 2010* report, visual impairment represents one of our country's 10 most frequent causes of disability.

To help avoid or remedy vision problems, we must remain dedicated to the prevention of eye injuries, emphasize early detection of eye disease, work to research and develop new treatments and rehabilitation therapies, and promote vision health awareness. All Americans should take steps to ensure that eye health becomes a priority in our homes, businesses, and communities. We should commit to receiving regular dilated eye examinations; we should wear protective eyewear when necessary, both recreationally and on the job; and we must make every effort to ensure children age 5 and under receive vision screening.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 138), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week." During this year's observance, let us renew our commitment to fighting the causes of visual impairment and to supporting good eye health. I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to prevent eye problems and to help others maintain the invaluable asset of eyesight.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 3 through March 9, 2002, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to make eye care and eye safety an important part of their lives and to include dilated eye examinations in their regular health maintenance programs. I invite eye care professionals, the media, and all public and private organizations dedicated to preserving eyesight to join in activities that will raise awareness of measures we can take to protect and sustain our vision.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Educators and an Exchange With Reporters in Eden Prairie, Minnesota

March 4, 2002

The President. We had a really good discussion about education, the importance of public education in America. The better our public schools are, the better the quality of life for all our citizens. I also had a chance to listen to Minnesota teachers, people who have dedicated their lives to making our communities better by teaching children how to read and write and add and subtract, but also teaching children how to behave and how to learn through example. I cannot thank the teachers enough.

I hope that, through my words and deeds, I'm able to convince people to become a teacher, because it's such a noble profession, and it's such an important profession for America and our future. I absolutely believe there are—that this country can achieve anything we want. That includes making sure

every child can read and every child has got a hopeful future because he or she has gotten a great public school education.

So I want to thank you all very much. I'm really looking forward to speaking to your school. Thanks for the hospitality, and thank you all very much for serving our country by being a—by being such good teachers.

Let me answer a few questions, then, of course—

Operation Anaconda

Q. Mr. President, will you need to increase the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan or delay an expansion of the war on terrorism beyond Afghanistan as a result of the Al Qaida resurgence—

The President. Well, first of all, we've always known Al Qaida exists in Afghanistan. And from the beginning of this, I have cautioned the American people that this is going to take a while, that it's going to take a while to rout out Al Qaida wherever it tries to hide. The American people understand that.

And as you well know, over the weekend we've started an operation against a significant nest of Al Qaida fighters. These are people that, if they were to escape, could conceivably harm the United States again. And therefore, we're going to hunt them down wherever they try to hide.

And I am so proud of the men and women who wear our uniform. I appreciate the efforts of our coalition to chase down Al Qaida, to bring them to justice. I'm obviously saddened by the loss of life. All America is saddened when one of our soldiers loses life.

On the other hand, I think most Americans and I hope these parents and loved ones understand, the cause is important, and the cause is just. I rely—obviously, rely upon the advice of our commanders on the ground as to what is necessary to win. But we'll take whatever means is necessary to protect our service men and women. And we'll win this battle, and we'll keep battling Al Qaida wherever we find them.

In terms of the overall scope, the international scope, I have always said that sometimes the American people will see us—see our military in action, and sometimes they won't. But we will keep the pressure on Al Qaida. Our country is still under threat, and

so long as our country is under threat, this great Nation will hunt down those who want to harm innocent Americans.

Yes.

Q. Mr. President, how important is it for you to round up a lot of Al Qaida leaders in this particular battle that's going on? And do you have any indication at all whether Usama bin Laden might be in this area?

The President. I haven't heard from him since September—December the 11th. He's been awfully quiet. I don't know why. But I know he's on the run, if he's running at all. And I know there's no cave deep enough for Usama bin Laden. He hit a country that he thought was weak and feeble, and instead, he found out he hit a country that is determined to defend freedom. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We will defend our freedoms.

And the first part of your question? Leaders—

Q. Do you expect to—

The President. We're after any Al Qaida person.

Q. Do you have any reason to believe that there's a lot of them in this particular area?

The President. I believe there are some, and I'm not sure how many—enough for us to put together a significant coalition of Afghan, American, and other forces to rout them out. These are people that have got one thing in mind: They're going to harm innocent Afghan citizens. They want us to leave; they want us to be soft; they want us to let down our guard. And we're not going to do that, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

And we've been called into action. This Nation has been called to defend history—history has called us to defend freedom, and we're going to do that. And you should not be surprised that our troops will go into action in Afghanistan again. I have said repeatedly, we are in a dangerous phase of this war and—as we learned, much to our horror, the last couple of days when we lost life. But nevertheless, it is worth it, and it is necessary to bring these people to justice. If we do not, America could remain more vulnerable. If we do not find them, then we will have missed a great opportunity to make the world a safer place for our children and grandchildren.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Q. Mr. President, you said that one of the calculations that Al Qaida might have had is they thought Americans couldn't stomach the casualties.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think the American people are ready for this?

The President. I think any time somebody loses their life, the American people will mourn and are sad, and I feel that way, too.

On the other hand, I am just as determined now as I was a week ago or 3 months ago to fulfill this mission, and that is to make sure our country is safe from further attack. These people have made it absolutely clear—these people being Al Qaida—that they want to harm America again. And we will do everything in our power to not let them do so, and that means chasing them down from the mountains of Afghanistan or in Yemen or in the Philippines, using our vast coalition to bring these people to justice. These are killers; they're murderers. And I am—my job is to protect America and support our military during this historic time. And that's exactly what I'm going to do.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, the Mideast situation is—do you believe the Mideast situation has escalated out of control? And do you think the U.S. needs to do more to try to seize control?

The President. We are on the phone every single day, nearly—I say nearly; we might have missed a day or two—to the leaders in the Middle East, urging there to be a—less violence. I have said repeatedly that Chairman Arafat must do everything he can to convince those Palestinians who want to derail any possible peace to lay down their arms.

And the situation is terrible, anytime you lose as many innocent lives as has been lost in the Middle East. But that won't deter us from working hard, working the issue. I'm meeting with Hosni Mubarak tomorrow, and I'm sure we'll talk the Middle East and the process to try to get to the Tenet—and the Tenet plan, laid out by George Tenet, which is the first step toward bringing the violence down and making the area more secure, so

that we can eventually get into the Mitchell process, which then eventually will lead to some kind of settlement.

I appreciate the fact that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has laid out a vision for some political solution. But the first thing is, we've got to reduce the violence in order to be able to get the discussion started. And so we're spending a lot of time trying to get the people of that region to stop killing each other.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in classroom E2000 at Eden Prairie High School. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001.

Remarks at Eden Prairie High School in Eden Prairie

March 4, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. It's nice to be here at the home of the Screaming Eagles. They tell me you've got a good football team and a good high pom squad. But I'm really not interested in talking about athletics. I'm here because of the achievements, the academic achievements of the students, the quality of the teaching, and the involvement of the parents. I'm here because this is one of America's finest public schools.

I believe strongly in the hope and promise of the public school system all across America. And I know how important it is to thank our teachers, to thank those who come to your classrooms every day, to wish them the best, and to herald such a noble and important profession for the future of our country. I'm here to talk about teaching and its responsibilities and how our country can do a better job of supporting America's teachers. I know—look, I am sure a lot of you are out there saying, “The guy is still talking about teaching. I really get tired of seeing my teacher”—[laughter]—“particularly at test time.” [Laughter] Trust me, you're going to

miss your teachers. They're an important part of your life, and they're an important part of our country's future.

I really want to thank the—[applause]—I just had a meeting with a group of teachers from all over the area, and I want to thank them for being there to share some thoughts about how to make sure the school systems work as good as they possibly can. I want to thank Jeff, your school's principal, for, gosh, opening up this huge facility and inviting so many people here. I want to thank the superintendent of schools, Bill Gaslin. I want to thank my friend Mark Yudof from the University of Minnesota, who understands that—[applause]. About seven people appreciate you, Mark. [Laughter] I want to thank—the reason Mark—I want to herald Mark is that he understands that in order for a teacher to be able to teach, the teacher colleges have got to teach a curriculum that actually works in the classroom. And I appreciate his leadership.

I want to thank members of the U.S. congressional delegation, Gutknecht and Kennedy and Ramstad, for being here as well. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank my friend Norm Coleman, former mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary Kiffmeyer, the secretary of state, is here as well; thank you, Mary. And Christine Jax, the education commissioner of Minnesota, is here too. Thank you all for coming.

Before I talk about the importance of education and teaching, I do want to talk to the students about my desire to defend freedom, to try to put some context to what's taking place overseas into your life.

You know, I'm sure it must have been troubling for high school seniors to turn on their TV—or high school juniors or sophomores, for that matter—to see America under attack. When we grew up, the baby boomers and everybody else, we never really thought we'd be attacked. I mean, the last thing that I entered my mind when I was getting out of high school in 1964 is that an enemy would attack America. And yet, here you are graduating from high school, the first high school class to ever have seen the 48 contiguous States attacked by an enemy.

And you're probably wondering, why would somebody hit us? And it's because we love freedom. There are people in the world who cannot stand a free society. There are people who do not believe that you should be able to worship freely. There are people who do not believe you should be able to speak freely. There are people who do not believe that young women should be educated. And when they find a nation that's willing to defend freedom, they try to attack it.

And when they attacked us, they thought we were soft and materialistic. They thought our Nation had no fiber and no courage. They fell prey to images of a selfish American—a selfish America. And my, did they make a huge mistake, because this nation will defend ourselves and freedom at any price. It is too precious a gift—it is too precious a gift for future generations to give up to terrorists.

You know, I laid out an initiative that said, you're either with us, or you're against us; either you stand with America to defend freedom, so that you can grow up and your children can grow up in a society, in a civilized world that values individual freedoms. And most nations of the world chose to be with us. And for that, our Nation is grateful.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to encourage a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent Americans. And the Taliban has found out exactly what we meant.

I am so proud of our United States military. Many of you who have got relatives in the military, you need to tell them how proud I am of their service and of their sacrifice and of their dedication.

We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. It's hard for you to believe, I'm certain, that Afghanistan, when it was taken over by the Taliban—a government that sponsored terrorism, that allowed Al Qaida killers to hide and train in their country—would not allow young girls to go to school. It's hard for any American to understand how barbaric this regime was. We didn't go in as conquerors. We went in as liberators, and now women and children

are free from the clutches of these barbaric people.

People say, "Well, how long is this going to last?" And the answer is, for however long it takes to make sure America is secure. People say, "Well, the hard part is over with." And my answer is, "No. It's not." We're just beginning—as we learned recently that there's an Al Qaida—a group of Al Qaida killers in a mountainous region in Afghanistan. And when we find them bunched up and we find where they are, you can rest assured the United States and our coalition are going to hunt them down, that these are people that, if we allow to go free, could easily come back and harm the American citizens.

And so we sent teams in—and there is some serious combat as I speak—and lives are lost. And we send our prayers and tears to those whose families have lost life. But I want to assure the students who are here and the loved ones of those military, defending freedom is a noble cause, and it is a just cause. And so long as I am the President of the United States, I will pursue those who want to hurt America and who want to take away our freedoms.

I'm confident that over time, we'll prevail. I'm confident that this mighty Nation has got the patience and the determination and the will to succeed. And when we do, the world will be better off.

And I'm confident that we can do what we need to do here at home to make sure every child is educated. It is so important that we achieve that objective. I was fortunate enough to be the President at a time when the people in Congress realized that—maybe with a little bit of my persuasion—that we needed to reform our school system. And I signed an historic reform bill. It was one of those wonderful moments in Washington where a group of us put aside our party politics—said, "It's okay to be a Republican; it's okay to be a Democrat. But what's most important is to function on what's best for America." And we got a bill done.

It's a good piece of education reform that says that in America, we believe in educating every child—each and every child—and that we must bring high hopes and high standards to every school and every neighborhood all across America.

As a result of this bill, parents will know whether their child or their child's school is succeeding in meeting that ambitious goal, because schools will have to test and publish the results. From now on, teaching reading will be the first priority of every elementary school in America.

My friend Phyllis Hunter put it best: The new civil right in America is teaching every single child to read. And from now on, schools in low-income neighborhoods will have the same high expectations as everybody else.

These reforms were passed in Washington, but the success of the reform will ultimately come down to the teacher in the classroom. There are a lot of really great teachers in America. I know you've got a lot of really great teachers here. But we want to make sure there is a great teacher in every classroom. And it starts by making sure that teachers coming out of teacher schools know how to teach the subjects that they're going to take into the classroom.

Interestingly enough, now, about 35 States require new teachers to take an exit exam—an entrance exam into the teaching profession to make sure that they can pass the test in the subject they teach. Sometimes, the standard is so low that all you have to do is answer half the questions, and you're in. That doesn't make sense to me, and you know, it doesn't make sense to good teachers. Teachers want their profession to have the highest of high standards. And so in order to make sure every school has got a teacher, we're going to work with the States to make sure that the exit exams, those exams for teachers being—going into the teaching ranks, exiting college, have high standards, that they can pass a test in the subject they're going to teach, and that every teacher be licensed or certified.

Every public school teacher in America must demonstrate competence in his or her field of instruction. If we want to have a teaching profession that is held in high regard, we must have confidence in the teacher colleges and those coming into the teacher ranks that they can do the job expected of them. We owe it to the parents, and most of all, we owe it to the students.

We also understand what a good teacher can accomplish in a young life. Our new economy demands higher and higher skills, and good teachers provide those skills. But it's only one part of the teacher's job. Just as life is more than a race to the riches—and life should be more than a race to the riches—education is more than a search for skills. Look, you probably have already forgotten the isosceles triangle or photosynthesis. [*Laughter*] But hopefully you did learn how to try hard and how to work hard and how to take pride in your work, exactly what your teachers are teaching you. You learn to study, and you learn to communicate, and you learn to appreciate the living truth of history and literature. A good teacher instills a sense of your own possibilities, along with your willingness to respect other people.

We ask a lot of our teachers. We expect them to teach knowledge and skills. We expect them to welcome measurement and accountability. We expect them to have sound character, and we expect them to teach by example.

And the teachers have a right to expect certain things in return. They have a right to expect every child will come to school ready to learn and that good manners and respect for teachers will be taught at home. And that's the responsibility of moms and dads. After all, a parent is a child's first teacher. And when the children show up for school, they should already know the basics of good manners and good discipline.

Teachers are also entitled to expect some things from government. As we raise the expectations of our schools, we must give our schools the tools to succeed. As we ask more of our teachers, we must take their side. We must be their allies, and all of us, all around America, must give them the support they need to do their jobs.

My administration is supporting teachers in getting the training they need to raise educational standards. We have appropriated nearly \$3 billion made available to States to recruit, to prepare, and to train teachers. That is more than a 35 percent increase over last year's budget. This is the greatest Federal commitment to quality teachers and principals. And it's important, and it's necessary if we're going to achieve the reforms

inherent in the No Child Left Behind bill. Much of the training will focus on specific needs, like special education and math and science instruction and early reading.

The truth of the matter is, if we don't teach the children to read, they're not going to understand math and science. We have got to make sure our elementary school teachers have the skills and tools necessary to teach every child in America how to read. And that means starting in preschool, and that means making sure that the preschool teachers know what works.

And that's why I heralded Mark Yudof. Listen, reading is a science. Mark said, "Well, explain what you mean by 'reading is a science.'" That means, teach what works. We know what works. Some reading programs sound good, but they don't work. Let's use curriculum that actually works. Phonics works, and it needs to be an integral part of the reading curriculum all around America.

And so one of the things we're doing is setting up a clearinghouse of the most recent and reliable information on what works so that districts and teachers can access information and, if need be, change curriculum so that standards are met and no children are simply shuffled through the school system because they may seem to be hard to educate.

So there's money in the budget for training, retention, and recruitment, and we'll also support teachers by welcoming more talent and experience into the ranks. Over the next decade, school districts will need to hire 2.2 million teachers. And we must recruit new teachers. And we must remind people, if you're looking for something to do that will have an incredible impact on people's lives, think about, when you go to college, getting a teacher's certificate; think about going into the classroom. It is such a noble and important profession.

But there are also other ways to attract. For example, I'm a strong supporter, as is the administration, for a program called Teach for America, which recruits and trains outstanding college graduates to teach for at least 2 years in our neediest public schools. We're increasing funding for a program called Transition for Teaching, a program

that puts professionals like lawyers and accountants and scientists into public school classrooms and give them the teacher training they need. I'm also committed to expanding a great program called Troops to Teachers, which encourages military personnel, upon retirement, to get into the classroom, to bring the skills they have learned in the defense of the United States to the children of the United States. These are programs all aimed at recruiting people, encouraging people, and giving people the skills necessary to enjoy one of life's most noble professions, teaching children.

My administration will support teachers who are committed to educating disadvantaged students. Education—education is the surest way out of poverty. Children who live in low-income neighborhoods can succeed, absolutely, but they need people willing to teach them. Many schools in high-poverty areas are having trouble finding—filling the teacher vacancies. So we'll help them by expanding student loan forgiveness for teachers willing to teach math, science, and special education in these schools for at least 5 years. Right now our Government forgives up to \$5,000 in student loans. If someone is willing to teach math, science, or special ed in a school that is having trouble recruiting teachers, then we ought to forgive up to \$17,500 in student loans.

I just met with Patrick Pelini. He's an English teacher at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis. Here's what he said. He said that low-income students are hungry to be taught. He said that mentoring and teaching students in his school has been a tremendously gratifying experience for Patrick. Let me tell you something: This guy is committed. He is a solid citizen of your State. He is focused and dedicated on making sure every child gets educated. If he had any student loans, they ought to be forgiven.

But the next Patricks ought to have their student loans forgiven, so that they end up teaching in these schools where it's having trouble recruiting teachers. It makes sense; it's good public policy. And if we want to make sure no child is left behind, let's encourage really bright, smart people to head into those schools.

We will support our teachers by allowing them to enforce discipline in the classrooms. So behave yourself. *[Laughter]*

Albert Shanker said this—he was a great advocate for teachers—he said, “The amount of disruption in our schools is much larger than it needs to be because it’s tolerated.” He knew that learning only takes place in an atmosphere of order, and for the sake of the teachers, we must make sure they’re in charge of their classrooms. And we took a huge step in that direction in the new bill I signed.

And it’s because of this—many teachers are wary of imposing discipline, because they might be sued. Somebody might file a lawsuit against them. Well, because of what we call the teacher protection law, teachers and principals and other school professionals can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without the fear of being hauled into court. We are taking frivolous lawsuits out of the learning process and empowering teachers to be able to maintain order in their classrooms. America is going to be a lot better off for this law I signed, and so will the teaching profession.

One of the interesting initiatives that I hope Congress passes is this one: Committed teachers oftentimes have to buy supplies for their students out of their own pocket. The average across the Nation is \$400 per teacher. And yet they cannot deduct that from their income taxes. Look, if a business person can take somebody out to lunch and deduct it, teachers ought to be allowed to deduct the supplies they purchase for their classrooms.

And finally, I understand that all wisdom isn’t in Washington, DC. As a matter of fact—there is some wisdom there. *[Laughter]* But if you’re interested in quality education, if you really want to make a huge difference in making sure the public schools meet the high standards and high objectives, you’ve got to trust the local people to make the right decisions for the schools. You’ve got to trust the parents and teachers and principals and school board members in order to chart the path for excellence.

And part of that means giving school districts and States the flexibility to spend Federal money on what they need the most.

Some districts will provide incentives for new teachers. If you’re having trouble attracting a teacher, you can use your Federal monies to attract teachers. Some will want to spend more money on teacher development. Many districts may want to use it to increase teacher pay. Flexibility with Federal money will help local folks meet the needs in order to chart the path for excellence, so every child learns.

And so in Washington, we’re working to enhance the professionalism of the teacher ranks and in reminding America what a noble profession teaching is. We talk about teacher training and teacher recruitment and teacher authority and local control of schools.

I want the teachers here to know how much I respect what you do and how I appreciate the effort and care and compassion you show on a daily basis. One of the young teachers in there said, “You know, I decided that I wanted to teach instead of trying to get rich.” That attitude is a fabulous attitude for America. It’s really what I think is going to come out of this attack by the evil people. I think we’re all beginning to take a hard look at the value of life, why we’re here on the face of the Earth.

You know, today we’ve got a guy named Will Gove with us. Will is right here. Let me tell you something about Will. Can I say your age? Eighty-three, World War II vet, social entrepreneur. Here’s a guy—I think he said he could sit around the 19th hole drinking martinis if he wanted to. *[Laughter]* Was it martinis or beer? Anyway, instead, he builds soccer fields. Instead, he reads newspaper articles so that blind folks can get the news. Instead, he is a mentor. Instead, this guy is a soldier in the army of compassion, which exists all across America.

Will, I want to thank you for your example, for your living example of someone who puts his heart and soul into making our community a better place, someone who understands that you ought to love somebody just like you want to be loved yourself, that a complete life is one that is much greater than simple materialism.

The enemy hit us. They thought we were a materialistic society. But they didn’t know we were made up of Wills. They didn’t know,

truly, what the fabric of our country was made out of.

You know, one of the things that I hear a lot of youngsters asking is, "What can I do in the war against terror? What can I do to be a part of my Nation's efforts to defend freedom?" Well, let me tell you what you can do. You can make somebody's life better off. You can walk into a shut-in's house on a daily basis and say, "What can I do to help you?" You can mentor a child. You can go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque, and you can put together a food drive. You can make somebody's life better. In order to stand up in the face of evil, you can do something good. It's the millions of acts of kindness and decency and compassion that define America and stand strong in the face of evil.

USAFreedomcorps.gov is a place where you can go if you're interested in serving somebody greater than yourself, a cause greater than yourself, to help somebody in need. If you want to figure out some way to enrich your life, think about being a teacher, or think about following the example of Will. If you want to do something, think about my friend Mary Copeland, who runs a prayer service, who understands the importance of faith in people's lives. With faith in people's lives, you can kick drugs and alcohol, and you can realize a better tomorrow.

What I'm saying to the students is, you're fortunate enough to live in a great nation, a nation not defined by its Government but a nation defined by values that we hold dear and a nation defined by the hearts and souls of decent and loving and caring people. I'm proud of our country. I'm optimistic of our future. And I'm honored to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless you all. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the Activities Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jeff Ireland, principal, Eden Prairie High School; Bill Gaslin, superintendent of schools, Eden Prairie School District 272; Mark G. Yudof, president, University of Minnesota; Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative; and Mary Jo Copeland, founder and director, Sharing and Caring Hands.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Norm Coleman in Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 4, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you for that warm welcome. Tonight I'm here for one simple reason: I want Norm Coleman to become the next United States Senator from Minnesota. And so do a lot of other people in Minnesota, as witnessed by this crowd. Thank you all for coming, and thank you for supporting this really good man.

I want to thank Gene for his kind comments. And Pat, thank you very much. I want to thank members of the United States congressional delegation who are here tonight, Gil Gutknecht and Mark Kennedy and Jim Ramstad, three fine Members of the House of Representatives. Your dollars will not only help Ron but will help these three Members get reelected, as well.

I want to thank those of you who work in the grassroots of the Republican Party, defending values that make America stronger. And I want to thank my fellow Americans for your support and your kind prayers.

I really want to thank Laurie Coleman as well. She is obviously going to be a strong asset in the Coleman campaign. And like Norm, I married above myself, too. [*Laughter*]

I'm really proud of Laura. You know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She really wasn't fond of politicians or political speeches. Man, what a great First Lady she has become. She's a fabulous wife, a great mother of our 20-year-old twin daughters, and has been such a calm and positive influence on Americans all across our country. I'm grateful for her sacrifice, and I love her.

I'm really impressed by Norm. You know, in this line of work we're in, you've got the good talkers, and then you've got the doers. In this case, obviously, he's a good talker and a doer. [*Laughter*] He's an independent thinker, and that's important for the State of Minnesota. But he's a person who tries

to figure out how to get things done, and he has done so in St. Paul, Minnesota. He's a man of accomplishment. He knows what it takes to succeed. He's a proven leader. He's a practical guy that focuses on results, and that's the kind of United States Senator you need in the State of Minnesota.

The record speaks for itself. It's a record of accomplishment. It's a record that understands the role of the private sector in the revitalization of community. But what I love is Norm's passion for education. I love a person who understands that the power of education can make America a much more hopeful place. I appreciate a man who stands tall for making sure every child is educated and no child is left behind. I hope the people of Minnesota, from all parties, understand what a good and decent, honorable man Norm Coleman is and to send him to the United States Senate.

We've got some big things ahead of us in this Nation. We have got a war to win. My biggest job, the most important job I have, is to defend this Nation and our people, and defend this Nation and our people is exactly what I intend to do. *[Applause]* Thank you.

The enemy really misunderstood America. When they attacked us, they must have thought we were soft, that we were so materialistic that we wouldn't understand sacrifice and duty and honor. They thought we would blink, and they made a huge mistake.

In the course of this conflict, I made it clear that either you're with us, either you stood with the United States and our defense for freedom across the world, or you were against us. And a lot of nations heard that call, and they stand with us. And for that, we're grateful.

I also made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent lives, and you will be held accountable, too. And thanks to our fabulous men and women who wear the uniform, that doctrine in the first theater in the war against terror has been upheld.

We went to Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. Not only did we uphold the doctrine of harboring a terrorist; we freed women and children from the clutches of one

of the most barbaric regimes history has ever seen. I can't tell you how proud I am of the U.S. military.

I am proud of our military, and I'm so very proud of the American people. The American people are patient and calm in the face of danger. The American people understand that history has called this Nation into action. The American people understand that the struggle we face is going to be long and arduous, but a united Nation has sent a loud message to the rest of the world: We will defend freedom; we will defend the values we hold dear, no matter what the price.

I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress that has got the largest increase in defense spending in a generation, for this reason: Any time the United States sends our men and women who wear our uniform into harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, and another pay raise. And I ask the Congress to pass that budget. It is important for the United States Congress to understand that the price of freedom is high, but the price of freedom is never too high.

It is important for the world to understand that we struggle not just for freedom but for civilization itself. If the United States were to blink, the rest of the world will be lulled to sleep. And this country, so long as I am the President, will be steadfast in our leadership and in our resolve to lead the world to more freedom and more liberty and more opportunity for everybody on the face of the Earth.

Every morning I wake up and read what they call a threat assessment. I get to walk into the grand Oval Office. It's such a fabulous office, by the way. It's such an honor to be working in that shrine. I'm an early morning kind of guy. I get there generally around 7 o'clock. Spot, the dog, goes with me. *[Laughter]* Spot was born at the White House, when Mother and Dad were there, so she's quite comfortable with the surroundings. *[Laughter]* Barney, the one-year-old Scottish terrier, does not get to go. I just got a brand new rug in the Oval Office. *[Laughter]*

But I sit at this grand desk where the Roosevelts have sat, other Presidents, and I read threats to the United States of America. I

realize that there is a barbaric enemy that hates what we stand for, hates our freedoms, hates our openness, people who cannot stand the fact that we're able to worship freely in America, that we're able to express our opinions in America, that America is a place where we have spirited elections, but we're a sound and solid democracy.

I recognize that I will—have got to do everything I can to make sure that we respond to these threats. And so we've put together a homeland defense strategy that coordinates activities with the Federal law enforcement level, State law enforcement level, and the local law enforcement level. We're running down every hint, every threat, every possible threat. I can't tell you how proud I am of the FBI and the men and women who wear the uniform of the police in Minnesota and all around the country. These folks are working overtime to secure America.

We've got a first-responders initiative that will make it more likely that, if there's an attack, the good police and emergency folks and fire folks of Minneapolis or St. Paul can respond. We've got a bioterrorism initiative that, after it's all said and done, may end up actually providing incentive for—be able to provide an impetus to find cures for diseases that will plague us. We've got a better border security initiative going on. We're going to do a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and who's leaving their country and why they're here in the first place.

We're buttoning up America. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for being on alert and for those who are working overtime to protect you. But I want to remind my countrypeople, my fellow countrymen, that the surest way to secure the country, the best way to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and hopeful world, is to hunt down the terrorists wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we will do.

It's obvious, the news has shown that we're still active in Afghanistan. We have found a significant Al Qaida group of killers, and the Afghans, along with our Special Forces, along with other coalition members, are hunting them down. America must realize this is a dangerous phase of this war. And we lost life

today. And I know all of us mourn for the family members who have lost their life, but I can assure them that the cause is just. Defending freedom and defending the homeland is a noble and just cause. And I hope they're as proud of them as I am.

Our efforts go beyond Afghanistan, as you're beginning to realize. We'll team up with any friendly government that's interested in bringing Al Qaida and terrorists to justice. We've arrested over 1,000 people outside the Afghan theater and bringing them to justice.

But I also laid down another dictum, and it's this: In order for our children to be free, we must never allow transparent dictators—nontransparent dictators to develop weapons of mass destruction, thereby enabling them to mate up with terrorist organizations. We will not allow the world's worst regimes to develop the world's worst weapons and hold America and our friends and our allies hostage.

I know this is going to be a long and difficult time for America. But we are up for the task. America will lead this world to a more secure and a more hopeful future.

And we've got a job to do at home, as well. You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago, I'll never forget, one of the reporters said, "Would you ever allow any deficit spending?" I said, "Only if we had a recession or an emergency or a war." [Laughter] Thankfully, the Nation is resolved to fight the war. Thankfully, we had thousands of citizens rise to deal with the emergency. And thankfully, we cut the taxes on the American people to deal with the recession.

The best thing we did to deal with the recession is to allow people to keep more of their own money, so they can spend it and provide more demand and, therefore, the corresponding supply. The best way to deal with a recession is to trust the American people with their own money.

For a while you heard some of them talking in Washington that they were going to stop the tax relief plan. I do not know what economic textbook they were reading, but one thing you don't do is raise the taxes on the people in the midst of a recession. What you do is trust the private sector. What you do is incent people to create more jobs. What

you do is understand the best economic recovery plan has got one word, and that is “jobs”. How do we create jobs for the working people in the United States of America?

And there are some things we can do to create jobs, besides providing tax incentives. One, we can have an energy plan that makes sense. I came to Minnesota to lay out my vision for an energy plan that says: We can conserve better; we must modernize our electricity; but for the sake of our national security, we need to develop more oil and gas here at home. The less dependent we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the more secure America will be in the long run.

And we’ve got to get a good farm bill out, one that encourages—one that does not encourage overproduction, one that recognizes, however, that our farmers hurt, that there needs to be a reasonable safety net, and one that recognizes this fact: Minnesota’s farmers, along with the rest of the farmers in America, are the best at what they do in the world. And if you’re the best at what you do in the world, we ought to open up more markets for you to sell into the world.

And we must understand the power of value-added processing. When I campaigned for President, I said I supported ethanol. And as President of the United States, I support ethanol as a way to reduce our dependency on foreign sources of crude oil and as a way to clean the air in the United States of America.

And we’re making good progress on other fronts. Today I went to Eden Prairie High School, and I’ve got to tell you, if you’ve got kids there, I was really proud of the student body. They actually listened. *[Laughter]* But it was a chance to tout a really good piece of legislation that we got passed. You know, I am passionate about making sure that we do not leave any child behind in America. I am passionate on challenging systems that simply shuffle children through the school system without understanding whether they can read or write or add and subtract.

The bill I signed says a couple of key points. One, if you receive Federal money, show us whether or not children are learning. If you receive a dime of Federal money, we expect every child in America to be learning how to read and write and add and subtract.

Lest you think I forgot where I came from, however, I understand all wisdom does not exist in Washington, DC, that the people who know best how to run the school systems are the local folks, that we’ve got to pass power out of Washington, DC, to provide maximum flexibility to the local districts, local schools, local—the States. Listen, the more flexibility there is at the local level, the more likely it is every single child in America will learn. This is a great piece of legislation, and it took both Republicans and Democrats to get it passed.

I don’t know if you remember, but right after I signed that bill, I had the honor of traveling the country with two Democrat sponsors and two Republican sponsors. It probably shocked you—I know it shocked the folks in Crawford, Texas—*[laughter]*—that I actually said kind things about Ted Kennedy. But he got it out of the United States Senate. He made it happen. This good piece of legislation would not have happened without the work of both Republicans and Democrats. It shows what is possible when we put our political differences aside and focus on the children in America.

And it’s that attitude—that point of view is why I’m so strongly supporting Norm Coleman. That’s what we need in Washington. We need people who go up there not to represent, you know, a narrow interest but to work to change the tone of Washington, DC, to make Washington the kind of place where people look at and say, “I’m proud of my Government, that Government can actually get things done in a positive way.” And that’s what we need to continue to work on. It’s so important in order to rally the country.

You know, I’m asked all the time, what can—people say, “Well, what can I do to help in the war against terror? What is it that I can do?” Well, my answer is pretty straightforward. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to show the world the true side of America, our heart, our decency, our compassion, love a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Find a child who wonders whether or not America is meant for them, and put your arm around that child and say, “I love you.” That’s how you can fight evil. Walk into the house of a shut-in and say, “Neighbor, what can

I do to help you?” Support your teachers. Get involved in a faith-based program, understanding that faith can change people’s hearts, and by changing people’s hearts, we can change their lives. The way to fight evil is through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, is to show the world the true face of the American people.

I am so optimistic about this country because I understand our resolve and our unity. I understand our courage. You know, probably the most meaningful event that took place, as far as I’m concerned, right after September—or during the September 11th and afterwards—was Flight 93, when Americans were on a telephone to their wives. They said the Lord’s Prayer. They then said to their wives, “I love you,” and drove an airplane in the ground to save other people’s lives. This notion about us being a shallow, materialistic society went down the tubes with the courageous people on Flight 93.

It leads me to believe that out of these acts of incredible evil will come some great good. If we remain strong, the world will be more peaceful. And here at home, I think we have an opportunity to help change a culture—one that has said, if it feels good, go ahead and do it, and if you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else. I see a different culture, one in which we understand we’re all responsible for the actions we take in life, that we’re responsible—that part of a responsibility era means that each mom and dad in America must love their children with all their heart and all their soul. A responsibility era calls us all to help neighbors in need. A responsibility era recognizes the worth in serving a cause greater than self. A responsibility era understands that sacrifice for the good of your fellow human beings is worth it.

Listen, this is a fabulous nation. It’s a fabulous nation not because of our Government. It is a fabulous nation because of the hearts and souls of the American people. And it is such a huge honor to be the President of the United States, of such a great land.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Gene Frey, who introduced the President; Patricia A. Harvey,

superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools; Ron Eibensteiner, chair, Republican Party of Minnesota; and Laurie Coleman, wife of former Mayor Coleman of St. Paul.

Memorandum on Funding for International Organizations

March 4, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–08

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, (Public Law 107–115)

Pursuant to section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, (Public Law 107–115), I hereby certify that withholding from international financial institutions and other international organizations and programs funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to that Act is contrary to the national interest.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Remarks to the White House Conference on Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers

March 5, 2002

Well, thank you all for coming to the White House. I appreciate the focus of this summit more than you can possibly know, because I understand the important role a teacher plays in the lives of our children. I’ve had some firsthand experience with teachers playing a role in my life. I married one, thank

goodness. And I appreciate Laura's leadership on this important subject, and I also appreciate the calm and steady demeanor she brought in time of crisis for the country. Good job.

I want to thank Lynne Cheney for being here, as well. She is a brilliant lady who knows a lot about education reform. Dick and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Rod Paige for being here. You know, when I picked somebody to run the Department of Education, I was looking for somebody who had actually been in the trenches of the public school system. I really didn't want a theorist; I wanted a practical person. And when I was the Governor of Texas, I noticed that the test scores for children who weren't supposed to learn in Houston, Texas, were improving. And I realized it had to do with a lot of the leadership capacity of our Secretary of Education.

I want to thank you, Rod, for being here today, and thank you for taking on the tough jobs.

I appreciate Sandra Feldman. I'm going to say something about her a little later on. Where's Sandra? Hey, Sandra. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank my friend Mark Yudof, who's the head of the University of Minnesota. Where are you, Yudof? Anyway, there he is. Hi, Mark. Charles, how are you? We flew back from Minnesota last night, and Mark is here because he understands that teacher colleges must be relevant in the lives of teachers if we want every child to learn.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here. I will tell you that I signed a really good piece of legislation, the "no child will be left behind" legislation. It is historic; it is landmark; it would not have happened without Ted Kennedy. And I appreciate your leadership on that, Senator.

I want to thank Johnny Isakson for being here. Johnny and Ralph Regula, thank you both for coming. Lindsey Graham is here, from South Carolina. Lindsey is going to sponsor a piece of legislation that will allow for teachers to have loan—those who teach in Title I schools or teach in high need areas will be able to forgive up to \$17,500 in college loans. And I appreciate that.

I understand Chairman Boehner was able to listen to Laura but didn't care about hearing me—[*laughter*—so he left. And Susan Collins is going to sponsor legislation for the tax relief for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, which I'll talk about a little bit too.

But we've set a high bar here in Washington as a result of Federal reform. We expect a lot. We expect children to learn. We believe every child can learn, and we want to know whether they are or not. We want to measure. See, we believe that if you hold—if you use the accountability system properly, you can determine whether a curriculum is working or not, whether classroom instruction methodology is working. But as importantly—more importantly—you can detect problems early and secure them before it's too late. Every child matters, and that's exactly what the heart of this legislation is all about.

And as a result of the piece of legislation, we're expecting a lot from our teachers. We really are. We expect them to know their subjects. We want new teachers to be able to pass rigorous examinations, so as to not only earn the confidence of parents and administrators but to increase the professionalism of a very important field. We expect teachers to be able to communicate basic skills, and we expect our teachers to welcome measurement and accountability. We expect them, as always, to be examples to our children, to live a life of good character.

And our teachers have a right to expect certain things from us. First, they have the right to expect every parent to teach their children good manners and respect for the teacher in the classroom. Teachers have the right to expect support for their professional development, and teachers have a right to be treated like the professionals they are.

Laura and I will spend a lot of time in the country honoring the teaching profession, making sure it's clear to Americans from all walks of life that being a teacher is noble and important and an incredibly important part of the future of our country.

This administration is committed to a goal, and I know it's shared by Members of Congress, that we'll have a quality teacher in every classroom in America. We have backed that commitment, thanks to the work of

members of both political parties, with the greatest Federal investment ever in quality teachers and principals. We have made \$3 billion of grants available to States to recruit, to prepare, and to train teachers, a 35 percent increase over last year's budget.

We're focusing much of the teacher training effort on specific needs, like special education or math or science, and one of my passions, early reading. The Reading First program is aimed at making sure every child of every background can read by the third grade. Reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, you can't realize the great American Dream. We want every child to read, and I believe with the right focus, right effort, every child will read in America, and the country is going to be a lot better off for it.

We're going to make sure teachers have the tools necessary to meet the goals we've set. One of the things we're going to do is create a clearinghouse, the most recent and most reliable information, on what works in teaching. We want teachers to be able to access the best information. We want those who are interested in improving their skills to be able to do so at the click of a mouse.

We want to make sure the teachers control their classrooms. And part of the legislation I signed was the teacher protection law, which says that teachers and principals and school professionals can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without fear of a Federal lawsuit. I think that if we really are sincere about supporting our teachers, we must understand that a calm classroom, a respectful classroom is a necessary ingredient for a teacher to be able to do his or her job.

We support teachers who sacrifice for their students. I don't know if people realize this, but on the average, teachers deduct up to \$400—now spend \$400 out of their pocket to pay for supplies. My first reaction is, that's not right—it's not that the fact isn't right—it's not right that they have to do that. But in that they do have to do it, it makes sense to allow a teacher to deduct that expense. If a business person can deduct a meal, a teacher certainly ought to be able to deduct the cost of pencils or a Big Chief tablet.

Teachers need our support. And they need our support in more than just training teachers; they need our support in empowering teachers. And one of the important parts of the bill that I signed divests power out of Washington, gives teachers more flexibility in the classroom and more authority to the local districts.

And that includes the flexibility to spend the money wisely. Districts will be able to use the \$3 billion to meet their specific needs. It may be in recruiting, in recruitment for teachers. It may be to spend money on teacher development. It may be to meet needs by spending more money on teacher salaries. But flexibility is one of the hallmarks of this new piece of legislation, and all wisdom isn't here in Washington. The truth of the matter is, if we really are going to set high standards and expect people to meet them, we've got to trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence. And that's what this bill does. We're not only giving them more responsibility, we're giving them freedom.

The great task of education reform is now to meet these goals and to make sure our teachers have got the capacity to do so, to make sure they're well-trained, to make sure they've got the best science available to them, to make sure we gather information and share it with the professionals in the classroom.

It's also to recognize the worth of teaching. And one of the things Sandra Feldman has done as she's led the American Federation of Teachers is she's brought a lot of class to the teaching profession. I ran into Sandra—she said, "Is there any way we can work together?" I said, "You bet. You bet there is."

And so today it's my honor to announce that the Department of Education and the American Federation of Teachers is going to work together to provide teachers with research-based information, to make sure teachers can do their job. Teachers will be given the opportunity to teach—to understand what works.

Somebody said, "What does it mean, scientific-based education?" My attitude is, does it work? Does the curriculum actually teach a child how to read? Our teachers must

know how to teach reading. They must know what works when it comes to teaching reading, if we expect them to meet national goals of every child reading by the third grade. I look forward to hearing the progress that is made between the Department of Education and your organization, Sandra.

As well, we're going to work together to identify programs that encourage and prepare folks to become teachers. I know you've heard of Teach for America or Troops for Teachers. There are all kinds of ways we can attract people into the teacher ranks. And we must be innovative and creative to do so. We're going to need 2.2 million teachers over the next decade in order to make sure America is an educated society. And again, Sandra, thanks for taking a leadership role.

I believe so strongly in education. I know that as we battle the ills of our society, poverty and hopelessness, education is the great beacon and the great hope. I strongly believe that our public school system will continue to meet the challenges of the 21st century. And I'm not afraid to advocate change where change is needed. And I look forward to joining forces with those who are just as committed as I am to an excellent public school system, as committed as I am to battling a system which oftentimes gives up on children by just simply shuffling them through. That's inadequate for the America that I know, because every child matters and every child counts.

We've laid the groundwork, Senator, for a reform movement that will recognize the worth of each and every individual. And that movement will be fulfilled as we make sure our teachers are given the tools and skills and orderly classrooms necessary to achieve a grand and noble objective for our country.

I want to thank you all for coming for this very important conference. May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sandra Feldman, president, American Federation of Teachers; Mark G. Yudof, president, University of Minnesota; and Charles Miller, chairman, board of regents, University of Texas System. He also referred to Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,

approved January 8, 2002; and Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

March 5, 2002

President Bush It's my honor to welcome President Mubarak to the White House again. The United States has got a close and meaningful relationship with Egypt. The relationship is a cornerstone for our policy in the Middle East. I value my friendship with President Mubarak. I always appreciate our candid conversations. Our nations are united by ties of friendship and a shared commitment to regional stability, economic prosperity, and peace.

Today, the strategic partnership between our countries is more important than ever, as we confront the threat of global terror. And I want to thank the President for his steadfast support in our war against terror. Egypt has been a good friend, and I'm grateful.

We also meet at a moment when the people of both our countries are gravely concerned about escalating violence in the Middle East. Each day brings fresh reports of more lives lost and more Palestinian and Israeli families shattered by those losses. Both our countries view this situation with great alarm. We both feel deep sympathy for the people in the region who are trying to live their lives in peace, and we're both determined to redouble our efforts to work for peace.

We talked extensively today about our efforts. President Mubarak has a long history of advancing peace and stability in the Middle East. My country has set forth a goal, which I stated last November at the United Nations: We're committed to two states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully together within secure and recognized borders, as called for by the Security Council resolutions of the United Nations.

The United States also believes that this goal is only possible if there is a maximum effort to end violence throughout the region, starting with the Palestinian efforts to stop attacks against Israelis.

We want to work with the parties to implement the Tenet security plan and then the Mitchell recommendations. We stand ready to return General Zinni to the region when appropriate. The Israeli-Palestinian situation will be an important topic of Vice President Cheney's upcoming visit to the region. And we're willing to work with all our friends in the region to see how we can build on the vision for peace recently advanced by Crown Prince Abdullah.

President Mubarak and I also spoke about the full range of interests that our nations share. We welcomed the decision yesterday by Secretary Powell and the Foreign Minister of Egypt to initiate a U.S.-Egyptian strategic dialog to provide regular coordination on political, economic, and military issues.

We also discussed how important it is to expand economic opportunities in the Middle East and help more young people acquire the education and technical expertise they need to embrace opportunities as they arise. I've asked Secretary Powell to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing both economic and educational opportunities throughout the region.

Egypt was the first Arab State to stretch out its hand for peace in the Middle East, and it has worked hard to preserve its peace with Israel, even during difficult times. I know that Egypt will continue to be a vital partner as we seek to help the parties move forward in the months to come toward a broader Middle Eastern peace.

I want to thank President Mubarak for coming back to Washington, and now it's my honor to welcome him to the podium.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

Good evening. Before commenting on my discussions with President Bush, I want to reiterate my personal condolences and those of the Egyptian people to you, Mr. President, and to the American people and all those who suffered in the tragic events of September 11th. Let me seize this occasion to

reaffirm that Egypt has always been on the forefront of fighting terrorists and will continue to play an instrumental role in this regard.

Once again, I met with my friend President Bush and exchanged views with him on several issues of common concern. As usual, our discussions were very friendly. As President Bush just said, we have built a solid partnership that is serving our bilateral interests and the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East. The partnership has matured over the years and endured the test of time. A general sense of continued cooperation and friendship has evolved.

As you know, Egypt took many pioneering steps toward peace in the Middle East. Today, we remain committed to that goal. Our partnership has an indispensable role to play in helping the parties directly involved in the conflict find a just and comprehensive solution.

In this vein, the U.S. has contributed greatly to this cause for the past 25 years. I welcome that the administration will spare no effort in order to help achieve a comprehensive peace. In this context, we look forward to welcoming Vice President Cheney to the area soon and appreciate that the peace process will be one of the issues to be given the merit it deserves.

We must bring about an end to the cycle of violence and other hostile actions and ensure the early resumption of peace negotiations. Nothing can be achieved through violence or resolved through force.

As the Palestinians are being asked to exert more effort to bring down the level of violence, the Israeli Government should understand that the use of military power and unilateral measures against the Palestinian population, the closure of roads, the siege of towns and villages, the demolition of houses, the collective punishment that make progress more difficult, should stop.

The only way out is to put a decisive end to all this suffering, to resume full-fledged peace negotiations immediately, including the implementation of the Tenet plan and the Mitchell recommendations. Peace will only be achieved through ending the Israeli occupation of all territories occupied since June 1967, implementing the relevant U.N.

resolutions, establishing of a viable Palestinian state, and guaranteeing the security of all parts in peaceful coexistence.

For decades, Egypt has been at the forefront of peacemaking and development in our region. Our partnership with the U.S. has played a crucial role in this process. Our comprehensive reform program is now entering a new phase, one that seeks to complete Egypt's integration into the world economy.

At the core of this vision is our quest to deepen our trade ties with all partners, especially the United States. In this context, we have discussed our bilateral relations with a view to intensifying our cooperation in various fields. We agreed to take concrete steps in that direction.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, what—

President Bush. Hold up a second. Please, please, please. I'm going to call on two U.S. reporters; the President will call on two Egyptian reporters. We'll be glad to answer four questions.

I will start by asking AP writer Barry Schweid.

Middle East Peace Initiatives

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, you spoke today, as Secretary Powell has, favorably of the Saudi initiative. Israelis are virtually lining up—Israeli officials—wanting to go to Saudi Arabia to talk about this proposal. But the Saudis apparently are discouraging that. Do you think there should be some preliminary discussions, preliminary searching out of what the proposal means? And does it carry any solid hope, as far as you're concerned, of ending this morass?

President Bush. First of all, I think the Crown Prince's suggestion was a very positive development, and I appreciate those in Israel who are trying to find out exactly what it means.

There has got to be a vision for peace in order for us to head toward peace. And the President of Egypt has talked—made an offer for dialog that will help lead to a peace, hopefully. Crown Prince Abdullah has as well. And our Government supports efforts to create—lay out a vision for a more peaceful tomorrow.

And so I appreciate the efforts of both leaders, and I applaud those efforts of those willing to explore opportunity. But I want to remind everybody that it's going to be difficult to achieve any kind of peace so long as there is a cycle of violence. And one of the things that we talked about is how best we can come together to break the cycle of violence.

There are people in the Middle East that do not want peace. There are people who want to use death to prevent there to be peace discussions. They want to murder innocent lives. I cannot tell you how it breaks my heart to see the weeping moms and those who have lost life, because somebody is preventing peace from—somebody wants to prevent a peace process from beginning.

And so, as the President mentioned, the step is to reduce the cycle of violence and to get into the Tenet security plan as quickly as possible. But I applaud the efforts of these leaders for trying to move the process forward.

Q. I would like the question of both President Mubarak and President Bush. President Bush—

President Bush. It's the old two-question trick. [Laughter]

Q. President Bush, now President Mubarak has offered a window of hope, the offer of President Mubarak to host both Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Sharm el-Sheikh or in Egypt. So what is your response to that offer? Particularly, what can the U.S. do in order to translate that offer, that is likely to break the cycle of violence, into a reality?

And President Mubarak, whether you were satisfied from what you heard from President Bush in your discussions regarding your offer? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, thank you for that question. Let me say, as I mentioned, that I appreciate any efforts, any ideas that will lay out a vision for a peaceful resolution. And the President's offer was a meaningful offer, and we applaud his efforts. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, Egypt has had a—has led the way toward leading the region toward peace, and his offer was indicative of that type of leadership. Crown Prince

Abdullah has laid out an interesting idea. I, myself, at the U.N., talked about a solution.

The key, however, for us to get to the solution is to bust this cycle of violence. And that is where my administration, and I know the President as well, is spending a lot of time and efforts to convince the parties that violence will only lead to heartbreak and will enhance the chances for those who hate the idea of peace to prevail. And those of us who love peace must continue to, as I said, redouble our efforts, which we will.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. I'm satisfied with my discussion with President Bush about the peace process. And we hope we could continue, and the other partners should comply with what we are mentioning.

Something concerning the Crown Prince Abdullah initiative, I would like to say this is the first time in the history of the Saudis that they could say, "We are ready to normalize relations with Israel in case of peace prevails"—the first time in history. We should underline this. Thank you.

Steel Decision

Q. Mr. President, many U.S. allies are threatening retaliation over your steel decision. Are you prepared for a trade war? And why shouldn't this be seen as a tax increase?

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], we're a free trading nation, and in order to remain a free trading nation, we must enforce law. And that's exactly what I did. I decided that imports were severely affecting our industry, an important industry—had a negative impact—and therefore, provide temporary relief so that the industry could restructure itself. That's exactly what the World Trade Organization allows for. The International Trade Commission made this recommendation.

As you know, I honored our NAFTA agreements by exempting Canada and Mexico. I also—we will honor our agreements with developing nations. This is a remedy allowed under the WTO. It also is a part of our law, and I intend to enforce our laws.

International Terrorism

Q. My question is addressed for Mr. President Bush and Mr. President Mubarak. As

we know, this is your first meeting after 11 September attacks, and Egypt's experience in combating terrorism is worldwide recognized. Did you find a common stand in your talks today to combat this international phenomenon?

President Bush. We did. The President reminded me of the fact that he has been fighting terror long before I became the President. He's an old hand at fighting terror. And I assured him that we were strong allies in this effort.

There are some in the world who don't like President Mubarak because of what he stands for, a more open society. He's been a great leader of Egypt, and there are extremists who don't like him. And to the extent that we can help round up those extremists that would do harm to the President or his government or the people of Egypt, we will do so.

It doesn't matter to me where a terrorist tries to hide. We will work with our friends and allies to hunt them down, and I assured the President that my determination is as strong today as it was on September the 11th. This is an important moment in history, where nations must not flinch in the face of murder and terror and people who are willing to take innocent lives, people who hate free societies.

And I am proud of our alliance, and I appreciate his friendship, and I appreciate his steadfast resolve, as well, to rout out terror wherever it exists.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:35 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001.

**Statement on the Decision To
Impose Temporary Safeguards To
Help the Domestic Steel Industry**
March 5, 2002

Free trade is an important engine of economic growth and a cornerstone of my economic agenda. My administration has successfully launched new global trade talks, reignited the movement for free trade within our own hemisphere, and helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization. To open even more markets to American products, I have urged the Senate to grant me the trade promotion authority I need to create jobs and greater opportunities for U.S. workers and farmers.

An integral part of our commitment to free trade is our commitment to enforcing trade laws to make sure that America's industries and workers compete on a level playing field. Free trade should not mean lax enforcement. Consistent with this commitment, last June I launched a three-part initiative designed to restore market forces to world steel markets. This initiative includes international discussion to encourage the reduction of excess global steel capacity and negotiations to eliminate market-distorting subsidies that led to the current glut of capacity. I also called upon the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) to investigate the impact of imports on the U.S. steel industry under section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act. The ITC subsequently found that increased steel imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to our domestic industry.

Today I am announcing my decision to impose temporary safeguards to help give America's steel industry and its workers the chance to adapt to the large influx of foreign steel. This relief will help steelworkers, communities that depend on steel, and the steel industry adjust without harming our economy.

These safeguards are expressly sanctioned by the rules of the World Trade Organization, which recognizes that sometimes imports can cause such serious harm to domestic industries that temporary restraints are warranted. This is one of those times.

I take this action to give our domestic steel industry an opportunity to adjust to surges

in foreign imports, recognizing the harm from 50 years of foreign government intervention in the global steel market, which has resulted in bankruptcies, serious dislocation, and job loss. We also must continue to urge our trading partners to eliminate global inefficient excess capacity and market-distorting practices, such as subsidies.

The U.S. steel industry must use the temporary help today's action provides to restructure and ensure its long-term competitiveness. Restructuring will impact workers and the communities in which they live, and we must help hard-working Americans adapt to changing economic circumstances. I have proposed a major expansion of the National Emergency Grants program to assist workers affected by restructuring with effective job training and assistance. I have also proposed direct assistance with health insurance costs that will be available to workers and retirees who lose their employer-provided coverage. And I support coordinated assistance for communities and a strengthened and expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance program. America's workers are the most highly skilled in the world, and with effective training and adjustment assistance we will help them find better, higher paying jobs to support their families and boost our economy.

**Proclamation 7529—To Facilitate
Positive Adjustment to Competition
From Imports of Certain Steel
Products**

March 5, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. On December 19, 2001, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) transmitted to the President a report on its investigation under section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2252), with respect to imports of certain steel products.

2. The ITC reached affirmative determinations under section 202(b) of the Trade Act

that the following products are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat of serious injury, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles: (a) certain carbon flat-rolled steel, including carbon and alloy steel slabs ("slabs"); plate (including cut-to-length plate and clad plate) ("plate"); hot-rolled steel (including plate in coils) ("hot-rolled steel"); cold-rolled steel (other than grain-oriented electrical steel) ("cold-rolled steel"); and corrosion-resistant and other coated steel ("coated steel") (collectively, "certain flat steel"); (b) carbon and alloy hot-rolled bar and light shapes ("hot-rolled bar"); (c) carbon and alloy cold-finished bar ("cold-finished bar"); (d) carbon and alloy rebar ("rebar"); (e) carbon and alloy welded tubular products (other than oil country tubular goods) ("certain tubular products"); (f) carbon and alloy flanges, fittings, and tool joints ("carbon and alloy fittings"); (g) stainless steel bar and light shapes ("stainless steel bar"); and (h) stainless steel rod. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to the determination required under section 202(b) regarding whether (i) carbon and alloy tin mill products ("tin mill products") and (j) stainless steel wire.

3. The ITC provided detailed definitions of the products included in categories (a) through (j) of paragraph 2, and their corresponding subheadings, under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in Appendix A to its determination, set out at 66 *Fed. Reg.* 67304, 67308–67311 (December 28, 2001). By February 4, 2002, the ITC provided additional information in response to a request by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under section 203(a)(5) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(5)) (the "supplemental report").

4. Section 330(d)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1330(d)(1)), provides that, when the ITC is required to determine under section 202(b) of the Trade Act whether increased imports of an article are a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, and the commissioners voting are equally divided with respect to such determination, then the determination

agreed upon by either group of commissioners may be considered by the President as the determination of the ITC. Having considered the determinations of the commissioners with regard to tin mill products and stainless steel wire, I have decided to consider the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the affirmative with regard to each of these products to be the determination of the ITC.

5. Pursuant to section 311(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "NAFTA Implementation Act") (19 U.S.C. 3371(a)), the ITC made findings as to whether imports from Canada and Mexico, considered individually, account for a substantial share of total imports and contribute importantly to the serious injury, or threat thereof, caused by imports. The ITC made negative findings with respect to imports from Canada of certain flat steel, tin mill products, rebar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire; and the ITC also made negative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire. The ITC made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Canada of hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, carbon and alloy fittings, and stainless steel bar; and the ITC also made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of certain flat steel, and carbon and alloy steel fittings. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to imports from Canada of certain tubular products.

6. The ITC commissioners voting in the affirmative under section 202(b) of the Trade Act also transmitted to the President their recommendations made pursuant to section 202(e) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2252(e)) with respect to the actions that, in their view, would address the serious injury, or threat thereof, to the domestic industries and be most effective in facilitating the efforts of those industries to make a positive adjustment to import competition.

7. Pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253), and after taking into account the considerations specified in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and the ITC supplemental report, I have determined to

implement action of a type described in section 203(a)(3) (a "safeguard measure") with regard to the following steel products:

(a) certain flat steel, consisting of: slabs provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.30 through 9903.72.48 in the Annex to this proclamation; plate provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.50 through 9903.72.62 in the Annex to this proclamation; hot-rolled steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.65 through 9903.72.82 in the Annex to this proclamation; cold-rolled steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.85 through 9903.73.04 in the Annex to this proclamation; and coated steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.07 through 9903.73.23 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(b) hot-rolled bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.42 through 9903.73.52 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(c) cold-finished bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.55 through 9903.73.62 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(d) rebar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.65 through 9903.73.71 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(e) certain tubular products provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.74 through 9903.73.86 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(f) carbon and alloy fittings provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.88 through 9903.73.95 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(g) stainless steel bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.97 through 9903.74.06 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(h) stainless steel rod provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.74.08 through 9903.74.16 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(i) tin mill products provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.26 through 9903.73.39 in the Annex to this proclamation; and

(j) stainless steel wire provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.74.18 through 9903.74.24 in the Annex to this proclamation.

The steel products listed in clauses (i) through (ix) of subdivision (b) of U.S. Note 11 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS ("Note 11") in the Annex to this proclamation were excluded from the determinations of the ITC described in paragraph 2, and are excluded from these safeguard measures. I have also determined to exclude from these safeguard measures the steel products listed in the subsequent clauses of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation.

8. Pursuant to section 312(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3372(a)), I have determined after considering the report and supplemental report of the ITC that imports from each of Canada and Mexico of certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire, considered individually, do not account for a substantial share of total imports or do not contribute importantly to the serious injury or threat of serious injury found by the ITC. Accordingly, pursuant to section 312(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3372(b)), I have excluded certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire the product of Mexico or Canada from the actions I am taking under section 203 of the Trade Act.

9. Pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253), the actions I have determined to take shall be safeguard measures in the form of:

(a) a tariff rate quota on imports of slabs described in paragraph 7, imposed for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with annual increases in the within-quota quantities and annual reductions in the rates of duty applicable to goods entered in excess of those quantities in the second and third years; and

(b) an increase in duties on imports of certain flat steel, other than slabs (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel and coated steel), hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain welded tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and

stainless steel wire, as described in paragraph 7, imposed for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with annual reductions in the rates of duty in the second and third years, as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

10. The safeguard measures described in paragraph 9 shall not apply to the products listed in clauses following clause (ix) in subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation.

11. These safeguard measures shall apply to imports from all countries, except for products of Canada, Israel, Jordan, and Mexico.

12. These safeguard measures shall not apply to imports of any product described in paragraph 7 of a developing country that is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as long as that country's share of total imports of the product, based on imports during a recent representative period, does not exceed 3 percent, provided that imports that are the product of all such countries with less than 3 percent import share collectively account for not more than 9 percent of total imports of the product. If I determine that a surge in imports of a product described in paragraph 7 of a developing country WTO member undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure, the safeguard measure shall be modified to apply to such product from such country.

13. The in-quota quantity in each year under the tariff rate quota described in paragraph 9 shall be allocated among all countries except those countries the products of which are excluded from such tariff rate quota pursuant to paragraphs 11 and 12.

14. Pursuant to section 203(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(1)(A)), I have further determined that these safeguard measures will facilitate efforts by the domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. If I determine that further action is appropriate and feasible to facilitate efforts by the pertinent domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and to provide greater economic and social benefits than costs, or if I determine that the conditions under section 204(b)(1) of the Trade Act are met, I shall reduce, modify, or termi-

nate the action established in this proclamation accordingly. In addition, if I determine within 30 days of the date of this proclamation, as a result of consultations between the United States and other WTO members pursuant to Article 12.3 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards that it is necessary to reduce, modify, or terminate a safeguard measure, I shall proclaim the corresponding reduction, modification, or termination of the safeguard measure within 40 days.

15. Section 604 of the Trade Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections 203 and 604 of the Trade Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to establish increases in duty and a tariff rate quota on imports of the certain steel products described in paragraph 7 (other than excluded products), subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation. Any merchandise subject to a safeguard measure that is admitted into U.S. foreign trade zones on or after March 20, 2002, must be admitted as "privileged foreign status" as defined in 19 CFR 146.41, and will be subject upon entry to any quantitative restrictions or tariffs related to the classification under the applicable HTS subheading.

(2) Such imports of certain steel that are the product of Canada, Israel, Jordan, or Mexico shall be excluded from the safeguard measures established by this proclamation, and such imports shall not be counted toward the tariff rate quota limits that trigger the over-quota rates of duty.

(3) Except as provided in clause (4) below, imports of certain steel that are the product of WTO member developing countries, as provided in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 in

the Annex to this proclamation, shall be excluded from the safeguard measures established by this proclamation, and such imports shall not be counted toward the tariff rate quota limits that trigger the over-quota rates of duties.

(4) Clause (3) above shall not apply to imports of a product that is the product of a country listed in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation if subdivision (d)(ii) of such Note indicates that such country's share of total imports of the product exceeds 3 percent, or that imports of the product from all listed countries with less than 3 percent import share collectively account for more than 9 percent of total imports of the product. The USTR is authorized to determine whether a surge in imports of a product that is the product of a country listed in subdivision (d)(i) undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure and, if so, upon publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, to revise subdivision (d) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation to indicate that such product from such country is not excluded from such safeguard measure.

(5) Within 120 days after the date of this proclamation, the USTR is authorized to further consider any request for exclusion of a particular product submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001) and, upon publication in the *Federal Register* of a notice of his finding that a particular product should be excluded, to modify the HTS provisions created by the Annex to this proclamation to exclude such particular product from the pertinent safeguard measure established by this proclamation.

(6) In March of each year in which any safeguard measure established by this proclamation remains in effect, the USTR is authorized, upon publication in the *Federal Register* of a notice of his finding that a particular product should be excluded, to modify the HTS provisions created by the Annex to this proclamation to exclude such particular product from the pertinent safeguard measure established by this proclamation.

(7) Any provision of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that is inconsistent with the actions taken in this procla-

mation is superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(8) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation, including the Annex hereto, shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m., EST, on March 20, 2002, and shall continue in effect as provided in the Annex to this proclamation, unless such actions are earlier expressly reduced, modified, or terminated. Effective at the close of March 21, 2006, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of the safeguard measures established in this proclamation, the U.S. note and tariff provisions established in the Annex to this proclamation shall be deleted from the HTS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., March 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 7.

**Memorandum on Action Under
Section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974
Concerning Certain Steel Products**
March 5, 2002

*Memorandum for the Secretary of the
Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, United
States Trade Representative*

Subject: Action Under Section 203 of the
Trade Act of 1974 Concerning Certain Steel
Products

On December 19, 2001, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) submitted a report to me that contained determinations pursuant to section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act"), that (a) certain carbon flat rolled steel, including carbon and alloy steel slabs, plate (including cut-to-length plate and clad plate), hot-rolled steel (including plate in coils), cold-rolled steel (other than grain-oriented electrical steel), and corrosion-resistant and

other coated steel (collectively, “certain flat steel”); (b) carbon and alloy hot-rolled bar and light shapes (“hot-rolled bar”); (c) carbon and alloy cold-finished bar (“cold-finished bar”); (d) carbon and alloy rebar (“rebar”); (e) carbon and alloy welded tubular products (other than oil country tubular goods) (“certain tubular products”); (f) carbon and alloy flanges, fittings, and tool joints (“carbon and alloy fittings”); (g) stainless steel bar and light shapes (“stainless steel bar”); and (h) stainless steel rod are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to the determination required under section 202(b) regarding whether (i) carbon and alloy tin mill products (“tin mill products”); (j) stainless steel wire; (k) tool steel, all forms; and (l) stainless steel flanges and fittings (“stainless steel fittings”) are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat of serious injury, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles. The ITC provided detailed definitions of the products included in categories (a) through (l) and their corresponding subheadings under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in Appendix A to its determination, set out at 66 *Fed. Reg.* 67304, 67308–67311 (December 28, 2001).

The report of the ITC also contained findings pursuant to section 311(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the “NAFTA Implementation Act”) as to whether imports from Canada and Mexico, considered individually, account for a substantial share of total imports and contribute importantly to the serious injury, or threat thereof, caused by imports. The ITC made negative findings with respect to imports from Canada of certain flat steel, tin mill products, rebar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire; and also made negative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and

stainless steel wire. The ITC made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Canada of hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, carbon and alloy fittings, and stainless steel bar; and also made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of certain flat steel, and carbon and alloy steel fittings. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to imports from Canada of certain tubular products. By February 4, 2002, the ITC provided additional information in response to a request under section 203(a)(5) of the Trade Act (“supplemental report”) made by the United States Trade Representative (the “USTR”) on January 3, 2002.

Having considered the determinations of both groups of commissioners with regard to tin mill products, tool steel, stainless steel wire, and stainless steel fittings, I have determined, pursuant to section 330(d)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, to consider the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the affirmative with regard to tin mill products and stainless steel wire to be the determination of the ITC, and the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the negative with regard to tool steel and stainless steel fittings to be the determination of the ITC.

By Proclamation signed today (the “Proclamation”) and after considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, including the factors set forth in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and the supplemental report, I have implemented actions of a type described in section 203(a)(3). I have determined that the most appropriate actions are safeguard measures in the form of an increase in duties on imports of certain flat steel, other than slabs (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel, and coated steel), hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain welded tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire, as defined in paragraph 7 of the Proclamation, and in the form of a tariff rate quota (TRQ) on imports of slabs, with an increase in currently scheduled rates of duties for imports over the TRQ limits. I have implemented these safeguard measures for a period of 3 years plus 1 day.

Specifically, I have established the following safeguard measures:

- (a) certain flat steel: with regard to slabs, a TRQ of 4.90 million metric tons in the first year of the measure, 5.35 million metric tons in the second year, and 5.81 million metric tons in the third year, with no increase in duties for imports below the within-quota level and an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* for imports above the within-quota level in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year; and with regard to certain flat steel, other than slab (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel and coated steel), an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;
- (b) hot-rolled bar: an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;
- (c) cold-finished bar: a increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;
- (d) rebar: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;
- (e) certain welded tubular products: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;
- (f) carbon and alloy fittings: an increase in duties of 13% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 10% in the second year, and 7% in the third year;
- (g) stainless steel bar: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;
- (h) stainless steel rod: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;
- (i) tin mill products: an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year; and

- (j) stainless steel wire: an increase in duties of 8% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 7% in the second year, and 6% in the third year.

Pursuant to section 312(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, after consideration of the report and supplemental reports of the ITC, I further determine that imports of certain flat steel, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire that are products of Canada and Mexico either do not account for a substantial share of total imports of these products, or are not contributing importantly to serious injury or the threat of serious injury. Therefore, pursuant to section 312(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, the safeguard measure will not apply to imports of certain flat steel, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire that are the product of Canada or Mexico. Similarly, the safeguard measures will not apply to imports of these products that are the product of Israel or Jordan.

The safeguard measures also will not apply to imports of certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, or stainless steel wire that are the product of a developing country that is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as long as that country's share of imports into the United States of the product, based on a recent representative period, does not exceed 3 percent, provided that all such developing country WTO members collectively account for not more than 9 percent of total imports of that product. For purposes of the safeguard measures established under the Proclamation, I determine that the beneficiary countries under the Generalized System of Preferences are developing countries. Subdivision (d)(i) of U.S. Note 11 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (Note 11) in the Annex to the Proclamation identifies those developing countries that are WTO members, and subdivision (d)(ii) identifies

the products of such countries to which the safeguard measures shall not apply.

I instruct the USTR to review data on imports of products listed in paragraph 7 of the Proclamation from countries listed in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 on a quarterly basis. If imports of such a product from such a country increase by a material amount, I instruct the USTR to initiate consultations with the country regarding the circumstances under which the increase occurred and whether the country plans to take action to reduce imports to historical levels. If, on the basis of the information exchanged during consultations, data on imports, domestic steel demand, growth in the U.S. economy, shifts in other countries' trade patterns, and any other relevant factors, the USTR determines that the increase in imports of such product from such country undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure, he is authorized, upon publication of a notice of such determination in the *Federal Register*, to modify subdivision (d)(ii) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation to include such product from such country. I also authorize the USTR, upon publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, to change the list of developing countries to which the safeguard measures do not apply.

The steel products listed in clauses (i) through (ix) of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation were excluded from the determinations of the ITC described in paragraph 2 of that Proclamation, and are excluded from these safeguard measures. I have also determined to exclude from these safeguard measures the steel products listed in the subsequent clauses of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is currently evaluating requests, submitted in response to 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001), that particular products be excluded from any safeguard measure with regard to certain steel products. I instruct the USTR to determine whether these particular products should be excluded and, if so, within 120 days of the date of the Proclamation, to publish in the *Federal Register* a notice to modify subchapter III of chapter 99 to exclude them from the safeguard measures. In making this

determination, the USTR shall consider any advice rendered by the TPSC.

Similarly, I instruct the USTR, after receiving advice from the TPSC, to determine whether any particular products should be added to the list of those excluded from the safeguard measures and, if so, to publish a notice in the *Federal Register* in March of any year in which he receives such a recommendation to modify subchapter III of chapter 99 to exclude such particular products from the measures. I further instruct the USTR, no later than 90 days from today, to publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of the procedures by which interested persons may request the TPSC to recommend whether to exclude a particular product.

I also instruct the USTR, prior to the effective date of the safeguard measures established in the Proclamation, to conduct consultations under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards with any WTO member having a substantial interest as an exporter of a product subject to such safeguard measures, provided that the WTO member requests such consultations in a timely fashion. I instruct the USTR to report to me on the results of such consultations. I instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to section 505(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1505(a)), to prescribe by regulation a date no later than 45 days after today at which estimated duties for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m., EST, March 20, 2002, and up to the 30th day after today, shall be deposited.

I instruct the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce to establish a system of import licensing to facilitate the monitoring of imports of certain steel products. Pursuant to the authority granted me by section 203(g) of the Trade Act to provide for the efficient and fair administration of all actions taken for the purpose of providing import relief under section 203, I further instruct the Secretary of Commerce, within 120 days of the effective date of the safeguard measures established by the Proclamation, to publish regulations in the *Federal Register* establishing such a system of import licensing.

I have determined that the safeguard measures will facilitate efforts by the domestic industries to make a positive adjustment to import competition and will provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. If I determine that further action is appropriate and feasible to facilitate efforts by the pertinent domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and to provide greater economic and social benefits than costs, or if I determine that the conditions under section 204(b)(1) of the Trade Act are met, I shall reduce, modify, or terminate the safeguard measures. In making this determination, I shall consider the pertinent factors set out in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and, in particular, changes in capital and labor productivity in the domestic industries; actual and planned permanent closures of inefficient steel production facilities in the United States and in other countries; consolidation of United States steel producers; capital expenditures in the domestic industries; prices for certain steel products in the United States; and the overall effect that maintaining the measure will have on consuming industries, workers, and the United States economy as a whole.

The United States Trade Representative is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., March 6, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 7.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting Documents Describing
the Safeguard Action on Imports of
Certain Steel Products**

March 5, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby transmit documents to the Congress that describe the safeguard action that I have proclaimed on imports of certain steel products, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 203(a)(1) of the Act and as Presi-

dent of the United States, and the reasons for taking that action.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 5, 2002.

**Remarks During a Meeting With
Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., and
an Exchange With Reporters**

March 6, 2002

The President. I nominated a very good man from Mississippi named Charles Pickering to the appellate bench, and I expect him to be confirmed by the United States Senate. I think the country is tired of people playing politics all the time in Washington. And I believe that they're holding this man's nomination up for political purposes. It's not fair, and it's not right.

And a lot of people in Mississippi agree with me. Republicans agree with me, but so do a lot of good Democrats, starting with the attorney general of the State of Mississippi. He is here to lend his support for Charles Pickering. As well, the former Governor, Governor Winter, has expressed concern about a process that would malign a man such as him and expects him to be confirmed. Frank Hunger feels the same way. These are people in Mississippi who know the man for what he is, a man who respects the rights of all citizens and a man who not only respects the rights of all citizens, who has acted on that strong belief, a man who's a fine jurist, a man of quality and integrity.

And I hope the Senate stops playing politics. This is not good for the Senate, and it's not good for the country. They've got to get him on the floor and get him a vote and get him in. He'll do a fine job.

Judge Pickering's Nomination

Q. Can we ask you a couple questions about his nomination, sir?

The President. Go ahead.

Q. Do you agree with your Press Secretary that if the judge's writings and actions of 30—20, 30, 40 years ago should come into play, then so should the civil rights record of some of the very Senators of 30, 40 years ago? And is that a threat?

The President. Here's what I believe: I believe this man should be confirmed. I know him—I've known him for a long time. But more importantly, people from Mississippi have known him. Democrats and Republicans know him. And he needs to be confirmed, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. This is a good, good, honorable citizen, and they're playing politics with him up there.

Q. Did you support in 1950—

The President. Hold on—

Q. Mr. President, you describe this as playing politics. But many Democrats believe there are serious civil rights issues involved; among them that when he was a member of the State Senate, Mr. Pickering voted twice to support the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, which was a segregationist spy agency recognized by the State.

The President. All the allegations have been laid out. He has been confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in the past. This is a good, honorable man who should be approved by the United States Senate. Otherwise we wouldn't have a Democrat attorney general, a very popular former Governor, Al Gore's brother-in-law, all of whom have stood up and said, the man needs to be confirmed.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mike Moore, State attorney general, and former Gov. William Winter of Mississippi; and Frank W. Hunger, former Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, and brother-in-law of former Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. Judge Pickering's nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit was submitted May 25, 2001.

Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce March 6, 2002

Hector, thank you. One of the best decisions I made was, I asked you to come and be the SBA Director. And he's doing a fine job. One of the reasons I asked Hector is because he understands that the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create

an environment in which entrepreneurs from all walks of life have a chance to succeed.

I'll never forget going to the Hispanic Chamber banquet in California, and I was given the information about the number of Latino-owned small businesses in the State of California. It was a staggering number, and I can remember telling friends of mine in Texas and other States what a magnificent statistic it is, to be able to read about the thousands of businesses started by Latinos, which means the American Dream is spreading her wings in every single neighborhood, which is precisely the vision I have for America. I want everybody who wants to start their own business to feel comfortable in doing so and have an opportunity to succeed in America. And Hector understands that.

I want to thank you all to the *Casa Blanca tambien*. I want to thank Fidel Vargas for being here. He's on the Social Security Commission; I put two Latinos on the Social Security Commission. The Social Security Commission spent a lot of time analyzing the Social Security System and came back with a solid recommendation of allowing younger workers, if they so choose, to have their own money invested in a personal savings account.

Again, I can't think of anything better for the future of our country than for people to own a piece of the future of America. After all, it is not the Government's money we're talking about; it is the workers' money. And I want to thank the hard work of Fidel *y los otros* and the Commission of the Social Security.

I want to thank George Herrera, the president of the Chamber, *el Presidente*. [Laughter] I want to thank Liz as well for being here, *y tambien mi abogado*. Al has been my lawyer since when I was the Governor. He's been *mi abogado cuando estoy el presidente*, and his advice has always been sound. He's really a smart guy and a very close friend.

And finally, I want to recognize Miguel Estrada. Miguel. Miguel is a really bright attorney who I've named to the U.S.—nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit. They're playing too much politics in the United States Senate on our judge nominees. This man deserves a hearing, and he deserves

a vote. This is a good, solid jurist who ought to be on that bench. And I'm calling on the United States Senate to move quickly on Miguel's nomination so that we can have a good, young Latino, smart, brilliant man represent our Nation. Thank you for being here, Miguel.

I first want to tell you that this is an incredible time for our country, and I want to assure you all, as leaders in your communities and moms and dads and as concerned citizens, that our Nation is doing everything we can to protect America, that we've got a homeland security strategy that is working with first-responders and bioterrorism, that we want to modernize our borders. We want to make sure we do everything to protect the American people, and we are.

But you've also got to understand my view, and it's this: that the best way to protect the American people is to find a terrorist wherever they hide and bring them to justice. You know, when this first got started, I told the American people that we would be in for a long and difficult struggle. And after nearly 6 months, the American people still understand that—that in order to fight for freedom, in order to win for freedom, we've got to be determined and strong and not relent. History has called this great Nation into action, and so long as I'm the President, I will pursue the opportunity to protect freedom, any time, anywhere.

And as you know, I've laid out a doctrine that said if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and that's what the Taliban found out. And I like to remind my fellow Americans, not only am I proud of how our United States military has performed, that our military were not conquerors, they were liberators. We freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our troops.

And obviously, there is still work to be done in the first theater in the war against terror. This is a—I told people, and I've been saying this for a long time, and I will continue to say so—Afghanistan is still a dangerous place. There are still people in Afghanistan who either want to disrupt the Karzai interim Government, want to make sure—or try to

cause Afghanistan to revert back to being a sanctuary for murderers and terrorists, so they can do one thing, and that is attack us again. And so as you know, our military, combined with the military of our friends and allies, including the Afghans, are still on the hunt.

And we encountered a large group of Al Qaida-type terrorists, and we're bringing them to justice. There's a fierce battle waging, and it's—but we're winning that battle. I'm so sad we lose life. My heart breaks when I think about the moms and dads or wives or children of those who have lost their life. But we defend freedom, and we're fighting for freedom, and we must continue to fight for freedom. And so where we find these killers, we'll bring them to justice.

This Nation is determined; we're united; we are patient; and we're resolved to defend the values we hold dear to our hearts. And that's the way it's going to be, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

I also want you to know we've got a lot of work to do at home. I was really proud earlier this year to travel the country touting the fact that I signed a significant piece of education legislation. It was a landmark piece of legislation. I don't remember the exact words I said when I spoke to the Hispanic Chamber in California in one of my first speeches, but I can assure you I talked about education because it is a passion of mine, and it was a passion of not only mine but of both Republicans and Democrats. I got a good bill on my desk because both people—leaders in both parties decided that there's something more important than political party in America, and that's the education of our children.

This is a really good piece of legislation because, first and foremost, it sets high standards and high expectations for every child, *por todos*. It refuses to accept a system that quits on children early. As you know, in some neighborhoods in America, it's so much easier just to move the kids through, so much easier to say, "You know, a Latino child can't read very well because his or her parents may not speak English, so let's just move them through the system." Those days have got to end if we want the American Dream to extend to all neighborhoods.

And so I signed a bill that says we're going to measure for every child. We want to know if every child can read or write and add and subtract. And if not, we'll correct the problems early, before it's too late. Every child matters in America, and no child will be left behind.

We put significant resources into Title I programs. But for money, we want results. We want to—because, you see, I believe every child can learn. I don't accept excuses that say certain children can't learn. Every child in America can learn.

Now, we also have passed power out of Washington, DC. I don't believe all the wisdom in the world exists in Washington. As a matter of fact, I think by empowering teachers and principals and parents and school districts, we're more likely to achieve a common objective, which is high standards for every single child.

I also have unleashed a reading initiative that I truly believe is going to change America for the better. I like to say reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, it's hard to understand other subjects; it's hard to excel; it's hard to be part of this fantastic future we have. And so we've spent a billion dollars on reading.

And I want to assure you that the reading programs are going to be aimed toward teaching that which works, not that which sounds good. There is a science to reading. We've got some of the best scientists in the world now analyzing what works for all kids. And so rather than just spending money, we're going to make sure we spend money on what works. And you mark my words, as we stay focused and energized on this important subject, more and more children will read. And as more and more children will read, more and more children will realize the fantastic future in America. And so I'm proud of this piece of work we've done.

I also want to thank you all for supporting tax relief. We cut taxes at exactly the right time. In order to encourage the economy to grow, it was very wise to give—let people keep their own money. Some up here don't understand that. They're reading the wrong textbook. You hear talk about making sure the tax relief doesn't continue. It's like raising taxes. You don't do that when times are slow;

you encourage the vitality of the private sector by letting people keep their own money.

And not only that, I heard from many of you all about the unfairness of the death tax. And we've now put the death tax on its way to extinction. It's so important for people to be able to build up their own assets and their own businesses and have the capacity to pass that on to whoever they choose, a son or a daughter, without the Government getting in between the entrepreneur and the family member.

So we're making good progress. I think the economy is still—has still got problems. But we put the right fiscal policy in place. I still think we ought to do more. We ought to not only take care of those who have been unemployed because of 9/11; we ought to help them with their unemployment benefits as well as their health benefits. But I like to tell people Americans don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck.

And there needs to be a stimulus bill. The House passed a good bill. Part of it was a small business incentive bill, recognizing that the small businesses create more new jobs in America than any other sector of our economy.

I want to continue to push for trade. I believe trade makes sense. Yesterday I made a tough decision on steel. But I will tell you, in order to be a free trade advocate, in order to be consistent on free trade, we better make sure we enforce the laws on our books. The two go hand in hand, free trade and fair trade. And so I obviously put a temporary plan in place to allow the steel industry to restructure. But I also want to remind you all I honored the agreement of NAFTA, so that Mexico and Canada are exempt.

And let me talk about Mexico right quick. My attitude toward Mexico is that I want Mexico to succeed. I want our neighbors to be successful. The best kind of neighborhood to live in is one where everybody is successful, and so our public policy ought to recognize Mexico as an incredibly important part of the American future. And therefore, I look forward to working with *el Presidente* Fox on how best to make sure our relationship is strong.

One thing we can do is doing what we're doing, which is encourage our economy to grow and to recover. That will help Mexico. But the other thing is to honor NAFTA, which I have done as the President. I did so in the steel decision yesterday. I will continue to do so because I believe NAFTA is not only good for Mexico; as importantly, it is good for American workers as well.

I believe—and I know we've made great progress. We've got a spirit of *amistad*. We've got a relationship that is open and strong. I told the Congress that I want to make sure that the Mexican citizen here is well respected, and we will. We respect people in our country. And one way to do that is to pass 245(i), which will allow for families to be reunited. If you believe in family values, if you understand the worth of family and the importance of family, let's get 245(i) out of the United States Congress and give me a chance to sign it.

I also want to talk about energy. Energy is incredibly vital for our economic vitality. And you've got to understand, as the President, somebody who's concerned about our national security as well, the fact that we import over 50 percent of our energy from around the world is an indication that we're not as strong from a national security perspective as we could be or should be. And so we need to have an energy plan, one that, on the one hand, encourages conservation and the modernization of our infrastructure, electricity infrastructure, but we've also got to explore for more energy. And we can do so in an environmentally friendly way, starting in Alaska, where there's a lot of oil and gas.

Those of you in California know full well that we had a little scare out there about a year—less than a year ago. And the State has responded by building more powerplants to increase the supply of energy, and that's good. Except what's interesting is, those plants are powered by natural gas. And the fundamental question is, where is that gas going to come from in the long term? We ought to be exploring for more natural gas, and a good place to start is Alaska.

I want you to know that Mexico imports gas from the United States. In other words—and it's a hemispheric issue, and we've got

to think long-term on behalf of the American citizens. And so I put out a comprehensive energy plan. It passed the House of Representatives; it needs to get out of the Senate and get to my desk, for the good of the national security of the country as well as for the good for jobs.

As you may know, I'm headed down to Mexico for my second visit since I've been the President, to Mexico. There's going to be a conference on development. I look forward to participating in that. I will proudly remind people that we are the most generous Nation in the world when it comes to helping developing nations.

I don't know if you know this—just for example, I was recently, as you know, in the Far East. And I reminded the people out there that we provide 300,000 tons of food to North Korean citizens. I'm not so sure the President or the head of North Korea gives us any credit for having provided the food, but we're a compassionate nation, and we should be proud of our record on helping people.

I then go to Peru, and I look forward to working with the Andean nations not only on issues of trade but on the cultivation of coca leaves for drugs. But I'll also remind them that so long as there's a demand for drugs, somebody's going to supply them. And it's a two-way street; that, one, we'll help reduce supply, but we in our Nation have an obligation to work with our young to reduce the demand. We must tell them clearly that drugs can ruin their life. We must educate the youth about the dangers of drug use. We must reduce demand if we expect our neighborhood to help clean up drugs.

And then I'm going to El Salvador to meet with the Central American nations. We've got the beginnings of a free trade pact with them. President Flores is going to be the host, a remarkable young leader. Like Peru and Mexico, these are strong democracies; they're continuing to reform their process. It's important for me to herald the fact that they are embracing democratic institutions which make their country so much stronger and so much more vibrant. So I'm really looking forward to spending time in the neighborhood.

I believe the best foreign policy begins in making sure your own neighborhood is free and democratic and peaceful. So I'm looking forward to spending time there as well.

You know, I like to remind people that I truly believe that out of this evil that was done on us on September the 11th will come some great good. I believe that. I believe if we stay the course and are strong and determined, and if the Congress passes the Defense budget I sent up there, which prioritizes national defense to make sure our military gets all the best equipment and best training possible, that we'll have the staying power to make the world more peaceful. And I believe it will be if we're strong, and we will be strong.

I also know that at home that people are taking an assessment of what's important in life. And I believe as a result of that, some positive things will happen. I think the culture can begin to change from one that has said in the past, if it feels good, go ahead and do it, to a culture that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—the responsibility era, where moms and dads are responsible for loving their children.

The most important job any American will ever have, if you're fortunate enough to have a child, is to love your child. But it goes beyond that, where neighbors will love neighbors. I tell my fellow citizens that if you're interested in fighting—joining the war against terror, do some good. I mean, if you really want to stand squarely in the face of evil, help a neighbor in need, mentor a child, help a shut-in, you know, support your schools, give to charity, help to start a faith-based group that will help change people's hearts.

It's this—it's the collection of the kindness of America. It's the collection of all the acts of kindness that take place which not only define our Nation but will stand squarely in the face of evil. And it's happening, and I'm so proud of the way the American people have responded. Many in this room have as well, and I want to thank you for that.

I do believe that America understands there's a new responsibility, that this is a new era, that, on the one hand, we've got to be diligent and alert, and on the other hand,

we can make a difference in people's lives. After all, it was Flight 93 that set a new tone for America. People on an airline thought they were going on a business trip or thought they were going home. They heard the Nation's Capital was under attack. They got on their telephones. They told their wives they loved them. They said a prayer, and they sacrificed their life to save somebody else's.

To me, that's one of the most defining events of September 11th and on. It shows me what a great nation we have. It reminds me of the character of the American people. And that's why we're so unique, not because of our Government but because of our people.

Thank you for coming to Washington, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, chair, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales; Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan; General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10); and section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, whose provisions expired April 30, 2001.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Provide Protections Against Genetic Discrimination

March 6, 2002

I applaud Senators Snowe, Frist, and Jeffords for introducing their bill today to prohibit discrimination in health insurance and employment based solely on an individual's genetic predisposition to a future disease. The bill provides strong protections against genetic discrimination that are fair, reasonable, and consistent with existing laws. I look forward to working with Congress in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation to assure

Americans the privacy of their genetic information will be protected and never used to deny health coverage or jobs.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1995, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2002."

Proclamation 7530—Women's History Month, 2002

March 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Women's History Month provides our country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions that American women have made throughout our history. These contributions have enriched our culture, strengthened our Nation, and furthered the Founders' vision for a free and just Republic that provides opportunity and safety at home and is an influence for peace around the world.

Since its beginnings, our land has been blessed by noteworthy women who played defining roles in shaping our Nation. Sakajawea was a Native American woman who befriended the explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, 150 years ago as they crossed the great Northwest. She helped Lewis and Clark's expedition complete the first successful overland transcontinental journey. Lucretia Mott courageously wrote and spoke against slavery and the lack of equal rights for women, helping America recognize the inherent wrong in the institutional subjugation of others and the need to strive for equality, freedom, and justice for all. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America awarded a medical degree, and she dedicated her pioneering efforts as a physician to helping others.

Helen Keller overcame debilitating physical disabilities, showing us the power of a determined human spirit. And Clara Barton developed a vision for helping others through her service to the wounded during the Civil War; and she realized that vision by founding the American Red Cross after the war, an organization that has since become re-

nowned for its effectiveness in helping those who suffer or are in need. Recently, the Red Cross reached out to aid Afghan women traumatized by the repressive rule of the intolerant Taliban regime, which for years had mercilessly oppressed Afghanistan and Afghan women in particular. Today, thousands of American women are furthering the cause of freedom through service in government, the military, and other organizations, as we seek to defeat terrorism and bring justice to those responsible for the September 11 attacks.

The history of American women is an expansive story of outstanding individuals who sacrificed much and worked hard in pursuit of a better world, where peace, dignity, and opportunity can reign. The spirit of loving determination that shaped these pursuits continues to serve as an example to those who seek to better our Nation. American women of strength, vision, and character have long influenced our country by contributing their time, efforts, and wisdom in vastly diverse ways to improve and enhance our government and communities, our schools and religious institutions, our businesses and the military, and the arts and sciences. Women also have fundamentally shaped our civilization in the care and nurturing of families. Today, women in contemporary America are furthering the Founders' vision by working to advance freedom, increase equality, and administer justice in every corner of our land, through their everyday work in schoolrooms, boardrooms, courtrooms, homes, and communities.

As President, I am proud to recognize the many contributions American women have made to help make our Nation free, strong, and a force for peace and justice around the world. On this observance of Women's History Month, I encourage every American to learn more about these important contributions, and to celebrate their noble legacies as we work to build a brighter future for our Nation and for all of the world's people.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as Women's History Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this

month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Remarks at the Presentation of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

March 7, 2002

Thank you, Secretary Evans, and thank you all very much. It's an honor to be back here. It's a pleasure to see so many students here today. I understand some of you took a tour of the White House. You must have behaved well, because I didn't hear the dogs barking. [Laughter] I hope you enjoyed being there as much as Laura and I enjoy being there. It's a fabulous place, the White House is. I'm so glad you were able to see it.

I'm also pleased to be back to congratulate the award winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. I'm really pleased that school districts have been added. I want to commend the Baldrige Committee for including education. Secretary Rod Paige is here. Both of us believe so strongly that no child should be left behind. Both of us know the potential of the public school systems in America, and we want to thank and congratulate the school districts here that have set the highest of high standards not only at the secondary level but also at the high level of education.

I was privileged to know Malcolm Baldrige. He was one of America's most distinguished Secretaries of Commerce, and what a fine and honorable man he was. The award that bears his name reflects the virtues that he brought to public service and how he lived in his private life, a commitment to excellence, shrewd judgment and sound

judgment, principled leadership, integrity, and a sense of responsibility.

Today's honorees have met a rigorous test, and such a worthy example for others. And I know Malcolm would have approved of the winners.

It's a great honor to be with Midge Baldrige again—you're looking pretty darn good these days—[laughter]—and Letitia Baldrige as well. I know we've got some Members of the United States Congress here. I think Bill Jenkins from Tennessee is here. I know Connie Morella is here. Thank you for coming, Connie. I also appreciate Nancy Murkowski, the wife of Frank Murkowski. Nancy is committed to quality education in the State of Alaska, and I know you're as proud as I am for the winners who are here. And I always want to thank the U.S. Army Band for providing such wonderful music.

I appreciate the fact that prior winners of the Baldrige Award are here. I think it's important for you to stay involved in the process. As you heard, some of the recipients also appreciate of you being here. And I want to welcome five more organizations to your ranks, the school districts, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, as well as the fine symbols of entrepreneurial spirit in America, Pal's Sudden Service of Tennessee, and of course, Clarke American Checks, represented by some rowdy Texans.

This is a high, high honor. I know you all understand what a big deal this is, having gone through the process. It is an important award, and I congratulate you all so very much. The award goes to organizations rather than any single individual, and that's important to note. As we've seen today, success happens in an atmosphere of teamwork, common values, and trust.

An organization needs a good idea and a good product or a good service. It certainly needs a good strategic plan. But more than anything, it needs good people, men and women of integrity who understand their duties to each other and to the public interest.

And this is true throughout our entire economy. The free enterprise system draws upon the best in people, creativity, ingenuity, energy, a desire to make life better for ourselves and for others. The whole design of

free market capitalism depends upon free people acting responsibly. Business people must answer not just to the demands of the market or self-interest but to the demands of conscience.

The bottom line of the balance sheet defines a business' goal but not the sum of responsibilities of its leaders. Management should respect workers. A firm should be loyal to the community, mindful of the environment.

In America, by far—by far—most businesses fulfill their responsibilities. They do not cut ethical corners or neglect workers or disregard community standards. A good business finds opportunities and makes the most of them, and a good business always respects the boundaries of right and wrong.

In our country, the law defines many of these responsibilities, from workplace safety to environmental protection. For publicly held corporations the law goes further, defining standards of disclosure with independent certification by auditing firms.

We have seen lately just how important these standards are and the harm that can follow when they are ignored. Exactly where the blame lies may take a long time to determine, and legal judgments are for regulators and for courts. But this much is clear: To properly inform shareholders and the investing public, we must adopt better standards of disclosure and accounting practices for all of corporate America.

The reason that a single bankruptcy can cause so much concern in America is that more Americans than ever have invested their money in public corporations. Today, about 80 million Americans own stock, either individually or through their pension plans. This is one of the causes for the expansion in personal wealth over the past 20 years. This has been an incredibly positive development for America. Stock ownership allows citizens from all walks of life to own a part of the economy and to share in its growth. The people who run public companies owe a special obligation to these investors, many of whom have put their savings and future security on the line.

Corporate officers must perform their duty in good faith to the best of their abilities. They must disclose relevant facts to the in-

vesting public, and they must focus on the interests of shareholders, who are the real owners of any publicly held enterprise.

I recognize that the basic rules of corporate law are made by the States, and that's as it should be. But Washington has responsibilities as well. The buying and selling of publicly held shares is regulated by the Federal Government. And today I call upon the Securities and Exchange Commission to take action. Existing regulations should be clearer. Penalties for wrongdoing should be tougher. Reform should improve investor confidence and help our economy to flourish and grow.

It is important to provide sound regulation and remedies where needed, without inviting a rush of new lawsuits that exploit problems instead of solving them. Our goal is better rules so that conflict, suspicion, and broken faith can be avoided in the first place.

Reform should begin with accountability, and reform should start at the top. The chief executive officer has a daily duty to oversee the entire enterprise, the entire firm, and therefore, bears a unique responsibility for serving shareholder interests. Currently, a CEO signs a nominal certification of annual financial statements and does so merely in his capacity on behalf of the company. In the future, the CEO's signature should also be his personal certification, vouching for the veracity and fairness of the financial disclosures. When he signs a statement, he's giving his word and should stand behind it.

Oftentimes businesses base executive bonuses on financial statements. If, however, a financial statement turns out to be grossly inaccurate or the result of serious misconduct, those bonuses should be returned to the company's treasury on behalf of its shareholders.

Corporate officers should not be allowed to secretly trade their company's stock. Every time they buy or sell, they should be required to tell the public within 2 days. The Securities and Exchange Commission should be able to punish corporate leaders who clearly abuse their powers, by banning them from ever serving again as officers or directors of publicly held corporations.

We must also do more to safeguard the rights of investors. America has the best system of corporate disclosure. Yet, the interests

of the average investor are sometimes overlooked, especially the need for thorough and timely information about firm performance. And some corporations have used artful and intricate financial arrangements to hide the true risks of the investment.

We need to get back to basic capitalism. In a system based on the willingness to take risks, investors need to know the true nature of the risks. The investor has the right to a true and fair picture of assets, liabilities, and income. Management has a good-faith obligation to provide that information, attracting investment by building on strengths, not by clever concealment of weaknesses.

And to further ensure that information is reliable, we will need reforms within the accounting profession. Auditors are a critical external check on management, and we must ensure that the integrity of their work is never compromised. Accounting is one of the most basic and one of the most respected professions in our country, and it can help protect its own integrity by developing and enforcing clearer standards of conduct.

The profession also needs an independent regulatory board to hold accounting firms to the highest ethical standards. And the SEC should exercise more effective and broad oversight of accounting standards. The SEC should also do more to guard against conflicts of interest, requiring, for example, that an external auditor not be permitted to provide internal audits to the same client.

And finally, auditors should do more than evaluate a company by minimum standards. Instead, the auditors should compare the company's financial controls to the best industry practices and give those findings to the audit committee.

You know, we're passing through extraordinary times here in America. We fight a war—a real war—to protect our homeland by bringing terrorists to justice. We stand strong against evil abroad—I mean, we are standing strong and determined and united against evil. We're finding strength at home through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and generosity and goodness, neighbors helping neighbors, Americans adhering to the age-old call to love someone just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

America is ushering in a responsibility era, a culture regaining a sense of personal responsibility, where each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. And this new culture must include a renewed sense of corporate responsibility. If you lead a corporation, you have a responsibility to serve your shareholders, to be honest with your employees. You have a responsibility to obey the law and to tell the truth.

Business relationships, like all human relationships, are built on a foundation of integrity and trust. When those values are practiced and expected, our economy and our country are stronger.

We're seeing some challenges and some changes in American business and American enterprise. Yet this annual presentation is a reminder of things that must never change, the passion for excellence, the drive to innovate, the hard work that goes with any successful enterprise, the need to be open, the call for integrity. This year's Baldrige Award winners have shown these qualities and have taken their place in a distinguished line of leaders.

Once again, my congratulations to you all. May God bless your enterprises, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the International Ballroom Center at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Margaret "Midge" Baldrige, widow of former Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige; and Letitia Baldrige, his sister.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Governor, the Mayor, and the Congressional Delegation of New York

March 7, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. As you can see, I'm standing with the mighty—and I emphasize "mighty"—New York delegation. Right after the September the 11th tragedy, I made a pledge to Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton, Governor Pataki, the whole delegation, that our Government

would commit at least \$20 billion to help rebuild New York and to take care of the tragedy that befell that magnificent city.

I want to thank the Members who are here who have worked closely with my administration to achieve the common objective of putting \$20 billion of Federal money to help the city, surrounding State, the people. And as a matter of fact, as of right now, there's an over \$20 billion commitment.

Now, this is the right thing to do. It's the absolute right position for our Government to take. It is essential that New York City come back and come back strong, for the good of the entire Nation.

I will tell you that I am so proud of the citizens of the city in that part of our country. They have shown the world how strong America is in the face of tragedy. They've shown a character that runs deep in the American psyche, that we will not be intimidated, that we won't fail. And it's a proud moment for me to thank the delegation here and to welcome the Governor and the mayor and the Senators and Congresspeople. I look forward to continuing to work with these officials as the mighty city of New York recovers.

And so it's now my honor to bring to the podium the Governor of New York City—the State of New York, and then the mayor and then the Senators. First, Governor George Pataki.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters

March 7, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I'm deeply concerned about the tragic loss of life and escalating violence in the Middle East. This is a matter of great interest to the United States and all who want peace in the region and in the world.

There is a roadmap to peace. The Tenet security work plan will bring parties together to reduce the violence, improve the security situation, and return to the path of peace.

The Tenet work plan is the first step towards implementing the Mitchell Committee report in full and resuming a political process between the sides.

I'm committed to working with our partners in the region and around the world in the pursuit of this goal. The United States has a vision of a Middle East in which all people, Arabs and Israelis, can live as neighbors in full peace and security.

Recent ideas put forth by the Crown Prince Abdullah—Saudi Arabia have created an opening for discussing this broader peace and for the normalization of relations between Arab States and Israel. The United States is committed to exploring this opening.

Because of our commitment to peace, I'm sending General Tony Zinni back to the region next week to work with Israel and the Palestinians to begin implementing the Tenet work plan so that the parties can renew their efforts for a broader peace. The United States will do all it can to help the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority restore hope to their people and to the region.

I once again call upon Chairman Arafat to make maximum effort to end terrorism against Israel, which undermines the prospects for peace. And as we move forward, I'm counting on all parties in the region, Prime Minister Sharon included, to do everything they can to make these efforts a success.

The violence and tragic loss of Israeli and Palestinian lives must end. Families on both sides of the conflict share this goal, and so does my country. Peace and stability will be an important topic of the Vice President's upcoming trip to the region. I've asked him to join me today.

Mr. Vice President.

[At this point, Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Powell made brief remarks.]

The President. I'll answer a few questions. Morris [Dave Morris, Bloomberg News].

Peace Initiatives

Q. Mr. President, you said all along that the two sides need to break the cycle of violence. There's been a lot of false hopes. The violence continues even today. What assurances do you have, if any, that the two sides are now willing to take that step and break the cycle?

The President. Well, we've had a lot of consultations over the last week and week-and-a-half. We've been on the phone a lot. And we believe now's the time for General Zinni to move back into the region. There are no assurances. That is not going to prevent our Government from trying, trying to get the parties to agree to Tenet, trying to reduce the cycle of violence.

Obviously, there's a reason why, and that is because, as a result of consultations, we believe there's a possibility that we can have an impact. And so the combination of General Zinni's trip and the Vice President's trip may have a positive impact. We'll see.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News]. Then Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Action To Reduce Violence

Q. Mr. President, your Secretary of State had some rather stern words for Israel yesterday. Do you believe that Ariel Sharon, engaging in his current policies, has become an obstacle to peace?

The President. Well, I read the Secretary's comments, and it sounded like he had pretty tough words for all parties. He's concerned about the level of violence, like I am. He made it clear that Chairman Arafat needs to do a better job of reducing violence, of using his leadership role to reduce violence. He's also deeply concerned, as am I, about the retaliation, the escalation. It's hard to achieve peace when violence is escalating. And one of the reasons why we're sending Zinni back, and one of the reasons why I hope the Vice President's trip will have a positive effect is because our message is to both sides, reduce violence.

As I mentioned in my remarks, Chairman Arafat must do everything he can to reduce the violence, to stop the spread of violence. We don't believe he's doing enough. And so I thought that the Secretary's comments were wisely balanced.

Escalating Violence/Tenet Plan

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that the continuing and escalating violence is an indication of failure on the part of your administration in the approach you've taken of refraining to send General Zinni, of not yourself talking to Chairman Arafat?

The President. Oh, I think what the escalating violence shows is that there are people who believe in terror as a way of life, people who refuse to allow a peace process to go forward, people who don't want peace in the region. And our Government is committed to saying to those folks, "We will do everything in our power to stop you from preventing a peace process from going forward."

It is—and the first step toward any political solution has got to be the Tenet plan. George Tenet, obviously, works for the United States Government; he's the person that laid out the plan. There is a roadmap for a peaceful solution. It's going to take a lot of effort by a lot of people, and we're willing to put in the effort and believe that General Zinni's trip can make a difference.

Yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Administration's Approach to Middle East Peace

Q. Mr. President, why are you personally only talking to one side in this conflict? Why don't you reach out to Chairman Arafat?

The President. Oh, I believe the administration speaks with one voice, and we've got ample amplification to both parties. And our strategy is a well-thought-out strategy. It's one that reminds both parties there's an obligation to seek peace.

I fully understand the Israelis' perspective that they want to defend themselves. That's why I've constantly called on Mr. Arafat to do a better job of reining in those who would wreak havoc on Israel. I also agree with the Secretary of State that it is going to be very hard to achieve a peaceful settlement if there is a tendency to want to constantly find a reason to escalate. And we hope that the Zinni mission will help get to Tenet, and that's where our focus is. Our focus is to get the parties into a process that the world agrees is a good process.

Saudi Peace Initiative

Q. Mr. President, how is the Saudi plan an opening if it's based on things that the Israelis have long rejected?

The President. Well, first of all, they cannot reject the notion of Crown Prince Abdullah that says, "We recognize Israel's right to exist." I think that's an important opening, and I think that's an important statement by Crown Prince Abdullah.

Secondly, it's a position that I took as well at the United Nations, when I said that there ought to be a Palestinian state—the borders of which, by the way, ought to be negotiated between the two parties—but both states recognize each other's right to exist.

And it's an opening. The Crown Prince's decision to make that statement provides an opening. And that's another reason why the Zinni mission is going forward.

Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Israel-U.S. Perspectives

Q. Mr. President, you've consistently called on Mr. Arafat to make, as you said today, a maximum effort. What seems to be new this week is the administration's skepticism about Mr. Sharon. Are you worried, sir, that retaliation seems to be the only policy that he has in mind?

The President. First of all, I fully understand a nation's wanting to defend herself, and I appreciate that. After all, we're in defense of ourself right now. And I can understand the strong desire to enhance security for a people, and I believe that.

I believe what we're saying, though, is that there's got to be a vision for peace. There's got to be more than security, that there's got to be an attempt to achieve a lasting peace. And I hope that my friend, the Prime Minister Sharon, agrees with that assessment. I think he does. I think he recognizes that you can't achieve peace by allowing violence to escalate or causing violence to escalate.

So on the one hand, I fully understand his need to protect the people of Israel, and on the other hand, we look forward to working with him to get into the Tenet plan. He thought the Tenet plan was a good plan. He agreed that the Mitchell plan is the proper course of action. And now we've got to work hard to get into it.

Kelly [Kelly Wallace, Cable News Network].

Corporate Management Reform

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you about the corporate responsibility measures you put forward?

The President. Yes.

Q. Some Democrats are saying that they kind of fall far short of what's needed, and they say your own Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neill, was pushing for stronger measures, lowering the bar for punishment for corporate leaders.

The President. I think what they ought to do is look at my proposals, take a good, hard look at them. They were very sound, solid proposals. It's the first formal package laid out for the American people to analyze about how to reform corporate governance.

I think it's also very important to make sure that, as we reform corporate governance, we don't encourage frivolous lawsuits. I think it's very difficult to have a vibrant society in the free enterprise sector that is riddled with massive lawsuits all the time. And so I want to have a balanced plan, and I put one out. I'm proud of it. And it would make a lot of sense, and I hope Congress acts on it.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, is the recession over now? And looking back, do you think we actually ever really had one?

The President. Well, that's a trick question, Patsy, and I appreciate you throwing that out there. [Laughter] See, I actually read clips from other parts of the world before I came out here today. So, nice try.

There's no question our economy was hurt by the attacks on 9/11. We'll let the statisticians define what happened or what didn't happen. But our economy went through a massive slowdown. And people's lives were badly affected, and a lot of people were laid off.

And that's why the House did the right thing today, and the Senate now needs to act. The House passed a very good bill. It's a bill that not only takes care of unemployed

workers; it is a bill that has got some economic stimulus as a major part of it. And now the Senate needs to do something. The Senate needs to act and get the bill to my desk, and I look forward to signing it.

But we've had too much—too much non-movement on this important issue. And it's time to go. It's time to get a bill, and it's time for me to end the press conference.

[Laughter]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director George J. Tenet of the Central Intelligence Agency; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Powell.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Corporate Management Reform and an Exchange With Reporters in St. Petersburg, Florida

March 8, 2002

The President. I want to thank Mike and the good folks here at America II for welcoming me and Jeb and members of the Florida congressional delegation. We've just had a fantastic discussion about why this is a unique company. It's unique because it has got a culture that understands that the worker is an incredibly important part of the vitality of the company and therefore its success.

I'm real proud of Mike. Mike started this company in 1989. He had a dream. He worked hard to achieve it. He's wise enough to understand that he's only as successful as the good folks who work with him. And so it's an honor to be here.

In the room, I'm going to talk about the opportunities for this country to usher in a period of responsibility. Part of a responsible society is for there to be a responsible atti-

tude for corporate management toward employees and shareholders and disclosure, if you're a publicly traded company.

America II is really the best of the best here in America, and I want to thank you for letting me come, Mike. And I want to thank you all very much for sharing.

I'll answer a couple of questions here.

Aftermath of September 11

Q. Mr. President, when you looked down on the ruins of the Pentagon on September 11th, didn't you, in your heart of hearts, expect that by the time you celebrated the sixth anniversary, that you would know where bin Laden was and where Omar was?

The President. No. You know, I knew that we were in for a very different kind of war. And on 9/12 and the days following, when we put the war plan in place, I wasn't sure how long this was going to take. I knew we were in for a long struggle, though. And I never had any artificial deadlines. The good news is, the American people also understand we're in for a long war and that, when it comes to defending freedom, we'll take however long it takes to defend our freedom.

A little later on here, I'll have the privilege of meeting a mom and a dad of a soldier who just died in Afghanistan. And I'm going to remind them that those lives were not lost in vain and that we will fight terror wherever terror exists.

I will tell you, I am pleased at the progress we have made in a quick period of time. Six months is not a very long period of time when you think about the enemy we fight. We've made tremendous progress, thanks in part to the coalition and thanks in part to the brave men and women who wear our uniform. And I am grateful, and so is the Nation grateful.

Those who are preoccupied with one individual do not understand the struggle. We fight terror wherever terror exists. And for those people who say, "Well, one person matters," they elevate that person to a status that he does not deserve. I don't know whether Mr. bin Laden is alive or is dead. I do know we haven't heard from him in a long period of time.

National Economy/Stimulus Package

Q. Sir, employment grew for the first time in 7 months. Is the economy now out of the woods? And the Senate has passed your stimulus plan—your reaction, sir?

The President. Well, first, I am glad the Senate passed the stimulus plan. I think it's going to be really good for workers whose lives have been affected as a result of 9/11. And it's good for entrepreneurs and businessowners because it encourages investment, it encourages employment. And the best stimulus plan is one that focuses on jobs.

And I applaud the House that stayed with this, and I'm glad the Senate finally passed it. I look forward to signing it. It is a good piece of news for workers and entrepreneurs alike.

Look, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], in terms of the numbers, there's going to be a lot of statistics thrown around about our economy. But let me tell you bluntly how I feel. People's lives were deeply affected on September the 11th. A lot of people got hurt as a result of that attack, and I'm concerned about it. I'm concerned about anybody who's not working and wants to work, and so we'll let the numbers talk. But in terms of policy and the focus of this administration, we're going to do everything we can to increase jobs so people can find work.

One of the reasons we came here is Mike, in the midst of a significant downturn in his business, laid nobody off. There wasn't one layoff at America II. If he was—well, you know, what about the numbers? Well, the numbers here show that he was in a big slowdown. Sales dropped by 40 percent. And yet, he understood his responsibility as a decent citizen, and nobody got laid off.

And I'm real proud of that, Mike, and I want to thank you for it. And it's the kind of thing, by the way, that workers years from now in America II are going to remember, that in the midst of this unbelievable, despicable act of evil on America that affected our economy—I don't care what the number crunchers say; it affected our economy; and it affected a lot of people's lives—this man understood the importance of the workforce and kept people employed here.

Anything else?

Florida Gubernatorial Election

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Who are you with?

Q. St. Petersburg Times.

Anything to say to Janet Reno, who's tooling around on the other side of the bay? [Laughter]

The President. Pardon me?

Q. Anything to say about Janet Reno, who's campaigning on the other side of the bay today against your brother?

The President. No, I don't have anything to say. All I've got to know is, the people of Florida have got a really good Governor. They would be wise to keep him. [Laughter]

Operation Anaconda

Q. Mr. President, the battle going on outside of Gardez—there's some rumors now from the Afghan—our Afghan allies that there may be some real top leadership, maybe even bin Laden up there. What do you know about that?

The President. I don't know of any specific names, John [John Dickerson, TIME]. I do know we're making great progress. I do know that any time we find Al Qaida bunched up like that, we'll get them. And it's going to be—there's going to be more battles like this one, and American people just need to understand that the best way to secure a homeland is to bring them to justice and to get them. And that's exactly what's happening as we speak.

Our military is tough. Our coalition is strong. And by the way, we're fighting fierce fighters. These people evidently don't—they don't want to give up. And that's okay. If that's their attitude, we'll just have to adjust, and they will have made a mistake, because we're going to be relentless and we're steady and we're supporting our military and they'll have the tools necessary to achieve victory. But as of specific names, I don't know.

Look, here's the thing. We're fighting leaders of the murderers that sent people to commit suicide missions. They're real brave. They say, "You go ahead and commit suicide. I'm going to find a cave. We'll send youngsters to their death. In the meantime, I'm going to try to find a deep cave somewhere."

And so when you fight people like that, you never know.

You know, we've closed up a lot of caves in Afghanistan, and one of these days, you know, we might find some people still in there. But I just don't know, nor am I that focused on it individually.

I realize we're in for a long struggle. And I'm giving a speech on Monday that will outline where we are in this war on terror. And I'm going to remind the American people that we've still got a task at hand in Afghanistan, which is to deny sanctuary to Al Qaida killers. We have achieved a significant victory in Afghanistan by routing the Taliban.

I'm also going to remind people that we're denying sanctuary in other countries as well. I don't want to give you the whole speech; I'd like for you to come and listen to it. [Laughter]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the offices of America II Electronics. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Galinski, founder and chief executive officer, America II Electronics; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A reporter referred to Mullah Mohammed Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and former Attorney General Janet Reno, Democratic candidate in Florida's gubernatorial election.

Remarks to Employees of America II Electronics in St. Petersburg

March 8, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. I love to be introduced by my brother. [Laughter] I know I'm not supposed to say this, but he's doing a great job as Governor. He's really—[applause]. I'm really proud of him, and it seems like a lot in Florida—a lot of people here are proud of him, too. But it's good to see you, Jeb. Thanks, and I hope you're still listening to Mother. [Laughter]

For all of you out there who have got children, I want you to know that you can tell them the President said, listen to their mothers—[laughter]—because I'm still listening to ours—[laughter]—whether I want to or not. [Laughter]

I'm so honored that we could come to America II. I was impressed by what I read on the briefing paper before I arrived at the company. I am doubly impressed, having talked to Mike and the people who work here, about the incredible culture that exists in this fine company, a culture that recognizes the worth of the people who work for the company. And Mike, I want to thank you for letting us come.

One of my jobs is to remind people, the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. Here's a guy that started off with 5 employees and no children—[laughter]—now has 4 children and 500 employees. [Laughter] And so I want to congratulate you all, and thanks for your hospitality.

I also appreciate the members of the Florida congressional delegation for flying down today. We had really a good talk about issues that matter to our national security as well as issues that matter to Florida. Congressmen Bilirakis, Davis, Miller, Putnam, and the chairman, Congressman Bill Young, thank you all for coming.

And I want to thank the mayor. Mr. Mayor, you did a fine job of getting America II prepared for just a little visit from the President. [Laughter]

I want to spend a little time talking about the big challenges our Nation faces, starting with an unrelenting drive to defend our freedom. We were attacked by a ruthless enemy who must not have understood America. They must have thought we were soft and so incredibly materialistic and self-absorbed that we would not find the will to fight and sacrifice for that which we hold dear. And they have made a huge miscalculation.

In the beginning, I told the American people we were in for a long, difficult struggle, that I wasn't sure how long this was going to take. But I really wasn't concerned about the calendar. I'm concerned about our future. And I'm concerned about this Nation leading the world to rout out terror wherever it exists, so our children and grandchildren can live in freedom. That's our concern.

I told the world that you're either with us, or you're against us. A lot of people are now with us. [Laughter] And it's important that

we remain strong and determined and focused, to remind people that we're fighting for freedom, the right to worship freely, the right to express your opinion in the political process, the right for there to be a free press—freedoms we hold dear. And these freedoms are not just American freedoms; they're universal freedoms. And we must stand strong.

I also said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who killed thousands in America. And the Taliban found out what I meant. The Taliban found out about what we meant by justice. The Taliban found out that we've got a fabulous military. And they found out that our military and our coalition were not conquerors; we're liberators. We liberated the people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, people who refused to educate young girls, people who mistreated women. No, this great country of ours not only defends our freedom; we liberate people so they can enjoy their own freedoms. I'm proud of the United States military.

Next Monday will mark the sixth month, the date of 6 months from September the 11th. That's not a very long time. It seems like a long time for a lot of people, I know, but when we look back at history, 6 months is a pretty short period of time in the war against terror. And we've accomplished a lot, but there are still dangerous missions left ahead. You see, the Al Qaida killers trained thousands of people who hate America, who hate what we stand for, who resent our freedoms, who want to harm us still, who want to make sure that our alliance is weak. They're looking for soft spots to exploit, and we're not going to let them.

We found a bunch of Al Qaida killers recently, bunched up in Afghanistan. And our military went after them, and we're making good progress. It is a sign of what's going to happen for a while. And my fellow Americans must understand that, that we'll be relentless and determined to do what is right.

And we will take loss of life, and I'm sad for loss of life. And today we've got the mom and dad of a brave soldier who lost his life, and a brother. God bless you. Thank you all

for coming. I know your heart aches, and we ache for you. But your son and your brother died for a noble and just cause. May God bless you. May God bless you.

I hate it, to know that young soldiers are at risk. But I want to assure you and all those loved ones whose sons and daughters are at risk that not only is the cause just and important and noble, but our United States Government will provide the United States military with whatever it needs to win this war against terror.

And I want to thank Chairman Young, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for joining and supporting the budget I submitted to the United States Congress, which sets this priority: The national defense of our country is the number one priority in this budget. We will give our soldiers the best material, the best supplies, the best training, another pay raise. The price of freedom is high, no doubt about it, but the price of freedom is never too high, as far as I'm concerned. My job is to protect the American people. It's the job of the American military, and I take that job really seriously.

We've got a homeland defense strategy that's making the borders more secure, preparing for bioterrorism attack, a homeland security strategy that will work with first-time responders, should we need them. We're on it, and I want you to know that our law enforcement officials are running down every possible lead, every hint. I mean, if we get a whiff of somebody fixing to do something to America, we're on them. We are doing everything we can. The Nation is on alert, as it should be, because there is still an enemy there.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens, the best way to secure the homeland is to find the killers wherever they hide, wherever they try to flee, wherever they think they can find safe sanctuary. We're after them. We will not allow this Nation to be threatened. We will protect the homeland. We will defend freedom no matter what the cost. I'm proud of my fellow citizens. We're united. We are determined, and we are patient—much to the chagrin of the enemy.

And I'm proud of my fellow citizens when it comes to enduring some hardship at home as well. I mean, not only were we attacked,

but the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. Now, you'll hear a lot of number-crunching going on and people saying, "Well, you know, this was the number; that was the number." Look, I don't care about the numbers. I know the facts, and people's lives were affected. People lost jobs. People were worried about their future. People were deeply concerned about what the terrorist attacks did to our economy.

And so long as somebody can't find work who wants to work, I'm worried about it. And therefore, I'm going to stay focused on how best to create more jobs in America; what can you do to do to help people find work? It's one thing to help people that are unemployed, and that's fine. Unemployment checks are good and important, but that's not what folks want in America. They want a permanent paycheck, and that ought to be the policy of this Government.

And today the United States Senate passed a stimulus package, one that the House passed yesterday. That is a good piece of news for American workers and American entrepreneurs. I'm going to sign it as soon as it gets to my desk.

The best kind of public policy is one where we don't play party politics but focus on what's right for the country. It's kind of hard to get them thinking that way up there, but nevertheless, we're making pretty good progress. And I think—I think America is beginning to see that by changing the tone and by focusing on people and by heralding what we can do, as opposed to what we can't do, we're making progress in Washington, DC.

This is a good piece of work by the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House deserves a lot of credit. The Members of the House deserve a lot of credit for staying with this initiative. And I'm pleased the Senate has reacted and passed the bill, and now I'm going to sign it. It is good for America.

But I also want to remind you that we took some action ahead of this. This is going to help as we go down in the out years. But when I traveled your State, I talked about the need for tax relief. I said that it's really important for our Government to understand the dynamics of economic growth, and when you let workers keep their own money, it

gives them something to spend. And when they spend it, it encourages somebody to produce a product. And when somebody is encouraged to produce a product, that means jobs.

We cut taxes at exactly the right time, and I can't tell you, I'm going to mightily resist anybody who tries to undo the tax relief for the American people. Sometimes in Washington people get confused about whose money we're dealing with. They think it's the Government's money. No, it's the people's money. And the more you have of it in your pocket, the better off you will be and, therefore, our economy will be as well.

I'm pleased to hear Mike's firsthand report about sales beginning to improve. I think that is good news. I'm pleased to see, you know, the unemployment figures today got better, and that's good news. But as far as I'm concerned, the economy is not strong enough. As far as I'm concerned, when people are looking for work and can't find it, I'm going to keep focused on jobs. I'm not going to let the numbers lull me to sleep.

I want you all to know that out of this evil is going to come some good. It may be hard to realize it right now; it's got to be. But out of evil will come good in America. I believe when we stay strong—you know, so long as I'm the President, we're going to be after them, without blinking. If we remain steadfast and steady and determined and strong, the world will be a more peaceful place. Out of the evil will come some good.

And at home, out of evil is coming some good. People are beginning to say—take a new look at their life, take an assessment of what's important in life. There is a period of responsibility beginning to take hold here, and that begins—that's twofold: One, personal responsibility; and one, corporate responsibility.

I'm here because this is a company led by a man who understands corporate responsibility. They lose 40 percent of their sales and didn't lay off one citizen. Mike built a culture of respect. I felt it when I was talking to the employees. People respect each other. They love the idea that he's aligned authority and responsibility. He is a good corporate citizen, because he understands the responsibility that comes with leadership.

All people involved in our capitalistic system must assume responsibility for leadership. In the publicly held corporations, the world of publicly held corporations, there are laws and regulations which hold people accountable. They need to be clear, and they need to be tough when people misuse the public trust. We've got thousands of citizens who own shares of publicly held companies, many in pension plans, mutual funds, a lot of them direct ownership. And this country must hold corporate CEOs—CEOs of publicly held companies to the highest of high standards.

I talked yesterday—I want to review with you right quick what I believe we ought to do. First of all, any time a chief executive officer of a publicly held company signs a financial statement, he is personally vouching—he's personally saying the numbers are correct and accurate. And if one were to receive a bonus, any corporate officer receive a bonus and the numbers are misleading as a result of misconduct, the bonus needs to go back to the treasury on behalf of the shareholders. These guys should not be allowed to keep their bonuses. And if they get caught doing it, they ought never to be an officer of a publicly held corporation or a board member of a publicly held corporation again. They ought to be—any time an officer of a publicly held company sells stock, we ought to know within 2 days. We ought to know, “we” being shareholders and employees. There needs to be openness and transparency for the good of the capitalist system.

And the auditors, those who analyze the numbers for publicly held companies, ought to be held to high standards as well. And they ought to make sure that we can have confidence in their numbers by making sure there are no conflicts of interest involved.

In order to usher in a period of responsibility in America, a culture of responsibility, corporate America must be responsible, must make sure that there are no shenanigans or sleight of hands, must make sure there is an openness and disclosure about true liabilities and true assets. And if they don't, they must be held to account.

And I believe Americans, as a result of taking an assessment of what's important in life, are ushering in a period of personal responsi-

bility as well. I think—I believe we're feeling a cultural shift, one from the days when it said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, to a period when each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for loving our children with all our heart and all our soul, and we are responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

Today we've got one such person with us. You know, I like to define America's compassionate citizens as soldiers in the armies of compassion. And we've got one such soldier here that I can recognize—I'm sure there are many soldiers in the armies of compassion here with us—and her name is Roxanne Hunt. She works for the City of Pinellas Park Police. Roxanne, do you mind standing up real quick? [*Applause*] Thank you, Roxanne.

Without being asked or told, Roxanne has adopted a family for Christmas. Roxanne has fed the homeless. Roxanne has been involved in environmental cleanup activities here. Roxanne sponsored a bike rodeo, saved a little guy's life who was choking on a hot dog—at least it wasn't a pretzel. [*Laughter*] Roxanne is a soldier in the armies of compassion, armies which exist in every community across America.

People say to me, “What can I do to help? What can I do to fight in the war against terror?” And my answer is, do some good. You see, for every act of kindness, people are doing something to fight evil. If you're good to a neighbor in need, you stand firm in the face of evil. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion and decency which define the true face of America.

They hit us. They thought we had quit. We're not going to quit. We're strong, and we're steady. They hit us, and out of this evil can come incredible good, as Americans show the world their compassion by loving a neighbor, by caring for somebody in need, by focusing on the values that matter, faith and family.

I'm so proud to be the President of a country of such decent and caring and strong and—people willing to sacrifice for a greater good. May God bless you all. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the warehouse at America II Electronics. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Michael Galinski, founder and chief executive officer, America II Electronics; and Mayor Rick Baker of St. Petersburg.

Remarks at a Republican Party of Florida Reception in St. Petersburg

March 8, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Well, thank you all for coming out to say hello to me and my little brother. [Laughter] I sure hope you work hard to get him back in. He has done a fabulous job. You know, when you've got somebody who brings honor and integrity and works hard and loves the people and does in office what he said he's going to do, you need to send him back in. So thank you for getting ready to work. Thank you for getting ready to work. Grassroots politics means a lot.

Audience member. We love you both. [Laughter]

The President. Thank you. Sounds like you've been talking to our mother. [Laughter] I think she still loves us. I know she's telling us what to do all the time. [Laughter] Jeb listens about half the time. I listen all the time, of course. [Laughter]

It's great to be in Pinellas County. You know, I was flying down today with Chairman Young. He said, "It's about time you came to Pinellas." I said, "Well, it's about time you invited me, Mr. Chairman." [Laughter] But I'm proud of Bill Young. I hope you're proud of Bill Young. He's doing a fabulous job. He's a good man. He's a good man in the right position.

And Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming, too. The mayor of St. Petersburg is here. I'm honored you're here, Mr. Mayor. I don't know if any of the other Congressmen that came down with us are here.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. There he is. Miller, Bilirakis—of course he's here. What am I thinking? What am I thinking? Where's Red? There he is. Adam Putnam, he's here. Miller, Dan Miller is here.

Listen, there are some fine Members of the United States Congress from Florida; you

need to get them back in, too. Miller is not running again, I'm sorry to say, but nevertheless, we've got to make sure his seat stays Republican, and these other three need to come back, along with the chairman.

Listen, we're making a big difference up there. And one of the reasons why is, we've got a Republican Speaker, and we want to make sure we have a Republican Speaker after the off-year elections.

I told Jeb, I'll do anything he wants me to do to get him elected. If he wants me down here, I'm coming back. It's important for the State of Florida. Jeb said, "Well, it'll help me." Nuh-uh, it's going to help the people of Florida. You see, you've got a man here who cares deeply about making sure the school system works and that no child in Florida is left behind. It is essential that you have a Governor who knows how to lead on education. It is by far the most important issue that a Governor can deal with, is educating the children. And Jeb, as a result of his program and as a result of the help you're giving his program, is making a huge difference in the very future of the State of Florida.

Florida has got her challenges, and it's good to have a good, steady man at the helm, a person, by the way, who makes his mind up not based upon polls or what some focus group might say, but a person who makes up his mind based upon principles. Jeb is a principled man. And he's not going to blink in the face of tough times, and neither am I.

And we've got some tough times ahead of us in America. We've got some tough times. We're fighting for freedom. We're defending the very values that we hold dear.

We got attacked by some murderers, people—and I like to remind people, they must have not known who they were attacking. They thought we were soft. They thought we were self-absorbed. They thought we were so materialistic that we would maybe try to sue them—[laughter]—that we wouldn't deal with them. But they made a big mistake.

I told the world that either you're with us, or you're against us, and there's no in-between. And most of the world is with us. And

I'm proud to say our coalition is strong, because people understand the value of freedom, the freedom to worship the way you like to worship, the freedom to vote, the freedom to express your opinion without fear of reprisal, the freedom to risk capital and realize your entrepreneurial dream. Well, listen, we hold freedom dear, and we will defend it at all costs.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed one, if you think they can hide in your land, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. They are no longer in power, thank goodness. And the people who appreciate that fact the most are women and children in Afghanistan.

We seek justice, not revenge, and we're liberators, not conquerors. Our mighty military, along with other coalition forces, routed out the Taliban and liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the will of the American people and the strength of the United States military.

I have said from the beginning of this war that this is going to be a long, difficult struggle. And it is. Today Jeb and I had the honor of meeting a mom and dad whose son was recently killed in the battle that rages in Afghanistan. It broke my heart to see her sadness. I was touched by her grief. But I assured her, like I assure you, that this cause is noble; this cause is just. And our country will not relent; we will not tire; we will not falter until we have routed out terror from its very roots and held people accountable for those who would want to hurt America.

History has called us into action. History has called this great land to lead, and we will lead. And the good news is, the world sees how strong the American people are and how united we are and how convinced we are of the rightness of our cause.

I have submitted a budget that is the largest defense spending increase in 20 years. I did so because of my conviction, a conviction supported by Chairman Young, that our military deserves the best equipment, the best training, a pay increase. If we send the men and women in uniform into harm's way, our Government must stand strongly with

them in the fight for freedom. Thank goodness the man from Pinellas County is in charge of the appropriations process, because he knows what I know. The price of freedom is high, but the price of freedom is never too high, as far as we're concerned.

And by the way, the war against terror is bigger than any single individual. Oh, I know there are some always talking about this bin Laden fellow. But remember, he's the kind of fellow who—he asks youngsters to go commit suicide, and he tries to bury inside a cave. We haven't heard from him in a long time. He's been kind of quiet for months. I don't know if he's alive; I don't know if he's dead. But I know this: If he is alive, there is no cave deep enough for the United States. We're going to find him.

It doesn't matter whether he was brought to justice a month ago or years from now. What matters is the resolve of the American people to rout out terror. And what matters is, as well, is we're not going to let nations develop the worst kinds of weapons and hook up with terrorist organizations so that future generations of Americans will be held hostage to people who resent our country and resent our way of freedom. The world's most dangerous weapons will not—the world's most dangerous nations will not be allowed to develop, to keep the world's most dangerous weapons.

We're doing everything we can to secure the homeland. My most important job is to protect the American people. Every morning I walk into the glorious Oval Office. I'm an early morning guy, so I get out there about—get over there about 6:50, 7 o'clock in the morning. In comes Spot, the dog, with me. *[Laughter]* Spot was born at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, so she's kind of used to the surroundings. *[Laughter]* When I told them that, somebody said, "What about Barney, the Scottish terrier?" I said, "Well, we just bought a new rug." *[Laughter]* He's a little young for the Oval Office.

And I read about the threats that face our country. The enemy is still out there. And I want you to know we're doing everything in our power. We're chasing down every lead. We're working with law enforcement officials. We're focused on hunting them down.

Anybody who thinks they can come to our country to hunt them—to hurt us, we’re going to be after them. And we’re on alert. And I’m proud of the American law enforcement officials, and I’m proud of our citizens.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens, the best way to secure the homeland is to rout out terror wherever it exists and get them and bring them to justice. And so long as I’m the President, that’s exactly what we’re going to do.

I want to thank you all, too, for standing strong on taxes. Now, as you know, our economy got roughed up as a result of 9/11, that we got hit pretty hard. You’re going to hear the statisticians, the number crunchers, the bean counters, as we call them in Texas, say, well, this might have been a recession; this might not have been a recession—this, that, and the other. Look, so long as somebody lost a job, I’m worried about it. That’s enough to get my attention.

And we need to make sure we focus on how to create jobs in our economy, and one way to do that is to let people keep their own money. One way to make sure that there’s economic vitality is to let people keep their own money so that increases demand, which increases supply, which then helps people keep jobs. We cut the taxes last year, last June. We signed the tax bill. It was the absolute right thing to do at the right time in order to make sure our economy did not suffer economically.

And as Jeb mentioned, sometimes people in the political process read the wrong economics textbook. When times are slow, they want to raise your taxes. Or when times are slow, they don’t want tax relief to continue on. Well, when they do that, they get crossways with the Bush boys. *[Laughter]* We understand—we understand that the money is not the Government’s money; it’s the people’s money.

And finally, let me share with you my optimism about our country. This is such a fabulous nation. And people say, you know, they say, “How do you fight terror?” And I say—you remind them that one way to stand in the face of evil is to do some good, and that’s what’s happening all across the country.

We’re a compassionate nation. We’re a kind nation. We’re a nation of faith, a nation

of family. We’re a nation where somebody walks across the street and says to a neighbor who’s shut in, “What can I do to make your day brighter? How can I help you?” That’s the America I know. As a result of the millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place on a regular day, America stands strong in the face of evil. Our collective front is formed by the compassion that Americans do to neighbors in need.

And so my call to my fellow Americans is, love a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Help somebody who needs help. Love somebody. Donate some money to a worthy cause. Go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and start a faith-based program that will help somebody defeat addiction. Remember, there are still people that hurt in our society, and we can help. And we can help.

There is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness in America. And as a result of this evil, we’re assessing ourselves. We’re taking a good look at values that matter. America is on the verge of ushering in a new culture, one that says, “I’m responsible for the decisions I make in life,” a culture that recognizes there’s something—a culture that recognizes serving something greater than yourself is a noble culture.

Flight 93 helped define what I’m talking about. Young men and a lady on an airplane knew they were in danger. They were on their cell phones. They told their wives they loved them. They said a prayer, and they sacrificed for something greater than themselves. That’s the America the world is beginning to see. That’s the America I have the honor of leading. It is such a privilege to be your President. It is such a privilege to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. in the King Charles Ballroom at the Don CeSar Beach Resort and Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Mayor Rick Baker of St. Petersburg; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senator Fred Thompson's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

March 8, 2002

Senator Fred Thompson has served the people of Tennessee with honor, distinction, and class. He has worked tirelessly for Tennessee's interests, as well as for the national interest. While I will miss Fred's service in the Senate, I wish him all the best and will always call him a friend.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 3

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. In the evening, they attended a gala at Ford's Theatre.

March 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Eden Prairie, MN, and later to Minneapolis, MN. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 24–29, 2001.

March 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Republican congressional leaders from the House and the Senate to discuss counterterrorism efforts and domestic issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members

of the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts: Catherine Todd Bailey; Lawrence E. Bathgate II; Ronald Aram Berberian; Catherine Caldwell Cabaniss; Kevin Arlen Crass; Daniel Frank Cronin Crowley; James Frederick Dicke II; David Judson Fisher; Timothy Fuller; James Arthur Haslam II; Brenda LaGrange Johnson; James Casey Kenny; Nancy Goins Kinder; Patrick Alexander Lopez Negrete; Karin F. Luter; Loretta Webb Lynn; P.E. MacAllister; Augustus Chole Miller; Carlos Dario Olamendi; Julie Jones Oles; Juan Alfonso Sabater; Dwight Schar; David Lee Sokol; Fred Douglas Thompson; Vance Michael Thompson; David Richard Tyson; Llewellyn Orcutt Ward III; Cortright Wetherill, Jr.; Yvonne Renee Davis; Judith Ann Eisenberg; Joseph James O'Donnell; Margaret Alexander Parker; John Whitney Payson; Clyde Armand Rodbell; Connie Russell Schmett; and Barbara U. Stephenson.

March 6

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met in the Oval Office with members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg in the Oval Office.

March 7

In the morning, the President met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with labor organization leaders to discuss proposed energy legislation and other issues. He also met separately with members of Congress to discuss proposed energy legislation.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and his family to their ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 5–7.

March 8

In the morning, the President traveled to St. Petersburg, FL, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Fred S. Zeidman as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and, upon appointment, designate him as Chair.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada at the White House on March 14 to review key bilateral issues and planning for the June 2002 G-8 meeting in Kananaskis, Canada.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 4

Albert Casey,
of Texas, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2009, vice Tirso del Junco, term expired.

James B. Comey,
of New York, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Mary Jo White, term expired.

Robert Patrick John Finn,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Afghanistan.

Thomas A. Marino,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice David M. Barasch, term expired.

Patrick E. McDonald,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years, vice James Howard Benham, term expired.

John Edward Quinn,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Dennis H. Blome, term expired.

Stephen Geoffrey Rademaker,
of Delaware, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control), vice Avis Thayer Bohlen.

Robert R. Rigsby,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, vice Reggie Barnett Walton, elevated.

Don Slazinik,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Terrence Edward Delaney, term expired.

Michael E. Toner,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007, vice Darryl R. Wold, term expired.

Kim Richard Widup,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice James L. Whigham.

Submitted March 6

Peter A. Lawrence,
of New York, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice John Patrick McCaffrey, term expired.

Jeffrey D. Wallin,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Ron Chew.

Withdrawn March 6

Frederick R. Heebe,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term

of 4 years, vice Eddie J. Jordan, Jr., resigned, which was sent to the Senate on November 1, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Transcript of an interview of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice by Mohamed El Satouhi of Egypt TV

Fact sheet: A Quality Teacher in Every Classroom

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps—One Month Anniversary

Announcement of nomination for Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released March 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick on the steel decision

Fact sheet on the Presidential action on steel
Announcement on the appointment of Candida Wolff as Assistant to the Vice President for Legislative Affairs

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Visit the U.S.-Mexican

Border in El Paso, Texas, To View Demonstrations of Border Security Technologies

Released March 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Address Boston's First-Responders at Historic Faneuil Hall

Released March 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Chretien of Canada

Joint Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, John Manley, and the Director of the White House Office of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, on Progress Made in the Smart Border Action Plan

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney on his upcoming visit to the Middle East

Announcement: President Bush To Sign Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, March 15, 2002

Remarks on Signing the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002

March 9, 2002

Good morning. I'm speaking to you live from the Rose Garden, where I'm about to sign legislation that will give short-term help to workers who have lost their jobs and provides long-term stimulus to create more jobs across our country.

I want to thank the Vice President. I want to thank Speaker Hastert, Senator Daschle, Senator Lott, Members of the Congress for joining me today as I sign this important piece of legislation. Many contributed to the success of this bill, but none more than the Speaker, and Chairman Bill Thomas.

Also here today are working men and women, small-business people who make this economy run. We're seeing some encouraging signs in the economy, but we can't stand by and simply hope for continued recovery. We must work for it. We must make sure that our recovery continues and gains momentum. We want a recovery that is broad enough and strong enough to provide jobs for all our citizens.

The terrorist attacks of September the 11th were also an attack on our economy, and a lot of people lost their jobs. Since then, many laid-off workers have been relying on unemployment benefits, which normally end after 26 weeks. The bill I sign this morning will allow the extension of jobless benefits by another 13 weeks, and even longer in States with high unemployment rates. This will allow those who lost their jobs in the recession or in the aftermath of the September the 11th attacks more time to pay their bills and support their families while they look for work.

And in order for people to find jobs, businesses need to be hiring. So this new law will provide tax incentives for companies to

expand and create jobs by investing in plant and equipment. This measure will mean more job opportunities for workers in every part of our country, especially in manufacturing and in high tech and for those who work for small businesses. This bill will also stimulate economic growth by extending net operating loss rules and by granting some alternative minimum tax relief.

The city of New York suffered a great tragedy on September the 11th and still faces major economic consequences. The bill I sign into law today provides over \$5 billion in tax relief to aid in the recovery of lower Manhattan by helping businesses to get back on their feet so they can start hiring again. The people of New York have shown great courage, perseverance, and America stands with them.

This Monday marks 6 months since the attack on America. For the families of the victims, these have been 6 months of sorrow, and America will never forget their loss.

In our war on terror, these have been 6 months of determined action. We have destroyed terrorist camps. We've disrupted terrorist finances. We've toppled a terrorist regime and brought thousands of terrorists to justice. We are strengthening our Nation's defenses against attack. And today we are acting to help workers. We're acting to create jobs, and we're acting to strengthen our economy.

Thank you all for coming, and it is now my honor to sign this important piece of legislation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House, and his remarks were broadcast live and served as his weekly radio address. H.R. 3090, approved March 9, was assigned Public Law No. 107-147.

Remarks on the Six-Month Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks*March 11, 2002*

Diplomatic representatives of the coalition of nations; Members of the Congress, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court; members of the American Armed Forces; military coalition members from around the world; distinguished guests; and ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House.

We have come together to mark a terrible day, to reaffirm a just and vital cause, and to thank the many nations that share our resolve and will share our common victory.

Six months separate us from September the 11th. Yet, for the families of the lost, each day brings new pain; each day requires new courage. Your grace and strength have been an example to our Nation. America will not forget the lives that were taken and the justice their death requires.

We face an enemy of ruthless ambition, unconstrained by law or morality. The terrorists despise other religions and have defiled their own. And they are determined to expand the scale and scope of their murder. The terror that targeted New York and Washington could next strike any center of civilization. Against such an enemy, there is no immunity, and there can be no neutrality.

Many nations and many families have lived in the shadows of terrorism for decades, enduring years of mindless and merciless killing. September the 11th was not the beginning of global terror, but it was the beginning of the world's concerted response. History will know that day not only as a day of tragedy but as a day of decision when the civilized world was stirred to anger and to action. And the terrorists will remember September 11th as the day their reckoning began.

A mighty coalition of civilized nations is now defending our common security. Terrorist assets have been frozen. Terrorist front groups have been exposed. A terrorist regime has been toppled from power. Terrorist plots have been unraveled from Spain to Singapore. And thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice, are in prison, or are running for fear of their lives.

With us today are representatives from many of our partners in this great work, and we're proud to display their flags at the White House this morning. From the contributions these nations have made—some well known, others not—I am honored to extend the deepest gratitude of the people of the United States.

The power and vitality of our coalition have been proven in Afghanistan. More than half of the forces now assisting the heroic Afghan fighters or providing security in Kabul are from countries other than the United States. There are many examples of commitment. Our good ally, France, has deployed nearly one-fourth of its navy to support Operation Enduring Freedom, and Great Britain has sent its largest naval task force in 20 years. British and American special operations forces have fought beside teams from Australia and Canada, Norway, Denmark and Germany. In total, 17 nations have forces deployed in the region. And we could not have done our work without critical support from countries, particularly, like Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Japanese destroyers are refueling coalition ships in the Indian Ocean. The Turkish air force has refueled American planes. Afghans are receiving treatment in hospitals built by Russians, Jordanians, Spanish, and have received supplies and help from South Korea.

Nations in our coalition have shared in the responsibilities and sacrifices of our cause. On the day before September the 11th, I met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, who spoke of the common beliefs and shared affection of our two countries. We could not have known that bond was about to be proven again in war, and we could not have known its human cost. Last month, Sergeant Andrew Russell of the Australian Special Air Service died in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife, Kylie, and their daughter, Leisa, just 11 days old. Friends said of Sergeant Russell, "You could rely on him never to let you down."

This young man and many like him have not let us down. Each life taken from us is a terrible loss. We have lost young people from Germany and Denmark and Afghanistan and America. We mourn each one. And

for their bravery in a noble cause, we honor them.

Part of that cause was to liberate the Afghan people from terrorist occupation, and we did so. Next week, the schools reopen in Afghanistan. They will be open to all, and many young girls will go to school for the first time in their young lives. Afghanistan has many difficult challenges ahead, and yet, we've averted mass starvation, begun clearing minefields, rebuilding roads, and improving health care. In Kabul, a friendly government is now an essential member of the coalition against terror.

Now that the Taliban are gone and Al Qaida has lost its home base for terrorism, we have entered the second stage of the war on terror, a sustained campaign to deny sanctuary to terrorists who would threaten our citizens from anywhere in the world.

In Afghanistan, hundreds of trained killers are now dead. Many have been captured. Others are still on the run, hoping to strike again. These terrorist fighters are the most committed, the most dangerous, and the least likely to surrender. They are trying to regroup, and we'll stop them. For 5 months in Afghanistan, our coalition has been patient and relentless, and more patience and more courage will be required. We're fighting a fierce battle in the Shahi Khot Mountains, and we're winning. Yet, it will not be the last battle in Afghanistan. And there will be other battles beyond that nation.

For terrorists fleeing Afghanistan, for any terrorist looking for a base of operations, there must be no refuge, no safe haven. By driving terrorists from place to place, we disrupt the planning and training for further attacks on America and the civilized world. Every terrorist must be made to live as an international fugitive, with no place to settle or organize, no place to hide, no governments to hide behind, and not even a safe place to sleep.

I have set a clear policy in the second stage of the war on terror: America encourages and expects governments everywhere to help remove the terrorist parasites that threaten their own countries and peace of the world. If governments need training or resources to meet this commitment, America will help.

We are helping right now in the Philippines, where terrorists with links to Al Qaida are trying to seize the southern part of the country to establish a militant regime. They are oppressing local peoples, and they have kidnaped both American and Filipino citizens. America has sent more than 500 troops to train Philippine forces. We stand with President Arroyo, who is courageously opposing the threat of terror.

In the Republic of Georgia, terrorists working closely with Al Qaida operate in the Pankisi Gorge near the Russian border. At President Shevardnadze's request, the United States is planning to send up to 150 military trainers to prepare Georgian soldiers to reestablish control in this lawless region. This temporary assistance serves the interests of both our countries.

In Yemen, we are working to avert the possibility of another Afghanistan. Many Al Qaida recruits come from near the Yemen-Saudi Arabian border, and Al Qaida may try to reconstitute itself in the remote corners of that region. President Salih has assured me that he is committed to confronting this danger. We will help Yemeni forces with both training and equipment to prevent that land from becoming a haven for terrorists.

In the current stage of the war, our coalition is opposing not a nation but a network. Victory will come over time, as that network is patiently and steadily dismantled. This will require international cooperation on a number of fronts, diplomatic, financial, and military. We will not send the American troops to every battle, but America will actively prepare other nations for the battles ahead. This mission will end when the work is finished—when terror networks of global reach have been defeated. The havens and training camps of terror are a threat to our lives and to our way of life, and they will be destroyed.

At the same time, every nation in our coalition must take seriously the growing threat of terror on a catastrophic scale, terror armed with biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons. America is now consulting with friends and allies about this greatest of dangers, and we're determined to confront it.

Here is what we already know. Some states that sponsor terror are seeking or already

possess weapons of mass destruction. Terrorist groups are hungry for these weapons and would use them without a hint of conscience. And we know that these weapons, in the hands of terrorists, would unleash blackmail and genocide and chaos.

These facts cannot be denied and must be confronted. In preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, there is no margin for error and no chance to learn from mistakes. Our coalition must act deliberately, but inaction is not an option. Men with no respect for life must never be allowed to control the ultimate instruments of death.

Gathered here today, we are 6 months along—a short time in a long struggle. And our war on terror will be judged by its finish, not by its start. More dangers and sacrifices lie ahead. Yet, America is prepared. Our resolve has only grown, because we remember. We remember the horror and heroism of that morning, the death of children on a field trip, the resistance of passengers on a doomed airplane, the courage of rescuers who died with strangers they were trying to save. And we remember the video images of terrorists who laughed at our loss.

Every civilized nation has a part in this struggle, because every civilized nation has a stake in its outcome. There can be no peace in a world where differences and grievances become an excuse to target the innocent for murder. In fighting terror, we fight for the conditions that will make lasting peace possible. We fight for lawful change against chaotic violence, for human choice against coercion and cruelty, and for the dignity and goodness of every life.

Every nation should know that for America, the war on terror is not just a policy; it's a pledge. I will not relent in this struggle for the freedom and security of my country and the civilized world.

And we'll succeed. There will be a day when the organized threat against America, our friends, and allies is broken. And when the terrorists are disrupted and scattered and discredited, many old conflicts will appear in a new light, without the constant fear and cycle of bitterness that terrorists spread with their violence. We will see then that the old and serious disputes can be settled within the bounds of reason and good will and mutual

security. I see a peaceful world beyond the war on terror, and with courage and unity, we are building that world together.

Any nation that makes an unequivocal commitment against terror can join this cause. Every nation of good will is welcome. And together, we will face the peril of our moment and seize the promise of our times.

May God bless our coalition.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the Unveiling of the September 11th United States

Postage Stamp

March 11, 2002

The President. Welcome. We're about to unveil a stamp. It's an extraordinary piece of work. I want to thank the photographer here, and I want to thank Gary Ackerman for sponsoring it. This stamp will sell for 45 cents; 11 cents, obviously, more than the current price of a stamp. Eight cents will go to a victims' fund to help those family members who are struggling in the aftermath of 9/11. It is a—it's a good gesture by the Postal Service. The Postmaster General is here, and I want to thank you for that very much.

Postmaster General Potter. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The three officers are here, and they're on the stamp. And I appreciate you all allowing your—allowing the Postal Service to use you as a way to help our Nation remember the terrible incident that took place 6 months ago and help people get their lives back in order.

And so it's with pleasure that we reveal the stamp.

[At this point, the stamp was unveiled.]

The President. Fabulous, good job, really good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Thomas E. Franklin, staff photographer, Bergen County, NJ, Record; and New York City firefighters William Eisengrein, George Johnson, and Daniel McWilliams, photographed raising the U.S. flag at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Proclamation 7531—Bicentennial
Day of the United States Military
Academy at West Point, 2002**

March 11, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

For two centuries, the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, has trained, educated, and inspired thousands of cadets to serve our Nation with integrity, skill, and fortitude as members of our military's officer corps. West Point emphasizes the very highest standards of personal honor, academic achievement, and public duty, preparing its graduates for lives of patriotic commitment and distinguished service. Since the school's beginnings, West Point alumni have played an immensely important role in protecting our national security and preserving democracy around the world.

Upon this 200th anniversary of the Academy's founding, we celebrate West Point's great contributions to the success and strength of America. We pay tribute to the Academy's extraordinary tradition of valor, victory, and sacrifice. This hallowed history is filled with the names of soldiers who fought and sometimes died to preserve and protect the founding principles of our country, ensuring that we can live today in a free and democratic Republic.

On March 16, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed an Act of Congress establishing the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Since its inception, the institution has played a central role in the training of America's future military leaders. And West Point graduates have marked our history with courage beyond the call of duty; integrity that brought honor to themselves,

their school, and their Nation; and military skills that achieved victory after victory.

Academy graduates have long fulfilled West Point's noble tradition of selfless service to country. General John J. Pershing led the American Expeditionary Force to victory in World War I. And in World War II, Generals Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, and George Patton proved again the resourcefulness, bravery, and skill of West Point's graduates, helping to lead the Allies to victory over tyranny. In Korea and Vietnam, during Operation Desert Storm, and now in Operation Enduring Freedom, West Point graduates, like Generals Brent Scowcroft, Roscoe Robinson, H. Norman Schwarzkopf, and Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck, have continued to make significant contributions and great sacrifices for America and her people. And the graduates of West Point continue to be prepared to make the greatest sacrifice. We remember with deep respect and honor, the sacrifice made by Academy graduate, Major Curtis Feistner, who recently gave his life in the fight against terror.

As part of the 200th anniversary of the United States Military Academy, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the Academy's incomparable history of contribution to our country's national security and to remember the West Point graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom. The Academy's role in protecting our homeland and in shaping our next generation of battlefield leaders deserves the gratitude and respect of every American. I am pleased to pay tribute to this noble school upon the occasion of its historic anniversary; and I am honored to be serving today as Commander in Chief of so many of its fine graduates.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2002, as West Point Bicentennial Day. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civil, social, educational, and military organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate the United

States Military Academy and the values it represents and upholds.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:39 a.m., March 12, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

Message on the Observance of Saint Patrick's Day

March 7, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

On this day, millions of people in Ireland and throughout the world will gather to commemorate the life of Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. From his days as a slave in Ireland to his work as a missionary years later, St. Patrick demonstrated a courage, commitment, and faith that won the hearts and minds of the Irish people. St. Patrick's Day also serves as a time for people of Irish descent from all traditions and religions to honor their native land and shared heritage.

This celebration is particularly important in the United States, as we recognize the contributions of the millions of Irish-Americans who immigrated to our shores from the earliest years of our Republic. They dedicated themselves to the challenges of building America and achieved success and prosperity. The industry, talent, and imagination of the Irish have enriched our economy and culture. Their strong record of public service has fortified our democracy. And their devotion to family, faith, and community has strengthened our country's character.

On St. Patrick's Day, Americans from every background join in celebrating the rich culture of the Irish and our continued friendship with the people of Ireland. I join me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Directive on the Homeland Security Advisory System

March 11, 2002

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-3

Purpose

The Nation requires a Homeland Security Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system would provide warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that would increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies would implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert.

This system is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response. It seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens at home and at work.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

Low = Green;
Guarded = Blue;
Elevated = Yellow;
High = Orange;
Severe = Red.

The higher the Threat Condition, the greater the risk of a terrorist attack. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. Threat Conditions shall be assigned by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Except in exigent circumstances, the Attorney General shall seek the views of the appropriate Homeland Security Principals or their subordinates, and other parties as appropriate, on the Threat Condition to be assigned. Threat Conditions may be assigned for the entire Nation, or they may be set for a particular geographic area or industrial sector. Assigned Threat Conditions shall be reviewed at regular intervals to determine whether adjustments are warranted.

For facilities, personnel, and operations inside the territorial United States, all Federal departments, agencies, and offices other than military facilities shall conform their existing threat advisory systems to this system and henceforth administer their systems consistent with the determination of the Attorney General with regard to the Threat Condition in effect.

The assignment of a Threat Condition shall prompt the implementation of an appropriate set of Protective Measures. Protective Measures are the specific steps an organization shall take to reduce its vulnerability or increase its ability to respond during a period of heightened alert. The authority to craft and implement Protective Measures rests with the Federal departments and agencies. It is recognized that departments and agencies may have several preplanned sets of responses to a particular Threat Condition to facilitate a rapid, appropriate, and tailored response. Department and agency heads are responsible for developing their own Protective Measures and other antiterrorism or self-protection and continuity plans, and resourcing, rehearsing, documenting, and maintaining these plans. Likewise, they retain the authority to respond, as necessary, to risks, threats, incidents, or events at facilities within the specific jurisdiction of their department or agency, and, as authorized by law, to direct agencies and industries to implement their own Protective Measures. They shall continue to be responsible for tak-

ing all appropriate proactive steps to reduce the vulnerability of their personnel and facilities to terrorist attack. Federal department and agency heads shall submit an annual written report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, describing the steps they have taken to develop and implement appropriate Protective Measures for each Threat Condition. Governors, mayors, and the leaders of other organizations are encouraged to conduct a similar review of their organizations' Protective Measures.

The decision whether to publicly announce Threat Conditions shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Every effort shall be made to share as much information regarding the threat as possible, consistent with the safety of the Nation. The Attorney General shall ensure, consistent with the safety of the Nation, that State and local government officials and law enforcement authorities are provided the most relevant and timely information. The Attorney General shall be responsible for identifying any other information developed in the threat assessment process that would be useful to State and local officials and others and conveying it to them as permitted consistent with the constraints of classification. The Attorney General shall establish a process and a system for conveying relevant information to Federal, State, and local government officials, law enforcement authorities, and the private sector expeditiously.

The Director of Central Intelligence and the Attorney General shall ensure that a continuous and timely flow of integrated threat assessments and reports is provided to the President, the Vice President, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Whenever possible and practicable, these integrated threat assessments and reports shall be reviewed and commented upon by the wider interagency community.

A decision on which Threat Condition to assign shall integrate a variety of considerations. This integration will rely on qualitative assessment, not quantitative calculation. Higher Threat Conditions indicate greater risk of a terrorist act, with risk including both probability and gravity. Despite best efforts, there can be no guarantee that, at any given Threat Condition, a terrorist attack will not occur. An initial and important factor is the quality of the threat information itself. The evaluation of this threat information shall include, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. To what degree is the threat information credible?
2. To what degree is the threat information corroborated?
3. To what degree is the threat specific and/or imminent?
4. How grave are the potential consequences of the threat?

Threat Conditions and Associated Protective Measures

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a Nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. At all Threat Conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks. The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested Protective Measures, recognizing that the heads of Federal departments and agencies are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate agency-specific Protective Measures:

1. Low Condition (Green). This condition is declared when there is a *low risk of terrorist attacks*. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:

- a) Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;
- b) Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific

preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and

- c) Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

2. Guarded Condition (Blue). This condition is declared when there is a *general risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- a) Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
- b) Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
- c) Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.

3. Elevated Condition (Yellow). An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a *significant risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- a) Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
- b) Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
- c) Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
- d) Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

4. High Condition (Orange). A High Condition is declared when there is a *high risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- a) Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
- b) Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
- c) Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
- d) Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

5. Severe Condition (Red). A Severe Condition reflects a *severe risk of terrorist attacks*. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- a) Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
- b) Assigning emergency response personnel and prepositioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
- c) Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
- d) Closing public and government facilities.

Comment and Review Periods

The Attorney General, in consultation and coordination with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, shall, for 45 days from the date of this directive, seek the views of government officials at all levels and of public interest groups and the private sector on the proposed Homeland Security Advisory System.

One hundred thirty-five days from the date of this directive the Attorney General, after consultation and coordination with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and having considered the views received during the comment period, shall recommend to the President in writing pro-

posed refinements to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This directive was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12.

Remarks in a Discussion on Community Service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania March 12, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Well, Chris, thank you very much. And thank you all for coming. I've been really looking forward to coming back to Philadelphia. After all, it was here that Benjamin Franklin set the stage for what it means to be a good volunteer. He started a university and started a library. He rallied people to help neighbors in need. So this is a good place to come and conduct a national dialog on the importance of people serving neighbors in need and the importance of people volunteering in their community.

And I want to thank Chris so very much for agreeing to be a moderator, but also thank you for your service to the Philadelphia community.

Sometimes when the President shows up, we get a pretty august crowd of elected officials here. I know the mayor is here somewhere. I want to thank the mayor for coming. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here—oh, yes. Senator Specter, Senator Santorum, Congressmen Borski and Greenwood, Congressmen Weldon and Hoeffel, thank you all for coming. I know the attorney general of the State of Pennsylvania is here as well. Welcome, Mike.

It's good to see members of the mighty Pennsylvania congressional delegation, a fine lot. [Laughter] I know they understand the proper role of Government. And that is that Government can't make people love one another. I wish it could. I promise you, I'd sign the law—[laughter]—and they would all sponsor it. But we understand that Pennsylvania, like the other States in our Union, are full of compassionate people. And the job of Government is to serve as a catalyst to capture that compassion.

And that's incredibly important as we fight this war on terror. You know, we've got a great military might in the United States, and I can't tell you how proud I am of our military. But another strength of the country is our compassion and our love for each other.

You know, I want to thank the Big Brothers and Big Sisters who are represented here. I want to thank the Points of Light Foundation, the Network for Good. I want to thank Gloria Guard, who recently—recently, I mean, just like a couple of minutes ago—[laughter]—led me on the tour of her beautiful place, where homeless women and their children are loved and cared for and given training to succeed. What a successful program that's been. You know, if we'd have had hearings on that in Washington about how to make that program successful, they'd still be meeting—[laughter]—and will be meeting and would have been meeting for a decade. But there are social entrepreneurs in our society who help define America. And one of my jobs is to herald those social entrepreneurs and to thank them on behalf of all Americans.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. And one of the good things that will happen is that Americans will ask the question about how I can help fight evil by doing something good. That's how I think we ought to do it. I think we ought to say that if you're interested in fighting evil, love a neighbor. If you're interested in doing something for your country, help somebody in need; write a check; give your time; volunteer.

Societies change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, and Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts. And we're here to talk about how to put hope in people's hearts, because people love one another.

One of the things I've asked the country to do is to think about 4,000 hours of public service, for the rest of your life or 2 years. That's not hard for some, I understand that. I bet you've already done that.

Audience member. I think so.

The President. Well, you've got another 4,000 to go. [Laughter] People that responded—I mean, the response has been fantastic ever since my State of the Union,

when I said, "Serve the country." Let me just give you an example: 18,000 people have asked how to—if they can join the Peace Corps. And we're going to talk about the Peace Corps in a minute. AmeriCorps is up by 50 percent. The Citizen Corps numbers are up; the Senior Corps number is up by 500 percent. In other words, Americans have been asked to respond, and they are. And for that, we're a grateful nation.

Let me just talk about the USA Freedom Corps right quick. It's a chance for people to participate. It's an opportunity for people to join the AmeriCorps, which is a way to help strengthen community, Senior Corps, which is a way to help strengthen community and/or join in the fight against terror by being a part of a neighborhood watch program, for example. The Citizens Corps, as well, are to—help reinforce the first-responders in local communities. And of course, the Peace Corps is an opportunity to spread American values throughout the world. And if people are interested in joining the USA Freedom Corps, you can do so by calling 1-877-USA-Corps—or usafreedomcorps.gov on the Internet.

But serving America doesn't have to go through USA Freedom Corps. It's just an opportunity. You can serve America all kinds of ways. You can do so through a faith-based initiative. And one of the things we must do is get our Faith-Based Initiative passed out of the United States Senate. It already has passed the House. You can do so through United Way agencies. And by the way, they're not mutually exclusive.

And if you do, one of the things that I have asked our White House staff to put together is a booklet that would give you an opportunity to record your service. And if you're interested in picking up one of these, just dial up the Web site. If you're interested in recording, not only for yourself but recording for your family or a child, perhaps, what you've done to make America a better place, this is a good go-by. This is a good opportunity to bring a little discipline into your volunteer service.

When I looked at this, I envisioned kind of an interesting diary that can be passed from one generation to the next. I can't think of anything more interesting than a mom or

a dad volunteering, recording his or her thoughts, giving it to a child, who gives it to a grandchild. So somebody is sitting there reading about what it was like to live in the 21st century and how to help a neighborhood in need, for example, or how to help a person in need.

I also want you to know that you can do the same thing through an online tracking system on the USA Freedom Corps Web page.

And as well I'm going to instruct the agencies—Cabinets—in my Government to figure out ways to reduce barriers for people to be able to get involved better in their communities. I mean, sometimes we've got a process-oriented world. We ought to be a results-oriented world. We ought to care less about rules and regulations and more about how we're helping people help themselves. And so I'm looking forward to my Cabinet officers reporting back, and when we find barriers, we'll do everything we can to prevent them from inhibiting the love that exists in the neighborhoods around our country.

I believe that in order to live in a free society, you need to give something back. In order to make a society vibrant, all of us owe something to America. And one way to provide that is either through the military or through loving somebody and showing it through actual deeds. And I know that when you do so, I know that when you help a neighbor in need, it is a part of a complete life. It's a part of making sure that your life is not empty. It's a part of making sure that you are able to really understand the joys of a giving existence.

And so thank you for coming by. Thank you for listening to an optimistic President. I am so optimistic about our future. Not only do I believe that we're going to have lasting peace when we achieve our objectives in the war against terror, but I know that afterwards and during this period of trauma for many Americans, this country's strength, its goodness, and compassion will serve as a beacon for the rest of the world to see.

God bless you.

[At this point, the discussion began.]

The President. You know, AmeriCorps has got 50,000 AmeriCorps-ians. [Laughter]

And we hope to have 75,000—at least the budget calls for an increase of 50 percent in AmeriCorps corps. Thank you for your example.

Ms. Cardy. Sure. I think that we need to get the word out to more youth.

The President. You bet.

Ms. Cardy. I think that youth is a real strength in our community.

The President. Well, one way to do so is for people to see what joy you get in serving your community and how it's a part of a full life. I think people are becoming a little less materialistic in America now. One of the things—the enemies thought we were totally materialistic, obviously. They made a terrible miscalculation about the will and might of the United States and our drive. But I think people are beginning to realize that there's more to life than just materialism. You're a living example. Thank you.

[The discussion continued.]

The President. Well, thanks, Ira. Let me ask you, what's the attitude? Give us a read. How is the—at Pennsylvania, are the kids involved, interested, asking for ways to help, kind of complacent? Give us a feel.

Mr. Harkavy. Not complacent at all. In fact, young people come to Penn desiring to serve, and when they come to the university, they want to put their ideals into practice. So I think this is an extraordinary generation. We have to only give them the opportunity, and they will seize that opportunity in ways we could only dream of. So this generation, both pre-college and in college, is a generation of extraordinary talent, idealism, and ability. And they want to serve. And I'm convinced they'll respond to your call.

The President. Thanks, Ira. Thanks. I appreciate you. Thanks for coming.

[The discussion continued.]

The President. I told Stephanie earlier that reading is the new civil right. And so far you've heard three speakers talk about reading. And we've got to get it right. We've got to get this right. We've got, actually, a pretty good piece of legislation—a really good piece of legislation, education legislation, a core component of which is to make sure that children learn how to read, using,

as Ira mentioned, a science of reading and what works.

And so thank you very much for focusing on that. You're what I call a soldier in the armies of compassion. And it's pretty extraordinary that a social entrepreneur be so young. But I want to thank you for that very much. I bet one of the things you've learned is that by serving as an example, you stimulate others to serve as well.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Thank you, Stephanie. Good luck—love your spirit. Thank you.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. I appreciate you, Captain. Thank you very much. I'm glad the captain is here as a citizen soldier, because it serves as a reminder that we've got people who make the ultimate sacrifice, people who wear the uniform. We really are fighting for freedom and fighting for lasting peace. That's the key for, particularly, young Americans to understand, that this Nation didn't ask for war but that we'll be strong when it comes to the defense of values that we hold dear. And one of them is freedom of religion—or freedom to vote or freedom to express your opinion. We're fighting evil people who cannot stand freedom.

And sacrifice is beginning to become apparent to many who never thought they would have to sacrifice. There is a new culture evolving in the country—to the benefit, I might add, of future generations—and that is that there's something greater than yourself in life, and it's worth serving. Part of service is in the military; part of service is on the streets; part of service is loving people.

And so I want to thank you for coming, Captain, and thank you for your service.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate you, Elaine. Elaine's got an extraordinary spirit. She's like the Energizer Bunny when it comes to helping people—[*laughter*—perpetual motion.

And first of all, let me mention something about the Peace Corps. If there are any people that are interested in spreading U.S. values around the world, the Peace Corps is a

wonderful place to do so. You may share that—some of that with us, if you don't mind, just a little bit of your experience. Somebody may be watching that wonders if the Peace Corps is worthwhile.

Ms. Lander. The Peace Corps is worth every minute of it. I first decided I wanted to become a Peace Corps volunteer in third grade, when the motto was "Helping People Help Themselves." And when I graduated from college, I was fortunate; I got accepted to the Peace Corps quickly. And it was the most amazing 2 years of my life. And I tell people that all the time. You're making a call for 4,000 hours of volunteer service or 2 years. That's just a fraction of one's life span, and it's worth every minute.

The President. Our goal is to double the Peace Corps over 5 years. Our goal is as well to make sure we have the Peace Corps go to nations, particularly Muslim nations, that don't understand America. They don't understand our heart; they don't understand our compassion; they don't understand that we share the same values. I mean, listen, mom and dad love children in the Muslim world just like we do in America, and they've got to understand that, that there are some common beliefs that we share that will make—and the Peace Corps is a good way to spread that message.

Ms. Lander. Yes, I think some of us would like to say, for a lot of people, the world is a terribly big place, but for those of us that have served in the Peace Corps, it's a large planet made up of communities.

The President. That's right. The other thing is, is that Elaine is involved in kind of a first-responders program here in Philadelphia. We want people to become involved in the first-responders initiative. We have a Citizen Corps set up just for that, that really will help communities deal with disaster if disaster were ever to come. And we're doing everything, by the way, to prevent disaster from ever happening again. But should they hit us again, we need to have a response plan. And Elaine is very much involved in that as part of her duties with the Red Cross.

And I want to thank you for that as well. Thanks. Thanks for your love and your service.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Thanks, Dick. I thank you for your service to the country. It's never too late, is it?

First of all, you need to know that here in southeast Pennsylvania, because of the United Way, there's what's called a Volunteer Center. Chris, I want to thank you for running that. It's a place to help people find a way to volunteer. If you're interested, USA Freedom Corps doesn't suit your needs, the United Way Volunteer Center is also a good opportunity. They help train; they show you the way; they give you opportunities to—they show you where the needs are. And I want to thank you for that.

As well, we've got people here from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Steve Goldsmith, my friend, who's the former mayor of Indianapolis, is with us, as well as Les Lenkowsky. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here.

I hope what America gets to see as a result of this dialog is the fact that there are people in our country who understand that a culture of responsibility requires responsible behavior. It requires people not only to take care of their own by loving your children but also requires people to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We have living examples of people on the leading edge of ushering in a culture of personal responsibility. I want to thank you all for sharing your message with us. It is—Philadelphia is better off as a result of your daily concern for your fellow human beings.

America is strong. We won't relent. We won't relent in the face of evil. And we will win. We will win. We'll win hearts and souls and minds. This country has got a fabulous future ahead of it, because the strength of the country is not in the halls of our Government but in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Christine James-Brown, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, who moderated the discussion; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; Mike Fisher, State attorney general of Pennsylvania; Gloria Guard,

executive director, People's Emergency Center; and Stephen Goldsmith, member, Board of Directors, and Leslie Lenkowsky, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service. Discussion participants were: Jennifer Cardy, AmeriCorps member; Ira Harkavy, associate vice president and director, Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania; high school senior Stephanie Oliver, who founded a children's literacy project at age 13; Capt. Jeff Kyburz, USAR; Elaine Lander, nurse, American Red Cross disaster response team; and Richard Clemons, AmeriCorps*VISTA member.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Champion Teams

March 12, 2002

Thank you all. Welcome. I like a good, short introduction. [*Laughter*] Thanks, Chris, for being here. I appreciate you hosting this, and welcome to the White House.

We have never had so many champions inside a room in the White House history, so thank you for making history, not only on—when you won the championship but being here as well. It's such an honor to welcome you here. It's an unimaginable honor to live here and to share this with people from all around the country. This is the people's house. This isn't our house; it's the people's house. And we're glad you're able to see it, and we're glad to herald champs as well.

I love to talk about champs. I love to talk about winning and setting high standards and working hard to achieve those standards. And that's exactly what you all have done, and I really want to congratulate you.

I want to welcome Elaine Chao, who is the Secretary of Labor, who is here, and Mel Martinez, who is the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. They have got something at stake: One's from Kentucky; one's from Florida. [*Laughter*] Jim Bunning is here, who knows something about athletics himself—he's a Hall of Fame pitcher—fine United States Senator from Kentucky; Jim Kolbe from Arizona; and Ernie Fletcher

from Kentucky as well. Thank you all for coming.

I saw Donna Shalala the other day at an event, and she must have a pretty good touch. *[Laughter]* After all, she becomes the president, and they win two national championships. Congratulations. Welcome back to the White House, and thank you for your service to the country. I appreciate Peter Likins, from the University of Arizona, for being here as well. Where's Peter? Thank you for coming, sir. I appreciate you being here. Father Paul Locatelli, from Santa Clara University, thank you, Father, for coming. I appreciate you being here. And of course, we've mentioned the coaches and the captains.

Before we go have our picture taken, I do want to say a few comments about our country. First of all, we defend freedom, and we'll continue to defend freedom to make sure that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a free world. You know, the enemy, when they hit America, didn't understand us. They didn't think we were a nation that could conceivably sacrifice for something greater than ourself, that we were soft, that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we wouldn't defend anything we believed in. My, were they wrong. They missed—they just were reading the wrong magazine or watching the wrong Springer show. *[Laughter]*

They didn't understand America, and what they really don't understand is the nature of people who care about our society. They don't realize we're a compassionate nation.

And so I hope the champs who are here understand that with being a champion, you have a responsibility, a responsibility to uphold an example to others. You probably know this; I don't need to tell you this. But when you're playing baseball at the University of Miami, there's some little eighth-grade kid watching your every move, trying to figure out, you know, how cool he can be. If you're a star volleyball player at Stanford, somebody's watching; or from Santa Clara, there's some young child, young girl watching what it means to be a champ. And you have a responsibility as a champ to make the

right choices and to set a clear example for others.

And we all have a responsibility to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself. We've got a strong military here in America, and that's good. That's how we're going to make sure our homeland is secure, by using our military. But we can all stand up in the face of this evil, collectively stand up, by doing something good in our society. I hope the athletes understand that. I hope you understand that you have a responsibility as a champ not only to set the right example but to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You have a fantastic opportunity as champs to help define the character of America, to help say loud and clear that we will not tolerate evil and that we will—the collective good will of our country, the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness will define the very nature of America, that we will stand strong against evil by the collective goodness of our country.

You've shown that on the playing fields, and I want to congratulate you for being strong and great athletes. Show it on the field of life, as well, and America will be a better place.

It's such an honor to welcome you here. May God bless your futures, may God bless your talent, and may God bless America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:42 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chris Fowler, reporter, ESPN, who introduced the President; Donna E. Shalala, president, University of Miami; Peter Likins, president, University of Arizona; and Father Paul Locatelli, president, Santa Clara University. The President honored the University of Arizona women's softball team, the University of Kentucky cheerleaders, the University of Miami baseball and football teams, the University of North Carolina men's soccer team, the Santa Clara University women's soccer team, and the Stanford University women's volleyball team. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Border Security Legislation

March 12, 2002

I applaud the House for working in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that strengthens border security while recognizing the importance of keeping families together and making America a more welcoming society. Many immigrants who are otherwise eligible to become legal residents will be forced to leave the United States and their families unless a temporary extension is granted. The Senate should act quickly to pass this legislation and send it to my desk for signature.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released this statement in Spanish.

Memorandum on Inventory of Federal Service Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to Community and Other Service Activities

March 12, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Inventory of Federal Service Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to Community and Other Service Activities

I established by Executive Order 13254 of January 29, 2002, the USA Freedom Corps in order to encourage service and volunteerism in America. Building on our Nation's rich tradition of volunteer service, my Administration's policy is to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility by promoting, expanding, and enhancing service opportunities for all Americans. Consistent with that policy, I hereby direct you to take the following steps:

- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on the service opportunities both for your employees and for the public at large that are sponsored or administered by your department or agency. Such report shall also describe the ex-

tent to which this information is available to the public on your department or agency's website.

- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on Federal regulatory and programmatic barriers in your department or agency to community and other service by Americans. Such report shall also include recommendations as to how to modify or repeal such barriers in order to enhance service opportunities.

This directive shall be construed consistent with Executive Order 13254.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Keep Our Majority Political Action Committee Reception

March 12, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I am here because I am most interested in making sure Denny Hastert remains Speaker of the House. It's in the Nation's interest that he remain Speaker of the House.

And there's a reason why. First, he's a high quality person. I don't know if you all know this, but he was a wrestling coach at one time. He's the perfect Speaker. *[Laughter]*

He's a steady man; he's a joy to work with. I trust him; I trust his judgment. I really appreciate his can-do spirit. Denny's the kind of person that comes in the Oval Office and asks the question, "How can we get something done on behalf of the American people?" And I appreciate that attitude a lot. You know, some folks up here are looking for a fight. Denny's a guy looking for results.

And the record speaks pretty clearly. I remember first coming up here, and I told Denny that we've got to work together to get a tax cut for the American people. He said, "You bet." And as a result of his leadership, we got a tax cut for the American people, right at the right time.

History will judge that the tax cut was timely. It's a pretty simple theory, but one that works, and that is if the economy is slowing down, like it was, if you give people their own money back, that creates demand. And

demand creates production, and production equals jobs. And as a result of Denny's leadership, we passed important economic relief, called tax relief.

Some of them up here must be reading a different economics textbook than Denny and I are. There's a—for a while, they were talking about either stopping the tax relief, which I view as a tax increase. You never raise taxes in the midst of a recession, and Denny understands that, and I appreciate that.

We worked together on a really good education bill. We had some photos taken earlier, and one lady came through, said she was a teacher. I want to tell her and I want to tell everybody else that education has got to be one of the top domestic priorities, regardless of political party. And as a result of working closely together, we passed a substantial piece of education reform.

It is really good legislation. It is one that sets high standards, that refuses to accept mediocrity for any child, that challenges a system that quits on children early and just moves them through. That's not going to happen in America anymore, as far as we're concerned. We say we'll fund education; we'll focus money on where the needs are most, particularly amongst poor—the poor. But we expect everybody to learn. Not only do we expect everybody to learn, we firmly believe everybody can learn.

We've got a great reading initiative as a part of this bill. Denny understands what I know, that reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, you're going to be left behind. And we were deadly serious when we said no child will be left behind in America, and it starts with making sure every child learns to read.

We're on a mission here in America to achieve that objective. It, of course, trusts the local people—I mean, lest you think I forgot where I came from. I trust the Governors and the local school districts more than I trust people in Washington, DC, about educating children. So not only did we set high standards, we passed power out of Washington, DC. One size doesn't fit all. And if we expect to achieve excellence, we've got to trust local folks. And that's exactly the spirit of this bill.

As well, Denny understands the need to stimulate our economy even further. On the one hand, we want to make sure those whose lives were adversely affected on 9/11 receive help. But people in America don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore, as a result of his steadfast leadership, I had the honor of signing a economic stimulus package last Saturday in the Rose Garden, a package that not only helps workers but provides incentive for people to develop plant and equipment, which means jobs.

In other words, Denny understood what I understood: Jobs is the center of any good economic development plan. And Mr. Speaker, thanks to your steadfast leadership, I was able to sign a very good economic stimulus bill.

He's the kind of fella that doesn't say much, which is unusual here in Washington. *[Laughter]* He lets results speak for themselves.

History is going to show as well, we had a substantial legislative session in the House. As you know, as a result of the Speaker's leadership, we took a giant stride for improving our energy situation here in America. On the one hand, we encouraged more conservation and the development and modernization of our infrastructure, but on the other hand, we understand we've got to find more oil and gas in an environmentally friendly way here in America. The energy bill that passed the House was a really good piece of legislation. It is in our national security that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and Denny Hastert understood that.

As well, we passed a good trade bill out of the House of Representatives. It's a bill that has got confidence in the productivity of American farmers and American workers. It says that if you're confident, you open up markets. If you're confident, you encourage trade as opposed to protectionism. And thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we got trade promotion authority out of the House of Representatives.

Thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we're focusing on research and development and at the same time send a firm, clear message: We will ban cloning in America.

Thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we passed a Faith-Based Initiative which recognizes that there are some in our society who hurt—badly hurt—and that the next step of good welfare reform is to rally the armies of compassion all across America, to encourage faith-based programs to help people who have got significant needs in our society.

The last four pieces of legislation—energy, trade, cloning, as well as Faith-Based Initiative—passed the House, but they haven't gotten out of the Senate yet. Denny Hastert is a can-do leader that focuses not on the political parties but focuses on what's best for America. And it's good for our country that he's the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I submitted a budget that recognizes our Nation is in a long struggle for freedom, and Denny understands that. He understands that my most important job—and as a significant leader, his most important job—is to make sure the enemy doesn't attack America again, that our most important job is to protect innocent life here in our country.

We've got a great homeland defense strategy that the Speaker and I have been working on, as well as working with Tom Ridge. But I want to assure you all that I know this fact, that the best way to secure the homeland is to find the enemy, wherever he tries to hide, and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we're going to do here in America.

I gave a speech the other day, and I talked about the fact that we've accomplished the first stage of our mission, and that is, we liberated a country from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. We unleashed our mighty military, along with coalition forces, and we routed out the Taliban. I can't tell you how proud I am—I'm so proud of our military, men and women who are making huge sacrifices on behalf of freedom and that have not let us down.

We're now in another phase of this war, which is to deny the enemy, the Al Qaida and any other affiliated terrorist group, any sanctuary anywhere in the world. We want them on the run. We want them to be treated like the international terrorists and international criminals that they are. And there-

fore, our policy not only continues to focus on Afghanistan; we have just finished—or are in the midst of wrapping up a significant battle in Afghanistan where we have achieved a mighty victory.

We've lost life, and for those lives we mourn. And I hope those family members understand that the lost life was for a giant cause, and that is the freedoms we hold dear.

But we're not through in Afghanistan. Any time we find Al Qaida or like-minded killers bunched up, we're going to get them. We'll be steady; we'll be relentless; we'll be resolved; we will not blink. I will continue to lead this coalition. History has called us into action, and we're not going to miss this opportunity to make the world more peaceful.

And so whether it be in Afghanistan or in Yemen or in the Philippines, perhaps in Georgia, this mighty Nation will use our resources to deny sanctuary to anybody who thinks they can harm the United States of America or our friends or our allies.

And there is a large cause at hand, as well, and Denny understands this. This great Nation must never allow the world's most dangerous regimes to develop the world's most dangerous weapons and hook up with terrorist organizations.

Audience member. That's right.

The President. As you know, I made that pretty clear to the world. I will continue to make that clear. This Nation must speak clearly and strongly for universal values. We must never waver in our love for freedom. We must never waver in our disdain for those who use murder to achieve political ends. And so long as I'm the President, I promise you I will be steadfast and strong in the face of evil.

And the good thing about America is that the Nation understands this. We're a united nation. We're bound together, regardless of political party or where we live, by this common love for freedom. And America understands the stakes, and they recognize that history has called us into action. And for that I am most grateful to the American people. It is such an honor to be the President of such a great land.

As well, American people are beginning to show the world that we're a compassionate nation as well, that we're a kind and decent

people. We're tough on the battlefield; we're really tough. But also at home, neighbors love neighbors more than ever before. And I like to remind my fellow citizens that if you're interested in joining the war against terror, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define our country and allow me to say that good stands squarely in the face of evil.

We're a good people. We're a strong people. We're a resolute people. And we're a people who will not be deterred in our desire to not only protect our homeland but to make the world more peaceful for generations to come.

It is an honor to be here with a great man, the Speaker of the House, and it is an honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. in Constitution Hall.

Remarks at a Shamrock Presentation Ceremony With Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland

March 13, 2002

Taoiseach, thank you very much. Laura and I welcome you and Ms. Larkin here to the White House. I want to thank you for this fine gift to the people of the United States. I'm honored to accept it as a symbol of the strong and faithful friendship between our two nations.

Ireland has given many gifts to America throughout our history. This very house was designed by an Irish immigrant, based on your own Leinster House in Dublin, and has since been occupied by more than a dozen Presidents of Irish descent. One of them, President John Kennedy, said on a visit to Ireland, "When my great grandfather left here to become a copper in east Boston, he carried nothing with him except two things, a strong religious faith and a strong desire for liberty." The Kennedys were among millions of immigrants who came to America with that same faith and the same love of freedom.

As much as any other immigrant group, Irish-Americans have shaped this country for the better. They have fought in our wars, like the five Sullivan brothers who died together on one day on one ship in World War II. They helped settle our territories, like David Crockett. They helped build our cities and to this day still embody the spirit of public service. When the rollcall—when the roll was called of the policemen and firemen and emergency workers who died on September the 11th, it included many names like Donnelly and Duffy and Kelly and Sullivan.

Tens of millions of Americans trace their lineage to Ireland, and so many came here in times of grief for a country they left behind. Today, we are glad to see a strong and free and rising Ireland with so much to offer its people and the entire world. The ties of family and values are adding ties of diplomacy and trade, with commerce between our nations quadrupling in just the last 7 years.

September the 11th has reinforced these bonds of friendship. Ireland is a valued member of the international coalition against terrorism. Ireland has allowed American military planes to use its airports and has helped to rebuild Afghanistan. We appreciate your help in a just and vital cause.

America stands with you in another cause, bringing security and stability to the people of Northern Ireland. We've seen great progress since we gathered here a year ago. Many challenges lie ahead, but I am so optimistic that by working together we can meet these challenges and help create a lasting peace.

This morning we remember a good man who spread a gospel of peace. The greatest of Irish names, Saint Patrick, was brought to Ireland a slave and died there a saint. His courage and kindness helped to shape a great and noble culture. Americans are proud of our Irish influence, and we're grateful to our Irish friends.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:23 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Celia Larkin, who accompanied Prime Minister Ahern.

Remarks at a Reception for Saint Patrick's Day

March 13, 2000

Thank you very much. A hundred thousand welcomes to you all. I probably am not going to try to say that in Gaelic. [Laughter] But I have learned how to pronounce *Taoiseach*. [Laughter] Welcome back to the White House. It's good to be able to welcome a friend into your home. The *Taoiseach* is a friend.

I want to thank John Reid, the Secretary of State of Northern Ireland, for being here. John, how are you? He's on his honeymoon. [Laughter] Sorry to disrupt your honeymoon, but it's for a noble cause. [Laughter] David Trimble, the honorable David Trimble, First Minister of Northern Ireland—David, thank you for coming. Honorable Mark Durkan, appreciate you being here. I want to thank all the other leaders from Northern Ireland. I want to thank the ambassadors who are here. Members of Congress, always a pleasure to welcome you to the White House.

I want to thank you all for joining us in celebrating the memory of Saint Patrick. His generosity and love of liberty shaped Ireland. Through generations of immigrants, those values have helped shape America, and we are a better country for it.

Today we also celebrate our common bonds and common purpose. From America's earliest days, our Nation has profited from the contributions of the men and women of Ireland. In fact, over two centuries ago, it was an Irish boy born in County Wexford, John Barry, who made vital contributions to America's independence and is recognized as one of the founders of the Department of Navy.

Today, Ireland is supporting the coalition against terrorism, and we're proud of your support. You've frozen the assets of terrorists. You're helping respond to terror by leading the Security Council of the United Nations.

For tens of millions of Americans, our ties with Ireland are family ties, and this number includes some very distinguished Americans. We're honored today to have with us Irish-American firefighters who served our Nation so heroically on September the 11th. They represent the best of the United States when

they displayed enormous strength and determination in the face of overwhelming tragedy. And I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to tell you what I told you before: We remember your colleagues. We will not forget your colleagues who gave their lives trying to save the lives of others. Welcome to the White House.

The people of Northern Ireland know the threat of terror. They know the value of peace. America is encouraged with the great strides that have been made in implementing the Good Friday Agreement. We see progress in the daily business of the Northern Ireland Assembly, in the new class of police recruits drawn from all communities in Northern Ireland, in the first act of decommissioning taken last fall, and in the North/South Ministerial Council, which is promoting cooperation across the border in agriculture and transportation and other areas.

The good citizens of Northern Ireland and the leaders here today have demonstrated a fierce determination: The next generation must not grow up amid The Troubles. For all communities in Northern Ireland, there's only one future, and it must be a future of peace. Peacemaking can be hard work, like planting in hard soil, and as the Irish proverb tells us, "You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind."

Important work remains, and the United States stands ready to do its part. As we gather here today to celebrate an old friendship and new hopes, let me open this reception with a blessing: May the Irish hills caress you; may her lakes and rivers bless you; may the luck of the Irish enfold you; may the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

God bless Ireland, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:14 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Deputy First Minister Mark Durkan, Northern Ireland Assembly.

The President's News Conference

March 13, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. Tomorrow the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote

on the nomination of Charles Pickering to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Pickering is a respected and well-qualified nominee who was unanimously confirmed 12 years ago to the district bench. His nomination deserves a full vote, a vote in a full Senate. I strongly urge his confirmation.

While tomorrow's vote is about one man, a much larger principle is also at stake. Under our Constitution, the President has the right and responsibility to nominate qualified judges, and the legislative branch has the responsibility to vote on them in a fair and timely manner. This process determines the quality of justice in America, and it demands that both the President and Senate act with care and integrity, with wisdom and deep respect for the Constitution. Unfortunately, we are seeing a disturbing pattern where, too often, judicial confirmations are being turned into ideological battles that delay justice and hurt our democracy.

We now face a situation in which a handful of United States Senators on one committee have made it clear that they will block nominees, even highly qualified, well-respected nominees, who do not share the Senators' view of the bench, of the Federal courts. They seek to undermine the nominations of candidates who agree with my philosophy that judges should interpret the law, not try to make law from the bench. And because these Senators fear the outcome of a fair vote in the full Senate, they're using tactics of delay.

As a result, America is facing a vacancy crisis in the Federal judiciary. Working with both Republicans and Democrats, I have nominated 92 highly qualified, highly respected individuals to serve as Federal judges. These are men and women who will respect and follow the law. Yet the Senate has confirmed only 40 of these 92 nominees, and only 7 of the 29 nominees to the circuit courts, the courts of last resort in a vast majority of cases.

This is unacceptable. It is a bad record for the Senate. The Senate has an obligation to provide fair hearings and prompt votes to all nominees, no matter who controls the Senate or who controls the White House. By failing to allow full Senate votes on judicial nomi-

nees, a few Senators are standing in the way of justice. This is wrong, and the American people deserve better.

I will now be glad to answer a few questions, starting with Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. You are Fournier, aren't you?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. I'm looking at my chart here. [Laughter] Yes.

Nuclear Posture Review

Q. The Pentagon is calling for the development of low-yield nuclear weapons that could be used against China, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Russia, and Syria. Can you explain why the United States is considering this new policy, and how it might figure into the war on terrorism?

The President. I presume you're referring to the nuclear review that was recently in the press. Well, first of all, the nuclear review is not new. It's gone on for previous administrations. Secondly, the reason we have a nuclear arsenal that I hope is modern, upgraded, and can work, is to deter any attack on America. The reason one has a nuclear arsenal is to serve as a deterrence.

Secondly, ours is an administration that's committed to reducing the amount of warheads, and we're in consultations now with the Russians on such a—on this matter. We've both agreed to reduce our warheads down to 1,700 to 2,200. I talked with Sergey Ivanov yesterday, the Minister of Defense from Russia, on this very subject.

I think one of the interesting points that we need to develop and fully explore is how best to verify what's taking place, to make sure that there's confidence in both countries. But I'm committed to reducing the amount of nuclear weaponry and reducing the number of nuclear warheads. I think it's the right policy for America, and I know we can continue to do so and still keep a deterrence.

Q. Why a policy, though, that might go after a country like Libya or Syria?

The President. First of all, we've got all options on the table, because we want to make it very clear to nations that you will

not threaten the United States or use weapons of mass destruction against us or our allies or friends.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Do you agree with Kofi Annan that Israel must end the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands? And how is the Israeli offensive going to complicate General Zinni's mission?

The President. Well, first of all, it is important to create conditions for peace in the Middle East. It's important for both sides to work hard to create the conditions of a potential settlement. Now, our Government has provided a security plan that has been agreed to by both the Israelis and the Palestinians, called the Tenet plan. And George Mitchell did good work providing a pathway for a political settlement, once conditions warrant it.

Frankly, it's not helpful, what the Israelis have recently done, in order to create conditions for peace. I understand someone trying to defend themselves and to fight terror. But the recent actions aren't helpful. And so Zinni's job is to go over there and work to get conditions such that we can get into Tenet. And he's got a lot of work to do, but if I didn't think he could make progress, I wouldn't have asked him to go.

During the announcement of the Zinni mission, I said there was—we had a lot of phone conversations with people in the Middle East which led us to believe that there is a chance to create—to get into Tenet or at least create the conditions to get into Tenet. And I've taken that chance, and it's the right course of action at this point, Steve.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Q. Mr. President, let me look at what happened Monday with the INS visa approvals for Atta and Al-Shehhi and ask the requisite three-part question. Let me ask you, first of all, how high did the hair on the back of your neck rise when you heard about that? How can the American people have any faith in the credibility of the INS in its antiterrorist efforts? And what can you do, both immediately and for the long term, to assure nothing like that ever happens again?

The President. Well, it got my attention this morning when I read about that. I was stunned and not happy. Let me put it another way: I was plenty hot, and I made that clear to people in my administration. I don't know if the Attorney General has acted yet today or not. I haven't seen the wire story, but—he has. He got the message, and so should the INS.

The INS needs to be reformed, and it's one of the reasons why I called for the separation of the paperwork side of the INS from the enforcement side. And obviously, the paperwork side needs a lot of work. It's inexcusable. So we've got to reform the INS, and we've got to push hard to do so. This is an interesting wake-up call for those who run the INS. We are modernizing our system, John, and it needs to be modernized, so we know who's coming in and who's going out and why they're here.

Q. But what does this say, sir, about the credibility of the INS in its antiterrorism efforts?

The President. Well, it says they've got a lot of work to do. It says that the information system is antiquated. And having said that, they are—they got the message, and hopefully, they'll reform as quickly as possible. But yes, it got my attention in a negative way.

Catholic Church

Q. Mr. President, there's a growing crisis in the Catholic Church right now, involving pedophilia. And the crisis is exploding in Boston, under the watch of Cardinal Law, who you know. Do you think the archdiocese there is acting swiftly enough to deal with the issue of pedophilia among the ranks of priests?

The President. Well, I know many in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church; I know them to be men of integrity and decency. They're honorable people. I was just with Cardinal Egan today. And I'm confident the church will clean up its business and do the right thing. As to the timing, I haven't, frankly—I'm not exactly aware of the—how fast or how not fast they're moving. I just can tell you I trust the leadership of the church.

Q. Do you think Cardinal Law should resign?

The President. That's up to the church. I know Cardinal Law to be a man of integrity. I respect him a lot.

Iraq

Q. Vice President Cheney is on the road now trying to build support for possible action against Iraq. If you don't get that, down the road you decide you want to take action, would you take action against Iraq unilaterally?

The President. One of the things I've said to our friends is that we will consult, that we will share our views of how to make the world more safe. In regards to Iraq, we're doing just that. Every world leader that comes to see me, I explain our concerns about a nation which is not conforming to agreements that it made in the past, a nation which has gassed her people in the past, a nation which has weapons of mass destruction and apparently is not afraid to use them.

And so one of the—what the Vice President is doing is he's reminding people about this danger and that we need to work in concert to confront this danger. Again, all options are on the table, and—but one thing I will not allow is a nation such as Iraq to threaten our very future by developing weapons of mass destruction. They've agreed not to have those weapons; they ought to conform to their agreement, comply with their agreement.

Yes, John [John Cochran, ABC News].

Q. It seems to me—you seem to be saying, yes, you would consult with the allies and others, including in the Mideast, but if you had to, you'd go ahead and take action yourself.

The President. Well, you're answering the question for me. If I can remember the exact words, I'll say it exactly the way I said it before. We are going to consult. I am deeply concerned about Iraq, and so should the American people be concerned about Iraq, and so should people who love freedom be concerned about Iraq.

This is a nation run by a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons, a man who won't let inspectors into the country, a man who's obviously got something to hide. And he is a problem, and we're going to deal with him. But the first stage

is to consult with our allies and friends, and that's exactly what we're doing.

Everybody here on the front row? John [John Dickerson, Time]?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, on the question of Iraq, how does the increased violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians affect what Vice President Cheney is trying to do and affect the case you're trying to make with our Arab allies for a regime change or just unconditional inspections?

The President. Well, I understand that the unrest in the Middle East creates unrest throughout the region, more so now than ever in the past. But we're concerned about the Middle East, John, because it's affecting the lives of the Palestinians and our friends the Israelis. I mean, it's a terrible period of time when a lot of people are losing their lives, needlessly losing life. And terrorists are holding a potential peace process hostage.

And so while I understand the linkage, for us the policy stands on its own. The need for us to be involved in the Middle East is to help save lives. And we're going to stay involved in the Middle East and, at the same time, continue to talk about Iraq and Iran and other nations and continue to wage a war on terror, which is exactly what we're doing.

I want to reiterate what I said the other day. Our policy is to deny sanctuary to terrorists anywhere in the world, and we will be very actively—in doing that.

Q. But on the question of the Palestinians, Sharon has said that he shares your concern for those not involved in terror. Do you still think that's the case?

The President. I do. But unlike our war against Al Qaida, there is a series of agreements in place that will lead to peace. And therefore, we're going to work hard to see if we can't, as they say, get into Tenet and eventually Mitchell. I do—I certainly hope that Prime Minister Sharon is concerned about the loss of innocent life. We certainly—I certainly am. It breaks my heart and I know it breaks the hearts of a lot of people around the world to see young children lose their life as a result of violence, young children on both sides of this issue.

This is an issue that's consuming a lot of the time of my administration. And we have an obligation to continue to work for peace in the region, and we will—we will. The two are not mutually exclusive, however.

Yes.

Scope of the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, in your speeches now you rarely talk or mention Usama bin Laden. Why is that? Also, can you tell the American people if you have any more information, if you know if he is dead or alive? Final part, deep in your heart, don't you truly believe that until you find out if he is dead or alive, you won't really eliminate the threat of—

The President. Well, deep in my heart, I know the man is on the run if he's alive at all. Who knows if he's hiding in some cave or not? We haven't heard from him in a long time. And the idea of focusing on one person is—really indicates to me people don't understand the scope of the mission.

Terror is bigger than one person. And he's just—he's a person who's now been marginalized. His network is—his host government has been destroyed. He's the ultimate parasite who found weakness, exploited it, and met his match. He is—as I've mentioned in my speeches, I do mention the fact that this is a fellow who is willing to commit youngsters to their death, and he himself tries to hide—if, in fact, he's hiding at all.

So I don't know where he is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him, Kelly [Kelly Wallace, Cable News Network], to be honest with you. I'm more worried about making sure that our soldiers are well supplied, that the strategy is clear, that the coalition is strong, that when we find enemy bunched up like we did in Shahi-Kot Mountains, that the military has all the support it needs to go in and do the job, which they did.

And there will be other battles in Afghanistan. There's going to be other struggles like Shahi-Kot, and I'm just as confident about the outcome of those future battles as I was about Shahi-Kot, where our soldiers are performing brilliantly. We're tough; we're strong; they're well equipped. We have a good strategy. We are showing the world we

know how to fight a guerrilla war with conventional means.

Q. But don't you believe that the threat that bin Laden posed won't truly be eliminated until he is found either dead or alive?

The President. Well, as I say, we haven't heard much from him. And I wouldn't necessarily say he's at the center of any command structure. And again, I don't know where he is. I—I'll repeat what I said. I truly am not that concerned about him. I know he is on the run. I was concerned about him when he had taken over a country. I was concerned about the fact that he was basically running Afghanistan and calling the shots for the Taliban.

But once we set out the policy and started executing the plan, he became—we shoved him out more and more on the margins. He has no place to train his Al Qaida killers anymore. And if we—excuse me for a minute—and if we find a training camp, we'll take care of it. Either we will, or our friends will. That's one of the things—part of the new phase that's becoming apparent to the American people is that we're working closely with other governments to deny sanctuary or training or a place to hide or a place to raise money.

And we've got more work to do. See, that's the thing the American people have got to understand, that we've only been at this 6 months. This is going to be a long struggle. I keep saying that; I don't know whether you all believe me or not. But time will show you that it's going to take a long time to achieve this objective. And I can assure you, I am not going to blink, and I'm not going to get tired, because I know what is at stake. And history has called us to action, and I am going to seize this moment for the good of the world, for peace in the world, and for freedom.

Mike Allen [Mike Allen, Washington Post]. I'm working my way back there, slowly but surely. Michael.

Executive-Legislative Branch Relationship

Q. Mr. President, a bipartisan group of lawmakers has asked Governor Ridge to testify about the administration's domestic homeland security efforts. Why has the

White House said that Governor Ridge will not testify?

The President. Well, he's not—he doesn't have to testify. He's a part of my staff, and that's part of the prerogative of the executive branch of Government, and we hold that very dear.

Q. Mr. President, that's another area, along with the war and the development of the energy policy—

The President. This wasn't a trick question, Mike—get me to say that and then kind of have a quick followup? But go ahead.

Q. No, sir. But that's an area where Congress has said—members of both parties have told us they're not getting enough information from the White House.

The President. Oh, Mike, Mike, Mike, we consult with Congress all the time. I've had meaningful breakfasts with the leadership in the House and the Senate. I break bread with both Republicans and Democrats right back here in the Oval Office and have a good, honest discussion about plans, objectives, what's taking place, what's not taking place. We have members of our Cabinet briefing. Condoleezza Rice is in touch with the Members of the Congress. We are in touch with—we understand the role of the Congress. We must justify budgets to Congress. And so I don't buy that, to be frank with you.

Q. Mr. President, given—

The President. Mike, this is the third. Two followups is a record. Keep trying.

Q. Given that you've not convinced everyone in your own party of that, to what degree are you trying to recalibrate the power between Congress and the Presidency?

The President. Mike, I'm just doing my job. We'll let all the kind of the legal historians figure all that out, you know.

First of all, I'm not going to let Congress erode the power of the executive branch. I have a duty to protect the executive branch from legislative encroachment. I mean, for example, when the GAO demands documents from us, we're not going to give them to them. These were privileged conversations. These were conversations when people come into our offices and brief us. Can you imagine having to give up every single transcript of what is advised me or the Vice Presi-

dent? Our advice wouldn't be good and honest and open.

And so I viewed that as an encroachment on the power of the executive branch. I have an obligation to make sure that the Presidency remains robust and the legislative branch doesn't end up running the executive branch.

On the other hand, there's plenty of consultation, Mike. I don't know what single Republican you're referring to. But if you'd give me the name afterwards, I'll be glad to have him over for another consultation, if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*]

David [David Sanger, New York Times].

Saudi Peace Initiative

Q. Mr. President, when you endorsed the Saudi plan on the Middle East, or the Saudi vision, it called, of course, for full normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab States. You've seen some backing away from that now by some other Arab countries and, in fact, by the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia. Can you imagine endorsing a plan that calls for anything other than full normalization, anything less than full normalization?

The President. Well, I think the thing—in order for there to be a plan that is acceptable to all parties, it must recognize the right of Israel to exist. And that's what I thought was very encouraging from the Saudi declaration. It was the first such declaration, if I'm not mistaken, David—you probably know that better than me—but that the Crown Prince said there ought to be a independent state but—that recognizes Israel. That's how I interpreted it—Israel's right to exist. And I think that's a very important declaration. That's why we seized on that. I have said the same thing myself, but it obviously didn't have nearly the same weight as the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia in saying that.

Q. Normalization means something a little deeper than that.

The President. Well, but first of all, there's nothing more deep than recognizing Israel's right to exist. That's the most deep thought of all. After all, there are some skeptics who think that nations in that part of the world don't want Israel to exist. The first and most important qualification, it seems like to me, for there to be peace is for people

in the region to recognize Israel's right to exist. And therefore, policies ought to follow along those lines. I can't think of anything more deep than that right, that ultimate and final security.

And when the Crown Prince indicated that was on his mind, we embraced that, strongly embraced that.

Go ahead.

Nature of the War on Terrorism

Q. I was about to say, just a moment ago, you said that many of your allies are joining you in the war on terrorism. You do have a number of countries right now that seem to be right in the middle—Indonesia, Somalia—places that you've been worried about but that have not asked for our training, our help. Would you consider going into a country that did not seek your aid?

The President. Well, that's one of those pretty cleverly worded hypotheticals. Let me just put it to you this way, David: We will take actions necessary to protect American people, and I'm going to leave it at that. That's a good question, however.

Yes?

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Agreements

Q. Mr. President, back to nuclear issues, the Russian Defense Minister expressed the hope today that agreements on the new strategic framework could be signed by the time of your visit next May in Moscow. Is it realistic? And second, are you ready to sign documents in a treaty form? And third, have you made progress on the issue of destroying versus storing nuclear warheads?

The President. Well, I share the Minister's optimism that we can get something done by May. I'd like to sign a document in Russia, when I'm there. I think it would be a good thing. And therefore, we've got to make sure that those who are interested in making sure that the cold war relationship continues on are kind of pushed in the background. In other words, we've got to work hard to establish a new relationship.

I also agree with President Putin that there needs to be a document that outlives both of us. What form that comes in, we will discuss. There is a—I think David asked me this question, as a matter of fact, back in Slo-

venia, if I'm not mistaken, about storage versus destruction. We'd be glad to talk to the Russians about that. I think the most important thing, though, is verification, is to make sure that whatever decision is made, that there is open verification so as to develop a level of trust.

There is a constraint as well. I mean, the destruction of nuclear warheads requires a lot of work and a lot of detailed work, and that, in itself, is going to take time, and that's got to be a part of the equation as well.

But those are all issues we're discussing. I had a good—very good discussion with Sergey Ivanov yesterday. I'm confident that President Putin is interested in making a deal, coming up with a good arrangement that will codify a new relationship. The more Russia—the more we work with Russia, the better the world will be. And we've got a good, close relationship with them.

We've got a few sticking points. We've got an issue on chickens, for example, that some of you have followed. We made it pretty darn clear to them that I think we've probably got to get this chicken issue resolved and get those chickens moving from the United States into the Russian market. [Laughter] We laugh, but nevertheless it is a problem—that we must honor agreements. But I believe we're going to have great relations with Russia, and we're going to work hard to achieve them.

Yes, go ahead. You're next, Angle [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Debt Ceiling

Q. Mr. President, can I ask about the debt limit, sir? And specifically about the Treasury Secretary's plan to borrow cash from the Federal retirement funds, can you justify that to the American people, sir?

The President. I'm not going to comment on the Secretary of Treasury's plan. I'll tell you what I think ought to happen. I think Congress ought to pass a clean bill that raises the debt ceiling, and I'll sign it. I think it's important. I hope we can get that kind of spirit out of Congress. If they do that, it will solve the problem. We don't need to be playing politics with the debt ceiling, particularly now that we're at war.

And we're working with the Congress on that. I've had some pretty good discussions with the leadership about the need to get a clean bill coming. And I hope they do. I hope they listen; I hope they respond.

Q. There are those who will say that borrowing from the Federal retirement funds is also a form of playing politics——

The President. Well, if the Congress passes the bill, we're fine. And we've got to get that done. It's their responsibility to get the debt ceiling raised. I hope they do it quickly and soon, and we're going to work with them to get it done.

Jim.

Nuclear Posture Review

Q. Mr. President, what do you make of the dust-up over the nuclear review? And have you made any decisions about its recommendations? In particular, what is your view about building smaller nuclear weapons, which some people believe would make them more likely to be used?

The President. Well, first of all, I view our nuclear arsenal as a deterrent, as a way to say to people that would harm America, "Don't do it." That's a deterrent, that there's a consequence. And the President must have all options available to make that deterrent have meaning. And that's how I view the review.

Q. But what is your thinking, sir, on smaller nuclear weapons, which some analysts believe would be a major departure and would make them more likely——

The President. My interest is—Jim, my interest is to reduce the threat of a nuclear war, is to reduce the number of nuclear warheads. I think we've got plenty of warheads to keep the peace. I'm interested in—and that's why I told President Putin and told the country, if need be, we'll just reduce unilaterally to a level commensurate^{*} with keeping a deterrence and keeping the peace.

So I'm interested in having all—having an arsenal at my disposal or at the military's disposal that will keep the peace. We're a peaceful nation and moving along just right and just kind of having a time, and all of a sudden,

we get attacked, and now we're at war, but we're at war to keep the peace.

And it's very important for people in America to understand that at least my attitude on this is that we're not out to seek revenge. Sure, we're after justice, but I also view this as a really good opportunity to create a lasting peace.

And so, therefore, the more firm we are and the more determined we are to take care of Al Qaida and deal with terrorism in all its forms, particularly that of global reach, that we have a very good chance of solving some difficult problems, including the Middle East or the subcontinent. But it's going to require a resolve and firmness from the United States of America.

One of the things I've learned in my discussions and at least listening to the echo chamber out there in the world is that if the United States were to waver, some in the world would take a nap when it comes to the war on terror. And we're just not going to let them do that. And that's why you hear me spend a lot of time talking to the American people—at least, I hope I'm talking to them, through you—about why this is going to take a long period of time and why I'm so determined to remain firm in my resolve. And—anyway.

Draft Registration/Military Readiness

Q. Mr. President, could I——

The President. Yes, sir? You asked the softest. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'd like to ask you about the public service component of your initiative as it——

The President. The what, now?

Q. The public service initiative of yours as it relates to the war, which you've just said again, that could go on for quite a while. As we all know, 18-year-old men in this country, when they turn 18, they're required to register with the draft, which is now dormant but could be activated again. At this time—and we're looking at sort of an unlimited situation with this war—should the country expect the same of women in this country?

The President. You mean in terms of the draft?

Q. Yes.

The President. Well, the country shouldn't expect there to be a draft. I know

^{*} White House correction.

they're registering. But the volunteer army is working. Particularly when Congress passes my budget, it's going to make it more likely to work. There's been a pay raise, and then we'll have another pay raise. And the mission is clear; the training is good; the equipment is going to be robust. Congress needs to pass this budget.

So I don't worry about—and people shouldn't worry about a draft. We do have women in the military, and I'm proud of their service. And they're welcome in the military; they make a great addition to the military.

Q. You don't think—

The President. Pardon me?

Q. —that the military will be stretched too thinly, as some people have feared?

The President. Ed [Ed Chen, Los Angeles Times], I don't think so. I think we're in pretty good shape right now. It's—there's no question we have obligations around the world, which we will keep. If you went to—did you go to Korea with us?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Well, there's a major obligation there of 37,000 troops, an obligation that is an important obligation, one that I know is important, and we will keep that obligation. But we've got ample manpower to meet our needs.

Plus, we've got a vast coalition of nations willing to lend their own manpower to the war. And as I mentioned the other day in my speech there on the South Lawn, 17 nations are involved in this first theater in Afghanistan. And we had Canadians and Danish and Germans and Australians—I'm probably going to leave somebody out—Brits, Special Forces troops on the ground, boots on the ground, as they say, willing to risk their lives in a dangerous phase of this war, and men going cave to cave, looking for killers. These people don't like to surrender; they don't surrender. But we've been able to count on foreign troops to help us.

And so, Ed, I think we're in good shape, I really do. And if not, we'll—I'll address the Nation, but I don't see any need to right now.

Mexico-U.S. Relations

Q. Will you take one on Mexico?

The President. Si.

Q. You are going to my country next week.

The President. *Es la verdad.*

Q. Besides what President Fox presented to you last year, you haven't acted in favor of the Mexican proposal by the President of Mexico. You haven't presented anything to Congress.

The President. Excuse me a second, what proposal are you talking about?

Q. The one the President Fox mentioned—

The President. In specific. I don't mean to interrupt you.

Q. The regularization of—

The President. Oh, the immigration issue?

Q. Yes, the immigration issue. So when are you going to present any concrete steps in that direction for Mexico?

The President. Well, first of all, we are working closely with Mexico. We've had many of our administration officials down there. Tom Ridge just came back; he had a very good dialog with President Fox. John Ashcroft has been very much involved with the Mexican Government. We have had a wide-ranging discussions as to how to make the border work better, how to make the border more secure for both countries. We've had a really good dialog.

Some of what needs to be done didn't require law. I'm glad you brought that up. We just got 245(i) passed in the House of Representatives. Hopefully, that will come out of the Senate quickly. That's a step toward—that's a good reform, is one that I support. I also cautioned President Fox at the time that there will be no blanket amnesty in America. I don't think the will of the American people is for blanket amnesty. I think he understands that.

And so, therefore, the thing we've got to do is figure out how to make sure willing employers are able to match up with willing employees. And so we'll work—we're making progress; 245(i) is good progress.

Yes.

Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott Speicher

Q. Mr. President, do you believe there is an American pilot from the Gulf War still alive in Iraq? And if so, how might that complicate any actions you consider—

The President. Well, let me just say this to you. I know that the man has got an MIA status, and it reminds me once again about the nature of Saddam Hussein if, in fact, he's alive. And therefore, it's just another part of my thinking about him, my—I guess, lack of respect is a good way to define it.

Q. Does it complicate any action you might take—you might consider taking against Iraq in the war against terror?

The President. Well, that's where we're—this is the old hypothetical again. And let me just put it this way: It doesn't change my opinion about him. Matter of fact, it reinforces the fact that anybody who would be so cold and heartless as to hold an American flyer for all this period of time without notification to his family just—I wouldn't put it past him, given the fact that he gassed his own people.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Yes, ma'am?

Zimbabwe Elections/Nomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Q. Okay, thank you. Do you officially recognize the Zimbabwe elections? And what are your thoughts about Mugabe? And also on Pickering, what are your thoughts—

The President. Wait, whoa, whoa. [Laughter] Wait a minute. This is all over the lot. [Laughter] Wait a minute—all over the lot.

Q. Mr. President, when I get a chance with you, I have to take it.

The President. You talk about somebody taking the liberty of a—

Q. When I get a chance with you, I have to take it.

The President. I can see that. [Laughter] Go ahead, take it.

Q. Okay.

The President. Is this a six-part question?

Q. No, it's only three.

The President. Three, okay. [Laughter] Let me start writing them down. First one is Zimbabwe. Go ahead.

Q. Yes, and with Pickering—

The President. Pickering—

Q. What are your thoughts about many of your nominees who are opposed have issues with racial bias, including Pickering?

The President. Yes, okay. That's two.

Q. Okay.

The President. You're going to limit it to two? Thank you very much.

Q. Yes, you're welcome.

The President. That's a good break.

First on Pickering, Pickering has got a very strong record on civil rights. Just ask the people he lives with. I had the honor of meeting the attorney general of Mississippi, Moore. Attorney General Moore—fine Democrat, elected statewide in the State of Mississippi; a man who, I suspect, is a man who got elected because he cares deeply about the civil rights of his citizens—came up and sat in the Oval Office and said, Judge Pickering has had a fine record on civil rights and should be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. I hope the Senators hear that. I hope they listen to Moore or Al Gore's brother-in-law or the former Governor of Mississippi, Winters.

Zimbabwe. We do not recognize the outcome of the election because we think it's flawed. And we are dealing with—and we are dealing with our friends to figure out how to deal with this flawed election.

Q. What are the options then?

The President. Well, we're dealing with our friends right now to figure out how to deal with it.

Class Action Reform Legislation

Q. The House is voting on class action reform this evening. Given the current political atmosphere, do you want to enact new legal reforms into law this year? And if so, which ones are you going to—

The President. Well, here's the thing. I am for reducing the number of lawsuits in our society. I think everybody will have their day in court, but I think a society that is so kind of litigious-oriented is one that is bad for jobs, bad for the creation of jobs. And if any reform—I will support reforms which reduce lawsuits and at the same time provide—give people the opportunity to take their case to court.

Q. Are there any ones you want to pursue?

The President. Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. Super Stretch, Little Stretch. Regular Stretch. [Laughter]

Corporate Management Reform

Q. Last week you announced an ambitious set of changes to make it easier for the Government to crack down on corporate wrongdoing. Yet Republicans in Congress and your own SEC Chairman says, essentially, a lot more money than you proposed will be needed to do the job effectively. I'm talking about the——

The President. You're talking about when I called on the SEC to enact laws to make sure that corporate CEOs take responsibility for their books, make sure that when somebody says they've got X amount in liabilities, that X equals X and not X equals Y or something less than X. Yes, I strongly believe that, and the SEC needs to get after it. And I don't use the excuse of not enough money in the budget, frankly. I need to know the numbers, but we need action. And we need reasonable action, without causing a plethora of lawsuits.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Perspective on the War on Terrorism

Q. Thank you, sir. I wanted to ask about the second phase of the war. As a member of the Vietnam generation, do you worry as you send these military advisers all over the world, typically to chaotic places, that they may get involved in direct conflict and the situation could escalate? And are you prepared to do that?

The President. Interesting question. Hutch, let me tell you something. I believe this war is more akin to World War II than it is to Vietnam. This is a war in which we fight for the liberties and freedom of our country.

Secondly, I understand there's going to be loss of life and that people are going to—and the reason I bring that up is because for a while, at least for a period, it seemed to be that the definition of success in war was, nobody lost their life. Nobody grieves harder than I do when we lose a life. I feel responsible for sending the troops into harm's way. It breaks my heart when I see a mom sitting on the front row of a speech and she's weeping, openly weeping for the loss of her son. It's—it just—I'm not very good about concealing my emotions, but I strongly believe we're doing the right thing.

And Hutch, the idea of denying sanctuary is vital to protect America. And we're going to be, obviously, judicious and wise about how we deploy troops.

I learned some good lessons from Vietnam. First, there must be a clear mission. Secondly, the politics ought to stay out of fighting a war. There was too much politics during the Vietnam war. There was too much concern in the White House about political standing. And I've got great confidence in General Tommy Franks and great confidence in how this war is being conducted. And I rely on Tommy, just like the Secretary of Defense relies upon Tommy and his judgment—whether or not we ought to deploy and how we ought to deploy.

Tommy knows the lessons of Vietnam just as well as I do. Both of us—he was a—he graduated from high school in '63, and you and I graduated in '64. We're of the same vintage. We paid attention to what was going on. And so—I think it was '64, wasn't it?

Q. No, sir.

The President. Oh. [Laughter] You're not that old. You're not that old.

I'll give you an interesting fact: I don't know if you all know this or not, speaking about Tommy, but Tommy Franks went to Midland Lee High School, class of '63. Laura Bush went to Midland Lee High School, class of '64. That's an interesting thing for the social columns. [Laughter] For those of you who allow for your news-gathering to slip into social items. [Laughter] Or social gossip, which sometimes happens; it doesn't happen that much.

Q. Did they know each other?

The President. No. [Laughter]

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times]?

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Q. Mr. President, who do you hold responsible for the failure of the INS this week? I see the Attorney General said he was going to hold individuals responsible——

The President. Going to do—hold——

Q. Hold individuals responsible.

The President. Well, let's see what the Inspector General comes back with. But obviously, I named a good man to run it, Ziglar, and he's held accountable. His responsibility

is to reform the INS. Let's give him time to do so. He hasn't been there that long, but he now has got another wake-up call. The first wake-up call was from me: This agency needs to be reformed. And secondly, he got another one with this embarrassing disclosure today that, as I mentioned, got the President's attention this morning. I could barely get my coffee down when I opened up my local newspaper—well, a newspaper. [Laughter]

U.N. Security Council Resolution

Q. Mr. President, back on the Middle East, sir, can you tell us what was behind the timing of pursuing a U.N. resolution at this point regarding a future Palestinian state?

The President. Well, there was a—sometimes these resolutions just get a life of their own. And sometimes we have to veto them, and sometimes we can help—help the message. This time, we felt like we were able to make the message a clear message that we agreed with. If it was a message that tried to isolate or condemn our friend, I'd have vetoed it. In this case, it was a universal message that could lead to a more peaceful—a peaceful world. And so we supported it. As a matter of fact, we helped engineer it; we were a part of the process.

And as to the timing, I don't know the timing. All I know is the things start showing up on my desk. And—

Q. When did it start showing up on your radar screen, sir?

The President. Well, desk or radar screen, same thing. About 24 hours ago. And I heard from the Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice that there was a little movement afoot there at the Security Council. And so we made a decision, a conscious decision to try to send a statement that it was a hopeful statement. It turned out to be a good statement, by the way. It was one of those statements that was embraced by all the parties except for one that couldn't bring themselves to vote for it, Syria.

But again, we are working hard to create the conditions for a security arrangement that will then enable the Mitchell process to kick in. I know you all are tired of hearing me say that. But unlike other parts of the

world, in this part of the world, Tenet and Mitchell have been agreed to by both parties, which means there is a hopeful process if we can get people into the process. And so our mission is to do that. And that's why Zinni is over there.

Listen, I want to thank you very much. I've enjoyed this press conference. I hope you have as well. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi, terrorists involved in the September 11 attacks; Edward Cardinal Egan, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; Bernard Cardinal Law, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, MA; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Crown Prince Abdullah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; Mike Moore, Mississippi attorney general; Frank W. Hunger, Al Gore's brother-in-law; and former Governor William Winters of Mississippi. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001; the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and H.R. 1885, the "Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001."

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

March 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result

of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Australia-United
States Social Security Agreement**
March 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of each provision. The Agreement was signed at Canberra on September 27, 2001.

The United States-Australia Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Australia Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement. Annexed to this re-

port is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Australia Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

**Remarks at the Inter-American
Development Bank**
March 14, 2002

Thank you all. *Sientese. Gracias*, Enrique. It's about time you invited a President here. [*Laughter*] It's about time one accepted.

Thank you for the energy and leadership you bring to the challenge of global development. I'm honored to be at the Inter-American Development Bank, which has done a lot of good in our hemisphere over the last 40 years. I appreciate your work, and I'm proud of your accomplishments.

Along with many of you, I'll be in Monterrey, Mexico, next week as leaders from around the world focus on the important work of reducing global poverty.

I'm here today to announce a major new commitment by the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world's poorest people. Along with significant new resources to fight world poverty, we will insist on the reforms necessary to make this a fight we can win.

As you can see, I'm traveling in some pretty good company today: Bono. [*Laughter*] We just had a great visit in the Oval Office. Here's what I know about him: First, he's a good musician; secondly, he is willing to use his position in a responsible way. He is willing to lead, to achieve what his heart tells him, and that is nobody—nobody—should be

living in poverty and hopelessness in the world. Bono, I appreciate your heart. And to tell you what an influence you've had, Dick Cheney walked in the Oval Office; he said, "Jesse Helms wants us to listen to Bono's ideas." [Laughter]

I appreciate Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Treasury. I appreciate his work; I appreciate his advice. He's a fine member of my Cabinet. Cardinal McCarrick, thank you for coming, sir; I'm honored to have you here. Jim Wolfensohn, thank you for your leadership of the World Bank. I appreciate Jose Fourquet. Thank you, Jose, for taking on the responsibility you've done. It's good to see Andrew Natsios here of AID. Thank you, Andrew, for coming. You've done a fine job, by the way, in helping prevent starvation in Afghanistan. I appreciate your work, and I appreciate your focus. I want to thank John Negroponte, *Embajador de la* United Nations. I want to thank all the other Ambassadors who are here. I look around, I can see many familiar faces. Thank you all for coming today.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I see Frist and DeWine from the United States Senate. I appreciate both Senators for coming. I appreciate the Congressman from Puerto Rico; thank you for coming, *senor*. I see the Congress lady from Miami, Florida. I see Spencer Bachus from Alabama. I think that's it; I better—well, anyway, if anybody else is here—[laughter]—Chris Cannon, I think, from Utah is here. Hey, Chris, thank you for coming, and thank you all for taking an interest in this subject. It's an important subject.

As you all know and we all know, America is engaged in a global struggle, a mighty struggle against the forces of terror. Yet, even as we fight to defeat terror, we must also fight for the values that make life worth living, for education and health and economic opportunity. This is both the history of our country, and it is the calling of our times.

In World War II, we fought to make the world safer, then worked to rebuild it. As we wage war today to keep the world safe from terror, we must also work to make the world a better place for all its citizens.

The advances of free markets and trade and democracy and rule of law have brought

prosperity to an ever-widening circle of people in this world. During our lifetime, per capita income in the poorest countries has nearly doubled. Illiteracy has been cut by one-third, giving more children a chance to learn. Infant mortality has been almost halved, giving more children a chance to live. Nations from India to Chile have changed old ways and, therefore, found new wealth. Nations from Turkey to Mali have combined Islam with progress.

Yet in many nations, in many regions, poverty is broad and seemingly inescapable, leaving a dark shadow—a dark shadow—across a world that is increasingly illuminated by opportunity. Half the world's people still live on less than \$2 a day. For billions, especially in Africa and the Islamic world, poverty is spreading, and per capita income is falling. In Malawi, thousands of teachers die each year from AIDS, and life expectancy has fallen to only 38 years. In Sierra Leone, nearly one-third of all babies born today will not reach the age of five, and in Sudan, only half the children attend school.

This growing divide between wealth and poverty, between opportunity and misery, is both a challenge to our compassion and a source of instability. We must confront it. We must include every African, every Asian, every Latin American, every Muslim, in an expanding circle of development.

The advance of development is a central commitment of American foreign policy. As a nation founded on the dignity and value of every life, America's heart breaks because of the suffering and senseless death we see in our world. We work for prosperity and opportunity because they're right. It's the right thing to do. We also work for prosperity and opportunity because they help defeat terror.

Poverty doesn't cause terrorism. Being poor doesn't make you a murderer. Most of the plotters of September the 11th were raised in comfort. Yet persistent poverty and oppression can lead to hopelessness and despair. And when governments fail to meet the most basic needs of their people, these failed states can become havens for terror.

In Afghanistan, persistent poverty and war and chaos created conditions that allowed a terrorist regime to seize power. And in many

other states around the world, poverty prevents governments from controlling their borders, policing their territory, and enforcing their laws.

Development provides the resources to build hope and prosperity and security. Development is not always easy, but the conditions required for sound development are clear. The foundation of development is security, because there can be no development in an atmosphere of chaos and violence. Today, the United States is leading a broad and vast coalition defending global security by defeating global terror. Meeting this commitment is expensive, but securing peace and freedom is never too expensive.

Development also depends upon financing. Contrary to the popular belief, most funds for development do not come from international aid; they come from domestic capital, from foreign investment, and especially from trade. America buys and imports over 500—\$450 billion in products from the developing world every year—\$450 billion of purchases every single year. That is more than 8 times the amount developing countries receive in aid from all sources. Trade is the engine of development, and by promoting it, we will help meet the needs of the world's poor.

Successful development also requires citizens who are literate, who are healthy and prepared and able to work. Development assistance can help poor nations meet these education and health care needs. That's why the United States provides more than \$10 billion a year for development assistance for food and for humanitarian aid. That is also why my administration has committed \$500 million to the global fund to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases.

And we will work with Congress to increase this commitment, to show our love and compassion by increasing our commitment as the fund gets organized, develops a strategy, and shows success. We're spending billions more on AIDS research and other programs to fight the disease around the world.

Yet many of the old models of economic development assistance are outdated. Money that is not accompanied by legal and economic reform are oftentimes wasted. In

many poor nations, corruption runs deep; private property is unprotected; markets are closed; monetary and fiscal policies are unsustainable; private contracts are unenforceable.

When nations refuse to enact sound policies, progress against poverty is nearly impossible. In these situations, more aid money can actually be counterproductive because it subsidizes bad policies, delays reform, and crowds out private investment.

The needs of the developing world demand a new approach. In Monterrey, we have a tremendous opportunity to begin acting on a new vision of development. This new vision unleashes the potential of those who are poor, instead of locking them into a cycle of dependence. This new vision looks beyond arbitrary inputs from the rich and demands tangible outcomes for the poor.

America supports the international development goals in the U.N. Millennium Declaration and believes that these goals are a shared responsibility of developed and developing countries. To make progress, we must encourage nations and leaders to walk the hard road of political, legal, and economic reform so all their people can benefit.

Today I call for a new compact for global development, defined by new accountability for both rich and poor nations alike. Greater contributions from developed nations must be linked to greater responsibility from developing nations. The United States will lead by example. We will increase our development assistance by \$5 billion over the three—over the next three budget cycles. This new money, above and beyond existing aid requests—is above and beyond existing aid requests in the current budget I submitted to the Congress.

These funds will go into a new Millennium Challenge Account. Under this account, among other efforts, we will expand our fight against AIDS. We will bring computer instruction to young professionals in developing nations. We will assist African businesses and their people to sell goods abroad. We will provide textbooks and training to students in Islamic and African countries. We will apply the power of science and technology to increase harvests where hunger is greatest.

These are some of the examples of what we intend to do. The goal is to provide people in developing nations the tools they need to seize the opportunities of the global economy. In return for this additional commitment, we expect nations to adopt the reforms and policies that make development effective and lasting.

The world's help must encourage developing countries to make the right choices for their own people, and these choices are plain. Good government is an essential condition of development. So the Millennium Challenge Account will reward nations that root out corruption, respect human rights, and adhere to the rule of law. Healthy and educated citizens are the agents of development, so we will reward nations that invest in better health care, better schools, and broader immunization.

Sound economic policies unleash the enterprise and creativity necessary for development. So we will reward nations that have more open markets and sustainable budget policies, nations where people can start and operate a small business without running the gauntlets of bureaucracy and bribery.

I've directed Secretary Powell and Secretary O'Neill to reach out to the world community, to develop a set of clear and concrete and objective criteria for measuring progress. And under the Millennium Challenge Account, we will apply these criteria rigorously and fairly.

Countries that live by these three broad standards—ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom—will receive more aid from America. And more importantly, over time, they will really no longer need it, because nations with sound laws and policies will attract more foreign investment. They will earn more trade revenues, and they will find that all these sources of capital will be invested more effectively and productively to create more jobs for their people.

The evidence shows that where nations adopt sound policies, a dollar of foreign aid attracts \$2 of private investment. And when development aid rewards reform and responsibility, it lifts almost 4 times as many people out of poverty, compared to the old approach of writing checks without regard to results.

Marrying good policies to greater aid led Mozambique to a 10-percent growth rate in 2001. This approach helped Uganda open its schools to more children and increase teacher pay by 2,700 percent. Bangladesh, a nation that was once a symbol of famine, has transformed its agricultural economy; rice production is almost up by 70 percent since the mid-seventies.

The new compact I propose would multiply this progress. I challenge other nations and the development banks to adopt this approach as well. America's support for the World Bank will increase by almost 20 percent over the next 3 years. We expect the World Bank to insist on reform and results, measured in improvements in people's lives. All the development banks should adopt a growth agenda, increasing their support for private sector enterprises and focusing more on education, as the Inter-American Development Bank has done.

And I challenge the development banks to provide up to half of the funds devoted to poor nations in the form of grants, rather than loans—grants instead of loans that may never be repaid. Many have rallied to the idea of dropping the debt. I say let's rally to the idea of stopping the debt.

This new compact for development can produce dramatic gains against poverty and suffering in the world. I have an ambitious goal for the developed world, that we ought to double the size of the world's poorest economies within a decade. I know some may say that's too high a hurdle to cross. I don't believe so, not with the right reforms and the right policy. This will require tripling of current growth rates, but that's not unprecedented. After all, look at the dramatic growth that occurred in Asia in the 1990s.

With the world's help and the right policies, I know—I know—that the developing world can reform their own countries—I know it can happen—and, therefore, better their own lives. They can live in a world where their children's dreams are ignited by liberty and learning, not undermined by poverty and disease. They can live under governments that deliver basic service and protect basic rights. The demands of human dignity know no borders and know no boundaries. They are universal. And so are the gifts of

creativity and enterprise that lead to prosperity. When governments repress and punish those gifts, no amount—no amount—of aid is sufficient to lift people from poverty. When governments honor these gifts, every nation can know the blessings of prosperity.

People across the world are working to relieve poverty and suffering, and I'm proud of their efforts. I appreciate Bono. I appreciate groups like the Sisters of Charity. Some were motivated by simple decency; some serve a God who is impatient with injustice; and all have made this commitment. We cannot leave behind half of humanity as we seek a better future for ourselves. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. There are no second-class citizens in the human race.

I carry this commitment in my soul, and I'll carry it with me to Monterrey next week. As the civilized world mobilizes against the forces of terror, we must also embrace the forces of good. By offering hope where there is none, by relieving suffering and hunger where there is too much, we will make the world not only safer but better.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. in the atrium. In his remarks, he referred to Enrique V. Iglesias, President, and Jose A. Fourquet, U.S. Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington; and Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo-Vilá of Puerto Rico.

**Statement on Action
by the Senate Judiciary Committee
on the Nomination of
Charles W. Pickering, Sr.**
March 14, 2002

I am deeply disappointed that Judge Charles Pickering, a distinguished judge who was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in the past, is being denied the opportunity to further serve his country. The action of the Senate Judiciary Committee to refuse Judge Pickering a vote by the full Senate leaves another empty seat in the Federal judiciary at a time when we face a vacancy crisis. It was unfortunate for democracy and unfortunate for America.

Judge Pickering has earned the praise and support of those who know him and know his record best—both Democrats and Republicans from his home State of Mississippi. They know him to be a fair and measured judge, an advocate of civil rights, and a dedicated member of his community. He has served with distinction and deserves better than to be blocked by a party line vote of 10 Senators on one committee. The voice of the entire Senate deserves to be heard.

**Proclamation 7532—National Poison
Prevention Week, 2002**

March 14, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In 1961, the Congress established the annual observance of National Poison Prevention Week. Forty-one years later, this event continues to educate Americans about the dangers of childhood poisonings and to promote measures that help prevent such poisonings. These measures and other poison awareness efforts have helped reduce deaths from childhood poisonings by more than 90 percent since 1962.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, more than 1 million children each year are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. In an effort to put an end to tragic accidents, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission requires child-resistant packaging for many medicines and household chemicals. But this special packaging is "child-resistant," not "child-proof." For this reason, it is essential to keep potential poisons locked up and away from children.

Members of the Poison Prevention Week Council, representing 36 national organizations, work every year to organize events during this special week to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings, as well as to illustrate the steps that can be taken to prevent them. Coalition members believe every poisoning is preventable. Group members encourage Americans to use and properly

reclose child-resistant packaging, keep poisonous substances secured and out of the reach of children, and keep the poison center telephone number, 1-800-222-1222, nearby in case of an emergency. This new nationwide number connects callers to medical experts that provide immediate treatment advice for poison emergencies. These centers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To encourage Americans to learn more about the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961, as amended (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 17 through 23, 2002, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent poisonings among children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 19.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

March 14, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of Canada, a personal friend and a great friend of America, back to the White House. We had a wide-ranging discussion on a lot of topics, starting with how appreciative I am of his steadfast support and the Canadian Government's steadfast support and the Canadian people's steadfast support in our war against terror. We know the

Canadians have put troops on the ground in Afghanistan, and they have performed brilliantly. For that, we are grateful.

We also talked about our border. We've got a great relationship on our border. We've had a series of meaningful discussions on putting reforms in place. I believe our border cooperation is going to be the model for not only our hemisphere but also for the world.

We also talked about trade issues. Canada is a massive trading partner with the United States, and it's an important trading partner of the United States. And like any relationship that has got a lot of issues, sometimes we run into rough spots. And one such issue is softwood lumber. But our negotiators, as a result of the Prime Minister's assistance and my assistance, are working overtime to achieve an agreement by March the 21st. We're making very good progress. And we've agreed to keep working hard to achieve an agreement that is satisfactory to both parties, and I believe we can achieve that.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for coming.

Oh, by the way, we talked energy. It's important for the American people to know that as a result of our trade agreements with Canada and our close relations, Canada is a significant supplier of energy to the United States. And that's positive. It's much better for us to be securing our energy from a friend and a stable friend and a partner.

And so I appreciate the Canadian energy business. I appreciate the exploration that's going on. It is good for our economy. I shared with the Prime Minister—I'm optimistic about our economy. We've still got some rough spots, but it looks like we may be improving. And if we are, that will be good news for both of us.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. It is my honor to serve you dinner again, and it's a thrill to be with you.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you, Mr. President. I cannot add to what the President said. He covered the ground very well. I think the relations between America and Canada could not be better. We are solving problems when we have one. We are working with America in the war against terrorism. Our troops are in the fight at this moment in Afghanistan. You know, in the

snow, we're good at it, President, you know. And we——

President Bush. You're good on the ice, too. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Chretien. We are good on the ice, too—and both men and women. [*Laughter*] And so—and we have to work on our other problems. Thank you for the statement you made on softwood lumber. I think that the defense of our values and against terrorism are extremely important for Canadians. And we have worked very well together.

For me, I should say a few words in French, with your permission.

President Bush. Please

Prime Minister Chretien. Can you translate after that? [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in French and then resumed speaking in English.*]

I want to tell you that we spoke about Africa, and I want to say—I said that in French—I want to say thank you for what you have announced today, about the programs that you have announced, because as you know, at Kananaskis in Canada, at the G-8, the main topic will be Africa. And we want to establish a partnership with them. They came to Genoa last June; you and our colleagues asked me to take—[*inaudible*—] at that time. And I think that the partnership, and with your contribution, is developing very well.

Next month I will be traveling in Africa for—visiting five or six countries to build a partnership but to reward good governance, human rights, to make sure that they have real democracies, and so on. And those who don't do that will have to—not to be rewarded, because they will not meet what the world wants.

So thank you again, Mr. President.

For the press, I will take questions after my dinner. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House.

Memorandum on Designation of Bahrain as a Major Non-NATO Ally *March 14, 2002*

Presidential Determination No. 2002-10

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Designation of Bahrain as a Major Non-Nato Ally

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, by section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby designate the Kingdom of Bahrain as a major non-NATO ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 15.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2003 *March 14, 2002*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Labor, Transportation, and the Treasury; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2003 Budget would not be increased by these requests. However, the total budgetary resources available to the Department of Transportation would increase by \$596 million.

This transmittal also contains FY 2003 budget amendments for the Legislative Branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the Legislative Branch are transmitted without change. These additional amendments would increase discretionary resources for the Legislative Branch by \$40.4 million.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 15. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks in Fayetteville, North Carolina

March 15, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all very much. At ease! [*Laughter*] General McNeill, thank you very much. For a warrior, you're pretty darn articulate. Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It's great to be here in Cumberland County, North Carolina.

I'm also honored to be here with fine men and women who wear our uniform from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the world's finest fighting soldiers. For generations, Fort Bragg has stood for the best in the United States military. And now, along with those stationed at Pope Air Force Base, you're playing a crucial role, a vital role, a successful role in our defense of freedom, in our war against terror. I'm proud of your service. I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to thank General Holland, Commander in Chief, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command. I want to thank General Brown. I want to thank all the fine men and women of the 18th Airborne Corps, the Special Forces, and the Special Operation units. It is good to be with the fine folks of the 43d Airlift Wing.

I am honored to be traveling with members of the North Carolina congressional delegation, two of whom you've just heard from, Congressman McIntyre, Congressman Hayes. Congressman Etheridge is with us today, as is my friend Elizabeth Dole. Thank you all for coming.

One week ago this coliseum was the scene of graduation ceremonies for the latest group

of soldiers to have earned the right to wear the Green Beret. In doing so, they will join the ranks of some of the best and bravest citizens we have. The soldiers and sailors and airmen of the U.S. Special Operations Command are the best in the world, and the world is seeing how tough and how brave they are today.

Our Special Operations forces know the danger that awaits them. This is a dangerous battle that we face, a dangerous war. And I'm proud of the courage not only of the soldiers who volunteer for battle but for the loved ones who remain behind. Not only am I proud of our soldiers, I am proud of the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and moms and dads. And on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you as well. We appreciate your courage and your sacrifice.

Two young men from the Special Forces were recently laid to rest, Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman and Air Force Tech Sergeant John Chapman. I want their families to know that we pray with them, that we honor them, and they died in a just cause, for defending freedom, and they will not have died in vain. Because of such soldiers, a vicious regime has been toppled in Afghanistan, and an entire people have been liberated from oppression. Because of American soldiers and our brave allies and friends who have fought beside them, the Taliban is out of business.

At the beginning of this war, I made it very clear—as clear as a fellow from Texas could make it—either you're with us, or you're against us. And if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the murderers who killed innocent Americans on September the 11th. And thanks to the mighty United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

But the world has seen we are not conquerors; we're liberators. We fight for freedom, and at the same time, we have saved a people from mass starvation. We fight for freedom, but at the same time, we're clearing away minefields, rebuilding roads, and opening up hospitals. We fight for freedom, and yet, next week schools will reopen in Afghanistan, and for the first time, many young girls

will go to school for the first times in their lives.

We haven't been at this struggle very long. I know it seems like a long time for those of you whose loved ones are overseas. But we've been at it for 6 months, and we've made a lot of progress. And you know what? The terrorists have now figured out they picked on the wrong people. They must have thought we were soft. They must have thought we were so materialistic that we wouldn't fight for values that we loved. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed that the word, "sacrifice" had left the American vocabulary. And my, were they wrong.

Thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice. But I want you to know, my fellow citizens, we will not relent. We will not slow down until the threat of global terrorism has been destroyed. I have made this message clear to the American people. I have made this message clear to our vast coalition, and I've made this message clear to our enemies, and our military has delivered the message.

We have finished the first phase of our war against terror. You see, when we routed out the Taliban, we completed that phase, and now we're entering a second stage of what I think will be a long war. It's a sustained campaign, a tireless, relentless campaign, to deny sanctuary, to deny safe haven to terrorists who would threaten citizens anywhere in the world, threaten our way of life, threaten our friends, threaten our allies. These terrorists are now on the run, and we intend to keep them on the run.

Oh, we know their strategy. They want to try to regroup, and they want to hit us. We're doing everything we can to stop them. No, we know their strategy. We also know they're the most committed, the most dangerous, the least likely to surrender. Folks, these are trained killers who hate freedom, and so long as they're on the loose, we're in danger. And therefore, in order to keep them from harming any of our citizens again, we're going to hunt them down, one by one. This mighty nation will not blink; we will not yield. We will defend the innocent lives of the American people by bringing terrorist killers to justice.

Obviously, as you well know, we found some of them bunched up in the Shahi-Kot Mountains. And we sent our military in, and they're not bunched up anymore. [Laughter] And when we find them bunched up again, we'll send our military in, and the same thing will happen. You know, they've got these leaders that are so bold that they're willing to send youngsters to their suicide while they try to hide in deep caves. But they're going to find out there is not a cave deep enough to escape the long arm of American justice.

And so as fellow citizens, you need to know the strategy of this new phase is this: We want every terrorist to be made to live like an international fugitive, on the run, with no place to settle, no place to organize, no place to hide, no governments to hide behind, not even a safe place to sleep. And we're going to stay at it. You watch, we're going to stay at it for however long it takes. And the good news is, the American people are united and patient and understand the nature of the struggle ahead. And for that I'm grateful, and so are the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military.

At the same time, the civilized world must take seriously the growing threat of terror on a catastrophic scale. We've got to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, because there is no margin for error and there is no chance to learn from any mistake. The United States and her allies will act deliberately. We'll be deliberate, but inaction is not an option. Men who have no respect for life must never be allowed to control the ultimate instruments of death. I have made it clear that we will not let the most dangerous regimes in the world team up with killers and, therefore, hold this great Nation hostage. Whatever it takes to defend the liberty of America, this administration will do.

I want you to know that even though we have made great progress in 6 short months, I am aware that history will judge us not based upon the beginning of this campaign but how it ends. Great challenges lie ahead, and we're in for a long struggle. And therefore, we must make sure that our United States military must have everything it needs to meet the objective.

And just like our military has responsibilities, I have responsibilities as the Commander in Chief to the military. In every stage of the war on terror, I can assure you our actions will be carefully planned and carefully prepared. Our objectives will be clear. We will be deliberate, but when we act, we'll be decisive. I will give clear orders, and I will make sure that you have every tool you need to do your job.

I've asked Congress for a one-year increase of more than \$48 billion for national defense. This is the largest defense increase in a generation, because we're at war, and Congress needs to pass this budget. And by the way, it includes another pay raise for people who wear the uniform.

Nothing is more important than the national security of our country—nothing is more important—so nothing is more important than our defense budget. I've heard some of them talking about, you know, "It's too big," up there. Let me just make this as clear as I can make it: The price for freedom is high, but it's never too high, as far as I'm concerned.

As you know, if you follow the budget process, oftentimes Congress waits until the last days of the fiscal year in order to pass the defense budget. That's bad budgeting practices in times of peace. It's really bad budgeting practices in times of war. I expect the United States Congress to not only pass the budget as I submitted; I expect them to make it the first order of business, so we can plan for this war.

Now is not the time to play politics with the defense budget. Now is the time to get it out first and get it on my desk. We need to send that clear message that not only are we in this for the long haul, but the elected Representatives of the United States people understand it as well. I'm proud of the bipartisan spirit that exists in our war against terror. Now, let's just make sure we've got some good budgeting practices to go along with it.

We're working hard to make sure the homeland is secure. I'll never forget, right after September the 11th, I went to see some high school kids, and they were seniors. And it dawned on me that—obviously on them, too—that this is the first high school class

that had ever seen an attack on the homeland like this, at least on the 48 States that are contiguous. And it reminded me then—and I've never forgotten it—that oceans no longer matter when it comes to making us safe, that we have a giant obligation, an obligation I take very seriously here at home, to make sure we do everything we can to protect innocent life.

So you need to know that any time we get a hint about somebody may be thinking about doing something, we're on them. Every time we get a scintilla of evidence that somebody might be trying to get in here or burrow in our society, we're doing everything we can—everything we can—to protect the American people. We honor our Constitution, but we're on alert. And so are many of you all, and I want to thank you for that.

We've got a good first-responders initiative. We've got a great initiative on bioterrorism. We're making our borders more secure. We want to make sure we know who's coming in and who's coming out. We want to make sure the INS is reformed. *[Laughter]* As you might—could tell by the news that day, I was plenty hot—*[laughter]*—when I read about the bureaucratic inefficiency of this agency. We're going to do everything we can to reform it. We want to button up the homeland as best as we possibly can.

But my attitude is this: The best way to secure the homeland is to unleash the mighty United States military and hunt them down and bring them to justice. And the best way to fight evil at home is to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. The best way to stand squarely in the face of those who hijacked a good religion is to live a life that helps people in need.

You know, the true strength of our country is much greater than our military. The true strength of America are the hearts and souls of loving American citizens. And we have an obligation in our free society to work to make our society as compassionate and as kind as it can possibly be.

Today I had the honor, when I landed here, to meet Jane Davis. Where are you, Jane? There she is. Jane, thank you. Don't clap yet until you hear about her. She's the wife of Colonel Gary Matteson of Fort Bragg. The reason I mention Jane is because she

is an example of what I'm talking about, about the strength of the country. Right after September the 11th, she left North Carolina to volunteer at Ground Zero in New York City. Nobody had to tell Jane. There wasn't a Government edict. There wasn't a telegram from Washington, DC, directing her to go to Ground Zero. She followed her heart. She knew it was the right thing to do. It's the Jane Davises that really defined America for the world to see.

And you can be—you can help a neighbor in all kinds of ways. You can walk across a street to a shut-in and say, "What can I do to help your day?" Or you can mentor a child, or you can teach in a classroom. If you want to help, you can get on the Internet and dial up usafreedomcorps.gov and see. And we've got a member of the Senior Corps here, which is a part of the USA Freedom Corps. If you want to be involved, there's all kinds of ways—all you've got to do to act. But if you're interested in joining the war against terror, do something to make your community a more vibrant and kind place.

It is what I like to call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that define America for what we are. And I'm proud to be the President of a nation that is dedicated and firm in our defense of liberty, that will stand strong when we defend freedom and not blink or tire. And likewise, I'm proud to be the President of a nation whose true strength are the hearts and souls of citizens from all walks of life.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:54 a.m. at the Cumberland County Coliseum Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Dan K. McNeill, USA, commanding general, 18th Airborne Corps; Gen. Charles R. Holland, USAF, Commander in Chief, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command; Lt. Gen. Bryan D. Brown, USA, commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; North Carolina senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole; and Col. Gary N. Matteson, USA, commander, Womack Army Medical Center. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters at Fort Bragg, North Carolina

March 15, 2002

President's Visit

Q. Mr. President, it was a little noisy over there; could you give us your impression of what you—

The President. I was very impressed. We've got the finest soldiers in the world. We've got a great training mission, and I'm glad those soldiers are on my side.

Q. What kind of message should that display send to adversaries?

The President. Well, what the adversaries need to know is we're going to do what is necessary to have a well-trained military to accomplish a major objective, an important objective, which is, defend freedom. And the adversaries need to know that we're going to be in this for a long time, that we're going to be steady, relentless, and we're going to win.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, what are you hearing from General Zinni? Is his mission making any headway?

The President. Haven't heard from him yet, but I believe there's good progress in the Middle East. Obviously, the Israelis have moved back some of their troops. That's a positive development. And I have yet to hear from Zinni, but we will soon.

Q. [Inaudible]—troop withdrawal from Ramallah?

The President. Well, we're very pleased with it. As I said, that one of the things we've got to do is to work with both parties to establish the conditions for eventual peace. And I appreciate Prime Minister Sharon's decision. General Zinni is in the region now. We're hopeful that he'll have an impact on setting the conditions for peace, which begins with getting into the Tenet plan and then, eventually, the Mitchell plan. I thought that was a positive development yesterday.

Q. How hopeful are you that he'll be able to succeed?

The President. If I wasn't hopeful, I wouldn't have sent him.

Mikey, Mikey, Mikey [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Did that get any national play, that “Mikey, Mikey, Mikey”?

Q. With my family.

President’s Visit

Q. What about lunch, Mr. President? What do you think of it? Are you getting ready to dig in? What have you seen today? Are you pretty happy?

The President. Well, first of all, I knew our troops were good because I’ve been reading reports about how good they are. I got to see firsthand—I’m going to see all day long, firsthand—the esprit de corps is very high here. These soldiers are proud to wear the uniform. Great command staff; they’ve got highly motivated officers; they are well-trained. Every one of the troops, as I moved down the line, spoke a foreign language. To give you an example of how well-trained they are, the medics, these highly trained young men, can conduct—they can pull a tooth, or they can amputate a leg, if need be. I mean, these are fabulously trained soldiers. I’m real proud of their training.

One of the things we’ve got to make sure that Congress understands is that we’ve got to spend the money necessary to keep them highly trained. They all know we’re in for a long struggle. They’re prepared to make the sacrifices to meet that struggle.

I had the honor of meeting with the widows of two of the soldiers who died—and their dad and their mom of one of the guys—and to a person, they said, “Mr. President, don’t falter.” These people just lost a loved one, and they are just as resolved about winning this war on terror as I am. And I was very impressed by their steadfast support for what we’re doing and their understanding of the sacrifices necessary to defend freedom.

Now I’m going to eat my lasagna. If it gets cold, you have to eat the lasagna. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 12 noon while walking through the lunch line. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 9

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a Gridiron Club dinner.

March 11

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will visit Germany on May 22–23, Russia on May 23–26, and France on May 26–27.

March 12

In the morning, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he visited the People’s Emergency Center, a social service agency for homeless women, teenagers, and their children. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President had separate meetings in the Oval Office with Minister of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov of Russia and President Islom Karimov of Uzbekistan.

The President declared a major disaster in Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm with high winds on February 7–8.

March 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Friends of Ireland luncheon hosted by Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert in the Rayburn Room at the U.S. Capitol. Later, he returned to the White House and dropped by a White House symposium on writers of the Harlem Renaissance, hosted by Mrs. Bush.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Gross for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.

The President announced the appointment of Reuben Jeffery III as Special Advisor for Lower Manhattan Development.

March 14

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. In the afternoon, he met with musician and activist Bono in the Oval Office concerning assistance for developing countries.

The President announced the following recipients of the National Medal of Arts for 2001: Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation; Rudolfo Anaya; Johnny Cash; Kirk Douglas; Helen Frankenthaler; Judith Jamison; Yo-Yo Ma; and Mike Nichols.

The President announced the following recipients of the National Humanities Medal for 2001: Jose Cisneros; Robert Coles; Sharon Darling; William Manchester; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Richard Peck; Eileen Jackson Southern; and Tom Wolfe.

The President announced his intention to nominate Phyllis Fong to be Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture.

March 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Fayetteville, NC, and then to Fort Bragg, NC. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, and then went to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 13

Gorden Edward Eden, Jr., of New Mexico, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of New Mexico for the term of 4 years, vice John Steven Sanchez, term expired.

David Phillip Gonzales, of Arizona, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona for the term of 4 years, vice Alfred E. Madrid, term expired.

David A. Gross, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.

William P. Kruziki, of Wisconsin, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of 4 years, vice Nannette Holly Hegerty, term expired.

John Lee Moore, of Texas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Norris Batiste, Jr., term expired.

Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Darryl J. Gless, term expired.

Charles M. Sheer, of Missouri, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Bradford English, term expired.

Harold D. Stratton, of New Mexico, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, vice Ann Brown.

Harold D. Stratton, of New Mexico, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2006, vice Ann Brown.

Edward Zahren,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Colorado for the term of 4 years, vice Ernestine Rowe, term expired.

Submitted March 14

Steven Robert Blust,
of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2006, vice Antony M. Merck, term expired.

Celeste Colgan,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2008, vice Jon N. Moline, term expired.

Phyllis K. Fong,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, vice Roger C. Viadero, resigned.

W. Roy Grizzard,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice John Martin Manley, resigned.

Wilfred M. McClay,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Bill Duke.

Evelyn Dee Potter Rose,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Richard J. Stern, term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 11

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2998

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Germany, Russia, and France

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Announce Homeland Security Advisory System

Released March 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps: Fostering a Culture of Service, Citizenship and Responsibility

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge announcing the homeland security advisory system

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oregon

Fact sheet: Homeland Security Advisory System

Released March 13

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1892 and H.R. 3699

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the Food Safety Summit

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the District of Arizona, the Eastern District of Texas, the District of Colorado, the District of New Mexico, and the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Released March 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Pan Am 103 Verdict

Fact sheet: A New Compact for Development

Released March 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the

International Association of Firefighters
2002 Legislative Conference

Approved March 12

S. 1206 / Public Law 107–149
Appalachian Regional Development Act
Amendments of 2002

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved March 13

H.R. 1892 / Public Law 107–150
Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2002

Approved March 9

H.R. 3090 / Public Law 107–147
Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of
2002

H.R. 3699 / Public Law 107–151
To revise certain grants for continuum of
care assistance for homeless individual and
families

Approved March 14

Approved March 11

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Radio Free Afghanistan Act

S.J. Res. 32 / Public Law 107–152
Congratulating the United States Military
Academy at West Point on its bicentennial
anniversary, and commending its outstanding
contributions to the Nation

Week Ending Friday, March 22, 2002

The President's Radio Address

March 16, 2002

Good morning. In one week, boys and girls in Afghanistan will start a new school year. For many girls, this will be the first time in their young lives that they will have set foot in a classroom. Under the Taliban regime, educating women was a criminal act. Under the new government of a liberated Afghanistan, educating all children is a national priority. And America along with its coalition partners is actively helping in that effort.

When Afghan children begin their classes, they will find that the United States has already sent more than 4 million textbooks to their country. The textbooks are written in the Afghan languages of Pashto and Dari. And before the end of the year we'll have sent almost 10 million of them to the children of Afghanistan. These textbooks will teach tolerance and respect for human dignity, instead of indoctrinating students with fanaticism and bigotry. And they will be accompanied by blackboards, teacher's kits, and other school supplies.

America's children have been extremely generous in helping the children of Afghanistan. Through America's Fund for Afghan Children, they have raised more than \$4.5 million, much of which is used for school supplies like notebooks and pencils, paper and crayons, soccer balls and jump ropes. The United States will also be funding 20 teams of teacher trainers to conduct training sessions with thousands of Afghan educators.

In helping the Afghan people rebuild their country, we have placed a central focus on education, and for a good reason. Education is the pathway to progress, particularly for women. Educated women tend to be healthier than those who are not well educated, and the same is true of their families. Babies born to educated women are more likely to be immunized, better nourished, and survive their first year of life. Educated

women encourage their children to be educated as well. And nations whose women are educated are more competitive, more prosperous, and more advanced than nations where the education of women is forbidden or ignored.

We still have a lot of work to do in Afghanistan. The brave men and women of the American military continue to fight Al Qaida forces that are trying to regroup and would like nothing more than to strike America again. And even as we fight terror, American compassion is providing an alternative to bitterness, resentment, and hatred.

The United States has helped Afghanistan avert mass starvation. We're repairing its roads and bridges. We're rebuilding its health clinics and schools. And in one week, with textbooks in hand, the young girls of Afghanistan will begin school. This will be a remarkable moment in the history of Afghanistan and a proud moment for the people of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:25 a.m. on March 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Islamabad, Pakistan

March 17, 2002

I am outraged by the terrorist attack that took place today in Islamabad, Pakistan, against innocent civilians. I strongly condemn them as acts of murder that cannot be tolerated by any person of conscience nor justified by any cause. On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of this

terrible tragedy, and I wish a full and fast recovery to those injured. We will work closely with the Government of Pakistan to ensure those responsible for this terrorist attack face justice.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Small Business and an Exchange With Reporters in O'Fallon, Missouri

March 18, 2002

The President. Thank you so very much, Rolf, for your invitation to come. Rolf is a classic example of what makes America unique and strong. He had an idea and a dream. He built his own business. He employs good, hard-working people here in Missouri. He's got a vibrant business.

And I explained to these folks that one of my jobs is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes, in which small-business owners are able to keep making a living and keep people employed. I talked about making the death tax repeal* permanent, so that Rolf can pass his assets to a family member, if he so chooses. I talked about some expensing items, some items to make sure the small-business owner has got an incentive to invest more, which means more jobs. Tomorrow I'll be talking about regulatory relief. I'm also talking about ways so that a small-business owner such as Rolf can better afford health care for his employees, so that they're able to work here and, at the same time, enjoy health benefits like those from—large companies enjoy.

We had a good discussion. And it's important to the American people to understand the role of small business in our society. Most new jobs created are created by small businesses. And more people are able to realize the American Dream by starting their own business. And so one of things we've all got to work toward is an environment in which the small business flourishes. Rolf, thank you for letting me come. I want to thank you all for a great discussion. I'll answer a couple of questions.

*White House correction.

Terrorist Attack on Church in Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, do you have any sense of who carried out the attack yesterday in Pakistan at the church, why they did it? Do you think they're trying to undermine Musharraf and his support for the war on terrorism?

The President. Very interesting question. I talked to President Musharraf this morning, first thing. He is very sympathetic, obviously. He was deeply concerned about the American loss of life, and he wanted to share that with me. And I appreciated his phone call. We both talked about the need to continue fighting people that would kill for political reasons. And it goes to show that there is still some—that that part of the world is a dangerous place at times. And the tougher President Musharraf is and the more steadfast the United States is, the stronger we stand against terrorist activity, the more lives we'll ultimately save.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. He doesn't know who it is—excuse me for a minute. He doesn't know who it is yet. And when we find him, we'll bring him to justice.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir—thank you. Vice President Cheney is in the Middle East. Should he meet with Chairman Arafat? Would you like to see that happen? And if no, why not?

The President. I talked to the Vice President today, and he's had a very good visit in the Middle East. He is—matter of fact, he was 15 minutes away from going in to see Prime Minister Sharon. He had General Zinni with him. General Zinni is optimistic that we're making some progress in the Middle East.

And the answer to who the Vice President ought to meet with or not meet with depends upon General Zinni's recommendations. He's the man on the ground. He's in charge of trying to foster an environment such that we can get into Tenet and then eventually get into the Mitchell peace plan. Our Government has laid out a pathway to a peaceful resolution of a very difficult set of problems. And Zinni's over there working hard to get us into that process.

Operation Anaconda

Q. Mr. President, Operation Anaconda, we've been told, is successful, and——

The President. Operation?

Q. Operation Anaconda, we're being told, is successful, and it's over. Do you feel the war in Afghanistan—that part of the war is now over?

The President. John, I don't. I feel like we've got a lot more fighting to do in Afghanistan. First of all, we were successful in Operation Anaconda. I want to thank our troops, our brave troops, for fighting in incredibly tough terrain and against difficult circumstances. And the difficult circumstances were not only the terrain, it was the fact that we were fighting against an enemy that refuses to surrender. These are people that are there to die. And we accommodated them.

And it's a—but there are more Al Qaida killers in Afghanistan, perhaps in Pakistan, willing to come back into Afghanistan. The reason—and I know for a fact that they were trying to—in the midst of this battle, in the midst of the United States military and our coalition forces being very successful, they were trying to reinforce. And these are people that are—they were willing to reinforce in the midst of the Shahi-Kot Mountain Range, where they were getting wiped out; they were willing to come back into Afghanistan to continue to try to hurt us. These are killers. They hate America. They hate America's freedom; they hate what America stands for. And they are relentless.

But so are we, and we will be more relentless than they are. That's why I've urged the American people to be patient, and the American people are patient. And that's why I've urged Congress to fund the U.S. military. And I hope Congress does fund the U.S. military to the fullest, because we've got a lot more fighting to do in Afghanistan.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Many Mideast leaders are saying that the U.S. should be focusing more on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and less on Iraq. Can you give a reaction to that?

The President. I appreciate their advice, but we will not allow one of the world's most dangerous leaders to have the world's most dangerous weapons and hold the United

States and our friends and allies hostage. That's just not going to happen. And so I appreciate their advice. But we will continue working with them. We will continue dialog. I have told people that we're a deliberate nation. We'll talk to our friends and allies. But what I said about the axis of evil is what I mean. I can't be any more plain about it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in a conference room at Albers Manufacturing Co. In his remarks, he referred to Rolf Albers, chairman and chief executive officer, Albers Manufacturing Co.; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Barbara Green, an employee at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and her daughter Kristen Wormsley, who were killed in the March 17 terrorist attack at the Protestant International Church in Islamabad; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell Report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks to Employees of Albers Manufacturing Company in O'Fallon

March 18, 2002

Thank you all. Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in Missouri. And thank you for that hospitality.

I'm so glad that I'm with the Senator today; he is a champion of the small-business person. I look forward to working with him on some good legislation that understands the incredibly important role that the small-business person plays in America. And here it is: On a practical sense, more new jobs are created by small-business people than anybody else.

And I happen to think that the small business—the entrepreneur represents one of the true strengths of our country. I mean, after all, this is a country where if you've got a good idea and you're willing to work hard and you're willing to take a little risk, you

can own your own business. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter how you were raised. It doesn't matter whether you were born in America. What matters is, is that you're willing to dream and work for the dream.

And so one of my jobs is to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is strong and alive in America, that it continues to flourish so that the great American Dream of owning your own business is vibrant and alive and well. And when we go into the 21st century—and I want to talk about that today, a little bit.

Before I do, I want to thank Rolf and the good folks here at Albers for their hospitality. It's not easy to welcome the President and the entourage—[laughter]—just a mere 14 vehicles. [Laughter] But I do want to thank you for your hospitality, and all the employees with whom I just had an interesting discussion about how to—about what's on their mind, about what's it like to work for a small business and how best—what the Government can do to perhaps make the small business more vibrant and/or deal with some of the needs that directly affect the employees.

Now, I want to thank the other small-business owners who are here. I love what you do. Again, as I repeat, you're an incredibly important part of the future of the country. Thanks for taking risks and for working hard. I appreciate my friend Hector Barreto, for coming. He was born here in Missouri, raised in California, and is doing a fine job as the head of the Small Business Administration in Washington, DC. I had the honor today as well, of traveling with Jim Talent and four fine members of the Missouri congressional delegation, Congressman Akin and Blunt, Congressman Hulshof and Jo Ann Emerson. Thank you all for coming.

I also was met at the airport today by a guy named Derek Rapp. Where are you, Derek? There you are. Got a good seat, I see. [Laughter] That's what you get for coming to the airport. [Laughter] Here's Derek. Derek is the CEO of a small biotech firm. He is an economic entrepreneur, but I'm heralding Derek today because he's also a social entrepreneur. He's a person that understands that with freedom comes the responsibility to love a neighbor like you'd like

to be loved yourself, and I appreciate that spirit, Derek. He started what's called St. Louis Cares. It is a recruiting vehicle to help match people with kind hearts with people who need kind hearts in their lives.

And the reason I want to talk about the Dereks of the world is because in order to win the war against evil, this Nation must continue to practice acts of decency and kindness and goodness. That there is no question that the entrepreneurial spirit in America makes us unique, I think. But one of our other strengths is the fact that our Nation is a kind nation and a compassionate nation and a nation where neighbor loving neighbor is having a profound impact on the quality of our country's life. And so one of the things—and one of the reasons I like to introduce a guy like Derek, is because it helps remind us all about really one of the great strengths of our country, and that is our people.

You know, Government can't make people love one another. I would sign the law. [Laughter] But people loving one another is essential to having a bright future, so that everybody can experience the great American Dream. And we've got pockets of persistent poverty in our society, which I refuse to declare defeat—I mean, I refuse to allow them to continue on. And so one of the things that I'm trying to do is to encourage a faith-based initiative to spread its wings all across America, to be able to capture this great compassionate spirit.

One of my hopes is, out of this evil that was done to our country, is that people, young people understand that living in America is wonderful, but it also requires an effort to make the communities in which they live a better place, that we've got to work to usher in an era of personal responsibility. And part of that era of personal responsibility is not only, you know, obviously taking advantage of the material wealth available if you work hard and have got a good idea, but that there's much greater promise and hope than materialism, itself—materialism, itself, is a dead end—that the idea of trying to work to help somebody in need is a powerful part of having a full and complete life.

And therefore, I ask all of you and all the good folks in Missouri—if you're already

helping a neighbor in need, thank you, and continue doing it. But if you're looking for a way to make your life more full, more complete, mentor a child or help somebody who is shut in or go to a church or synagogue and mosque and say, "What can we do to feed somebody who needs some food?" I mean, there are all kinds of ways that you can help. And by helping, you stand squarely in the face of the evildoers that hit America.

One way to make sure America is strong is to rally the compassion. Another way is to make sure that our economy is strong. I want to tell you right upfront that I do not think the role of Government is to try to create wealth. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risk. And if they've got a good idea—[*applause*]*—the role of Government is to create an economic climate in which the Rolfs of the world say, "Gosh, I've got a good idea. I want to take a risk and, therefore, employ people."* That's really what I view my job is—if there's roadblocks, to eliminate them, and if there's ways to make the environment better, do so.

I wanted to talk a little bit about that. High taxes is a roadblock. High tax rates discourage investment, and when you discourage investment, you discourage job creation. And therefore, working with people in Congress, both the House and the Senate, we worked to reduce the tax burden on working people in America. And it came at exactly the right time. Tax relief was vital. It was vital for our economic future, because when you give people more of their own money to spend, they demand, and when they demand, somebody produces, and when somebody produces, somebody gets to work.

But the other thing that was important about tax relief is that it is—recognizes the importance of small business, because many small businesses are unincorporated. Many small businesses are sole proprietors or are limited partnerships. And by cutting the personal rates, all personal rates, what we are in effect doing for the small-business community was encouraging cash flow. And more cash flow on small-business owners means more jobs.

And so one of the crucial things we've done to address the economic recession and its slowdown and the effects it caused on working people was to say, "Let's give people their own money back." For a while they were talking about taking away that tax relief—"they" being some people in Washington, DC. I couldn't imagine anybody saying, in the midst of a recession, "We're going to raise taxes." They were reading the wrong textbook, Senator. [*Laughter*] Anybody in their right mind knows that if you're interested in making the economy more vital, you let people keep more of their own money. I don't hear much of that talk anymore now that the plan looks like it's working.

But even though the economic news has been positive, in my judgment, we're not out of the woods yet. We've got to keep working for policies in place that encourage more job creation. And one of the other things we did that was interesting, and I think important to the formation of small businesses, is that we dealt with an issue that discourages small businesses, at least in this sense.

If you're Rolf, and you build up your business and build up your assets through years of hard work, you ought to have the—you ought to be able to make the decision of who gets to own that business after you move on. And the death tax made it awfully difficult for you to make that decision. You see, if you're a small-business owner and you're not public, for example, if you're a privately held company, the death tax would cause your heirs to have to liquidate the assets that you built up over a lifetime. It was a terrible tax. We put it on its way to extinction, but I call upon the Congress to make the elimination of the death tax permanent in the Tax Code.

We decided to do more in Washington to deal with this attack on 9/11, particularly from how it affected people's lives. One of my big concerns has been and still continues to be the fact that some of our American workers lost jobs as a result of the enemy attack. And my attitude is, anybody who wants to work and can't find work is a problem for me to have to deal with. And there's a lot of Americans who want to work and can't find work, and so we decided to do something about it.

First of all, we decided to make sure that the people got an unemployment check. If their benefits were about to run out, we extended the amount of time for unemployment benefits, and that was the right thing to do. But I understand people don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore we asked Congress and worked with Members of Congress who understand capital how best to create jobs, what can we do to make sure that the true part of an economic stimulus package is jobs—its central core is, how to create more jobs.

We passed a bill that encourages investment in plant and equipment, because we think that will be the best thing that will encourage job creation. And we stayed with it and worked hard and got a good vote out of the House and a good vote out of the Senate. And I was honored to be able to sign that bill, which I think is going to be a good part of encouraging investment in job creation.

I also want to take it a step farther. I'm giving a speech tomorrow on—specifically on how best to deal with issues related to small business. I want to talk to you about two issues real quick. One is what's called Section 179 Expensing. Now, if you're not an accountant, I guess it's kind of hard to understand. But see if I can explain it. You know, okay, good. *[Laughter]* Okay, fine. *[Laughter]*

Here's what it means. It increases the maximum deductions small businesses can take when they invest in new plant and equipment. Right now the law lets small businesses immediately deduct the full cost of the first \$24,000 of investment when they invest less than \$200,000 a year. Okay. So what I think we ought to do in order to encourage small business to make more investment, is to increase the limit from \$200,000 to 325,000, and allow for the first-year deduction of \$40,000.

Let me see if I can put this into English or Texan. *[Laughter]* I'm trying to put in place something that will encourage Rolf to go buy a new piece of machinery, which he says he wants to buy, to provide proper incentive for Rolf to go buy a new machine that will make his business more competitive

and, therefore more likely to be able to hire somebody. That will help the manufacturer of the machine employ somebody; that will have an effect throughout the entire economy. And it seems like, to me, if small businesses are vital for the future of our country, if small businesses provide most of the new work for people looking for work and we're worried about people finding jobs, why don't we put something in place that encourages small-business growth? And that's exactly what this does.

One of the things I heard from the good folks who work here is that they're concerned about their health care costs. And if you're a small-business owner or somebody who works for a small business, you're concerned about health care costs, and I don't blame you. I heard what Rolf is going through. I've heard what the people are worried about. Here is one idea to help small businesses deal with high premiums.

One of the reasons small-business owners have to pay high premiums is because they cannot spread the risk of the health care across a lot of folks. Large corporate America, because of the size of their workforce, can spread risk throughout a big workforce and, therefore, pay less cost for health care.

If one of the cost drivers is the need to have more people to spread risk, why don't we try to figure out a way to allow Rolf to pool his risk with other small businesses? And so one of the good ideas—Jim sponsored this bill; I know that Kit is for it—is to allow for what we call associated health plans, which says that if you're a member of the NFIB, for example, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, that they can pool a multitude of small businesses together, thereby driving down the cost of health care.

It makes sense. It is good for small businesses. It is very good for the people who work for small businesses. And it is beyond me why Congress can't figure out why this doesn't—shouldn't work. And so I'm calling on them to give this plan a hard look and get it passed for the good of the American economy.

So today I wanted to talk to you about how we fight evil with acts of decency and kindness at home, how we make sure we've got

economic security for all Americans. But I also want to mention to you pretty quickly that I also understand that my most important job is to defend America, is to make sure that we—is to secure the homeland, is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. I want you to know, at home we're working overtime to do everything we can to make sure that doesn't happen. We're running down every lead, every hint, every possible threat.

We take seriously, in America, because I still believe—I still know there are people out there that hate our freedoms. They can't stand the idea of a society which welcomes a good idea, and if you've got a good idea, you can succeed. They don't like freedom. They don't like freedom of religion. They don't like freedom of speech. They don't like freedom of politics. They just hate freedom. And therefore—and since we're the beacon of freedom, they want to attack us, and we're doing everything we can to make sure they don't.

But the best way to defend the homeland is to find them where they are and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we're going to do. We've got a big task ahead of us. And the good news is, the American people understand the size of the task. After all, when you defend freedom, freedom, itself, it may take a while, and the people know that. I've traveled the country enough to be able to report to you all that the Nation is united and patient.

We've made some pretty good progress in a little over 6 months. It wasn't all that long ago that the enemy miscalculated and attacked America, thinking that maybe we were such a materialistic society, we wouldn't defend that which we hold dear to our heart. I said early on, I said, "If you harbor a terrorist or you hide one, you're just as guilty as the murderers." And the Taliban found out what we meant, thanks to a mighty United States military and thanks to a vast coalition of nations that love freedom. We have run out of town, run out of their offices, run out of power a Government that is one of the most repressive Governments history has ever seen.

One of the things that makes me most proud is that we didn't seek revenge; we sought justice. And we went into Afghanistan

not as conquerors but as liberators. I want you to know that later on this week schools reopen in Afghanistan, and this is hard for Americans to believe, but for the first time, young girls get to go to school, thanks to America.

And so the first phase of the war, which was to hold people accountable for harboring terrorists, is over with. That's not to say some may decide to harbor them in the future, in which case they now know the lessons that will—they know I mean what I say. Let me put it to you that way.

The second phase is to deny these killers sanctuary; it's to not let them ever settle down and light anywhere; it's to treat them like what they are, international terrorists, and keep them on the run. And that's what we're doing. And I mean just that—I mean just that: get them on the run and keep them on the run. And if that means months and hunting them down, that's exactly what this country is going to do. Listen, we caught a bunch of them bunched up the other day—*[laughter]*—and they're not bunched up any more.

I have submitted a significant increase in the budget to the Congress. I expect them to pass it. I know the Senators are with me. I know the Members of the Congress are with me. We need to make sure our troops are well trained, have got the best equipment, get a pay raise. And I don't want Congress messing with the budget. They have the right to debate; I understand that. And I can understand—they get the right to spend. I propose; they dispose. I know that. *[Laughter]* But now is not the time to be playing politics with the military budget. They need to get it to my desk early. Generally, the defense budget is the last one—or the defense appropriation is the last one to the President's desk. It ought to be the first one this year.

I want you to know that history has called us into action. History has placed a great responsibility at our doorstep, and I will not miss this opportunity. It is a chance to defend freedom. It is a chance to make sure that our children and grandchildren grow up in a peaceful world. Out of this evil will come some good. America will be stronger at home. We'll be more compassionate and

more decent. Out of this evil will come, I believe, a period of personal responsibility, a new culture as reflected in Flight 93, when people drove an airplane into the ground to sacrifice for something greater than themselves. And if we're tough and resolved and determined, like I know we're going to be, out of this evil will come a more peaceful world for generations to come.

As you can tell, I hope, I'm optimistic. And you'd be optimistic, too, if you got to see what I see. See, I get to travel the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I am optimistic because of the values that make America strong, and I am optimistic because of the people who make her great.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the factory at Albers Manufacturing Co. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Christopher S. "Kit" Bond of Missouri; Rolf Albers, chairman and chief executive officer, Albers Manufacturing Co.; and Derek Rapp, chief executive officer, Divergence.

Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for Senatorial Candidate James M. Talent in St. Louis, Missouri
March 18, 2002

Thank you very much. Be seated, please. Gosh, thanks for such a warm welcome. It's always good to have a good introducer. [Laughter] Bucky is my favorite uncle when I'm in St. Louis. [Laughter] He's my favorite uncle all the time; he's a fabulous man. Thanks, Buck. And I like to call Sam Fox, "Foxy." Foxy, I didn't realize you were so eloquent. [Laughter] But I thank you for the leadership, and I want to thank you all for coming tonight. This is a magnificent crowd here to support the next United States Senator from Missouri, Jim Talent.

I appreciate Jim, and I appreciate the fact that he's a family man. Like me, he married above himself—[laughter]—so I appreciate Brenda. It's an honor to meet the three children today, and it's an honor to meet your mother, Brenda. I got a report from my homefront as well—I married really well. [Laughter] Laura is doing great, and I'm so proud of her. She's made a great First Lady for the country.

I want to thank the members of the Missouri delegation who are here, starting with the senior Senator, Kit Bond. Thank you for coming, Kit. I appreciate his leadership on a lot of important issues. Take election reform—he's making sure that we encourage people to vote, but he's working hard to make it tougher to cheat. Half of the Senators understand what he's trying to do. It seems like one out of the two Senators from Missouri understand that.

I want to thank the members from the congressional delegation here as well, Todd Akin, Roy Blunt, Jo Ann Emerson, Sam Graves, Kenny Hulshof. These are fine, fine Members of the United States Congress, and I'm proud to serve with them.

I want to thank all the members of the Republican Party who are here. I particularly want to thank the grassroots activists who man the phones and sign all the letters and get out the vote. I want to thank you for your hard work in 2000. I want to thank you for your hard work that you're fixing to do in 2002.

I'm here to support as strongly as I possibly can this good man to become the Senator—the next Senator from Missouri. And I do so for a reason, and it starts with the quality of the individual. He is a quality person who's got the right values.

He is a steady man, and he is an experienced person who will bring good judgment to the United States Senate. And let me cite some of his qualifications. First, he has been in Washington before. He was there for 8 years in the House of Representatives, where he made a mark of accomplishment.

You know, in that town, we've got some good talkers, and then we've got the doers. We've got some people up there who like to hear themselves talk and others who actually get something done. And that's the way Jim Talent is; he knows how to get things done—things done not only for the good of Missouri, to get things done for—the things of Missouri, but to get things done positively in a positive way for the country.

I want the people of Missouri to remember he served on the Armed Services Committee, and he stood up for a strong national

defense when he was there. And obviously, that was before we entered this war. And thank goodness he did stand up for a strong national defense when he was there, because it enabled us to have a military capable of accomplishing the first mission we sent them out to do, which was to destroy the Taliban.

He worked on historic welfare reform. He worked to change a culture of dependency to one that recognized if you get a job, if you find work, you can be independent from Government. This welfare reform law is an unqualified success, and I want to thank you for your work on that, Jim.

We share a philosophy about the role of Government. The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, an environment in which the small-business person can dream big and take risks and realize his or her dreams of owning your own company in America. Jim understands small business.

Today I was on the outskirts of the great city of St. Louis, where we had a chance to meet some small-business entrepreneurs, where I laid out a way to make the tax structure more conducive to entrepreneurial development. Jim Talent understands that, and it's important for Missouri to have a voice for the small-business person in the Halls of the United States Senate.

He also understands good tax policy. If you give people their own money to spend, that increases demand. And when there's more demand, somebody meets that demand through more production, and production means jobs. We cut the taxes on the American people at the exact right time, and Jim Talent understands that. Some in Washington seem to forget whose money we're spending. They think it's the Government's money. What Talent understands, like I understand, it's the people's money.

And one of the things we can't afford to do is to have people in Washington who don't like the tax cut because it diminishes the role of the Federal Government. I've heard some rumblings—and you might have heard them, too—that people say, “Well, gosh, we're in a recession; we probably ought to not go through with the tax cuts,” which in effect is a tax raise. They're reading the wrong economics textbook. You don't raise taxes when

the economy is slow; you trust the people with their own money when the economy is slow. And that's exactly what we did in Washington, DC. And that's exactly the attitude Jim Talent will take when you send him up to represent Missouri in the United States Senate.

And we need to do more when it comes to tax relief, starting with making sure that the death tax is permanent, that we say to the American people, you have the right to pass on your farm or your small business to whoever you want to pass them on to, without getting taxed twice by the Federal Government. Talent understands that, and we need that kind of thinking in the United States Senate.

He also understands that this Nation needs an energy policy—an energy policy on the one hand that encourages conservation, that uses our technologies to make sure we remain productive but consume less, but on the other hand, that we better find sources of energy at home in order to make us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. It is in our national security interests that we have a balanced energy policy. And my, do we need his vote in the United States right now when it comes to making sure we have a balanced energy policy.

And so these are some of the reasons why you need to send him to the United States Senate: He's accomplished; he's a serious man; he's a can-do fellow who's got the experience to back it up; and I can't wait to work with him when he gets elected this fall.

And not only do we have a big job at home, we've obviously got a big job abroad as well. We're fighting a war, and I want to share with you all some of my thoughts about this war that we fight.

First of all, you've got to know that we're fighting against a determined group of killers. These are people who would rather die than surrender. These are people who hate America. They hate our freedom. They hate our freedom to worship. They hate our freedom to vote. They hate our freedom of the press. They hate our freedom to say what you want to say. They can't stand what we stand for. And therefore, we have no choice but to hunt them down one by one to defend the very

freedom we hold dear in America. And that is exactly what we're going to do.

The enemy must have thought they were hitting a society that was so soft, so self-absorbed, so materialistic that we would sue them. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand America. They didn't understand our fiber. They don't understand our core. They don't know what we're made out of. At least, they didn't. Now they do.

I made it absolutely clear when we first got going that if a country harbored a terrorist or fed a terrorist or hid a terrorist, they were just as guilty as the murderers who hit us on September the 11th. And now the Taliban knows exactly what I meant. Thanks to a magnificent United States military and a vast coalition, we have routed the Taliban in Afghanistan. I'm proud of our military, and I'm proud of our country. We went into Afghanistan not to seek revenge but justice, and we went into that country not as conquerors but as liberators. We have freed Afghan people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric, backward regimes history has ever known.

Later on this week, schools will reopen in Afghanistan, and incredibly enough, for the first time, young girls get to go to school, thanks to the United States and our coalition. And so the other day, in Washington, I declared that the first phase in our war against terror had ended. We upheld the doctrine of a nation harboring a terrorist and the consequences we made clear.

But I want to tell you all, there is more to do. You see, there are still thousands of Al-Qaida-trained killers on the loose, and we will treat them the way they are, which is like international fugitives. We will deny them sanctuary. We will keep them on the run. We'll disrupt their finances. No matter how long it takes, we're going to get them and bring them to justice. There is no cave deep enough for the justice of the United States of America.

And therefore I have submitted to the United States Congress a budget which makes our national security the number one priority. I've asked for the largest defense increase—spending on defense since 20 years ago. And I expect Congress to pass this budget, because they've got to understand, if

we're putting our young soldiers in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible. The price of freedom is high, but as far as I'm concerned, it is never too high.

And so not only do I expect Congress to support our military and pass this budget; I expect them to do it early rather than late. The history of the United States Congress is such that they hold back the defense appropriations bill to the last minute. That's bad policy. It's bad policy in times of peace, and it's terrible policy in times of war. I expect and hope the first appropriation bill to my desk is to fund the United States military.

There's more to the war on terror than one single individual or one single network. The nightmare scenario is for our Nation to tire and weary and allow an Al Qaida organization or an Al-Qaida-type organization to mate up with a nation which has developed weapons of mass destruction, a nation which has got a history of treating her people poorly, a dictatorial nation. We cannot—we cannot—allow the world's worst regimes to develop the world's worst weapons and therefore hold the United States and our allies hostage. We owe it to our children and our children's children to be firm and to be tough and to say to those bullies and dictators: We will not let you stand and get away with blackmailing the world.

Here's the way I view it: History has called us into action; history demands that this Nation honor our commitment to freedom and our love for freedom. We not only owe it to the citizens who live in the United States today to make sure that our homeland is as secure as possible—and make no mistake; we're doing everything we can to secure the homeland—but the best way to secure the homeland is to bring the killers to justice, no matter where they hide. We not only owe it to people who live in America today; we owe it to future generations of Americans. We owe it to children and our children's children, so they can grow up in a society that knows the freedom that we have loved, the freedom so dear to our heart. The world is looking at the United States of America to see whether or not we will blink. I want to assure you all that we won't blink, that we're going to remain diligent and firm in our love,

in our quest and our drive to rid the world of terror.

And I believe—and I firmly believe that when the United States leads, we have a chance to achieve long-lasting peace. I believe out of this evil will come some incredible good. I believe that by leading this coalition in a firm way, that we will be able to achieve peace in parts of the world that never dreamt they would ever see peace. I believe that.

And not only that, I believe that out of this evil will come some incredible good at home. I believe that the evil ones have unleashed the great compassion of America at home. I'm oftentimes asked, "How do I help in the war against terror?" People all the time are asking here in America, "What can I do?" And my answer is this: If you want to fight terror, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself; if you want to stand up to terror and evil, be a part of the great compassion of America; reach out to a fellow citizen in need; mentor a child; walk across the street and say to a shut-in, "I love you. What can I do to help?" You see, it is the momentum, the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency, which will allow this great Nation to stand squarely in the face of evil, and there's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve that.

The great strength of America is not in our military—although that's pretty good, pretty strong these days. [*Laughter*] It is not in the Government. It is in the hearts and souls of the American people.

And so I call upon you all here in St. Louis, in the great State of Missouri, to make an extra effort to help somebody in need. I'm passionate about the understanding that we must unleash faith in our society, not a particular faith but faith to help change hearts. And so one of the initiatives that I'm looking forward to working with Jim on, and others here, is a faith-based initiative that understands out of our churches and synagogues and mosques come that compassionate help that will define the face of America. And our Government—we must not fear faith; we must welcome faith as we deal with the intangible problems that confront every neighborhood in the country of America, the prob-

lems of hopelessness—the problems of addiction and hopelessness.

When we fight abroad, we must also fight at home, to make sure the American promise extends its reach throughout every neighborhood in our society, and in this country, we can achieve that.

We've got to understand, it's not vast programs that save people's lives; it is saving people's lives one soul at a time that makes a difference in each of us. Each of us in America can make that difference. I also believe out of this incredible evil, that our culture is beginning to change, from one that has said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else, to a culture which says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

That culture begins with moms and dads loving their children with all their heart and all their soul. That culture begins by understanding that materialism is shallow and empty and that to have a full life, you've got to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. That's a culture that extends to corporate America as well. Corporate America has a responsibility to its citizens and a responsibility to make sure all the assets and liabilities are completely disclosed on one's balance sheet.

Now, we have a chance—we have a chance, through the acts of kindness in our country, through the deep compassion that exists in our hearts, to change the culture of America.

For me, probably the most defining event since September the 11th was on September the 11th, Flight 93. When United States citizens on this flight talked to their loved ones on the ground and realized what was taking place in the Nation's Capital, they said a prayer, they told their wives they loved them, they said, "Let's roll," and they sacrificed for something greater than themselves. Americans from all walks of life got to see the noble cause of serving something greater than yourself in life. To me, the spirit on that airplane defined the possibilities of our country, and man, what a great country it is.

Not only will we win the war on terror to secure the peace in the world; we will show the world that a diverse nation from

all walks of life and all religions can be compassionate and kind and hopeful for everyone who's lucky enough to be an American citizen.

I want to thank you all for coming and for supporting Jim Talent. I'm confident he can win with your help. And I want to thank you all for coming tonight. It gives me a chance to tell you how honored I am to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:28 p.m. in the America's Ballroom at America's Center. In his remarks, he referred to William H.T. "Bucky" Bush and Sam Fox, co-chairs of the event, which was called "A Missouri Salute to President George W. Bush"; Jim Talent's wife, Brenda; their children Michael, Kate, and Chrissy; and Brenda Talent's mother, Katie Lyons.

Remarks at the Summit on Women Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century

March 19, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you for coming. Thank you very much. Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. Elaine, thanks for your kind words. I'm proud of the job you're doing in my Cabinet. I appreciate your advice and counsel, I and appreciate the leadership you've shown at the U.S. Department of Labor.

I want to thank those who organized this summit. I think it's a very important summit. I think it's important to advance the spirit of entrepreneurship and equality and opportunity for everybody who is fortunate enough to be an American. I'm honored to be with you, and I'm glad you invited me, because I believe small businesses are really important to the future of our country.

I know small businesses are the path to success for many Americans, especially women, the newly arrived, minority Americans. Small businesses create jobs, and this is incredibly important for our economy at this time. Small businesses embody the American values of hard work, risktaking, and independence. And so, today I want to discuss with you a series of new policies to

encourage and reward the work of America's small-business women and men.

Before I do so, I want to thank some of the members of my team who are here: Hector Barreto, who is the head of the SBA, is with us today. And Hector, I want to thank you very much for coming. I understand the Secretary of Treasury was here, Paul O'Neill. He probably went back to work. That's a good sign. *[Laughter]* He heard the boss was coming, so he headed out of here—*[laughter]*—but I appreciate his leadership. Rosario Marin, who is the Treasurer of the United States, is here. Thank you, Rosario. I see my friend from the State of Arkansas, Tim Hutchinson. Thank you for coming, Senator. I appreciate you being here today.

Not only do I want to thank you all for being here, but I know we've got some folks who are watching via satellite from Orlando. You might say hello to your Governor down there for me. *[Laughter]* Tell him to keep listening to mother. *[Laughter]*

St. Louis, Missouri—we've got some folks tuned in in St. Louis. I just was there last night and had a great trip to St. Louis. We've got some people from Little Rock, Tim, who are watching, and from Bangor, Maine, as well. So welcome via satellite to this important conference, and thank you all for listening.

One of the things this summit recognizes is that there's been a fundamental change in our economy. When it comes to entrepreneurship and job creation, ours is an increasingly woman's world. The truth of the matter is—and the reason why I say that is, women-owned businesses are growing at twice the rate—2 times the rate of all other United States firms. That's a remarkable accomplishment for the United States of America. And the interesting other fact that I want to point out to people listening is that women firms now employ 7 million Americans.

Small-business ownership is a great equalizer in America. The only connections you need are happy customers, a good business plan. The only credentials you need are good products. The only values you need is to be willing to take risk and to work hard. For millions of minorities and women and new

Americans, small businesses provide a great chance to succeed in America, a chance to realize your dreams.

For some women, a small business brings the satisfaction of success without having to go through the frustrations of corporate life. I suspect there are a lot of women entrepreneurs in this room and around the country who tried out corporate life and found out—and agree with what this entrepreneur said. Nancy Miller put it this way, “You succeed or fail based on your own abilities, not on politics or anybody else.” She’s got a pretty good point there. She talks about the freedom that comes with owning your own business. And it’s so important that our country maintain that flame of freedom, the entrepreneurial spirit of America.

What the other—and the reason I love the entrepreneurial spirit, because it provides people a chance to be creative, to build, to contribute, and to own.

Being your own boss, as Sherrin Holder of Virginia describes it, brings a sense of pride and accomplishment, a sense of ownership, and a growing hope for success. She captures the feeling of every entrepreneur. You can advance yourself, and you can do good by doing so. As you succeed, you help others to succeed, first and foremost by providing somebody with a job.

You can dream big dreams in America, and my job as the President is to make sure that if you’ve got a good idea, you can realize those dreams. And as importantly, when you’re successful, you can pass on your assets to your children, if you so choose, or to anybody you desire to.

The thing about America is that people—Americans have got to understand, that everybody in our country has a stake in the success of small businesses, starting with the fact that small businesses create two-thirds of the new jobs created in America on any given year. It’s really important for people to understand, as we’re fighting a recession, if small businesses create two-thirds of the new jobs, it makes sense that any economic recovery strategy focus on small businesses. And that’s what I want to talk about today.

I do not believe the role of Government is to create wealth. That’s not the role of Government. There are no guarantees in the free

enterprise system. The role of Government is to create an environment that encourages risktaking, an environment that facilitates the flow of capital, and an environment in which people can realize their dreams. That’s the role of Government, and that’s exactly what I intend to do as the President.

And it started right after I got sworn in as President, when I went before the Congress and insisted that they reduce the tax rates on everybody who pays taxes in America. And that tax cut came at the right time for our country. Make no mistake about it, the fact that we’re willing to allow people to keep their own money stimulated demand. And when you stimulate demand, that then causes production increases, and when you increase production, you increase jobs. The tax cut came just at the time our economy was losing steam. It was an important part of the fact that our economy is beginning to rebound. And for those who think we ought to undo the tax cut, they’ve got a mighty high hurdle to cross; that’s me.

And here’s the thing about the tax cut that I know was incredibly important for the future of our country. Most small businesses—let me put it this—many small businesses, many, many businesses are sole proprietorships or are limited partnerships and, therefore, do not pay corporate rate in income tax; they pay individual rates. And therefore, by cutting all rates, what we did was provide cash flow to the small businesses of America. The tax reduction plan was important for small-business growth and activity. The more businesses—the more cash flow a small-business owner has in her pocket, the more likely it is the business will succeed and expand and create more jobs. This tax cut not only happened at the right time; it was really good for small businesses in America.

A lot of us in Washington didn’t feel like that was enough, and so we fought for an economic stimulus plan, which I’m proud to report I was able to sign in the Rose Garden a couple of weekends ago. And with the help of both Republicans and Democrats, the plan made it to my desk. It is a plan that says we’re going to help people whose lives were affected because of the attacks of 9/11 by extending unemployment benefits. But it also

recognized that people don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore, we created additional stimulus, mainly encouraging people to invest in plant and equipment.

If you encourage people to invest in plant and equipment, that will help those who are the immediate employer, but also those who manufacture the equipment or manufacture the—or construct the plant will also have employment. So it's a ripple effect in our economy. And so I was pleased to sign that bill, and it's going to help, in my judgment, not only in the short term but in the out-years as well.

And we're seeing some encouraging signs of recovery, but I want to tell you something. I'm not a numbers cruncher, I'm not one of these bean counters, but I don't believe the economy is strong enough to say that we've recovered. I worry about the fact there are too many people in our country still looking for work. And if people who want to work can't find work, we've got to keep moving on the subject of economic security and economic recovery, and that's what I want to talk to you about today.

Again, I'll repeat, if the small-business sector creates two-thirds of the new jobs in America, it makes a lot of sense to focus on how to stimulate small-business growth. So I want to talk to you about some of my plans to do so, starting with this. And basically, the summary is, that we're going to lift unfair regulatory burdens; we're going to encourage additional cash flow; and we're going to work to make sure that American entrepreneurs have got access to Government contracting.

Because the economic stimulus package only had a 3-year life to it, I believe Congress ought to pass additional incentives for small businesses to invest in plant and equipment, incentives beyond the incentives in the economic stimulus package. As you know, annual tax deductions are limited to a certain amount of money on an annual basis for small businesses, and the size of the purchase is relatively small. I think we ought to increase the size of the purchase of plant and equipment as well as increase the annual deductions for small businesses in order to enhance cash flow, which will make it easier for people to find more jobs in America.

Secondly, the complexity of the Tax Code is a tremendous burden on small business. And we must simplify it. It's an interesting fact I ran into: 9 out of 10 small businesses owned by women have fewer than five employees. And the amount of time people spend over trying to figure out a complicated tax system is enormous. It is a—frankly, not that good a use of your time. *[Laughter]*

I talked to Secretary O'Neill about this very subject. I'm going to share it with you. One, I instructed him to report on ways that the Treasury Department can simplify the Tax Code on small businesses as quickly as possible. I will give you one idea—not an idea, one thing we're going to do immediately by—a revenue rule, it's called. And Paul, I promise you, is the kind of fellow that, when he's asked to do something, he'll get it done quickly. And I've asked him to do this. *[Laughter]*

Service businesses with gross revenues of under \$10 million will be able to use the cash accounting method of accounting, as opposed to accrual method of accounting. Simply put, that will eradicate a lot of time spent on trying to figure out the accrual method of accounting. It simplifies the accounting process for small businesses, which will be a timesaver and a moneysaver and will help create more jobs by simplifying the regulatory burden on small businesses. We're going to get this done quickly.

Although what I'm about to tell you won't have an immediate effect on job creation, it is an important part of any small-business owner's plan or strategy, and it's this: We've eliminated the death tax as a result of the new tax reform. However, because of a—I guess you would call it a quirk in the law, the death tax would not be totally eliminated in the year 2011. We must make the repeal of the death tax permanent. I call upon Congress to do this immediately.

It is unfair, patently unfair, for a—any entrepreneur—but a woman entrepreneur to develop her own business and have that business taxed twice as she tries to leave her assets to whomever she chooses. It is not fair. There are a lot of Federal regulations that complicate the lives of small-business people all across the country. The SBA has calculated that the hidden costs of regulations

to businesses with fewer than 20 workers—and it's this—it comes down to \$7,000 per worker. That's a lot of money, particularly if you're trying to figure out ways to expand your employment base. And this is a drag on our economy. Hidden costs are a drag on the U.S. economy.

And so today I want to make sure people understand that we're going to do everything we can to clean up the regulatory burdens on small businesses, starting with this: Every agency—already it's under current law—but every agency is required to analyze the impact of new regulations on small businesses before issuing them. That's an important law. The problem is, it's oftentimes being ignored. The law is on the books; the regulators don't care that the law is on the books. From this day forward, they will care that the law is on the books.

Mitch Daniels, who heads the Office of Management and Budget, will not accept regulations that do not calculate the cost on American small businesses. We want to enforce the law. It is a good law to have a cost benefit analysis of any regulation on small business. If regulations provide a hidden cost on small businesses, which provide a drag on our economy, and if we're trying to stimulate our economy, one way to do so is to enforce the law which says that we will not have costly regulations on small businesses in America. And that's what we're going to do.

Furthermore, if you've got a problem with regulations, if there are nettlesome regulations which are costly for you to operate your business, that you don't think makes any sense, I urge you to get on the Internet and wire the OMB your problem, so we can analyze it. Now, here's who you—if you want to write this down, here it is. *[Laughter]* Gosh, it seems like a lot of people are getting ready to write it down. *[Laughter]* I'm not surprised—www.whitehouse.gov—wait a minute, it's getting better—omb/infogeg, and wire them in.

I talked to Mitch before I came over here. I said, "Mitch, I just can't stand up here and say, you're going to get rid of regulations and ask people to call in or write in. Give us some place to send the information." And I said, "If I stand up here in front of the Women Entrepreneurs of America and somebody e-

mails in, you better respond"—*[laughter]*—www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infogeg.

Fifth, I am proposing measures to make health care more available. I understand the drag on small businesses. It is hard for you to attract good workers; it is hard for you to keep good workers if your health care costs are going sky-high. I understand that.

There was a lady who wrote in. She said, "I have 12 employees, and I was canceled three times by my insurance company in 2001. And the reason they gave me is that they are no longer going to be writing small-group plans." Perhaps that's happened to some of you all out here as well. If we could get into a larger pool where we could get access to lower premiums, then I could insure more people and hire some more people. I think that's a universal complaint all across America. And that's why I strongly support association health plans.

That means that small businesses will be able to pool together and spread their risk across a larger employee base. It makes no sense, no sense in America, to isolate small businesses as little health care islands unto themselves. We must have association health plans. I know the Senator strongly supports that, and Congress ought to support them.

And here's the way they will work. It means a family restaurant or a local hardware store can insure their workers, say, through the National Federation of Independent Businesses or the National Restaurant Association. It allows association groups to write health care plans across jurisdictional boundaries to the benefit—to the benefit not only of the small-business owner but to the benefit of those who work for small businesses.

And finally, Government contracting must be more open and more fair to small businesses. I believe—I know Government contracting, if wisely done, can help us achieve a grand national goal, which is more ownership in more communities all across America. But you know as well as I do that there are some large hurdles for small businesses. One is, that—and the main one is that agencies sometimes, many times, only let huge contracts with massive requirements, and they tend to go to the same group of large corporate bidders. Around—the term of art in Washington is called bundling. It effectively

excludes small businesses, and we need to do something about that.

Again, I talked to Mitch about this, and I want him to examine—he understands, like I understand, the capacity for our Government to encourage entrepreneurial growth, the capacity for our Government to stimulate small-business ownership in all communities across America.

And so one of the things we're going to do is, we're going to examine the Federal Government's contracting policies, to make sure that they encourage competition as opposed to exclude competition, to make sure that the process is open, to make sure the process helps achieve a noble objective, which is more ownership in our country. And wherever possible, we're going to insist that we break down large Federal contracts so that small-business owners have got a fair shot at Federal contracting.

The Government can provide an environment that will encourage risktaking, and I believe, when we do these, it will encourage risktaking. There are no guarantees in the free enterprise system, as you all know. But we can make the system more open and more inviting. We can encourage people to take risk, and that's exactly what we're going to do in this administration. It is important for the economic security of the United States of America. Not only am I concerned about economic security; I'm also concerned about our national security. And I want to share some thoughts with you about my thinking about our national security.

First, I know there are many from New York City here who suffered mightily on September the 11th. And I want to say how much I appreciate that city showing not only our Nation but the world what it means to be resolute and tough and determined to succeed. Not only watching how New Yorkers responded but seeing how our Nation responded, leads me to conclude that the enemy didn't understand who they were dealing with. You see, they thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed that the only thing I was going to do was sue them. *[Laughter]* They were wrong. They were wrong.

My most important job is to protect innocent lives in America. My most important job

is to protect the homeland, and we've got a strategy in place to deal with a bioterrorist attack. We've got a first-responders strategy. We're doing a better job of buttoning up our borders. We want to know who's coming in and why they're here and when they're leaving. We've got to do a better job.

But I want to tell you all that the best way to achieve the objective of securing the homeland is to chase the killers down, wherever they try to hide, and bring them to justice. And I want to assure you, that's what's going to happen. And it's going to take a while, but the good news is, the American people are patient. I believe the American people understand the difficulty that lies ahead. I know the United States military does, and I'm so proud of the way they have accomplished the mission so far.

I gave a speech in Washington a while ago—and once you're over 55, everything is a while ago—*[laughter]*—I can't remember if it was a week or 2 weeks but, nevertheless, a while ago—*[laughter]*—that said the first phase in the war against terror is over with. And that first phase was upholding the doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist or feed a terrorist or hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who came and murdered innocent Americans and others from around the world. And the Taliban found out exactly what this great Nation meant. They're no longer in business.

The way I viewed—I was so proud of our country, because we sought not revenge but justice. That's what we seek. And we didn't go to Afghanistan as conquerors; we arrived as liberators. As Elaine Chao mentioned, this week, for the first time, many young girls will be going to school. I am so proud of our country. I am proud of our military. I am proud of the children who have raised millions of dollars for Afghan children. I'm proud of the compassion of our country. We've showed the world that not only will we seek justice; we've showed the world that we will seek a better society for citizens, starting in Afghanistan, by ridding them from the clutches of one of the most barbaric, backward regimes history has ever known.

But there's more to do, and as leaders in your communities, it is important for me to share this with you. Anytime Al Qaida

bunches up, we're going to get them. They did so in the Shahi-Kot Mountain Range, and they now regret that. Because you see, there are still thousands of these trained killers around. And I want to tell you—I cannot make it any more plain than this—they hate America, and the reason they hate America is because we're free. We're a free society. They can't stand the thought of the President of the United States coming to speak to women who own their own business.

These are people who are irrational, and we will treat them like the international criminals they are by keeping them on the run. So the second phase, my fellow Americans, of this war is to deny them sanctuary. Anywhere they try to light, we will disrupt them. We will be patient; we'll be deliberate. But I can assure you, we'll be determined.

I have submitted a budget that significantly raises the defense spending. And the reason I did was because I want those who risk their lives on behalf of Americans to get the best pay, the best equipment, the best training possible. I recognize—I recognize that the price of freedom is high. But as far as I'm concerned, it is never too high.

The world watches us. The world tests, or really looks at, our will. They want to know whether or not we're people who just talk or people who are willing to lead. And they're going to find out we're a nation that—when somebody attacks our values and murders our citizens and still wants to do so, they will find that we are a strong, resolute, determined, and united people, much to the chagrin—much to the chagrin of terrorist networks around the world. The more firm we are, the more likely it is the world will follow. And the more firm and determined we are, the more likely it is that we will achieve lasting peace.

My dream for the world is lasting peace. I want our children to grow up in a peaceful world, a world in which freedom, at its very center, is the most important value. And we can achieve that. There is no doubt in my mind, as the United States remains firm and strong and achieves our clearly stated objectives, that we have a chance to solve problems that many never think could be solved around the world and leave behind such a wonderful legacy, not only for our own chil-

dren but for children of every country. And at the same time, we have an opportunity at home to show the world the true face of America, the heart and soul of the American people.

I want to thank very much Suzanne Tufts for being here today. She is the president and CEO of American Woman's Economic Development Corporation. Right after the enemy attacked, Suzanne and her organization moved quickly to help small businesses affected by the attack, primarily women-owned businesses, to help them, obviously, deal with the shock to their businesses but also help them get back on their feet. It is this kind of compassion and care and concern for a neighbor that is the true strength of the country.

Listen, we're a great military power, and that's good. [*Laughter*] But the true strength of America is not in the halls of Government; it's in the hearts and the souls of our citizens. The thing that makes our country so unique is that we're people that have heard the universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

I'm asked all the time by people, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" And the answer is: If you want to stand up to evil, do something good for a neighbor in need; if you want to stand up squarely in the face of evil, show somebody you love them. And those don't have to be magnificent acts of love; they can be small acts of generosity which, in their total, help define America for the rest of the world. Just walking across the street to a lonely shut-in, is, in itself, part of the defiance to evil, or mentoring a child or thanking a teacher or generosity with your checkbook or using your time and talents for your church or synagogue or mosque to help people who are hopeless in our society.

Out of this incredible evil done to America, I see great good. I see not only the good of lasting world peace; I see a nation that is more compassionate and hopeful, a nation that understands that by adhering to the admonition to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, we set a clear example of what's possible in other places around the world.

I have been not only amazed; I have been so gladdened by what I've seen and heard about America in the face of this tragedy. Not only are we determined to seek justice; we're determined to right wrongs, to help heal souls, and to help people in need.

It is such an honor to be the President of a country that embraces the entrepreneurial spirit for all. But more importantly, it's an honor to be the President of a country full of decent and heartfelt and compassionate Americans.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Atrium Ballroom at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting

March 19, 2002

Thank you all for coming. We've had a very good Cabinet meeting. I want to thank my members of the Cabinet for discussing a variety of topics. I heard from the Secretary of State about the Vice President's visit and the Zinni mission. So we're making progress. We heard, of course, from the Secretary of Defense about our progress in the war on terror, and I appreciate his leadership and the bravery of the military.

We talked about a lot of other issues. One thing I want to urge the Senate to do is to pass 245(i). This bill passed the House, and it now needs to pass the Senate. It is a bill which enhances our border security and, at the same time, says that if someone's living here legally, they won't have to leave the country in order to stay with their family. In other words, they won't have to leave the country, apply, and then come back to be with their family. We believe in family values. We believe good policy keeps families together. The House agreed with us, and the Senate ought to act. The Senate ought to get this done and particularly soon.

I'm going to Mexico. I want to show our friends, the Mexicans, that we are compassionate about people who live here on a legal basis, that we don't disrupt the families for

people who are here legally. So I think it's going to require some leadership in the Senate, and I look forward to seeing the Senate get this done soon.

And I thank you all for coming today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13259— Designation of Public International Organizations for Purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977

March 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 30A(f)(1)(B)(ii) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-1(f)(1)(B)(ii)) and sections 104(h)(2)(B)(ii) and 104A(f)(2)(B)(ii) of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-2(h)(2)(B)(ii), 78dd-3(f)(2)(B)(ii)), I hereby designate as "public international organizations" for the purposes of application of section 30A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and sections 104 and 104A of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977:

(a) The European Union, including: the European Communities (the European Community, the European Coal & Steel Community, and the European Atomic Energy Community); institutions of the European Union, such as the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Central Bank, and the European Investment

Bank; and any departments, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof; and

(b) The European Police Office (Europol), including any departments, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof.

Designation in this Executive Order is intended solely to further the purposes of the statutes mentioned above and is not determinative of whether an entity is a public international organization for the purpose of other statutes or regulations.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:10 p.m., March 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on March 21.

Executive Order 13261—Providing An Order of Succession in the Environmental Protection Agency and Amending Certain Orders on Succession

March 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Administrator) during any period when both the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency have died, resigned, or become otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator.

Sec. 2. Order of Succession.

- (a) Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances;
- (b) Assistant Administrator (Air and Radiation);
- (c) Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste;

- (d) Assistant Administrator (Water Programs);
- (e) Assistant Administrator (General Counsel);
- (f) Assistant Administrator (Enforcement and Compliance Assurance);
- (g) Chief Financial Officer;
- (h) Assistant Administrator (Research and Development);
- (i) Assistant Administrator (International Activities);
- (j) Assistant Administrator (Administration and Resources Management); and
- (k) Assistant Administrator (Environmental Information).

Sec. 3. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(k) in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Administrator pursuant to this order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this order, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this order in designating an acting Administrator.

Sec. 4. Amendments to Certain Executive Orders providing Orders of Succession. Executive Orders 13241, 13242, 13243, 13244, 13245, 13246, and 13247 of December 18, 2001, and Executive Orders 13250 and 13251 of December 28, 2001, are hereby amended as follows:

(a) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13241 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Agriculture,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(j) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(b) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13242 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Commerce,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(h) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(c) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13243 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing

an Order of Succession Within the Department of Housing and Urban Development,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(i) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(d) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13244 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of the Interior,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(f) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(e) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13245 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Labor,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(l) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(f) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13246 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of the Treasury,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(c) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(g) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13247 of December 18, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Veterans Affairs,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(h) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”;

(h) Section 3(a) of Executive Order 13250 of December 28, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Health and Human Services,” is replaced with the following: “(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2(a)–(c) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.” and;

(i) Section 3(b) of Executive Order 13251 of December 28, 2001, entitled “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of State,” is replaced with the following: “(b) No individual who is serving in

an office listed in section 2(a)–(m) in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this order.”.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:12 p.m., March 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on March 21.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the 2002 Trade Policy
Agenda and 2001 Report on the
Trade Agreements Program**
March 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 2002 Trade Policy Agenda and 2001 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program, as prepared by my Administration as of March 1, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 19, 2002.

**Interview With Latin American and
American Spanish Language
Journalists**
March 19, 2002

**President's Upcoming Visit to Central
and South America**

The President. I'm going to give you an opening statement. But first of all, these observers are simply that.

Q. They're not going to take one question.

The President. They get no questions. They're here just to listen to your questions and my answers. They probably will like your questions and not like my answers. [*Laughter*]

Anyway, let me talk about the trip from my perspective and we'll kind of rotate around. Everybody will get at least one question; hopefully everybody will get two.

First, I'm looking forward to my trip. Obviously, one of the main purposes of the trip is to go speak about development, world development, in Monterrey. I will lay out there for the world leaders what—I already did so in our country—which is the Millennium Challenge Fund, of a fund that will ultimately be \$5 billion a year. It starts at \$1.5 billion, roughly \$1.5 billion, and then will go up to about two-thirds of \$5 billion, and then will be at \$5 billion in year three and will remain at \$5 billion.

And that fund will be used to encourage—first of all, it will say our country assumes our rightful responsibility to help developing nations, but we expect there to be rightful obligations on those who receive them, to make sure that there's an education system that works, a health care system that works, an opportunity for development of an entrepreneurial class or small businesses—foster trade between ourselves. And countries that practice good habits will get money. Now, this is on top of roughly \$10 billion which we spend already in direct development aid, not including other projects, assistance to the World Bank organizations, et cetera.

Also, I'm really looking forward to seeing my friend the President of Mexico. He was my friend prior to September the 11th; he was my friend after September the 11th; he'll be my friend for a long period of time because I know him well. I respect him a lot. We've got a very good relationship, and obviously, we've got a very important bilateral relationship.

So we're going to have a—we'll have a discussion about issues that are common issues. Obviously, the border is a common issue, how to make the border work better, looking at a variety of options as to how to modernize the border between Mexico and the United States, as well as the border between Canada and the United States.

I'll discuss some ideas with him. We'll continue to talk about migration, the need to make sure that people are treated with respect when they come to this country; that I strongly believe that we need to pass what we call 245(i) here. The House has done so; the Senate hasn't done anything yet. And I'd like to get that done quickly. We're urging the Senate to move and to get this bill passed.

And we've got a lot of discussions about commercial relations and law enforcement relations. We've got great cooperation. I've been very impressed by the dialog that we've had. It was a good dialog before the attacks; it's been a good dialog after.

Then we go down to Peru. I'm looking forward to seeing President Toledo. He is a leader dedicated to democracy and reform. I'm really looking forward to being in Lima. I've never been there. It's going to be an exciting trip for me and *mi esposa*. And it will not only give me a chance to have a good bilateral discussion with *el Presidente* on a variety of subjects, not the least of which will be counternarcotics cooperation, trade. I'm very concerned about opening markets in the United States. We'll talk to him about that.

And then we'll be meeting with other leaders from the Andean trade pact. And I look forward to meeting them as well. I've known most of them before. This will be the third or fourth time I've seen President Toledo, so I've got a familiar relationship with him.

And then off to El Salvador to discuss a free trade agreement with the Central American countries and to see my friend President Flores, who is really one of the bright young leaders. I admire him a lot and respect him a lot. So I look forward to discussing—the main discussion in Central America will be trade, will be the focus on how to enhance prosperity.

The main discussions with the Andean countries will be trade plus, obviously, the issue of drugs, *drogas*. I will remind all countries, however, that our Nation has got to do a better job of suppressing demand. In order to make sure that we're effective in dealing with the Andean nations, with the issue of borders, safe borders with Mexico—so long as we've got people using drugs in America, somebody is going to provide them. And it's likely they're going to come from our neighbors. So we've got a big obligation at home as well. I want to make that clear to the leaders and the people as well.

So this is going to be an exciting trip. I said when I first got elected that good relations in the neighborhood, in our own neighborhood, is the cornerstone of a good foreign policy. I meant that. My first trip as President was to Mexico. I continue to stay very much

involved in the neighborhood, and so I'm looking forward to the trip.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Yes, Mr. President. In your trip to Mexico City, you're talking about——

The President. Mexico City, do you mean Monterrey?

Q. I'm sorry, Monterrey.

The President. I was going to say, have we got another trip, and they forgot to tell me? [*Laughter*]

Q. When you're talking about trade, you obviously know that the whole issue of fast track hasn't gone anywhere here in the Senate. Do you see that——

The President. In the Senate? Yes.

Q. And in Congress, itself.

The President. Well, the House passed it, remember?

Q. Right.

The President. We got it out of the House, which a lot of people didn't think we were going to be able to do.

Q. So as far as trade conversations down there, do you see that as a problem?

The President. No, I don't. I see it—I will remind them that we'll continue to work hard with the Senate. I'll remind them of some of the language of some of the Senators that do believe that we ought to have a free trade agreement. We ought to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, which I will continue to push and won't happen prior to my leaving. I'm going in 2 days. But nevertheless, we're confident we can get that done.

I will also remind them trade promotion authority passed the House. A lot of people thought that was a higher hurdle than the Senate. The Senate leadership has said that they're going to bring this bill up. I don't know the timing of it yet, but we're going to push hard to get it done as soon as possible. It is an important issue to a lot of Senators, and I think I'll get it done. So I'll talk about that. Obviously, we have an obligation at home to get TPA passed, and we're half-way there.

And then we'll also talk about free trade in the Americas, as well as the Central American—the trade negotiations. I'll be talking about Chile, starting with the free trade

agreement with Chile. We think we can get that done this year as well.

So there is a lot of positive progress. And I'll remind them that on the decision I made on steel, I honored the agreements and the commitments of NAFTA and the free trade agreement. And so, as a result, Canada and Mexico were excluded from the agreement, as are most developing nations. And the only nation that's been affected is Brazil in our hemisphere, and only to the extent of about 12 percent of her steel production—or her exports.

Assistance to Colombia

Q. Mr. President, in Lima, you are going to meet with President Pastrana of Colombia.

The President. Yes, I am.

Q. While your administration is moving to increase the aid, the military aid to Colombia, to fight the foreign guerrillas—but according to the U.S. State Department, most of the drug trafficking—no, much of the drug trafficking problem and human rights violation is responsibility for the rightwing paramilitary group AUC. Aren't you afraid that your effort could not help to solve a big part of the problem?

The President. Am I afraid—I beg your pardon—afraid of the?

Q. That you help the Colombian Government to fight the FARC——

The President. Well, we expect them to fight all renegade and terrorist groups. We expect them to hold the line. I mean, we are not picking and choosing. We believe that AUC and FARC need to be—we need to focus on AUC and FARC, and the third group—I understand Mr. Pastrana is in discussions with them right now, and we'll see how that goes.

And so we don't play favorites with terrorist groups and renegade groups. We believe there's equality, and they're equally bad. And so we're going to insist that we—not insist—we will offer help and aid, like we have done. Right now we're restricted by Congress to focus on narcotrafficking, and we believe that we will work—we need to work with Congress to help broaden the focus to counterterrorism. And we're more than willing to have those discussions with Congress. I've already done so.

But I have always said that we'll stay within the confines of the law. We have no interest in committing ground troops, but we do want to help them, and we'll do so.

Impact of Trade on Developing Countries

Q. Mr. President, about this trade agreement with Central American countries—and I'm thinking specifically of El Salvador. How is your vision—how do you make these free trade agreements into benefits for the real people? I mean, in terms of development, what's your vision?

The President. Well, I think people—first of all, the statistic I like to quote is that we buy \$450 billion of goods from developing nations on an annual basis. I think that's the number I used the other day in my speech. That is 8 times more—and that, by the way, ends up—when you purchase goods, you're actually purchasing something that requires labor, and labor is a job. And so one of the focuses of this administration is how to put policies in place that enable people to work for a living. What is it—what is it we can do with each other? And trade equals jobs, as far as I'm concerned. And the trade figures, which really put money directly into the economies of countries with whom we trade, are significantly bigger than direct aid. And so it makes sense to promote trade.

So the answer to your question—and I'm confident people in your fine country are asking, "What good is it for me? How will this benefit me?" And that's a legitimate question people ask. And the answer is, trade equals jobs. The more markets are open, the more trade there is, the more jobs available. And the President understands; President Flores understands that. And that is very important to understand. It is—the amount of capital that ends up flowing within the private sector in the country is significantly greater than any aid package could possibly be. And that's important for people to know. And that's why I think President Flores is excited about the idea of having this trade pact.

And obviously, countries are going to have to put procedures in place that will allow for the orderly development of a private sector, rule of law, anticorruption measures. No one is going to do business if you get money stolen from you. There's got to be tightening

of anticorruption measures. There's got to be a good education system. And part of the Millennium Challenge Fund will help developing nations develop an education system.

One of the things we learned from northern Mexico—the trade—is that trade created a lot of job opportunity. And the job opportunity created training opportunities, which in itself was good education for many people. The border region of my State, while still poor, has changed significantly as a result of the trade policies. And Monterrey has blossomed into one of the great financial centers of the hemisphere because of trade.

And so there's a lot of positive benefits for people. People talk about health care, and it's essential that we have good health care. But it's—a society that is generating wealth is one much more likely to provide good health care for her people. And there's a lot of benefits to trade. And so that's probably the most direct benefit to the people.

Drug Interdiction/Intelligence

Q. One small detail concerning what he asked you before. Is Peru, Colombia, and the United States talking about a place in an intelligence basement in the jungle of Colombia and Peru to fight narco-traffickers and—

The President. Are we talking about—I can't get too specific about placements. Let me just put it to you this way: We're willing to cooperate to do as effective a job as we can on interdicting. I won't count that as a question.

Q. You're already talking about it. And my question, please—

The President. One of the things we don't discuss, at least in this administration, is intelligence matters. We don't want the enemy to have any sense about what we're thinking about doing, or where we may be going. So that does not count as a question.

Fujimori Government Investigation

Q. President Toledo will ask you to help him for the reclassification of documents concerning corruption and human rights violations in Fujimori's government. The CIA, especially—

The President. FBI.

Q. FBI and CIA also has some of the most important documents, we think, concerning the Vladimiro Montesinos. How long are we going to have to wait to know what those documents have?

The President. Well, actually, we're co-operating very closely. I think he would say that we've had great cooperation with the Peruvian Government. There has been significant cooperation. As a matter of fact, it led to the significant arrest, as you may remember. And I will be very candid with him and talk about matters of sharing information. We're not—again, I don't know a specific document you're talking to. But I can tell you the history has been positive up to now. Otherwise the arrest—I can't remember the fellow's name. You know him more than me, Fujimori's close—

Q. Vladimiro Montesinos?

The President. Yes. That was the result of our cooperation, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. How was it?

The President. What?

Q. How was it?

The President. How was the result?

Q. Yes.

The President. Well, we shared a lot of information in order to make the case, if I'm not mistaken. The Ambassador here was very much involved with that. And I think that history will show when the facts come out that this man wouldn't have been arrested without the close cooperation of the U.S. Government.

Mexico-U.S. Border Issues

Q. Sir, the Washington Post runs a story today that—about the creation of a new border agency that will merge Customs, the INS, and the Border Patrol.

The President. Don't believe everything you read in the paper. [Laughter]

Q. Okay. [Laughter]

The President. That's off the record, of course. No, put it in there. It will make me a hero. [Laughter]

Q. I know that the—at least the border issue will be a main topic on Friday's bilateral reunion with President Fox. What will a reinforced U.S.-Mexican border mean for each country?

The President. Yes, let me talk about—first of all, I'm exploring all options to make our borders more secure and more modern. And so what does that mean with Mexico? Well, first of all, I recognize the—of all people, I recognize, since I was the Governor of Texas, I know how much traffic goes across that border on a daily basis and how much of that traffic stays within the region. I mean, we've got aunts and uncles visiting their nephews and nieces and have been doing it for generations. And therefore, a smart border policy is one that recognizes customs and habits and the history; as a matter of fact, facilitates that flow, as opposed to prevents that flow of people, and recognizes that there is a unique relationship here. And, therefore, there's got to be positive policies that do not impede those customs.

Secondly, a smart border is one that recognizes that we've got traffic originating in the midst of our respective countries that can be inspected somewhere other than the border—get a good seal of approval from an inland port, say, and let that cargo, once it's inspected, once clear for travel, proceed directly to a port or a destination in Mexico or the United States or vice versa, so that the traffic moves more expeditiously through the border.

It's a smart border initiative. It's one that recognizes the amount of commerce. You go down to Laredo, like I have, and you've got miles and miles of trucks. The system is antiquated; it is outdated. It needs to be modernized for the good of both countries.

Third, border security means more manpower and effective coordination to crack down on "coyotes." The worst kind of smuggling, in my judgment, is people smuggling. And as you well know, there has been a lot of that, and there's been a lot of tragedy as a result of poor, hard-working Mexicans, looking for a job, ending up in the back of somebody's truck in terrible weather, in horrible conditions, because of "coyotes." And we've got to do a better job. And when we crack down on the "coyotes," we've also been pretty darn effective at the same time about cracking down on smuggling, on both ways, I might add.

We need to be effective with biometrics. That will not only facilitate the common flow,

the daily flow of traffic; it will also help us deal with those who are coming into the country illegally and/or register those who are coming illegally for extended periods of time. So there's a lot we can do.

How best to effect that is what I'm looking at within the administration. I'm looking at a variety of options, because I want our borders to be modern and secure and recognize the great vitality between our respective countries. We've had good dialog, by the way, with the Fox administration, as have we had with the Chretien administration. And I think people are beginning to realize that we're serious about—both sides, or all three of us, are serious about working collaterally to make our borders work better.

Immigration and Border Security Legislation

Q. As far as the 245(i), how confident are you that the Senate will move on it?

The President. Well, I'm not confident they'll move on it; I'm confident we've got the votes. But the problem is I haven't been confident that they're going to move on many things these days. We've gotten a lot of bills out of the House and not much out of the Senate. And so that's why—I just finished my Cabinet meeting and made a direct call to the Senate to get 245(i) passed. They're dealing with other matters. Campaign funding reform is up, and they've still got an energy bill moving around.

Q. Because there's also a deadline for the program to end.

The President. No, I know. Trust me, I'm a big 245(i) backer. And I remember, as I recall, some in the Senate and the House went down to Mexico and talked to President Fox about a modern immigration policy. And I just hope that they're able to live up to their—kind of their implied promise or explicit promise they told the Mexican people when they went down there.

Venezuela

Q. Mr. President, in your trip to Lima, you're going to meet the Andean Presidents but not the Venezuelan President.

The President. That's right.

Q. As your spokesman tells us almost every day—

The President. He mentioned it? [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes. Your administration are—your administration is not happy with Mr. Chavez's trips, Mr. Chavez's friends. What should the current Venezuelan administration do to—in order to be closer to your—maybe get a meeting? Or thinking about the recent political unrest in Venezuela, are you worried that there could be some—the situation could be worse?

The President. Well, let me see here. First, Venezuela is not a part of the Andean trade group. Secondly, the President has spoken out against free trade agreements. And since this is going to be mainly a discussion—other than my bilateral with President Toledo—a discussion about trade, that it doesn't seem to make sense to have him a part of those discussions. Why have somebody there who's not in favor of what we're all trying to do?

Secondly, we are concerned about Venezuela. We've had long-time connections with the Venezuelan people, have a great respect for the Venezuelan people. We've got a commercial relationship with the Venezuelans for years, and that obviously is in the energy sector. And we are concerned any time there is unrest in our neighborhood, and we're watching the situation very carefully.

This man was elected by the people. We respect democracy in our country, and we hope that he respects those institutions, the democratic institutions within his country.

Temporary Protected Status Extension

Q. Mr. President, as you might or might not be aware, there are 6 million Salvadorans living inside our country.

The President. Yes.

Q. And 2 million and a half living outside, mostly in the United States. What could we expect in terms of migrations? Are you—also the announcement of the TPS extension for Salvadorans?

The President. I won't be making that announcement there. But as you may remember, I supported the TPS extension last time around. It does not come up until September of this year, if I'm not mistaken. I will take it under advisement. But the last time it came up, I was strongly in support.

Let me just give you my view generally about immigration. There are people in our neighborhood who hurt—a mom or a dad who worry about whether or not their children eat—and I have great sympathy for those folks. And many come to our country to work. I used to remind people that family values did not stop at the Rio Bravo. There's a lot of parents who deeply care about whether or not their families can survive and are willing to take a risk to come long distances to find work. And it turns out that a place that had been looking for workers for a period of time was the United States. The economy was strong; there were a lot of jobs that others wouldn't do, what people were willing to do, and they came here.

And my attitude is that we ought to have a program, figure out a program that will match a willing employer with a willing employee and make that a part of a legal process. In other words, if you're willing to work and somebody is looking for a job, that we make that easier rather than harder to accomplish.

And that's not the case in the law today. It's hard to legally hire somebody. And I think we can—that's going to be a discussion I must have with Members of our United States Congress and obviously with the President of Mexico, for starters. This is going to take a while to accomplish, but it's—to me, it's a commonsense way to approach the migration issue.

How that affects the people here from El Salvador, some legal and some illegal, it's hard to tell.

Q. So just to be sure, so you're not making any announcement in terms of migration in El Salvador?

The President. No, I'm not. But I will remind people, if asked, of course, that I was for TPS the last time around.

Peru/Hemispheric Democracy

Q. Not only Venezuela but also Argentina and Colombia and Brazil is doing its own way, but South America is going through a very special moment now. Are you looking in Peru a new ally closer to the United States to go to the South American region?

The President. Well, that's very interesting. First of all, I'm going to Peru because

I do view Peru as an ally and a friend. I'm the first United States sitting President to have ever gone to Peru. And I welcome the reforms in Peru, and I welcome the fact that President Toledo is taking a very firm stand on reforming and anticorruption. And he was elected through the democratic process, which is important.

And interestingly enough, all but one nation in our hemisphere has got a democratically elected President. Cuba is the only country that does not have a democratically elected President. That is a significant change, if you think about it, in the history of our hemisphere, an amazing change to the better.

We just had elections in Central America, the neighbors of El Salvador. And the neighborhood there has had two elections, good, clean elections, where reformers and advocates for the open market and trade were elected. And I'm looking forward—I've met them prior to their swearing-in. I look forward to seeing them again when I'm down there.

Brazil, obviously, is fixing to have an election. Colombia is going to have an election soon. It will be very interesting to see how that election plays out. Obviously, the security of the people will be an issue in that election. I think that happens in May, if I'm not mistaken.

So there's an ongoing—to me, it's a—the system—and Mexico, of course, was one where, you know, the PAN wins, and all of a sudden it shows the maturity of the democratic process. And I think this is incredibly positive results for our hemisphere. Not everything is going to be smooth all the time, but so long as leaders and the people demand democracy, there will be more freedom and more opportunity and more hope than in societies that will be closed and will frighten their neighbors.

Argentina is a financial issue. Argentina has got a longstanding democracy. And it's an issue of great concern for us, because we're friends with Argentina and we're partners with Argentina. And we are hoping that Argentina will make the necessary reforms, the tough decisions necessary to earn the confidence of some of these international financial institutions but most particularly the

IMF. I know that I've talked to my friend the President of Spain a lot, because the Spanish banks are quite exposed in Argentina. They've got more exposure than any banks in the world, and we're second. So we're interested, but we're more interested in the people, themselves.

So we've spent, in our administration, a lot of time focusing on Argentina. So I'm concerned about that; on the other hand, I know that there is a way out, and the country itself is going to have to make some tough calls, starting with reforming the relationship between the States and their budgets and the central government.

But we'll see what happens. I'm optimistic about our hemisphere. I think it's been—I think there's some really great years ahead of us. And the reason I am is because I've watched some of these elections very closely, and I think the outcomes have been—they've embraced giving the people an opportunity to express themselves.

U.N. Commission on Human Rights/Cuba

Q. You mentioned Cuba.

The President. Yes.

Q. It is said that you are going to ask President Toledo to vote against Cuba in the United Nations Human Rights Committee meetings?

The President. Well, I wouldn't say voting against. I'm just going to remind the Human Rights Commission to remember that Cuba is an incredibly repressive regime. It's the one nondemocratic government. They put people in prison if they don't agree with you. I mean, that to me is a violation of people's human rights. I mean, there's no rule of law there. It's the rule of one person. He's been there for a long period of time, and unfortunately the people of that country are suffering as a result of him.

So it's a vote for liberty and freedom, and that's something Mr. Castro doesn't believe in. For example, there's not a lot of free press there, to put it in your lap, as we say.

Last question.

Millennium Challenge Fund

Q. Okay. Today's main story in our newspaper in Mexico, as part of the international conference in Monterrey, was the U.S. oppo-

sition—well, it was Alan Larson's opposition—

The President. Who?

Q. Alan Larson?

The President. Alan Larson?

NSC Senior Director Maisto. Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

The President. Oh, okay.

Q. Okay. You do know him, okay. [Laughter]

The President. I've got a big administration. [Laughter]

Q. He was speaking on the—

The President. Well, I don't know if I know him or not. Depends on what he said. [Laughter]

Q. Okay, now I'm going to rethink the question first—

The President. The real question is, will he know me after what he said? But anyway, go ahead. What's Al's position, and what's the subject? [Laughter]

Q. Well, the story was on the United States opposition to aid quotas. Is it—

The President. To what quotas?

Q. Aid, quotas for aid.

The President. Aid quotas?

Q. Aid, to help developing countries.

The President. Oh, yes. Okay, yes.

Q. And it's—

The President. He and I are in the same position. Al still has a job. [Laughter]

Q. That's good. The conference started yesterday, and is it expected that every developed country decides on its own how and how much to help, if—

The President. Now, here's the thing. You can't—it's an arbitrary measurement that I frankly don't think reflects the great compassion of the United States. People are able to adopt whatever formula they think is necessary to be generous. But these formulas often times don't measure how much a nation is contributing, like our nation is contributing.

And I think a better way to go, and the way we are going to go, is through this Millennium Challenge Fund, where we're laying out a \$5-billion-a-year commitment. Now, that starts 3 years from now, so—I just want to make sure everybody understands the funding. I know there's a little confusion about what—a third of it, which is more than

\$1.5 billion, it's a little less than \$1.7 billion—\$1.66667 billion—and then two-thirds, and then—

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Could be, it's going to be—be determined exactly.

The President. Anyway. It'll be up to \$5 billion at the end of 3 years. [*Laughter*]

Larson? [*Laughter*] Anyway—no, you're Fleischer.

Five billion at the end of 3 years, \$5 billion the fourth year, \$5 billion the sixth year, okay?

This is a better way to go. As I said earlier, that it is an obligation we take seriously, and by the way, this is on top of that which we already do. It doesn't include monies, for example, to make the world more secure. It's hard to have economic development if you're being terrorized. And one of the obligations that we take seriously is the obligation to rid the world of terror. And we don't mind leading this coalition, and we are spending the most money to do so—which is fine. We're happy to do that. We will defend freedom.

My only point is, there's a lot of ways to contribute. We're a big contributor to the World Bank, significant contributor to the IMF. We contribute in a variety of ways—the United Nations, which is a large contributor, and there's a variety. So do other nations—don't get me wrong. I'm not saying we're the only ones doing this. I'm just saying that the best way for us to proceed, the most comfortable I am, is to make the commitment I have made through this Millennium Challenge Fund—which is a reform to the current process, because on the one hand we're saying we have responsibilities; we'll uphold those responsibilities. But there is a responsibility from the country that receives money as well, a responsibility to the people, a responsibility to rout out corruption.

I think it makes no sense to give aid, money, to countries that are corrupt. Because you know what happens? The money doesn't help the people; it helps an elite group of leaders. And that's not fair to the people of this particular country, nor is it fair to the taxpayers in the United States.

So I believe it's time to bring a measure of accountability into this process, and I'm going to be very strong about it in Monterrey. I don't subscribe to the theory that certain

countries cannot reform, and therefore we must give them money anyway. I don't buy that. I believe everybody can have basic rule of law and can respect the citizens who live there. Everybody should be able to focus on educating their children and have good health care policy.

And so this millennium fund is going to be focusing not only on enhancing trade and the practices that lead to good trade policy—and again, I'll repeat, if a nation is worried about developing, a nation can receive a heck of a lot more help, private capital, aid—not in the normal sense but help—through trade. It happens every time. And so the best practices, it seems like to me, the best way to foster what we all would hope for, which is a healthy, well-educated, prosperous world, is to encourage trade and the habits that lead to trade and the habits that lead to marketplace.

And again, I repeat, there's got to be good government practices attributed to that. And I'm going to be tough about it. I'm not interested in funding corruption, period. And if a country thinks they're going to get aid from the United States and they're stealing money, they're just not going to get it out of this millennium fund—and hopefully not out of any fund.

And then we expect nations to develop practices that will help the people directly, like good education. I'm the first leader who stood up and said that the World Bank ought to have 50 percent of the money they distribute in the form of grants, not loans—grants to help education and health flourish in developing nations. I think it would be a lot better than, you know, loaning money that in many circumstances can't be repaid. It's hard to get a rate of return in the financial sense on an education system. But you can get a huge rate of return on the capital of human capital, by a good education system.

So I'm for grants, not loans, for 50 percent of the money coming out of the World Bank. I think there's a lot of people down there in Monterrey that—you know, I didn't hear a lot of thunderous applause on it, but it's the right thing to do.

And so I'm not afraid of taking a lead. And I'm going to lead on this issue, because I

feel strongly that for our taxpayers to be comfortable with money being spent, there's got to be something, there's got to be an effort made—a true, honest effort made to improve the plight of the people we're trying to help.

And I'm optimistic about all this. We've got some terrible problems in the world. I'm deeply disturbed about the AIDS crisis. It is a significant, significant issue in Africa, obviously. There's a place where we've put up a half a billion dollars to begin. And when I see a strategy, a focused strategy that will yield results, then we'll be willing to work with Congress to put more money in.

But I want to see—and we didn't mind; we're happy to take the lead in starting to seed the fund. But now, it's time to see whether or not there can be a strategy in place that will actually work. And when we see something working—and we'd like to help—but when we see something working, we'll be an enthusiastic backer. But if it doesn't work, it's time—it's time—to hold people accountable. And that's exactly what my message is going to be in Monterrey. I'm looking forward to giving—I'm sorry. I've got to go. *[Laughter]*

Q. I will wait and see.

The President. *Tengo que salir.* You'd better yell loud, because I can't hold this pack back. *[Laughter]* They'll be up there yelling and elbowing and screaming out questions. You watch; they're a very aggressive lot back there.

Possible Caribbean Visit

Q. Mr. President, do you envision going to the Caribbean soon at all or doing the same kind of thing that you're doing in Central and South America?

The President. *Quizas, quizas.*

President Duhalde of Argentina

Q. Mr. President, are you going to see President Duhalde of Argentina, do you know? Is he on your schedule, do you know?

The President. I don't know. Oh, you mean in Monterrey?

Q. Yes, sir, on this trip.

The President. I imagine I'll see him. We're having a dinner, leaders' dinner only, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. Yes. A luncheon.

The President. Luncheon. *Almuerzo.*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The interview began at 3:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Alejandro Toledo of Peru; President Francisco Flores of El Salvador; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; former President Alberto Fujimori of Peru and his adviser Vladimiro Montesinos; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; President Fidel Castro of Cuba; and President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde of Argentina. The President also referred to section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired April 30, 2001; AUC, the United Self-Defense Forces/Group of Colombia; FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; and PAN, the National Action Party in Mexico. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 20. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Television Azteca

March 20, 2002

Mexico-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for being on Television Azteca. It's a pleasure and an honor, sir, to have you. Let me first ask you, in Monterrey there are many people demonstrating against the meeting, not only of Mexico and the United States but in general of this world meeting. And they say that this will be an occasion to have Mexico subordinated to the United States. What do you tell these people?

The President. *Mexico es a grand amigo de los Estados Unidos*, and we're equal partners. It's very important for people in our hemisphere to know that we've got a unique relationship with Mexico and a very positive relationship. We've got a lot of trade that goes on on a daily basis. We've got a lot of contact with Mexico. And my attitude is, if Mexico succeeds, that is good for the United States. A strong Mexico, an equal partner is very good for the people of our country.

Everywhere I go, there's protesters, so I don't worry about protesters. What I worry

about is to make sure that we have good relations with Mexico. It's an important part of my foreign policy. This will be my second trip to Mexico since I've been the President, in a year's time. That should send a clear signal of the importance of the relationship.

Q. And this is not an occasion to subordinate anybody or anything?

The President. No, of course not. There's no subordination. This is an excuse for people who want to disrupt a positive relationship. And it's important for us to have a positive relationship with Mexico, and relations with Mexico have never been better.

Vicente Fox is my friend. I can have very good dialog with him. He's a strong, strong proponent of what's good for Mexico. He speaks his mind, as he should. And there are some areas where we agree and some areas where we don't agree, but we always agreed to have good relationships.

Immigration

Q. Mr. President, one of the issues that you're going to be discussing with President Fox is the one related to immigration.

The President. Yes.

Q. And I talked to a lot of people—community leaders, immigration attorneys—and they tell me that 245(i) only helps a very small percentage of people, and that, in reality, something has to be decided about this guestworker program initiative, the illegalization of all those Mexicans who are still here and working every day, and they haven't been able to get their residency—those kinds of things. But they say that as long as you push and you put your political capital on this, something can be done. Otherwise, it won't. My question is, are you willing to put that political capital on—

The President. Well, I've always been one who understands that we need to make sure that a willing employer and a willing employee can come together in a legal way. That's been my position for a long period of time. 245(i) is just the beginning of a lot of discussions; 245(i) is a compassionate approach to helping reform immigration. And so the issue is broader than 245(i), as far as I'm concerned, and it's going to take a lot of work, however.

And it's very important for our Mexican friends to understand that as a result of the attacks on America, the American people are focused on terror and focused on making sure people don't come in the country to hurt us. I, of course, reminded people that most people from Mexico that come into the country come to help, not to hurt. So we've got a lot of work to do.

But I haven't changed my mind; I think it's important. The first step is to see if we can get 245(i) out of the United States Senate. And so all those lawyers you've talked to or advocates need to be up working the United States Senate right now to see if they can perform.

Q. Many people feel that this will only happen if you push and you put your political capital there.

The President. That's what I'm doing. I've said, first things first. I'm the President who stood up and said, "Get me 245(i), let's get that done." And the Senate can't move. And so I called upon the Senate again, "Let's see you perform, and let's get all these advocates in Washington, DC, to whom you've spoken up on the Senate floor. Get them up there getting something done."

See, I'm one of these let's-see-if-we-can-get-things-done guys. There's too much talk in Washington and not enough action. And so I've not only talked about immigration reform that makes sense, I'm pushing to get 245(i). Once we get 245(i), we can deal with the next issue. And there's a lot of issues we need to discuss, and I'll discuss them with my friend Vicente Fox.

Narcotics

Q. And my last question: Benjamin Arellano-Felix, the head of this cartel, suspect in Mexico, was apprehended there. Are you going to ask for extradition—for an extradition of this guy to the United States?

The President. *Si, por cierto. Por cierto.* He's under indictment here in the United States, and I look forward to working with the Fox Government on extradition. We've had a great—great cooperation on the issue of extradition. As you know, the Government has made some—honored our requests a couple of times, and for that I'm grateful. And yes, we'd like to see him extradited.

And I'm so appreciative of the Mexican authorities arresting this—arresting this man. It's a good signal. And it's a good signal for many Americans to hear it and realize that the Fox Government is getting tough on these narcotraffickers.

Now, let me talk about drugs very quickly. I want the Mexican people to understand that we'll work together—and we are—to stop the flow of drugs. But here in America, we must do a better job of not using *las drogas*. We've got to do a better job of reducing demand. We have an obligation; we've got an obligation to work closely with our Mexican friends; we've got an obligation at home to convince our young not to use drugs.

And so I want the American people to hear me loud and clear: Drugs will destroy your families, and drugs will destroy life. And we've got to do a better job of promoting that. And so when demand for drugs goes down, which I hope it does—and I think it can with good, focused effort—it will help our Mexican friends deal with a very tough issue.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:40 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and Benjamin Alberto Arellano-Felix, head of the Arellano-Felix Brothers organization drug cartel. The President also referred to section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Radio Programas de Peru

March 20, 2002

Q. Thank you, Mr. President, for this historic interview with Radio Programas de Peru.

The President. Si.

Action Against Poverty in the Hemisphere

Q. First question. After the tragedy of September 11th, you have led the world into a battle against global terrorists. Now, in the context of this important visit to Latin America, are you prepared to take the lead in fighting global poverty?

The President. *Por cierto. Por cierto. Mi vision es eso: yo quiero la paz para todos, pero yo quiero vida mejor para todos tambien.* I believe we need to fight for peace. I believe we need to work for a better life.

One of the main reasons I'm going to our—in our neighborhood is to say, the best foreign policy is to make sure the neighborhood is prosperous. I look so forward to coming to Peru. I'll be the first sitting President in *la historia de mi pais para viajar a Peru*. And I look forward to talking to President Toledo.

I want to talk about how to encourage prosperity for everybody through trade, good trade policy. But as well, I come to Monterrey *para discutir un plan para distribuir dinero a los paises en este hemisphere en otros lugar para*—to encourage growth and habits of growth, *tambien* education, health care. And so, yes, I'm absolutely committed to helping fight poverty.

Q. Your personal dealings with Latin America are strong and part of a long family tradition. As President, your father launched important regional initiatives. Are you on the verge of launching your own Latin America initiatives?

The President. Well, I want to make sure that that which has worked continues to go forward. NAFTA has worked. I want the Andean trade preference passed out of the United States Congress so that Peruvian farmers or Peruvian business men and women can realize markets in the United States. I think that's good for Peru; I think it's good for jobs; and I think it's good for the working people.

My initiative is the free trade of the Americas, which is a large concept of a marketplace, united from the north of Canada all the way to the south of Argentina. Plus, I'm coming with this, what we call the Millennium Challenge Fund, which is \$10 billion of new money. It's actually money the first year, plus money the second year, plus money the third year, up to \$5 billion. When you add up all the new money, it equals about \$10 billion or so, and that will be money to help alleviate poverty.

But I want to do it in a way that just doesn't give money; I want to do it in a way that rewards countries who battle—which battle

corruption, which honor education, which focus on health care, so that there is good habits developed, so that people actually benefit—and not just a few.

Peru-U.S. Relations

Q. In the case of Peru, what concrete announcement should we expect? Perhaps expanding Plan Colombia into the region, or any interdiction flights over Peru? A free trade agreement of the Andean region, with Peru?

The President. Si. Well, first of all, *por cierto*, I want to tell people that we're going to work to get this Andean trade preference in place, real, so that the Andean countries can plan on it.

Other than that, the main thing—the reason I'm coming to Peru is, I want to make it clear how much I appreciate President Toledo's focus on democracy and reform. He's been a bold leader, and I thank him for that very much. And I want the Peruvian people to know that we will cooperate and work closely with the Government to foster institutions that promote freedom. I know President Toledo is committed to that.

But the main thing I'm concerned about is making sure that prosperity is alive and well with our friends. We want our friends to succeed. A strong Peru, a healthy Peru, is good for the United States.

Q. President, could you please use this occasion to say a few words in Spanish directed to the people of Peru.

The President. *Pues, to las personas que vida en Peru, quiero decir, estamos sus amigos aqui en los Estados Unidos. Hay muchas personas que desean relaciones buenos, mejores con los personas que viven en Peru. Y tambien quiero decir a President Toledo, usted es mi amigo, y muchas gracias para la oportunidad de viajar a esta pais muy importante.*

Q. *Muy bien. Muchas gracias, Senor Presidente.*

The President. Si.

Q. *Si, es un honor para nosotros para conversar con usted.*

The President. *El placer es mio.* Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:48 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks,

the President referred to President Alejandro Toledo of Peru. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Lourdes Meluza of Univision

March 20, 2002

President's Upcoming Visit to Latin America

Ms. Meluza. Some countries in Latin America feel that after 9/11, the region has been relegated—or has lost its priority that you have so clearly stated in the past. Do you plan with this trip to reinsert the region in your priorities, in your agenda? And if so, what are the substantive issues to prove it?

The President. Sure. First of all, the trip will give me a chance to say again that the best foreign policy for America is to have a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous neighborhood.

Secondly—and it should be noted that my first stop is to Mexico. Obviously, there's the development conference, which is an important conference. That, in itself, will help me talk about how we've committed a lot of money to helping alleviate world poverty. And there's poverty in our neighborhood.

It will also give me a chance to have a bilateral meeting with my friend Vicente Fox to talk about the importance of Mexican-U.S. relations. That relationship has not diminished. I mean, that relationship is as strong as ever. We've got huge amounts of trade going back and forth, a lot of people going back and forth, and we're going to talk about initiatives that make the border policy more productive, better, more efficient, and at the same time protect both our countries from terrorist threats.

My trip to Peru will give me a chance to talk about the Andean Trade Preference Act. I want to—that needs to be passed by the United States Congress, and it needs to be passed quickly. This will give me a chance to, on the one hand, say to our friends there, not only Toledo but to the leaders, that I want the Andean Trade Preference Act; I'm committed to it; I will fight for it; and then at the same time send a message to Congress.

Y por fin, El Salvador is a Central American country, and again it will give me a chance to talk about the importance of that region.

Don't worry, we've got plenty of time.

Temporary Protected Status

Ms. Meluza. Will you offer, sir, TPS, temporary protective status, which Central American regions, nations are looking for?

The President. Right, they are. In terms of the El Salvadoran TPS status, I was a strong supporter of it in the past. It doesn't come up until September of this year. I think it's important for me to withhold judgment until we are close to the date, but I—let me just put it this way: I was a supporter in the past, a vocal supporter of TPS status, and I will express my opinion at the appropriate time.

Mexico-U.S. Border Policy

Ms. Meluza. Sir, you will visit the border tomorrow, El Paso. Do you believe that consolidating the agencies that handle the border will strengthen the security in the border? And will you send a recommendation to Congress?

The President. I'm studying different options. But here's what I want to achieve: A border that recognizes how much traffic there is, normal traffic—a border that recognizes we've got trucks and cars moving goods and services throughout both our countries and a border policy that recognizes there are hundreds of people going back and forth on a daily basis who have done this for years on years, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, on both sides of *la frontera*; and on the other hand, that we've got to work with our Mexican friends to make sure the border has got the best infrastructure, the best technology, the best intelligence sharing to make sure that we stop the "coyotes," the smugglers, and the terrorists. And we can do both.

But the border policy needs to be reviewed. And if it is achieved, if it's better achieved by a new construct, then I'll support it. And I just want to make sure that I get all the facts before I make my decision.

Immigration Policy

Ms. Meluza. Sir, in the past, immigration had a high priority on your agenda with Mexico. When you sit down with President Fox this time, will you bring back again meaningful conversations about immigration policy, a wide immigration policy? And will you jump-start again these negotiations?

The President. *Si, por cierto.* I mean, immigration's a big issue. It's a big issue for Mexico; it's a big issue for the United States. And we're starting with what we call 245(i), which is needed. And I want to remind people that we can't get it out of the Senate. I've spoken out on it very clearly; I did so again yesterday; I did the day before. I worked with the House to get it out. And people say, "Well, that's not enough. We need to continue a dialog." But it's a start. And so I would hope the advocates here in Washington, DC, will be up there lobbying the United States Senate, so we can actually get something done.

Secondly—it's very important—I still believe we need a policy that recognizes there are employers willing to employ people from Mexico, for example, and there are willing workers who are looking for jobs. And we've got to recognize that as reality and make that work.

Ms. Meluza. So when you talk about willing workers and willing employees—employers, do you mean to say that some here in the States will benefit from this policy again?

The President. Yes—

Ms. Meluza. Not only a temporary workers program?

The President. Well, we'll see. I mean, that needs to be discussed. But all I can tell you is, the basic premise of good policy is to say there are employers in the United States who are looking for somebody to work, and there are people from Mexico who are willing to do the job. And our legal system and our immigration system ought to recognize that important relationship and make it work.

Ms. Meluza. Even those who are here now?

The President. That's very much of a possibility, of course. I mean, obviously, they're here doing a job that somebody wants them to do. But there's got to be the matching

of the willing employer and willing employee. And if they're here now, fine. They ought to be discussed, and they ought to be a part of the mix, of course.

Ms. Meluza. I think that my time is up. Thank you very much, sir.

The President. Thank you. Good job.

Ms. Meluza. Thank you very much, sir. Lots of pressure.

The President. You look great in red.

NOTE: The interview began at 11:01 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and President Alejandro Toledo of Peru. He also referred to section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Telemundo

March 20, 2002

Mexico-U.S. Border Issues

Q. Mr. President, you're going to make an announcement about the situation on the border with Mexico. And that's something that, for millions of our viewers, is very, very important. Can you advance something of what you're going to say? [Laughter]

The President. *La frontera es muy importante por los Estados Unidos y tambien Mexico.* The infrastructure—*la frontera necesita*—I mean, we've got to change for the better. We need to focus on new technologies, and we need to have a smart policy which recognizes two things.

One, there is a lot of normal traffic that ought to be facilitated as opposed to stopped. There's a lot of traffic with trucks and a lot of traffic with people. Secondly, we've got to be wise about stopping things we don't want to have happen. In other words, we've got to encourage things we want to have happen and wise about stopping things we don't want to have happen, *los coyotes*, the terrorists, *las drogas*. And we can do a better job of assigning risk and focusing our resources and infrastructure and technologies to make it work better.

That's really what it is. There's not much new; there really isn't much new, except for a determined focus to make the border work.

And our cooperation with the Fox Government has been very good.

Q. There's a huge challenge balancing homeland security—

The President. Yes.

Q. —and not disturbing something that is part of the blood of this country; that is immigration.

The President. That's right.

Q. How do you manage to do something like that?

The President. Well, it's the first to recognize that there are people who come to our country *para trabajar*. They love freedom; they want to work; they want to feed their families. Those family values—*values de la familia no pare in la Rio Bravo*. They've got moms and dads in Mexico who want to work.

And so a good immigration policy recognizes there are people in the United States who want to employ, Mexicans who want to work, and we've got to facilitate them coming together. That has nothing to do with the war on terror; that has everything to do to make sure that our economy grows. And we can do a better job of that. We need to modernize that part of the immigration law.

At the same time, when we share intelligence, when we modernize the border, when we use biometrics, for example, on the border, when we've got new machines that are able to look inside trucks, then I think we can do both. We can have an immigration policy that's wise and an antiterrorist homeland security for both countries that is effective. And that's what I've been talking to President Fox about, as well as the Canadians. And we've got good relationships. So we can do a lot better job of making the border work better.

Documentation for Aliens

Q. The Mexican consulates are giving to the Mexicans in this country an ID called *matricula consular*. And in some counties in California and in Texas—and it's expanding—it's been accepted officially as an ID, and they can open bank accounts and stuff like that. Is it realistic to think that there could be a way to think in further terms about something like that?

The President. *Es posible.* Remember there are—again, I think it's very important

for us to differentiate between those who on the border go back and forth on a daily basis—and that's easy to figure out a way to facilitate that. It may be biometrics; it may be a card; it may be—something. That's been discussed for a long period of time. And then there are those who are inside the country legally, and again, some kind of ID is a possibility. These are all open for discussion.

But the thing that is important for Americans to understand is that there are a lot of employers looking for people to work and a lot of people from Mexico who are willing to do the job and looking for work, and we've just got to come up with a plan that facilitates that. And I don't know all the details, and I don't have—but those are the kinds of things that our people are discussing with the Mexicans to come up with a compassionate policy.

Colombia

Q. Are we closer to seeing U.S. troops in Colombia?

The President. No. No, no, no. We have committed to help the Colombians fight narco trafficking. We're in the process of discussion with Congress the make—to allow our aid and advice to help the Colombians fight terrorism. As you know, we put the terrorist groups within Colombia on our list of terrorist organizations.

And so I don't see any role beyond advising and training. And I think that's important. It's important for the Colombians to make the decision themselves, to get the will necessary to take on these terrorists. And we will help them help themselves. It is a terrible situation where a part of your country has been taken over by a terrorist organization, that evidently doesn't want to reach an accommodation with you—I'm talking about FARC, now—does not want to reach an accommodation with the Colombian Government. Pastrana tried, and he tried, and he tried, and every attempt to create peace and a peaceful situation has been rejected by them. And now they're going to take a new tack, and we're there to help.

Q. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview began at 11:09 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks,

the President referred to President Vincente Fox of Mexico; and President Andres Pastrana of Colombia. The President also referred to FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Exchange With Reporters in Alexandria, Virginia

March 20, 2002

Military Tribunals

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Q. What are you hoping to achieve by holding the military tribunals? And at this point, do we have any people eligible to face those tribunals?

The President. Well, the tribunals are just an option for us. And we'll be using the tribunals if in the course of bringing somebody to justice it may jeopardize or compromise national security interests. So they're a tool; they're an option. As you know, we're discussing rules about how they can function well. The Defense Department asked a lot of opinions from respected scholars, and the world's now beginning to see what we meant by a fair system that will enable us to bring people to justice but at the same time protect national security. I have no plans right now to use anybody—nobody in mind yet. But the option is available.

Q. Are many of those people otherwise going to be sent back to their home countries, and have you decided which ones would be—

The President. Well, we're still in the process of getting as much information from the detainees as possible. Remember, these are—the ones in Guantanamo Bay are killers. They don't share the same values we share. They would like nothing more than to come after Americans or our friends and allies. And so, therefore, it's in our national interest to make sure we know enough about them before we decide what to do with them. So there's a process—ongoing process to get as much information as we can from the prisoners, the detainees. Some talk; some don't talk.

Q. But let me follow, if I could——

The President. There will only be three questions.

Q. Okay, sorry. But if you say they're killers——

The President. They said they're killers.

Q. ——what makes them eligible to go to the tribunal?

The President. I told you, if any evidence that is required to convict them jeopardizes the national security interests of the country, we'll use the tribunal.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, are you frustrated by the continuing violence in the Middle East, that looks—one day it looks good, the next day it's——

The President. Of course, I am. I am frustrated by the violence in the Middle East, and so are a lot of people who live in the Middle East. I know there are some people who do not want us to achieve any kind of peaceful settlement of a longstanding dispute. And they're willing to use terrorist means to disrupt any progress that's being made. And that frustrates me. It frustrates mothers and dads who happen to be Palestinians and Israelis, because they want to raise their children in a secure environment.

Nevertheless, we'll continue to work the issue and work it hard. Zinni is over there; he's making some progress. He's saying to both parties, "Stay the course. Work hard to get into Tenet." And hopefully we can achieve what we all want to achieve, which is eventually a political settlement. But first and foremost, we've got to come up with a security agreement. We made some progress, and I want to thank Zinni for his job that he's doing there. And I'm looking forward to being briefed by the Vice President tomorrow morning when he gets back from—he's getting back this afternoon, but he's going to come in tomorrow morning. We'll have breakfast first thing in the morning, prior to me leaving for Mexico.

Q. Mr. President, just yesterday the Vice President was suggesting that he could meet with Chairman Arafat if there was a cease-fire. Does a cease-fire mean an end to all suicide bombings?

The President. Well, what he said was, was that there are certain conditions under which he would meet with Mr. Arafat, and that is getting into the Tenet agreement and meeting the conditions. And we've also said that we expect there to be a 100 percent effort by Chairman Arafat. We expect him to be reining in those people with whom he's got influence. Clearly, he's not going to have influence with every single suicide bomber. I understand that. But we expect him to be diligent and firm and consistent in his efforts to rein in those who would like to disrupt any progress toward peace and rein in those who would harm our friends the Israelis.

And as I've said in the past, I didn't think he has done a very good job of doing that up to now, and I believe he can do a better job. And that's exactly the message the Vice President is delivering in his statement.

Listen, thank you all very much. I don't want to hold two press conferences in one week.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:25 p.m. in the mini-auditorium at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included Mrs. Bush's closing remarks.

Remarks at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia

March 20, 2002

Thank you, Laura, for that warm introduction. I appreciate what a fine job she's doing as the First Lady. She's a pretty calm voice in a time—in turbulent times for our country, and I'm lucky to be married to her.

I want to thank all the Tucker Tigers for letting me come by to say hello. Gosh, it's good to see you all. I want to thank the fact that you understand that you can make a big difference in somebody's life, that you can

help a boy and girl who needs help, and you've done a darn good job. I understand you raised \$2,500. That's a lot of money to raise, but you did it by reading books.

So you accomplished two things: One, you helped somebody in Afghanistan who needs your help; and secondly, you practiced reading, which is one of the most important things you can do. I hope you read more than you watch TV. That's really important. How many of you are going to go to college? Can you raise your hands if you're thinking about going to college? Boy, that's great. Guess what? That means you've set an important goal. That's what that means; you've set a good, important goal. It also means you'd better learn how to read. So by reading all those books, it's really a good step toward meeting your goal.

So thanks for letting us come. I also want to thank your teachers. Thank you all for being teachers. Teaching is a noble profession, an incredibly important job. So make sure you listen to your teachers. They care about you a lot, and they want you to meet your goal, and they want you to learn how to read. And Laura and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking on this important, vital profession.

I want to thank the principal as well, and thank the superintendent of schools. I want to thank you all. Gosh, it's such a pleasure to come. I'm accompanied by some people who I admire a lot. Our Secretary of Education, Rod Paige has come with us today. Rod, thank you for being here. Our Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, good to see you again, Elaine.

You probably know this already, I don't need to tell you this, but each State has got two United States Senators. And you're in the State of Virginia, and you've got two Senators that represent your State at the Capitol. And you've got two really fine United States Senators, both of whom have come today to say hello to us, and both of them have come today to show their support for this important project. And here they are: Senator John Warner, Senator George Allen. Thank you all for coming.

And from Miami, Florida, there's a Congresswoman here, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is here, as well. Ileana, thank you for coming.

I want to thank Harold Decker and all those who work for the Red Cross for participating in this important project. I want to thank all of you who helped on the uniform project, as well. You know, I oftentimes talk about the need to be a responsible society. In order to have a responsible society, there's such a thing as corporate responsibility. So it warmed our hearts to know that many of you in corporate America heard the call to help, and thank you so much for coming. I appreciate your efforts.

Today as well, we're joined by a special young lady from Texas. That's where Laura and I are from. She flew up here for a reason, and it's because I wanted to single her out as someone who has done a little extra—not a little extra, a lot extra—for the fund to help Afghan boys and girls. Her name is Olivia Bennett. Olivia, would you please stand up over here? Olivia is from Southlake, Texas, and she's got a unique talent. At the age of 12 years old, she is a really good artist. And you know what Olivia did? She painted a lot of pictures and sold them and thus far has raised \$33,000 for the fund to help Afghan children. But you know what? She's only a third of the way toward her goal. She told me she is going to raise \$100,000. And that is so wonderful. Thank you, Olivia, very much for being here.

I want to thank Haroun Amin for being here, as well, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires. Thank you so much for coming, sir. And Madam President, fine job. There will be a Madam President one of these days, and if you keep talking the way you talk, you may be her—[laughter]—very good job.

I know you all know that we're fighting a war. We're fighting against people who really don't like freedom, people who want to hurt us. And I want to assure you that we'll do everything we can to make sure they don't. We'll do everything we can. But we're fighting for more than just a war; we're fighting to help people, too. We want the world not only to be peaceful; we want the world to be a better place. We want boys and girls to grow up in a world that is free and where they can go to school.

And we're making some good progress. I want to tell you all that we've helped people get food. And a lot of times on TV, all you

see is about the bombs, but we've prevented mass starvation because we've moved a lot of food into the region. We're helping build roads. We're helping build schools. We're helping make sure boys and girls or others have got health care and health clinics. And we're also doing a lot to help children get a good education.

Laura talked a lot about education, and she's right. If you're educated, you've got a much better chance to have a hopeful future and a happy future, and that's what we want. We want that for every boy and girl, whether they live in America or anywhere else in the world.

And the amazing thing about this—and a lot of Americans have trouble understanding this—that for the first time young girls are going to be going to school in Afghanistan. See, that's hard for us to believe, isn't it? Most of you, after summer, dread going back to school—not all of you, some of you. But there are boys and girls—there's girls in Afghanistan who dream about getting to go at all. And as a result of what our country and many of our friends have done, girls get to go to school, too, starting this week.

And when they go to school, we want to make sure they've got supplies. We want to make sure they've got tablets to write on and crayolas to color with and even jump ropes to jump with. And so one of the things that's happened is we've put a coalition—that means a group of people—together to send textbooks to Afghanistan. We've sent 4 million textbooks thus far, and there's another 6 million to go in Afghanistan, so the boys and girls will have something to read.

And as you heard earlier, we're putting basic school supply kits together, so that 120,000 Afghan children will have some school supplies by June. And they're called school chests, and today I had a chance to see some of your classmates putting the chests together. Matter of fact, I got to load a couple of notebooks myself. Forty notebooks per chest, that's a lot of notebooks. But that's how many children there are in a class.

And there's a lot of other things in there as well. There's pencils and rulers, as I mentioned, crayons, jump ropes, a soccer ball so the kids can play soccer, get a little exercise

while you're doing your studies. And so far, I just want you all to know—it's kind of a report here—that 1,000 of these kits have been put together, 1,000 chests have been assembled.

But that's not enough. We need 2,000 more chests. And so I'm asking our fellow Americans to rally for this good cause, to donate and participate in the creation of 2,000 more school supply chests to go to Afghanistan. And if you want to help, contact your local Red Cross chapter.

You know, I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" You can help by helping build one of these school chests. It doesn't matter how you do it, how you raise the money. Just get it done.

And the good news is we're a can-do country. We're a country who responds in a compassionate way. There's no doubt in my mind, Harold, that the American people will respond. And when they do, Laura and I will thank them from the bottom of my heart—our hearts.

But there's a lot to do. And so for those of you out in America who wonder what you can do to help, call the Red Cross office. And they will give you an assignment, and when you fulfill the assignment, you'll know you're making a huge difference, a significant difference in the life of a boy or a girl in Afghanistan.

Our dream is a world that's peaceful, and our dream is a world that is hopeful. And the best way to make sure the world is hopeful is to help people get a good education, and that's what we're here today to honor.

I want to thank you all for helping somebody. I want to thank you all for understanding that when you help somebody, it really helps your own life, that when you help somebody in need, that it makes you a better person. I hope that's a lesson you keep with you for a long time.

Thanks for letting us come by to say hello. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in the school gym. In his remarks, he referred to Cathy David, principal, and Kamila Benzina, student council president, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School; Rebecca L. Perry, superintendent of

schools, Alexandria City Public Schools; and Harold Decker, chief executive officer, American Red Cross.

**Statement on the Death of
John Robson**

March 20, 2002

I am deeply saddened by the death of John Robson. John was a man of true character and integrity. Serving four Presidents with dedication and honor, most recently as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, John set an example of distinguished public service. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Margaret, and to his son, Doug. He will be missed.

**Statement on the Observance of
Nowruz**

March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Iranian-Americans and the Iranian people observing Nowruz, the traditional Persian New Year.

This year's observance occurs at a time when our Nation is united in its determination to make the world safe from terrorism. The community of more than one million Iranian-Americans has fully participated in this noble endeavor by condemning the terrorist acts, participating in rescue efforts at Ground Zero, and offering help and support to the victims, who included individuals of Persian heritage.

From arts and education to industry and science, Iranian-Americans have made significant and enduring contributions to the cultural and civic life of our Nation. Your observance of the traditional Persian New Year honors an ancient and storied history and marks a time of renewal. As the season changes, may your observance of Nowruz serve as a special time for you to reflect on your rich heritage and to enjoy the company of family and friends.

**Statement on the Observance of
Nowruz**

March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Afghans and Afghan-Americans observing Nowruz.

This year's observance occurs during a period of trial, when the people of Afghanistan and the United States are joined in our determination to make the world safe from terrorism. Afghans have shown extraordinary courage in helping to rid their country of the Taliban and Al Qaida. We will continue to help Afghanistan become a stable, prosperous, and free country. And we will support Afghanistan in its effort to protect itself from becoming a base for international terrorism.

This Nowruz will be particularly special to millions of Afghans. Throughout their history, Afghans have observed Nowruz. But the Taliban had forbidden Afghans from following this treasured part of their heritage. Next week, for the first time in many years, Afghans will be free once more to celebrate this time-honored tradition.

Afghanistan's observance of the traditional New Year honors an ancient and storied history and marks a time of renewal. As the season changes, may the observance of Nowruz serve as a special time for Afghans to enjoy their newfound freedom and the company of family and friends.

Best wishes for a memorable Nowruz.

**Statement on Senate Passage of
Campaign Finance Reform
Legislation**

March 20, 2002

Like many Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, I support commonsense reforms to end abuses in our campaign finance system. The reforms passed today, while flawed in some areas, still improve the current system overall, and I will sign them into law.

The legislation makes some important progress on the timeliness of disclosure, individual contribution limits, and banning soft money from corporations and labor unions, but it does present some legitimate constitutional questions. I continue to believe the best reform is full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions.

Statement on the Proposed “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002”

March 20, 2002

I commend Chairman Oxley, Housing Subcommittee Chairwoman Roukema, and Congressman Green for introducing H.R. 3995, the “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002,” and look forward to working with them on the bill in the legislative process. Increasing housing opportunities for all Americans is a high priority for my administration. In particular, I am committed to increasing the opportunities for minority families to become homeowners.

The purchase of a home is a unique commitment that benefits the homeowner and the community and ultimately the Nation. My budget contains proposals designed to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities. Through their hard work on the “Housing Affordability for America Act of 2002,” Chairman Oxley, Chairwoman Roukema, and Congressman Green have joined in this worthy effort.

Executive Order 13260—Establishing the President’s Homeland Security Advisory Council and Senior Advisory Committees for Homeland Security

March 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. President’s Homeland Security Advisory Council.

(a) *Establishment and Membership.* I hereby establish the President’s Homeland Security

Advisory Council (PHSAC). The PHSAC shall be composed of not more than 21 members appointed by the President. In addition, the Chair and the Vice Chair of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council; the Chairman of the President’s National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; and the Chair of the Panel on the Science and Technology of Combating Terrorism, President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, shall serve as ex officio members of the PHSAC. The appointed members of the PHSAC shall be selected from the private sector, academia, professional service associations, federally funded research and development centers, non-governmental organizations, State and local governments, and other appropriate professions and communities.

(b) *Chair and Vice Chair.* The President shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair from among the appointed members of the PHSAC.

(c) *Senior Advisory Committees.* (i) *Establishment and Membership.* The following four Senior Advisory Committees for Homeland Security (SACs) are hereby established to advise the PHSAC: (1) State and Local Officials; (2) Academia and Policy Research; (3) Private Sector; and (4) Emergency Services, Law Enforcement, and Public Health and Hospitals. Each SAC shall generally be composed of not more than 17 members selected by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security (Assistant). The President may establish additional SACs as appropriate, consistent with this order.

(ii) *Chairs and Vice Chairs.* The Assistant shall from time to time designate a Chair and Vice Chair for each of the SACs from among the PHSAC’s members.

(iii) *Subcommittees.* The Chair of each SAC, in consultation with the PHSAC, may as appropriate establish subcommittees to advise the SAC.

Sec. 2. Functions. The PHSAC shall meet periodically at the Assistant’s request to:

(a) provide advice to the President through the Assistant on developing and coordinating the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks;

(b) recommend to the President through the Assistant ways to improve coordination, cooperation, and communication among Federal, State, and local officials and private and other entities, and provide a means to collect scholarly research, technological advice, and information concerning processes and organizational management practices both inside and outside of the Federal Government;

(c) provide advice to the President through the Assistant regarding the feasibility of implementing specific measures to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States;

(d) examine, and advise the President through the Assistant on, the effectiveness of the implementation of specific strategies to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States; and

(e) report periodically, as appropriate, to the President through the Assistant on matters within the scope of the PHSAC's functions as described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) Upon the request of the Chair of the PHSAC, through the Assistant, and to the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall provide the PHSAC with such information relating to homeland security matters as the PHSAC may need for the purpose of carrying out its functions.

(b) The PHSAC shall have an Executive Director selected by the Assistant.

(c) Members shall serve without compensation for their work on the PHSAC, the SACs, and any subcommittees thereof. However, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Federal Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(d) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Office of Administration shall provide the PHSAC with administrative support and with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of the PHSAC's functions.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.) (Act), may apply to the administration of any portion of this order, any functions of the President under that Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Administrator of General Services in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator.

(b) The PHSAC, any SACs, and any SAC subcommittees shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order unless extended by the President.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., March 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21 and published in the *Federal Register* on March 21.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Appropriations and Allocation of Emergency Response Funds

March 20, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the requirement included in Public Law 107–63, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2002, I hereby request \$346.0 million in emergency appropriations previously provided under title II for the Department of Agriculture for rehabilitation and wildfire suppression activities of the Forest Service.

I hereby designate these funds as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The entire amount is being designated as an emergency requirement to make \$200.0 million available immediately to repay funds previously borrowed for emergency wildland fire suppression activities.

Furthermore, in accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency

Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, I hereby authorize a transfer from the Emergency Response Fund totaling \$27.2 million to the General Services Administration.

I have previously authorized the transfer of over \$19.9 billion in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. With this action today, all the funds that were made available to me from the Emergency Response Fund have been transferred for urgent needs.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21.

Remarks Following a Breakfast Meeting With the Vice President and an Exchange With Reporters

March 21, 2002

The President. Good morning. Thank you all for coming. I just had a breakfast with Vice President Cheney, and as you all know, he's returned from a lengthy and successful trip to the Middle East, the first trip I asked him to go on. I sent him to the region because this is an incredibly important part of the world, and it's a turbulent part of the world. And the Vice President took a lot of messages on behalf of our administration and made some really good progress. I'm really proud of how he handled himself and how he delivered the message.

As a result of this trip, and as a result of working with General Zinni, there is some progress being made in the Middle East. And I want to thank the Vice President for being very firm and deliberate and convincing both parties that the Tenet plan and ultimately the Mitchell plan is a way to achieve what we all want in the world, which is a peaceful resolution to this longstanding conflict.

But Mr. Vice President, welcome back. Thanks, you did a great job.

The Vice President. Well thank you, Mr. President. It was a good trip. And as you say, there are a lot of issues on the agenda right now that are important in that part of the world.

I talked extensively with our friends about the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan and the war against terror that affects all of us. And everybody in the region spent a lot of time on the Israeli peace problems and propositions—the conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians—obviously, a lot of time on the Iraqi situation and Saddam Hussein's development of weapons of mass destruction. But I found at virtually every stop that the United States has great friends and allies in that part of the world. I also had the opportunity to visit with a number of our military personnel conducting active operations or supporting those operations in Afghanistan and the region. So all in all, it was a great trip. I'm ready to go back there.

The President. Questions? Yes, John [John King, CNN].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, interested in your own calculations when the Vice President called to discuss the possibility of the Arafat meeting, your calculations in making the decision to change slightly the administration's standard for opening the door to a meeting with him. And Mr. Vice President, do you believe now that meeting will happen? Is Mr. Arafat keeping his end of the bargain?

The President. Well, first of all, I've always been one that trusts the judgment of the people I send on a mission. And the Vice President called me, with General Zinni by his side, and said, "There's a chance that we can get into the Tenet security agreement. And if that were to happen, in my judgment, I think it would be best if I would then go see Mr. Arafat."

And I trust the Vice President's judgment. He's a man of enormous experience who's got a good feel for things, and we both trust General Zinni. And so the definition of whether or not he is going to see Mr. Arafat depends upon the feel for our negotiator, General Zinni. But I think it was the right thing to do, obviously.

We've set some strong conditions, and we expect Mr. Arafat to meet those conditions. I, frankly, have been disappointed in his performance. I'm hopeful, however, that he listens to what the Vice President told him and said that in order for us to have influence in terms of achieving any kind of peaceful resolution, he must—he, Mr. Arafat—must do everything in his power to stop the violence.

The Vice President. Well, as I've said before, John, the key here will be General Zinni. And he'll make his judgment based on whether or not Arafat is in fact implementing Tenet, not just promising to implement but implementing Tenet. If he's doing that, if he's living up to those requirements, and General Zinni signs off on it, then I'm prepared to go back almost immediately for a meeting. But it will depend on whether or not Arafat is complying.

Iraq

Q. Mr. Vice President, on Iraq, the other main item on your agenda, you said we have a lot of allies out there. But I haven't noticed any of the Arab States—maybe they say things privately that they don't publicly; we've long been told that—supporting strong action against Iraq. They seem to want diplomacy to be given a chance—Annan's efforts, sanctions, changes, et cetera. What kind of response did you get?

The Vice President. Well, I think—I guess the way I would characterize it is, they are uniformly concerned about the situation in Iraq, in particular about Saddam Hussein's failure to live up to the U.N. Security Council resolutions, especially number 687, that he pledged to at the end of the war, that said he'd get rid of all of his weapons of mass destruction.

And they are as concerned as we are when they see the work that he has done to develop chemical and biological weapons and his pursuit of nuclear weapons, the past history that we all know about, in terms of his having used chemicals. If you haven't seen it, there's a devastating piece in this week's New Yorker magazine on the 1988 use by Saddam Hussein of chemical weapons against the Kurds. If the article is accurate—and I've asked for verification, if we can find it—he ran a cam-

paign against the Kurds for 17 months and bombed literally 200 villages and killed thousands and thousands of Iraqis with chemical weapons.

That's not the kind of man we want to see develop even more deadly capacity, for example nuclear weapons. And my experience is that our friends in the region are just as concerned about those developments as we are. And I went out there to consult with them, seek their advice and counsel, to be able to report back to the President on how we might best proceed to deal with that mutual problem, and that's exactly what I've done.

The President. I think one other point that the Vice President made, which is a good point, is that this is an administration that when we say we're going to do something, we mean it; that we are resolved to fight the war on terror; this isn't a short-term strategy for us; that we understand history has called us into action; and we're not going to miss this opportunity to make the world more peaceful and more free.

And the Vice President delivered that message. I was grateful that he was able to do so. It's very important for these leaders to understand the nature of this administration so there's no doubt in their mind that when we speak, we mean what we say, that we're not posturing. We don't take a bunch of polls and focus groups to tell us what—how to—to what we ought to do in the world. When we say we want to defend freedom, we mean it. And the Vice President did a fine job of delivering that message.

Part of any foreign policy—good foreign policy—is to consult with our friends and allies. We've told our friends and allies we'll do so on all kinds of issues. And the Vice President did that in a really good way.

Terrorist Attack in Lima, Peru

Q. Mr. President, different part of the world, a car bomb exploded in Lima last night killing nine people. Are you concerned about your safety?

The President. No, I'm still going. I'm sure President Toledo will do everything he can to make Lima safe for our trip. Two-bit terrorists aren't going to prevent me from doing what we need to do, and that is to

promote our friendship in the hemisphere. Our neighborhood is important to us; Peru is an important country. President Toledo has been a reformist, obviously worked within the democratic system. And you bet I'm going.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:16 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Alejandro Toledo of Peru. The Vice President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet, and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001.

Remarks in El Paso, Texas

March 21, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. So, Laura and I were heading down to Mexico, and we decided to stop to see a lot of our friends. And there's no better place to see a lot of our friends than El Paso, Texas.

I want to thank you all for coming out. I want to thank you for being here. As you know, I had a change of address, but my home is still Texas. I love to be with my fellow Texans, and I'm really happy that Laura came with me today. As you know, she's doing a great job as First Lady.

I'm a lucky man to have Laura as a wife. Some people are wondering how lucky she is to have me as a husband. [Laughter] But I attribute the fact that she has done such a fabulous job to this: Every summer when she was a kid, she came to El Paso, Texas.

I'm also honored to be traveling today with a fantastic Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Colin Powell has cobbled together one of the great coalitions ever, a coalition determined to fight terror wherever we find it. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your love for America; thank you for your love for freedom; and thank you for your service to this country.

You know, when the enemy hit us, I knew we needed a strategy to protect our homeland. We needed a strategy to—something

to put in place to do the very best we can to protect our citizens. And I turned to a friend of mine to lead the strategy, the former Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, a strong leader, a capable man, a Vietnam vet, Tom Ridge.

I'm proud to be on the stage with a man who's doing a fabulous job for the people of Texas, the Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry. And I was proud to travel from Washington, DC, back to his home territory with a fine Congressman, a man who understands the border, a man who loves Texas, Henry Bonilla.

We've really come for more than just to see our friends. We've come down to highlight the importance of our border and the importance of our relationship and friendship with Mexico. First, I want to make this clear—somebody asked me the other day—they asked this question. They said, "Because of the war on terror, have you—is your interest in Mexico diminished?" I said, "Not at all." A strong and prosperous Mexico is good for America. And the best foreign policy is a foreign policy that insists that our own neighborhood be prosperous and peaceful and democratic.

Mexico is an incredibly important part of the *futuro de los Estados Unidos*. And the border, *la frontera*, is a very important part of our relationship. It is essential that Americans understand the nature of this border. And that's why I'm going to be going to a border crossing point to make this point: On the one hand, we want the legal commerce, the people who travel back and forth on a daily basis, the brothers and sisters on both sides of the border, the relatives that have been coming back and forth for years, to be able to do so in an efficient and easy way. We want that kind of traffic, that kind of border crossing to be done in an expeditious way. It's good for Juarez, and it's good for El Paso, Texas.

Rick mentioned the amount of commerce that takes place. The commerce that takes place between Mexico and Texas and the United States is good for both countries. It's

good for the United States; it's good for Mexico. And therefore, we must work to make sure our border is modernized so that the commerce that takes place can move more freely, can be expedited so as it makes it easier for people to have jobs and find work.

On the other hand, we want to use our technology to make sure that we weed out those who we don't want in our country, the terrorists, the "coyotes," the smugglers, those who prey on innocent life.

And so we're making good progress in the modernization of our border. And that's what I'm going to go talk about today, and that's what I'm going to highlight. I want this border to be modern. I want it to have the very best technology. I don't want it to be a neglected part of our country. I want it to be a place where we spend a lot of time and focus on it, so that it works the best it can possibly work.

It also is important for our country to understand how I feel about our neighbor to the south. First of all, I approach Mexico with the spirit of friendship and the spirit of mutual respect and the spirit of resolve. I want to thank the Mexican leaders—and will do so in person tonight—for their steady and strong resolve in their efforts to join us in our fight against terror, in our efforts to join us in the fight against drug cartels, in our efforts to make sure our relationship is as hopeful and as together as possible.

And so today I've sent up an emergency request to the United States Congress of \$27 billion, \$5 billion of which will be spent on our airports and on our borders, to make sure Americans are more secure and more safe than ever before.

My most important job as your President is to protect Americans from any attack. I think about this all the time. I walk into the Oval Office every morning, and I sit at this fantastic desk that Teddy Roosevelt sat at and that Franklin Roosevelt sat at, John Kennedy sat at, Ronald Reagan sat at. These are—imagine what it feels like for a fellow from Midland, Texas. It's an honor. But every morning I read about potential threats to America. And I take them seriously, and so should we all. And that's why we're working hard to make the border work better. That's why we're working hard to beef up our Coast

Guard, so that our ports are more secure. That's why we take every single threat seriously.

If we get any kind of hint, any kind of nudge that the evil ones may be coming after us, I can assure you we're reacting. We're sharing information the likes of which we've never shared before. Our country's on alert, and our governments, the Federal, the State, and the local governments, are doing everything we can—I mean everything we can—to protect the homeland.

But I want you to know how I feel. The best way to protect the homeland, the best way to make sure Americans can grow up in a peaceful country, is to find terrorists wherever they hide and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

We're in for a long struggle. And I think Texans understand that, and so do Americans. We're a united people. We're a resolved people, because we understand that we fight for something we hold dear, and that is our freedoms.

Sometimes it seems like the terror threat may be going away, but all you've got to do is look on your TV today, be reminded about how evil these murderers are. Today we had a terrible suicide bombing in Israel, and innocent lives were lost. And there was one in Peru yesterday, where people lost their life. And this morning Laura and I met Milton Green and his son, who lost a wife and a mother when they were going to church, when they were praying to the Almighty God, and a suicide killer came in in Pakistan and took their lives.

This is a dangerous world. Too many people are losing their lives to murderers. History has called us into action. We cannot let the terrorists take over freedom-loving societies, and we will not.

America will fight terror wherever we find it, and as well we will call upon leaders around the world to do so as well. Mr. Arafat must do more to stop the violence in the Middle East. And I want to assure you all the Secretary of State and I will remind leaders of their obligation to defend innocent people, of their obligation to stamp out terrorists wherever they light, of their obligation to make sure they uphold this doctrine: If you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist,

if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists themselves. And if you're interested in knowing what that means, just ask the Taliban. Thanks to our mighty United States military and thanks to our vast coalition, we upheld that doctrine.

But I'm proud of this: Our country and our friends do not seek revenge; we seek justice. And we sent brave, brave U.S. soldiers into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. It may be hard for some of the youngsters here to believe, but the government that we just routed in Afghanistan would not let young girls go to school. That changed. This week young girls will be going to school for the first time, because we got that barbaric regime out of power.

And we're not stopping. And we're not stopping. And that's why I submitted the largest increase in defense spending, in two generations, to the United States Congress. We can't afford to stop, for the sake of our children and our grandchildren. And I expect the United States Congress to honor my request for this important reason: Any time we put a U.S. soldier into harm's way, we expect that soldier to have the best equipment, the best training, an additional pay raise.

I know it's a lot of money. I know it's a lot of money, my request, but let me just tell you this: I want to remind you all, we fight for freedom. This country stands strong for freedom, and we will not relent to any terrorists who think they can take our freedom or the freedom from anybody else in the world away from us. And therefore, the budget I submitted to Congress, while it may be high, the price of freedom is never too high, as far as I'm concerned.

I ask for your patience and unity because I understand the nature of the enemy we fight. They've got these leaders over there that are willing to send youngsters to their suicidal death, and they try to find a cave they can hide in. There's no cave deep enough for American justice.

It doesn't matter for me how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it takes. We're going to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice. If they bunch up again in Afghanistan like they did in the Shahi-Kot Mountain Range, we'll send our soldiers in there. The last time they bunched up, they

didn't like the results. No matter where they light, we're going to get them. We're going to treat them for what they are, international terrorists. And we're going to keep them on the run.

It is in the interests not only of our country but the interest of the world that our Nation be steady and strong and determined. And you can bet, so long as I am your President, we will be determined and steady and strong and defend our freedom with all our might.

I believe this: I believe as a result of our being strong and steady and determined, the world will be more peaceful after we rout out these terrorist killers. I believe we have a chance to solve some problems around the world that some people had given up hope on. I believe that the United States, by leading our coalition, can lead the world to a more peaceful tomorrow. And that's my goal, and that's my dream. Out of our strength and out of our resolve, will come a peaceful tomorrow for children who not only live in America but children who live all across the world.

And I want to tell you one other thing I believe about America is, out of this evil will come some incredible good. I believe strongly that the evil ones didn't know who they were attacking. They thought we would—they thought we would roll over. They thought we were so materialistic and self-absorbed that we wouldn't respond. They probably thought we were going to sue them. *[Laughter]* Not only did they not understand our resolve, but they didn't understand that this Nation is not going to let evil prevail.

They understand—I get asked all the time—I want you to hear me on this—I get asked all the time by people around America, "What can I do to help in the war on terror?" I'll tell you what you can do. In order to stand squarely in the face of evil, do some good. Love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Reach out to somebody in need. Make sure somebody who's hungry has food, somebody who needs love has love, somebody who needs to be taught how to read is taught to read. You see, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that will define this Nation and allow us to stand squarely in the face of evil.

And there's no doubt in my mind that the good people of El Paso, Texas, and those who live at Fort Bliss are going to do exactly that. I know El Paso. I know the hearts and souls of the citizens who live here. I know full well the love and compassion that exists throughout the neighborhoods in this great city in this part of the State.

Today I had the honor of meeting Rosario Piedra. She brought her whole family. [Laughter] She came out to see this magnificent Air Force One. She was there because Rosario is the kind of person I'm talking about. She takes her obligation as a U.S. citizen very seriously. She knows there's something more to life than just serving yourself. She's in charge of Girl Scout troops, teaching young girls values that will stay with them for the rest of their life. She works after-school programs to help children that need a little extra help. It is this kind of citizen that makes our country unique and different.

I want to share with you this thought, that the most meaningful event of September the 11th, in many ways, was Flight 93. I want you all to remember what took place. On that flight were people who had been told on their telephones that Washington and New York was under attack. They knew their plane had been hijacked. They got on the plane, and they told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and they served something greater than themselves. They served humanity. It is that spirit of sacrifice, it is that spirit of serving something greater than yourself that is alive and well and strong in our great land.

And as you love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, remember that you represent that spirit; you represent the best of our country; and you join us all in standing squarely in the face of evildoers. This great country is the finest country on the face of the Earth, and we're going to show the world exactly that.

And so I want to thank you all. Laura and I love El Paso. We love our friends. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. at El Paso International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Milton Green, whose wife, Barbara, was killed in the March 17 terrorist attack at the

Protestant International Church in Islamabad, Pakistan, and their son, Zachary, who survived the attack; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Requests

March 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed requests, totaling \$27.1 billion, for emergency FY 2002 supplemental appropriations. The requests provide for emergency expenses to support the war on terrorism, homeland security, and economic revitalization activities as the Nation continues to recover and rebuild following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

I hereby designate specific requests contained in the accompanying material as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. By category, these emergency requests total:

- Defense: \$14.0 billion
- International: \$1.6 billion
- Homeland Security: \$3.3 billion (excludes \$1.9 billion in a contingent appropriation for the Department of Transportation)
- Assistance to New York: \$5.5 billion

The emergency funding requests include a total of \$2.7 billion in budget authority that would be made available contingent upon my transmittal of later budget requests to the Congress designating the specific amounts requested as an emergency requirement. This contingent budget authority includes \$1.9 billion allocated to the Department of Transportation for the Transportation Security Administration and \$750.0 million allocated to the Department of Labor for economic recovery and assistance to dislocated workers.

This transmittal also contains \$240.0 million in non-emergency requests that are fully offset by proposed reductions.

All of the requests in this transmittal are for the purpose of fulfilling a known and urgent FY 2002 requirement and are unable to reasonably be met through the use of existing agency funds.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Interview With TCS

March 20, 2002

El Salvador-U.S. Relations

Q. Ten years after the peace agreement in El Salvador, how do you evaluate the current relationship between the U.S. and my country?

The President. *Muy fuerte.* I've got, first of all, a good personal relationship with *El Presidente de su país*. He's a very good man. He's a young, strong leader, and I'm impressed by him. And everybody in America who's met him is impressed by him.

Secondly, I believe we've got some great opportunities. There's a lot of people from your country living here in America, and so we get a better sense of your country from them—hard-working, good people. Secondly, obviously we've had a chance to cooperate during some of the unbelievable natural disasters that affected El Salvador—Hurricane Mitch. And our country was very glad to help. We—sorry it happened, but then it happened, glad to help.

And I'm going to go down and talk about trade and the ability for us to work together to put together a free trade agreement with Central American nations. I think it's a great opportunity. I'm really looking forward to the trip. I can't wait to go to El Salvador. It's going to be—it's an honor to go.

Central American-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, do you consider that the free trade agreement between the U.S. and the Central American countries will indeed benefit the poorest people in our region?

The President. *Por cierto, por cierto.* That's why I'm so anxious to do so. The best way to develop jobs, the best way to develop hope and opportunity is through trade. A country which trades with the United States, for example, or any other country, a vibrant marketplace is going to get 8 times more benefit from that trade than they would through any foreign aid program.

Now, we're going to be generous with our foreign aid, and we'll help, but trade is really the best chance to help the poor. And that's what I'm interested in doing. I know that when somebody starts getting jobs available, there's better training. It will lead to better education; it will lead to better health care. And so we're anxious to promote prosperity, and the best way to do that is through a trade agreement.

Temporary Protected Status

Q. Deeply inside you, Mr. President, have you made a decision over the future of 250,000 Salvadorans currently under TPS?

The President. TPS? No, but I want—first of all, I was a strong supporter of TPS the last time it came up. The TPS authorization—or the renewal—won't come up until *Septiembre*. So this summer I, of course, will look at it. I haven't made up my mind yet, but I will tell you, the last time I was a strong supporter. I thought it was the right thing to do. And one might guess, if I thought it was the right thing to do last time—but I will make up my mind this summer.

War on Terrorism

Q. Does El Salvador have an important role to play in the global war against terrorism?

The President. Oh, of course, of course. And here it is: Al Qaida killers are trying to find places where they can move assets, train, move money. They're looking for weak spots. They found one in Afghanistan, and we're still bringing them to justice. Any country that appears weak or is welcoming to a terrorist organization is one where they're likely to go. And what El Salvador can do is continue to be strong and say, "We're not going to tolerate terrorism. We're not going to let

people come to our country or our neighborhood.” And they’ve been very strong. President Flores has been great on this subject, and I look forward to working with him.

You bet it’s very important for all of us who love freedom to stand strong against terrorist organizations, so that they can have no place to go. We’ll keep them on the run, and we’re going to keep them running. And they’re going to get tired of running. And then, when they do get tired of running, we’ll bring them to justice.

Q. People is very anxious, waiting for you, Mr. President, in El Salvador. *Tiene un mensaje para pueblo Salvadoreño?*

The President. *Si, al pueblo de El Salvador, quiero decir eso, tu país es importante para el futuro de mi país. Yo quiero decir que somos amigos, y muchos gracias para la oportunidad de viajar a este país bonita, bella. Y quiero decir que tu Presidente—su Presidente es un amigo mío.*

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. *Si, thank you.*

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:54 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Francisco Flores of El Salvador. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 22. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks to the United Nations Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico

March 22, 2002

Good morning. We meet at a moment of new hope in an age-old struggle, the battle against world poverty. I’m honored to be with so many distinguished leaders who are committed to this cause. I’m here today to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world’s poorest people and to call for a new compact for development defined by greater accountability for rich and poor nations alike.

I want to thank Vicente Fox, *el Presidente de Mexico*, and the people of Monterrey for such grand hospitality. I want to thank Kofi Annan for his steadfast leadership. And I

want to thank the distinguished leaders who are here for your hospitality as well.

Many here today have devoted their lives to the fight against global poverty, and you know the stakes. We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty because opportunity is a fundamental right to human dignity. We fight against poverty because faith requires it and conscience demands it. And we fight against poverty with a growing conviction that major progress is within our reach.

Yet, this progress will require change. For decades, the success of development aid was measured only in the resources spent, not the results achieved. Yet, pouring money into a failed status quo does little to help the poor and can actually delay the progress of reform. We must accept a higher, more difficult, more promising call. Developed nations have a duty not only to share our wealth but also to encourage sources that produce wealth: economic freedom, political liberty, the rule of law, and human rights.

The lesson of our time is clear: When nations close their markets and opportunity is hoarded by a privileged few, no amount—no amount—of development aid is ever enough. When nations respect their people, open markets, invest in better health and education, every dollar of aid, every dollar of trade revenue and domestic capital is used more effectively. We must tie greater aid to political and legal and economic reforms. And by insisting on reform, we do the work of compassion.

The United States will lead by example. I have proposed a 50-percent increase in our core development assistance over the next 3 budget years. Eventually, this will mean a \$5 billion annual increase over current levels. These new funds will go into a new Millennium Challenge Account, devoted to projects in nations that govern justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. We will promote development from the bottom up, helping citizens find the tools and training and technologies to seize the opportunities of the global economy.

I’ve asked Secretary of State Powell, Secretary of Treasury O’Neill to reach out to the world community to develop clear and

concrete objective criterion for the Millennium Challenge Account. We'll apply these criterion fairly and rigorously.

And to jump-start this initiative, I'll work with the United States Congress to make resources available over the 12 months for qualifying countries. Many developing nations are already working hard on the road—and they're on the road of reform and bringing benefits to their people. The new compact for development will reward these nations and encourage others to follow their example.

The goal of our development aid will be for nations to grow and prosper beyond the need for any aid. When nations adopt reforms, each dollar of aid attracts \$2 of private investments. When aid is linked to good policy, 4 times as many people are lifted out of poverty compared to old aid practices.

All of us here must focus on real benefits to the poor, instead of debating arbitrary levels of inputs from the rich. We should invest in better health and build on our efforts to fight AIDS, which threatens to undermine whole societies. We should give more of our aid in the form of grants, rather than loans that can never be repaid.

The work of development is much broader than development aid. The vast majority of financing for development comes not from aid but from trade and domestic capital and foreign investment. Developing countries receive approximately \$50 billion every year in aid. That is compared to foreign investment of almost \$200 billion in annual earnings from exports of \$2.4 trillion. So to be serious about fighting poverty, we must be serious about expanding trade.

Trade helped nations as diverse as South Korea and Chile and China to replace despair with opportunity for millions of their citizens. Trade brings new technology, new ideas, and new habits, and trade brings expectations of freedom. And greater access to the markets of wealthy countries has a direct and immediate impact on the economies of developing nations. As one example, in a single year the African Growth and Opportunity Act has increased African exports to the United States by more than 1,000 percent, generated nearly \$1 billion in investment, and created thousands of jobs.

Yet, we have much more to do. Developing nations need greater access to markets of wealthy nations. And we must bring down the high trade barriers between developing nations, themselves. The global trade negotiations launched in Doha confront these challenges. The success of these negotiations will bring greater prosperity to rich and middle-income and poor nations alike. By one estimate, a new global trade pact could lift 300 million lives out of poverty. When trade advances, there's no question but the fact that poverty retreats.

The task of development is urgent and difficult. Yet, the way is clear. As we plan and act, we must remember the true source of economic progress is the creativity of human beings. Nations' most vital natural resources are found in the minds and skills and enterprise of their citizens. The greatness of a society is achieved by unleashing the greatness of its people. The poor of the world need resources to meet their needs, and like all people, they deserve institutions that encourage their dreams.

All people deserve governments instituted by their own consent; legal systems that spread opportunity, instead of protecting the narrow interests of a few; and the economic systems that respect their ambition and reward efforts of the people. Liberty and law and opportunity are the conditions for development, and they are the common hopes of mankind.

The spirit of enterprise is not limited by geography or religion or history. Men and women were made for freedom, and prosperity comes as freedom triumphs. And that is why the United States of America is leading the fight for freedom from terror.

We thank our friends and neighbors throughout the world for helping in this great cause. History has called us to a titanic struggle, whose stakes could not be higher because we're fighting for freedom, itself. We're pursuing great and worthy goals to make the world safer and, as we do, to make it better. We will challenge the poverty and hopelessness and lack of education and failed governments that too often allow conditions that terrorists can seize and try to turn to their advantage.

Our new approach for development places responsibility on developing nations and on all nations. We must build the institutions of freedom, not subsidize the failures of the past. We must do more than just feel good about what we are doing; we must do good. By taking the side of liberty and good government, we will liberate millions from poverty's prison. We'll help defeat despair and resentment. We'll draw whole nations into an expanding circle of opportunity and enterprise. We'll gain true partners in development and add a hopeful new chapter to the history of our times.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the Cintermex Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 16

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Chicago, IL, where he participated in a Saint Patrick's Day parade and then had lunch with Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Gov. George Ryan of Illinois.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Camp David, MD.

March 17

In the early afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

March 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan concerning the March 17 terrorist attack at the Protestant International Church in Islamabad, Pakistan. He also had a telephone conversation with Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Na-

tions concerning aid for the developing world and the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to O'Fallon, MO, and later to St. Louis, MO. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kyle E. McSlarrow to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude A. Allen and Walter H. Kansteiner to be Government representatives to the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation. Upon confirmation, Mr. Allen will be designated Chairman.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mark Griffon as a member of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

March 19

In the morning, the President had FBI and CIA briefings and then met with the Homeland Security Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation: Audy Michael Perry (President pro tempore of the Senate representative); Robert Jeffrey Glovitz (Speaker of the House representative); and Lynda Hare Scribante (Minority Leader of the House representative).

March 20

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with members of the National Association of Attorneys General in the Indian Treaty Room at the White House.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Alexandria, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Tarja Halonen of Finland at the White House on April 16.

March 21

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to El Paso, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister

Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to discuss cooperation against terrorism. In El Paso, the President toured the cargo dock at the Bridge of the Americas.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Monterrey, Mexico.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to Washington, DC, on April 23.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council on the 21st Century Workforce: Douglas James Banes; Jeffery Lawrence Bleustein; Anna Regula Haug de Cablik; Anna Escobedo Cabral; Thomas Joseph Donohue; James K. Glassman; Lowell McFerrin Guthrie; James Philip Hoffa; David Sen Lin Lee; and Charles Joseph Scarborough.

The President announced his intention to appoint William Omer Brisben, Jr., as U.S. Representative to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The President announced his intention to designate Mary Elizabeth Kramer as Chairman of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

March 22

In the morning, the President met with President Jacques Chirac of France at the Presidente Inter-Continental Hotel.

In the afternoon, the President met with President Vicente Fox of Mexico at the Palacio de Gobierno.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception and dinner hosted by President Fox at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey.

The President announced his nomination of Paula A. DeSutter to be Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance.

The President announced his nomination of Kathleen Marion Harrington to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Public Affairs.

The President announced his nomination of Stanley C. Suboleski to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sandra S. Brock as a member of the

Advisory Board of the National Air and Space Museum.

The President announced his designation of R.L. Brownlee as Acting Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 20

Charles S. Abell,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (new position).

Claude A. Allen,
Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2003, vice John F. Hicks, Sr., term expired.

Kathleen M. Harrington,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Susan Robinson King.

Walter H. Kansteiner,
Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2003, vice George Edward Moose, term expired.

Thomas Mallon,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Donald L. Fixico.

Kathie L. Olsen,
of Oregon, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, vice Kerri-Ann Jones.

Submitted March 22

Henry E. Autrey,
of Missouri, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Eastern District of Missouri, vice George F.
Gunn, Jr., retired.

Carmel Borders,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of 3 years (new position).

Michael D. Brown,
of Colorado, to be Deputy Director of the
Federal Emergency Management Agency,
vice Robert M. Walker, resigned.

Douglas Carnine,
of Oregon, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of 3 years (new position).

David S. Cercone,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice
Donald J. Lee, retired.

Robert Davila,
of New York, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2003, vice John D. Kemp,
term expired.

Richard E. Dorr,
of Missouri, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Western District of Missouri, vice D. Brook
Bartlett, deceased.

Morrison C. England, Jr.,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of California, vice Law-
rence K. Karlton, retired.

Blanca E. Enriquez,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of 3 years (new position).

Lex Frieden,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2004, vice Marca Bristo, term
expired.

Ronald Henderson,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of Missouri for the term of 4
years, vice Floyd A. Kimbrough, resigned.

William T. Hiller,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National In-
stitute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term
of one year (new position).

Young Woo Kang,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2003, vice Debra Robinson,
term expired.

Kathleen Martinez,
of California, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2003, vice Rae E. Unzicker,
term expired.

Robin Morris,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of one year (new position).

Carol Hughes Novak,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2004, vice Gina McDonald,
term expired.

Juan R. Olivarez,
of Michigan, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of one year (new position).

Jean Osborn,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term of 2 years (new position).

Patricia Pound,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2002, vice Ela Yazzie-King,
term expired.

Timothy J. Savage,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice
Edward N. Cahn, retired.

Amy J. St. Eve,
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Illinois, vice George W.
Lindberg, retired.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2004, vice Tom C. Korologos,
term expired.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson,
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors, vice Marc B.
Nathanson.

Kathleen P. Utgoff,
of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Labor Sta-
tistics, U.S. Department of Labor for a term
of 4 years, vice Katherine G. Abraham, term
expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released March 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press
Secretary Claire Buchan

Released March 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Released March 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed S. 1857

Released March 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Se-
curity Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the

President's trip to Mexico, Peru, and El Sal-
vador

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
President Tarja Halonen of Finland

Statement by the Press Secretary on the an-
niversary of the accidental shootdown of the
U.S. missionary plane in Peru

Fact sheet: Celebrating a New School Year
for the Children of Afghanistan

Released March 21

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime
Minister Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria To
Visit Washington

U.S.-Mexico Border Partnership: Declara-
tion on Embracing Technology and Coopera-
tion to Promote the Secure and Efficient
Flow of People and Commerce across our
Shared Border, signed by U.S. Secretary of
State Colin Powell and Secretary of Foreign
Relations Jorge Castaneda of Mexico

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Border Partnership
Agreement

Announcement: U.S.-Mexico Border Part-
nership Action Plan

Announcement of the nominations for U.S.
District Judges for the the Eastern District
of Missouri, the Western District of Pennsyl-
vania, the Western District of Missouri, the
Eastern District of California, the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania, and the Northern
District of Illinois

Released March 22

Fact sheet: A New Compact for Develop-
ment

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexican Relations

Fact sheet: U.S.-Mexico Partnership for
Prosperity

Fact sheet: Growth Agenda for the World
Bank and Other Development Banks

Fact sheet: NADBank/BECC Reform

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Mar-
shals for the Eastern and Western Districts

of Missouri, U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of North Carolina and the Central District of California, and Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved March 19

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the National Association of Regional Councils

S. 1857 / Public Law 107-153
To encourage the negotiated settlement of tribal claims

Week Ending Friday, March 29, 2002

**The President's News Conference
With President Vicente Fox of
Mexico in Monterrey, Mexico**
March 22, 2002

President Fox. Good afternoon. Thank you very much. Yes, in fact, it has been a very productive meeting, a meeting where we have touched upon three subjects, three chapters. One deals with what we have called the border alliance, intelligent borders, and the smart border initiative.

The purpose is, firstly, to introduce the safety factor and hold it as an important priority and, at the same time, with the same emphasis, to seek for efficient borders, customs that are efficient as well, for an expeditious flow both of people, merchandise, products. And in this sense, what we seek is for those using these crossings, which are hundreds of thousands of people every day, to do so with that efficiency we are talking about. Likewise, within this same sense, we talked about a program to modernize, technologically speaking, our borders. And this would promote that efficiency.

Among other points within this same category, we have also spoken about opening in airports that have high traffic, both in the United States and Mexico, a line to take care of the Mexicans and Canadians coming into Mexico and, in the case of Mexico, taking care of U.S. citizens and Canadian citizens.

The second topic is what we have called the Partnership for Prosperity, where there are plenty of topics but the specific purpose is to generate opportunities for advancement, opportunities for income, and mainly in communities with high migratory rates in Mexico. For this purpose, we have spoken of joining efforts to facilitate resources for micro-, small-, and medium-sized companies, who are the ones generating the highest number of jobs.

We have spoken of also working to bring down the cost of migrators' remittances to

their families in Mexico, and this way facilitating those resources becoming productive projects toward important generation of employment and opportunities.

We talked about important program of scholarships where, on the U.S. side, there will be investments up to \$50 million, precisely to promote these scholarships and promote to the state level the creation of scholarships for universities. This is important in the purpose of creating, forming human resources.

And on the other hand, we have also spoken of generating and facilitating resources for infrastructure, especially at the border, infrastructure for an efficient use of water, for water treatment plants, infrastructure for ecological or environmental purposes at the border, and some other investments in infrastructure along the same lines, the border.

On the other hand, I believe it is very significant, and we have talked about it again, to have this great drive that has been announced by President Bush at the Financing for Development Conference. And it's the purpose to try to increase important resources for countries that are not as developed, for poorer countries. We have heard from many leaders present, many heads of state, who truly expressed this was welcome information, a welcome announcement. And of course, same goes for us. We are not a country to receive the help, but we clearly understand that there are countries who require this help to combat poverty very close to us, such as the case of Central America.

So we hope that these additional funds, I repeat, have been very welcome, well-received by the community of smaller countries present here. This time these same resources also, part of them, to be used in these countries of Latin America or Central America.

This effort of what has seemed to be called the participation in the millennium, the challenge of the millennium, is important for us.

And we have verified this importance it has for the community of countries.

Thank you. Now Mr. Bush will speak.

President Bush. Thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for hosting the important conference on reducing global poverty. It was a success, thanks to your leadership and your vision.

I'm so glad that the world could see Monterrey, Mexico. It is a really dynamic city. It's important for the world also to realize that as a result of President Fox's vision, this country is reforming. It's a vibrant place. It's an exciting place for people to live. People are finding jobs in Mexico.

And Mr. President, I am grateful to call you friend. Thank you for your leadership as well.

I try to remind people in my country, as many times as I can, a vibrant, prosperous Mexico is in the best interests of the United States of America. We were at the White House on September the 5th, and here's what I said then: "The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico." I believed it on September the 5th; I believe it today. And since September the 11th, those words have been tested and proven. I deeply appreciate President Fox's early support and his continuing advice. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the people of Mexico for their support and sympathy.

The relationship between the United States and Mexico is very strong, is very important, and it's growing stronger every day. America respects Mexico's culture and Mexico's achievements. By embracing markets and fiscal discipline, Mexico has created one of the most resilient economies in the region. And through NAFTA, our nations have forged one of the world's most dynamic trading relationships. Every day we exchange more than \$650 million worth of commerce, creating wealth and opportunity for consumers and workers and families on both sides of the border.

President Fox and I are determined to extend the benefits of free markets to all our citizens. As part of our Partnership for Prosperity, we'll help focus private investment on less developed parts of Mexico, creating

more jobs and more opportunities for more people.

President Fox and I are determined to make our shared border modern, efficient, and secure. The smart border declaration our countries have just signed will move us toward this important goal. Our common border must be closed to drugs and terrorists and open to trade and legitimate travel. America is grateful for Mexico's fight against the drug cartels, and I salute your many breakthroughs this year, Mr. President.

President Fox and I talked about migration. Last year, we established a process to address this issue. We're making good and steady progress. Migrants make a valuable contribution to America. It's also important for our Nation to recognize, as we discuss immigration, Mexico has got a unique place in this issue. Mexico is different from other countries not only because of our proximity but because of our special relationship.

We made some progress this year on an issue called 245(i). It's an important piece of legislation. It allowed families to stay together. It passed the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, it got stalled in the United States Senate. And my hope, Mr. President, is we're able to get it out of the United States Senate and to my desk so I can sign it.

President Fox and I agreed on measures to reform the North American Development Bank, known as NADBank. We will increase the Bank's ability to make low interest loans to address urgent environmental priorities along the border. We also agreed to expand the Bank's range, so more people can benefit.

Mexico and America are proud nations united by timeless values, by democracy, by faith, and by freedom. We have a modern relationship sustained by a mutual respect and trust. We've entered a new era of trade and cooperation and prosperity. And the United States and Mexico are building an historic partnership, one which will benefit both our peoples and provide a good example for the rest of the world.

Abortion Funding/Situation in the Middle East

Q. President Bush, have you or General Zinni heard anything from Chairman Arafat

that indicates that a meeting between him and Vice President Cheney could help catalyze an Israeli-Palestinian truce? And honoring President Fox's request that we focus on poverty over this summit, could I also ask you to explain why your administration is withholding the \$34 million that Congress appropriated to the United Nations Population Fund, why it's—[inaudible]—this year's budget?

And President Fox, do you have any thoughts about the administration's decision on the United Nations Population Fund?

President Bush. Let me start with the latter. That violated the one-question rule, but—I said we're not going to use taxpayers' money to fund abortion. And we're going to make sure, before we spend taxpayers' money, that we're not funding abortion.

And as to your first question, as I have said all along, General Zinni will assess the situation in the Middle East. And a meeting could happen if and when Chairman Arafat performs, does what he's supposed to do. Those conditions have been laid out by Vice President Cheney. And now General Zinni is trying to determine whether or not he is going to do what he said he would do.

President Fox. The second question, what is the question to me?

Q. Your reaction to President Bush's decision to withhold \$34 million from the United Nations Population Fund and their family planning work around the world.

President Fox. None. No comment. His decision is totally independent. No comment from my side.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. My question concerns both Mexico and the United States, in a way. President Bush, the Cuban Government claims that President Fidel Castro's early departure from the summit is a result of pressures from your Government. And Mr. President, I want to know if you really would have felt uncomfortable to encounter Fidel Castro here in Monterrey?

And for President Fox, Mr. President, what is the relationship between Mexico and Cuba now, after Ricardo Alarcon made the Government of Mexico responsible for President Castro's early departure?

President Bush. First of all, I know of no pressure placed on anybody. I mean, Fidel Castro can do what he wants to do. And what I'm uncomfortable about is the way he treats his people. There's only one country that's not a democracy in our hemisphere, and that's Cuba. And it makes me uncomfortable to realize that there is still one country that doesn't have free press, freedom to speak, freedom to realize your dreams. And I feel strongly about that, and I'm going to continue to speak out on the fact that this island is a place of repression, a place where the people don't have hope.

Q. Did you pressure anybody?

President Bush. I don't know what you're talking about, about pressuring anybody. I just said that.

President Fox. There has been no modification in our relationships. We said goodbye to Mr. Fidel Castro. His visit ended. And there is no modification or alteration.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, are you prepared to offer Peru new military assistance to help crack down on terrorism in the wake of the bombing in Lima? And is it time to resume drug surveillance—

President Bush. On the drug surveillance issue, we have yet—not made up our mind yet. We're analyzing not only what took place in the past but the most effective way to help Peru fight narcotics.

The first part of the question? I'm sorry, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Helping Peru with terrorism with new military assistance.

President Bush. We're going to analyze all options available to help Peru. But the first place we need to help Peru is to get the Andean Trade Preference Act out of the U.S. Congress. One of the messages I'm taking to not only Peru but the other Andean nations is, ATPA is important. It's important to my administration, it's important to their future, and I'd like to see it renewed as quickly as possible.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. Thank you. Good afternoon. The Cuban Government says that the Mexican Government was pressured. The Mexican

Government said they had no pressure. Who is lying, Mr. President Fox? Who is lying, Mr. President Bush, the Cubans or the Mexicans? Thank you.

President Bush. I thought I just answered that question. *[Laughter]* Maybe I missed it—or you did. *[Laughter]*

President Fox. There is no such thing. Mr. Fidel Castro visited Mexico, visited the conference, the U.N. conference. He was here; he participated in the conference; and he returned to Cuba—nothing more.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. President Bush, good evening. During his recent trip to the Middle East, the Vice President made it very clear that at each stop, he told our Arab allies that no military action against Iraq was imminent. Isn't it also true that this administration is telling our allies, Arab allies and others around the world, that this government is, however, committed—as committed to removing Saddam Hussein from power as the administration was for removing the Taliban?

President Bush. Let me put it to you this way, David [David Gregory, NBC News]: What we're telling our friends is that Saddam Hussein is a man who is willing to gas his own people, willing to use weapons of mass destruction against Iraq's citizens. Evidently, there's a new article in New York magazine or New Yorker magazine—some east coast magazine—and it details about his barbaric behavior toward his own people. And not only did he do it to his own people; he did it to people in his neighborhood. And this is a man who refuses to allow us to determine whether or not he still has weapons of mass destruction, which leads me to believe he does. He is a dangerous man who possesses the world's most dangerous weapons. And it is incumbent upon freedom-loving nations to hold him accountable, which is precisely what the United States of America will do.

I haven't had a chance to explain this to our Mexican friends, but a nightmare scenario, of course, would be if a terrorist organization such as Al Qaida were to link up with a barbaric regime such as Iraq and thereby, in essence, possess weapons of mass destruction. We cannot allow that to happen.

And so, David, what I've told others, including President Fox, is we have no imminent plans to use military operations. We'll be deliberate; we'll consult with our friends and allies. But we'll deal with Saddam Hussein. And he knows that. And this is exactly what I've been saying ever since I've been the President.

Q. Does that mean you will remove him—

President Bush. As I said, yes, we'd like to see a regime change in Iraq. That's been the longstanding policy of the U.S. Government. Nothing is new there. That's precisely what has been said since I became President of the United States. But close consultations with our friends from all around the world—and they—I think people have got a pretty good sense of how I view him. And I hope that, of course, he allows inspectors to go into his country, like he promised he would do, not for the sake of letting inspectors in but to showing the world that he has no weapons of mass destruction.

Immigration

Q. Good evening, Mr. President. If truly your government has contemplated some date about the migratory agreement with Mexico? And also, here at the forum there was something from former President Carter for amnesty for 3 million Mexican workers in the U.S. Your government would consider legalizing them, or are you saying no?

President Bush. I think the best way to describe what is possible in the United States is that beyond 245(i), which is the family reunification, is, first of all, understanding the unique nature of the Mexican in our country, that the Mexican national is different by virtue of the fact of the proximity to the United States and that we do have a special relationship between our countries, not only defined by NAFTA but defined by cultural ties and historic ties. And so I think that ought to be a part of any discussions.

But here's my attitude. I think what our country ought to do is help match any willing employer with any willing employee, so that if somebody is looking for somebody who wants to work and somebody wants to work, we can facilitate that arrangement.

And we've got a lot of discussions and work to do. But what I've assured President Fox and his administration is that we will continue working on this issue. We've got technical groups working on it, and he and I will continue working on it.

President Fox. Thank you very much. Good evening.

NOTE: The news conference began at 6:57 p.m. at the Palacio de Gobierno. President Fox spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Fidel Castro of Cuba. A reporter referred to Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

"The Monterrey Commitments": Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States and Mexico

March 22, 2002

Our meeting today was a valuable opportunity to celebrate the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Mexican bilateral partnership over the past year, and discuss our priorities for the year ahead.

Our two nations have developed a historic level of trust and mutual respect, strengthened by common values and purposes, that has facilitated an unprecedented degree of bilateral cooperation over the past year. It is a high national priority of both nations to continue building on that cooperation over the coming years and harnessing it for the achievement of the important goals of economic and social development, security, and rule of law that are essential to both countries' wellbeing.

In this context, we agreed that the international campaign to eradicate terrorism requires us to address pressing new priorities and shared goals central to defending our societies and ways of life. At the same time, we recognized that the events of September 11 underscore more than ever the importance of the U.S.-Mexican relationship, as partners and neighbors, in the attainment of those goals and in realizing the vision we

have set forth for our countries' future. Hence, we reviewed what we are doing together to create a "smart border" for the 21st century. We will build a border that protects our societies against those who would do us harm, and that truly serves the human and economic needs of our dynamic relationship. We share a vision of a modern border that speeds the legitimate flow of people and commerce, and filters out all that threatens our safety and prosperity.

The "smart border" declaration and action plan we have just adopted sets out a series of specific steps we will take to move concretely toward that vision. The twenty-point action plan comprises measures that will enhance the secure flow of goods and people, and build a modern and efficient infrastructure that keeps pace with commerce. We intend to monitor this process closely to ensure the fastest possible implementation of these and other steps on which we may agree. Both governments will work expeditiously to prioritize infrastructure investment needs and cooperate to identify funding sources.

Slightly more than one year ago, in Guanajuato, we talked about migration as one of the major ties that join our societies. We launched then the frankest and most productive dialogue our countries have ever had on this important and challenging subject. Those talks have continued over the past year, and have yielded a clearer assessment of the scope and nature of this issue. This bond between our nations can render countless benefits to our respective economies and families. Over the past year, important progress has been made to enhance migrant safety and particularly in saving lives by discouraging and reducing illegal crossings in dangerous terrain.

On September 7, 2001, during President Fox's historic State Visit to Washington, we issued a joint statement instructing our cabinet-level working group to provide us with specific proposals to forge a new and realistic framework that will ensure a safe, legal, orderly, and dignified migration flow between our countries. We have today agreed that our Cabinet level migration group should continue the work we charged it with in Guanajuato and Washington.

When we first met as Presidents, we described our shared vision to help unfetter the economic potential of every citizen, so each may contribute fully to narrowing the economic gaps between and within our societies. To help implement that vision, we launched the "Partnership for Prosperity." The Partnership seeks to leverage private resources to create jobs and promote prosperity in less developed areas of Mexico. Today, we welcomed the Partnership's action plan of concrete and innovative initiatives on housing, agriculture, infrastructure, remittances, communications, development financing and information technologies. Some examples include:

- Lowering the cost to Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the United States of sending money home so that their families get to keep more of their hard-earned wages;
- Increasing the accessibility of capital to Mexican entrepreneurs so that they can grow their businesses and create more and better jobs.
- Increasing investment in housing, and the creation of a secondary mortgage market, so more Mexicans can become homeowners.

Our aim is to foster economic development so that no Mexican feels compelled to leave his or her home for a lack of a job or opportunity. While achieving the Partnership's goals will require time and persistent effort, the initial steps detailed in this report will build a strong foundation for long-term success. We will closely follow implementation of these promising steps. We are confident that the high level officials we have tasked with turning our vision into reality will produce results that will make us both proud and benefit both our countries.

We commend the ongoing success of the Training, Internship, Education and Scholarship program (TIES), designed to support the Partnership for Prosperity by enhancing conditions for sustained development in Mexico. Over the next five years this \$50 million initiative is expected to implement 35 partnerships between Mexican and U.S. higher education institutions and to provide hundreds of scholarships for undergraduate

exchanges and graduate studies in the United States.

When we met in Washington in September we talked about the importance of addressing urgent environmental priorities on the border. After a series of discussions with border states, the local communities, and other stakeholders, our binational working group has finalized a series of specific recommendations to strengthen the performance of the North American Development Bank (NADBank), and its sister institution the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC).

As these institutions continue to work on urgent environmental infrastructure priorities in the border areas, both governments will work with their legislatures to make the recommendations a reality. The recommendations include measures to make financing more affordable, expand the geographic scope on the Mexican side of the border in which projects can be financed, replacing the two institutions' separate boards of directors with a single board to oversee their work, and facilitate efforts to work with and co-finance environmental projects with the private sector.

Cooperation against organized crime remains a cornerstone of the bilateral agenda. We acknowledged major successes achieved by Mexico in the fight against narco-trafficking. We agreed on the importance of redoubling judicial cooperation aimed at bolstering the rule of law in both countries and strengthening our ability to ensure the safety of our citizens.

We also reviewed regional political issues of interest to both countries, including sharing assessments of the situations in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela.

We have consulted frequently, as friends and neighbors, over the past six months as we have sought to advance a vision of growing partnership aimed at increasing prosperity, greater economic convergence between our two economies, raising living standards, and ensuring the security of both societies. Our commitment to this fundamental agenda, and to the importance of our partnership, is stronger than ever. We will continue our close and productive dialogue in the months and years ahead as we take

full advantage of the great opportunities before our two nations.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. The Office of the Press Secretary also released this joint statement in Spanish. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Fox in Monterrey

March 22, 2002

Señor Presidente, Marta, Gobernador, distinguished guests, Laura and I thank you for this dinner. And thank you for inviting us to Monterrey, a city that is home to so much of Mexico's industry and enterprise and a city that embodies Mexico's prosperous future.

Monterrey has hosted a number of U.S. Presidents over the years, *mi papá*, President Clinton, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Presidents Camacho *y* Roosevelt met here in April of 1943, they affirmed our two nations' World War II alliance and agreed to closer economic cooperation. Today we meet with a similar purpose. We affirm our shared struggle against terror, and we work to promote the great alternatives to terror: prosperity and freedom and hope.

President Fox, I deeply appreciate your friendship and counsel, especially since September the 11th. And the people of the United States are grateful for your visit to Ground Zero in New York to honor the victims. And the world appreciates Mexico's support for the international coalition against terrorism. The terrorists have declared war on civilization itself, and the civilized world will defeat them.

It wasn't all that long ago that Laura and I used to live right next door to Mexico. During that time, I saw the steady emergence of a more confident and more hopeful nation. I saw the strong and growing ties of culture and trade and kinship between our countries. Mr. President, your election symbolized these changes and has reinforced them. You're a true patriot with a compelling vision for a stronger and more prosperous Mexico.

I tell the people of my country that a strong and prosperous Mexico is good for the United States. We're working well together, and I am confident our important work is just the beginning. We will build on the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, to expand the benefits of trade and markets to all of our people. We can build on our political cooperation to make real progress on drug trafficking, environmental protection. And we will build a border that is more open and more secure, and we will confront the issue of migration in a spirit of mutual respect.

The Mexican proverb tells us, *Tenemos mal los momentos, es cuando se conocen al los amigos*.

Señor Presidente, the United States knows who our friends are, and your enduring friendship allows me—causes me to say, *muchas gracias*. Today, we have a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation. By continuing to work together, we can improve the lives of the people in our two nations, in our hemisphere, and in our world.

Mr. President, I offer a toast to you, your gracious wife, and the great friendship between our two countries.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey. In his remarks, he referred to President Fox's wife, Marta Sahagun de Fox; and Gov. Fernando Canales of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

March 23, 2002

Good morning. This week I'm traveling in Latin America, visiting three strong American allies—Mexico, Peru, and El Salvador—to reaffirm the central importance I place on American relations with the rest of our hemisphere.

Our country's future is closely tied to the success and security of our closest neighbors. Problems like drug trade and poverty

produce terrible consequences for all our countries, and prosperity in our hemisphere will produce profound benefits for all our countries. The United States is strongly committed to helping build an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom.

The NAFTA trade agreement is a model for the world. NAFTA has created jobs and lifted lives in Mexico and Canada and the United States. During NAFTA's first 7 years, 15 million jobs were created in the United States. Our trade with Mexico now averages more than \$650 million a day. And that's why our border is one of the busiest in the world, and keeping trade and traffic moving freely is essential to America and American jobs.

Yet, we must also prevent our terrorist enemies from using the openness of our society against us. Even our welcoming country must be able to shut its doors to terrorists and drugs and weapons at our own borders. So America, working closely with Canada and Mexico, has set a goal: We are working for a common border that is open to commerce and legitimate travel and closed to drug trafficking and terror. We want to speed the movement of legal goods and people across the border and stop the illegal movement of goods and people. And we will use the most up-to-date technology to achieve this goal.

This week I saw some of that technology at work on a visit to a border near El Paso, Texas. X-ray machines are being used to thoroughly screen cargo more efficiently than ever before.

During my visit to Mexico, President Fox and I announced an agreement to move toward a smart border between our countries. Through close cooperation and advanced technology, we'll make our shared border more open and more secure. We'll work with the Mexican Government to identify individuals who pose threats to North America before they arrive here. We will share technology to inspect traffic on cross-border rail lines and at major ports of entry. We will make sure that people with legitimate business who travel regularly across the border can cross easily, so border authorities can focus on greater risks. And we will share information more quickly and efficiently with our Mexican friends.

America's border with Mexico is a region of tremendous economic vitality, and that must not change. Both our nations benefit from close ties of family and culture and commerce. Our new approach to strengthened border security will preserve that openness and increase the safety of our country. America will defend ourselves against new threats at the same time that we build closer relationships with our neighbors.

Thank you all for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:04 p.m. on March 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With President Alejandro Toledo of Peru in Lima, Peru

March 23, 2002

President Toledo. This is an historic visit made by a friend representing a country with which we have had a historical relationship. It is not a merely diplomatic visit; it is an official working visit. And we have touched on substantive issues which range from the open struggle against poverty, a war without quarter against terrorism and drug trafficking. I repeat, a war with no ambiguities whatsoever, against terrorism and drug trafficking. We've touched on issues of trade, education, even the Peace Corps.

But my friend George Bush, this Peru is a country that welcomes you with open arms. We are renewing our friendship, and this is the beginning of a new era in the relationship between Peru and the United States. And I'm extremely happy that the two of us are able to begin this relationship.

I know you seem younger than I am, but we are both 55 years old, and we have a long way ahead of us to work together. I know that we both have the energy and the stubbornness, particularly with regard to the issue of terrorism and drug trafficking, because your country, just like mine, loves peace. It appreciates life. And we are united on this.

And as of today, we have a strategic alliance of hope for the future.

My friend, welcome to my country.

President Bush. *Gracias, Señor Presidente.* It is an honor for me to be the first sitting President of the United States to visit Peru. I want to thank you for the invitation. It's a greater honor for Laura and me to come here as guests of a leader who symbolizes Peru's revitalization.

President Toledo and I have now met three times. At each meeting, I've been impressed by his commitment to democracy and his determination to improve the lives of the people of Peru. Peru is on the path toward greater freedom and greater prosperity, and America will be the partner in this progress, Mr. President.

Earlier today our two Governments signed an agreement that will reintroduce the Peace Corps to Peru, after an absence of nearly 30 years. The first volunteers will arrive in August, a symbol of the stronger ties between our people and the stronger relationship between our Nations.

This relationship is based on common values and common interests. Our nations understand that political and economic progress depends on security and that security is impossible in a world with terrorists. Peruvians have been reminded again this week of the terrible human toll of terror. On behalf of the people of the United States, I express our deep sympathy for the victims of the recent bombing and our deep sympathy for their loved ones.

President Toledo and I share a common perspective on terrorism: We must stop it. Since September the 11th, Peru has taken the lead in rallying our hemisphere to take strong action against this common threat. And I want to thank the President for his leadership and his strong support.

Our nations understand that freedom is only as strong as the institutions protecting it. The United States is actively supporting the President's efforts to strengthen Peru's democratic foundations. And we will continue to support the work of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is helping correct the abuses of the past and set the course for a better future.

President Toledo and I both understand the importance of providing economic opportunity to all our citizens as a hopeful alternative to the drug trade. We discussed ways to make the assistance that the United States provides under the Andean Regional Initiative more effective. And I emphasized to the President my commitment to renew and extend the Andean Trade Preferences Act. The United States House of Representatives has moved this legislation. It is stuck in the Senate, and I urge the Senate to act.

President Toledo and I have agreed to renew discussions on a bilateral investment treaty and to complete a debt-for-nature agreement to help Peru reduce debt payments while it protects its biodiversity. I also informed the President that Secretary of Commerce Don Evans will lead a trade mission to Peru and the Andean region later this year. By building these ties of commerce, both our nations create more jobs, more investment, and more benefits for workers and consumers.

President Toledo and I believe that education is the key to participation in the global economy. The President's own path in life is a lesson in how education opens up doors to opportunity. He is passionate on the subject. I love his passion, and I appreciate his commitment. And I'm pleased to announce that our country will help establish an Andean Center of Excellence for Teacher Training, with a base here in Peru. The center will support President Toledo's goal of quality schools with quality teachers, that give more Peruvians the literacy and learning they need to succeed.

I've also directed the U.S. Commerce Department and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to establish an Andean E-Business Fellowship Program, to give more high-tech professionals from this region the chance to learn more about information technology.

President Toledo and I have a strong relationship. I'm inspired by his life; I'm inspired by his story; I'm inspired by his leadership. I'm impressed by Peru's progress, and I'm very confident of Peru's future.

Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Which one? [Laughter]

Counterterrorism Efforts

Q. You, sir. Given increasing evidence that the FARC is now operating in Peru, will you be willing to provide President Toledo extra assistance in fighting the war against terrorism here, should he ask for it? And are you concerned that what was once a regional problem in Colombia or something restricted to Colombia is now spreading across Colombia's borders and threatening its neighbors?

President Bush. We discussed the neighborhood at length today. President Toledo told me that he is—now that he's done a very good job, or the country's done a good job, of making sure that relations with neighbors north and south are peaceful, that he is moving troops and making decisions to prevent terrorists from coming into his country from Colombia. And we will help him in this effort. That's part of the reason why we're here—is to support our mutual desire to fight terror and to help this good democracy thrive.

Later on today we'll be talking with Presidents from—and one Vice President—from the Andean nations. And we'll be discussing our common desire to prevent terrorist groups like the FARC from holding people and nations hostage. And I'm absolutely convinced, having talked to the President three times, that he will do everything in his power to rout out terror, not let it take hold, and preserve the institutions that make Peru a beacon for democracy.

Q. [Inaudible]

President Toledo. No, the evidence that we have is—I repeat, the evidence that we have indicates that there is no transfer of the FARC into Peru. However, we are adopting every measure possible. The Minister of Defense was at the border very recently. We took our bases that were along the border with Ecuador—where, after signing the peace agreement, there is no need for their presence—we removed them, as a precautionary measure, over to the border with Colombia.

As President Bush just indicated, this is a joint task. What happens to Colombia affects us, and vice versa. But here, too, we're partners. And I think that the issues that have to do with the Andean community are issues on which President Bush is extremely inter-

ested, and I'm sure that we will be working together on these. We are going to work together on this; I'm sure of that.

Peru-U.S. Relations

Q. President Bush, you granted an audience recently to my daily, *El Comercio*, at the White House, and you said in that interview that Peru, for the United States, is not only a friend but an ally. I'd like to ask you, beyond trade preferences and the commitment to struggle against drug trafficking, what will be the major elements in your administration that would highlight this different relationship you want to have with Peru? For example, would you open up an antechamber, so to speak, for Peru to come into a free trade agreement negotiation with the United States?

And let me ask President Toledo, with regard to the issue of shared responsibility in the fight against drug trafficking, would you take on the commitment, before President Bush, to establish a control office that would monitor whatever the United States does not comply with?

President Bush. I listed quite a few things in my opening remarks about our relationship. I believe strongly that if we promote trade and when we promote trade, it will help workers on both sides of this issue—it will help Peruvian workers, help U.S. workers.

The Andean Trade Preference Act is a cornerstone of good policy, as far as I'm concerned, and it's a cornerstone of good relations. We talked about a treaty on investment; that could be the beginning of a trade treaty. The President brought it up. He asked whether or not we would consider it. I said we'll take it back and discuss the issue when I get back to Washington, D.C.

There's nothing more important than fostering good economic relations. I mean, the best way for people to get lifted out of poverty is a job. And the best way to encourage jobs is through trade. I mean, what we're beginning to realize in the world is, development aid is important, but development aid pales in comparison to the amount of capital that's generated through trade in the marketplace, in the private sector. And countries that open markets and countries that trade

freely are countries where the people are more likely to be able to succeed.

And I would not discount the importance of our relationship when it comes to fighting terror. The world has called us to action. This is a new era. We're fighting a new kind of war, and we're strong allies in that war. And when we win, our peoples will be better off. You can't alleviate poverty if there's terror in your neighborhood. It's impossible to achieve what we want if terrorists run free.

And so I think one of the best things we can do to lay the foundation for a better tomorrow is to be tough and firm and not yield to threat. And that's exactly the way the President feels, and I can assure you that's the way I feel.

President Toledo. I think that in the war against drug trafficking and terrorism, we are partners, not simply through conviction, my good friend, but because we, ourselves, have experienced it. We have experienced the effects of terrorism here for 20 years; the United States, on September 11th. And I have here my friend Colin Powell, with whom we have a very solid human relationship because, in this very palace, we were witnesses to the news of September 11th while we were having breakfast.

On this issue, we are partners; I am stubborn. I am stubborn, and I believe it is not incompatible to respect the law and to be strong-handed with regard to the issue of terrorism and drug trafficking. I do know there's been a decision from the U.S. Government to increase support for the struggle against drug trafficking, and I appreciate that enormously. We still have a long road ahead to walk together in this struggle, but we will do it.

And Mr. Journalist, I want to underscore something that was referred to by President Bush. Trade preferences is an issue on which President Bush has demonstrated—and I am a witness—his will for congressional approval in the United States. The separation of powers makes it impossible for Presidents to control congresses—just like I don't control mine. But that's the way democracy works.

Nonetheless, we have gone beyond trade preferences—Andean trade preferences. I have asked of President Bush that he consider an initiative for trade, for bilateral trade

and investment within the framework of the Andean community. And we are going to be talking to our colleagues in just a few minutes.

I think it's important because trade is a synonym for work, and work is a way to deal with poverty. Through work, education, and health, we can eradicate poverty. We are partners on the issue of trade, on the issue of drug trafficking and terrorism, in the defense of democracy and of human rights, my friend—human rights.

Peru-U.S. Drug Control Cooperation

Q. Mr. President, the Peruvians have expressed an urgent desire for the resumption of U.S. drug interdiction flights in Peruvian airspace. You told us yesterday in Monterrey that the issue was under rigorous review. My question to you, sir, is it your ultimate goal to see a resumption of those flights? And what preconditions would you put on those flights before authorizing resumption?

And for President Toledo, if I could, sir, if you are to expect a maximum effort at a partnership with the United States to eradicate drug trafficking, why won't you make the same commitment to coca eradication as your neighbors Bolivia have? You've talked a lot about the problem being drug trafficking, but you have not made the same commitment on coca production, sir.

President Bush. We are reviewing all avenues toward an effective policy of interdiction. As you know, we had a terrible situation where a young mom and her daughter lost their life; that caused us to step back to take a look at our policy at home and then to work with the Peruvian Government to figure out how best to be effective at interdicting drugs.

And so the discussions are ongoing. And we want to make sure that when we work with countries like Peru, that we achieve the common objective, which is to make it hard for those narcotraffickers to move through their airspace, across their land, or in oceans.

I want to say something about—there's a lot of talk about interdiction, and there should be. And there's a lot of talk about battling the narcotraffickers here in the Andean area, and we will. But our country has

an obligation as well, not only to provide support and help. The President mentioned that we have expanded the direct aid to Peru on this issue, which we have. We've tripled it, up to about \$200 million—about 195 million, I think it is. But the best thing that America needs to do is reduce demand for drugs. We've got to do a better job of convincing our own country to quit using them. As demand for drugs goes down, it will take the pressure off of our friends in Peru.

So we've got a double obligation, it seems like to me: on the one hand, to provide help and aid that's effective and will work. And that's exactly what we spent a long time talking about, in all three of our meetings. But I want to remind our Peruvian friends that we've got to do a better job at home of convincing Americans to stop using drugs. And part of our drug initiative will be to focus on the demand side. Less demand for drugs will mean that the supply for drugs will be less urgent. And that will in turn help the region.

President Toledo. Look, my friend, let me deal with your question head on. In 1990, the number of hectares with coca cultivation was approximately 140,000 total. Today, we are down to 34,000 hectares, where we have coca cultivation. Enormous progress has been made.

I know it's not enough. We have a long path ahead of us yet. And we have to do this together. I know that the drug traffickers have become more sophisticated over time; they have more high-tech capabilities. And now we, too, have to push forward in that direction.

I want to be very open, and I apologize to my friend President Bush now. We are not fighting against drug trafficking in order to satisfy the United States or Europe. Drug trafficking, in partnership with terrorism, is an issue of national security. It's an issue of national security. On Wednesday they killed 9 people, 9 of our brothers and sisters, and there are 30 people wounded. I have publicly stated, and I want to repeat this: We are not going to let this stand.

So let me respond to you. We have met a substantial reduction. We still have 34,000 hectares to go. But we are going to do this together.

Final point. I think President Bush is extremely sincere—he's extremely sincere and honest when he recognizes that as long as there is a demand out there, there will be a supply. As long as there are consumers, there will be producers. And so, together, we need to work on reducing the number of consumers, cure them better, make them better. And we need to reduce the amount of hectares under cultivation.

And, footnote here, it's also true that the statistics indicate that although levels are still low, there is an increase in the consumption of cocaine among youth in Peru. And that is also part of our concern, with regard to national security.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. President Bush, you are in a region now that's been devastated by terrorism and subversion and drug trafficking for over three decades. You're offering us the Peace Corps. I would ask you if you're willing, as President of the most powerful nation on Earth, to lead a Marshall plan for South America?

President Bush. I appreciate that. I think I said more than just the Peace Corps, if I'm not mistaken, in my opening comments. Obviously, our nation is committed to this part of the world. I've come to Peru, as the first sitting President, to express our solidarity with Peru and the people, as well as express my appreciation for a reformer who got elected who's willing to defend the institutions that make democracy go.

I repeat, if you'd like me to—go through the litany of things I just said: the Andean Trade Preference Act; the bilateral action on investment; money for education; money to fight drugs. We've tripled the amount of money—I believe it's from \$50 million up to \$195 million available. And so I think our commitment is—I think our commitment speaks for itself. And I appreciate so very much the chance to come and explain it to the Peruvian people, that ours is more than just words; ours is deeds and action.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Good afternoon, President Bush. *Buenas tardes, Señor Presidente.* President Bush, many lawmakers in Congress are growing increasingly concerned about your policy in the

Middle East, wondering if the very talk of potential high-level negotiations involving Vice President Cheney, specifically, with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, might not in fact send a signal that terrorism against Israeli civilians can achieve some limited political aims. I'd like to ask you, sir, why you're contemplating that, and why those who wonder if that is not the case are incorrect?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I think there's been no question that the United States has stood strong with Israel. And we've made it very clear to Mr. Arafat that he is not—he's not doing all he can do to fight off terror. I can't be any more clear than that. Vice President Cheney said, depending upon the Zinni mission and General Zinni's recommendation, he might go back, if and when Arafat performs.

Surely those in the Congress you talk about appreciate the fact that the administration is engaged and sent General Zinni into the region. We laid out the Tenet plan, which is the way to bring some security to the region, which would then lead to the Mitchell plan. And we're doing everything in our power to get the parties into Tenet. And we'll continue working hard to get them to Tenet.

Q. Even if the violence continues——

President Bush. If and when—if and when Mr. Arafat—if and when——

Q. [Inaudible]

President Bush. Excuse me. If and when Chairman Arafat performs, that's what we have said. General Zinni went to the Middle East; he's leading discussions. But people shouldn't mistake our desire to get into Tenet as anything more than a desire to get to peace. And we'll continue working to do so.

And Prime Minister Sharon knows where the United States stands. We're strong allies with Israel. We have been ever since I've been the President, and we'll continue to be strong allies with Israel.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. Good afternoon to both Presidents. President Bush, just a few days ago I was able to ask you in Washington about leadership in the fight against poverty. And on this—aside from the issue of being 55 and the fact that you're wearing the same color ties—you are in agreement with President

Alejandro Toledo, who also insists on fighting against poverty. But the fight against poverty presupposes—and this has been stated by Dr. Toledo—thinking of reducing arms in Latin America, because for every tank or F-16, we could buy a lot more schools. Mr. President, I'd like to know your views on this and the views of President Toledo with regard to this issue, the possibility of arms control in the South American part of the hemisphere. And the same question for President Toledo.

President Bush. We may be the same age, but *el tiene pelo negro*. [Laughter] *Yo tengo pelo gris*. [Laughter]

I appreciate President Toledo's work to have a security arrangement in place in the neighborhood, amongst the countries bordering Peru, that will then allow him to reinvest in education. We talked about that. And I think that is a strong commitment and a wise commitment.

As far as my country's commitment goes, I gave a speech in Monterrey, Mexico, 2 days ago, where I committed our country to a 50 percent increase in development aid. But I said, it's time for the world to stop looking at inputs and to focus on outputs and that the United States, developed nations, must do more financially. And we're leading the way.

But we expect other nations to develop the habits that will lead to a better opportunity for their people: rule of law, a focus on education, and good health care. President Toledo understands that; he's been a leader in that effort. And I think what I said in Monterrey was very important, that unless we all focus on how programs benefit people directly, no matter what the efforts or strategy is, it's likely to lead to failure. But programs and policies that understand the worth of each human being, that each individual matters, are those programs which will be successful. And so our country will try to foster that. And this President has made that commitment, for which I am grateful.

President Toledo. Aside from the fact that President Bush has very good taste with regard to color in ties, he's also taller than I am. [Laughter]

On this issue of military expenditure, we discussed it with him. And here I

want to strike a difference between military expenses for armed conflicts between countries and military expenditures for defense against terrorism and drug trafficking, because these are two separate issues.

I think that there is a major challenge in the world. In order to survive in this globalized and savagely competitive world we live in, we need to invest more in the minds of our people. Basically, what this means is investing more in nutrition, health, education, and justice for the poor. We won't be able to deal with the challenges of this globalized world unless we invest in the knowledge of our societies.

The question immediately arises, and obviously so, in an economy that is growing, that is overcoming a recession, where do you get the money to invest in nutrition, health, and education? Well, we've made an appeal to countries at the bilateral level. And there the United States has played a very generous role, at the donors table in Madrid. And I want to publicly express my appreciation, Mr. President. There has been debt conversion, external bilateral debt swap, for social investment. And there we have been able to get a commitment of about \$1 billion. This is one way to establish a financial space to invest in health, nutrition, and education.

The other thing is that I believe it makes no sense in this world that as long as we have a country with 54 percent of Peruvians who live below the poverty line or 16 percent who live below the dire poverty line—when I was born, the very first minute of my life when I opened my eyes, I saw the face of dire poverty. I know what this means. That's why I am convinced that we can make an effort to reduce military spending, to reorient those resources towards investment in justice and education and health, because the defense of a country no longer depends on how many tanks or ships or aircraft we have. It's all about how strong our economy is, how educated our people are. And please excuse me for being so passionate on this subject, but there is absolutely no doubt on this. And the empirical evidence is very harsh with regard to the return on investment on education and health and nutrition for our people.

And here, once again, we have another point of coincidence that leads us down the

same path together. I conveyed something that's very close to my heart, with regard to the Huascarán education program, and I asked our friend to support us on this. And I will be going to New York, and I'm going to talk to Mr. Bill Gates to try to promote the Huascarán project even more. But if we reduce military spending, we're going to have some financial leeway to reorient this money towards the poor, who want to overcome poverty, who want freedom. And we'll be able to deal with the challenges of the future even better.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

NOTE: The news conference began at 6 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. President Toledo spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Veronica Bowers and her daughter, Charity, who were killed in the accidental shootdown of a U.S. missionary plane in Peru on April 20, 2001; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. President Bush also referred to FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. President Toledo referred to Minister of Defense Aurelio Loret de Mola of Peru; and William H. "Bill" Gates, chairman and chief software architect, Microsoft Corp.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Toledo in Lima

March 23, 2002

Mr. President, we're so honored to be here. We want to thank you for your invitation. We want to thank you for the hospitality that you and the First Lady have shown us. And we want to thank you all for coming.

I want to thank my friends the President of Colombia *y de Bolivia y tambien el vice presidente de Ecuador*. Thank you all for being here as well.

I have come to Peru to congratulate the President and the people of Peru for embracing the institutions of democracy. It is such an important example for the world to see. I have come to Peru to thank the people of Peru and the President of Peru for the condolences that you sent to *mi país* on September the 11th. We appreciate your prayers; we appreciate your condolences; and we appreciate your firm stand in the fight against terror.

And I bring with me the condolences of the American people for those lives and the families whose lives were affected as a result of the cowardly bombing that took place in Lima last week.

I come in the spirit of respect and cooperation, respect for the people of Peru and the desire to cooperate to advance trade and commerce and prosperity and education and health. I see a great future in our relationship, and I see a great future for the great country of Peru.

So it's my honor to be here tonight to toast my friend *el Presidente*, the First Lady, and the people of this *gran país*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:41 p.m. in the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Toledo's wife, Eliane Karp Toledo; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia; and Vice President Pedro Pinto Rubianes of Ecuador. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador in San Salvador, El Salvador

March 24, 2002

President Flores Perez. Good afternoon. It is an honor for us to be here with you and to be able to answer the questions that you want to ask President Bush and myself. I would like to start by saying that for El Salvador, it is an immense honor to have President Bush in our land.

El Salvador has been a country that has faced enormous difficulties—the war, combat against poverty, earthquakes. And El Salvador has done this through a system of free-

doms in the search of a democracy, the search of economic freedom as well—giving people the opportunity—the opportunity to get education, to trade of their products, and to integrate into the new world.

So a country like ours that believes in freedom feels especially honored to have a world leader that has built a leadership based on values and principles, values that have to do with the rights of human beings. And this allows us, countries that are so different like the United States and El Salvador, to find each other in a common point.

So welcome to our country, President Bush. It is an immense honor to have you here in our country.

President Bush. *Gracias, Señor Presidente, mi amigo.* Thank you, President Flores, for providing such warm hospitality in this beautiful country. Laura and I were struck, when we flew in, about your beautiful mountains and your beautiful sea. I'm honored to be here for the first time in my life.

We've just completed our fifth meeting—this is the fifth time that the President and I have met. And in each of them, I have come away from our meetings most optimistic about the future of El Salvador. I truly believe this country has got a unique President and a great President. El Salvador—and the reason why I believe that is because of the success of the country.

El Salvador is one of the really great stories of economic and political transformation of our time. Just over a decade ago, this country was in civil war. For millions of Salvadorans, violence was a daily reality, and prosperity was just a distant dream. Today, El Salvador is at peace. The country has renewed its commitment to democracy and economic reform and trade. It is one of the freest and strongest and most stable countries in our hemisphere.

The United States considers El Salvador a close friend and strong ally. As friends, we come to each other's aids in times of crisis. Since September the 11th, El Salvador has been unwavering in its support for the international coalition against terrorism. I want to thank the President and the people of El Salvador for their prayers for the American people during this crisis. I want to thank you

as well for ordering a freeze on suspected terrorist assets and for strengthening your border security.

And when the devastating earthquakes hit El Salvador last year, the United States immediately dispatched rescueworkers and relief assistance. We proudly contributed millions of dollars to El Salvador's reconstruction effort. And we will spend even more in the year 2002.

Our countries are united by ties of commerce and culture and kinship. The large number of Salvadorans who live in the United States make valuable contributions to our economy and send approximately \$2 billion back home to family members in El Salvador each year, *cada año*. Trade between our countries now approaches \$4 billion annually. That is up 140 percent. And trade means jobs. Trade means people who want to work are more likely to find jobs in both countries.

El Salvador is one of the really bright lights in Latin America. Many countries in this region have changed old ways and have found new wealth and new freedom. In this coming decade, El Salvador and the United States and nations throughout this hemisphere are committed to maintaining and extending this progress.

Greater trade can help us accomplish this goal. In January, I announced we would pursue a free trade agreement with Central American nations. And the President and I, after this press conference, will be having lunch with other leaders in Central America to discuss this very proposition. And we're also going to continue to pursue the Free Trade of the Americas, which aims to encompass the entire hemisphere in a free trade agreement. Completing these agreements will promote prosperity throughout the hemisphere and reinforce the region's progress toward political and economic and social reform.

I just met with two El Salvadorans, who are seated right here, who personify the cause of reform. One's an architect, and one's an economist. They are El Salvador's first two participants in the Americas Fellows Program. Soon, they will be coming to Washington to spend time working in the United States Government offices, where I believe

they will acquire new skills and training. And they can bring them back home and share them with others. And thank you all so very much about participating in the program.

I'm also optimistic about this country's future. There's no doubt in my mind that because of this man's leadership, there are bright days ahead for El Salvador. And it's an honor to be invited here, and it's an honor to call him friend. And I want to confirm the fact that this nation remains a strong ally with the great people of El Salvador.

Señor Presidente, gracias.

Questions.

El Salvador-U.S. Trade/Immigration

Q. Good afternoon, President Bush. Good afternoon, President Flores. As you said, I'm William Melendez from Channel 12, and I have the honor of trying to summarize the questions of all my other colleagues and the mass media of El Salvador.

Presidents, the benefits, the needed benefits of a free trade agreement can delay themselves, if we are not mistaken, to arrive to our countries, maybe 5, 6 years, because the mechanism is a bilateral mechanism, bilateral negotiation. And so the migration could continue working hard during that phase.

I would like to know, what will the treatment be of the United States of America for those fellow men of ours, so that they can regulate their migration status immediately? And besides, since poverty is the weakness, what conditions could be applied so that the countries, the poorer countries of our region, especially El Salvador, can optimize their resources and avoid that the states could become main allies of the economic oligopolies?

President Bush. A couple points. One, you're right, trade agreements sometimes take too long. And we intend to push as hard as we possibly can to get the trade agreement done. I was very serious when I announced the trade agreement, and we're going to work hard to expedite the agreement.

Secondly, the President made an interesting suggestion, which I will take very seriously. He said, "Make sure that a country is allowed to accelerate its moving into a free trade agreement." In other words, if the country meets conditions and—conditions of

rule of law and private property, conditions that I'm confident El Salvador will meet early—let us make sure that if another nation hadn't met those conditions, El Salvador can ascend to the free trade agreement early.

So one way to cut the time is to analyze the President's request. It made a lot of sense to me, and we'll take a good look at it.

There's no question there's a lot of hard-working Salvadorans in the United States. And the first thing I want to assure the people of this good country is that we want to make sure they're treated with respect. We want them to be—we recognize—I recognize that family values, something we talk a lot about in America, don't stop at the Rio Bravo.

There are people who care deeply about their families in El Salvador. They want to work. They're looking for jobs. And so the cornerstone of good economic policy, or good immigration policy, is to match a willing employer with a willing worker, to make that happen, to facilitate that arrangement. And that's going to be the cornerstone of immigration reform in the—as this issue comes up in Congress.

On the other hand, there are specific areas of immigration policy that affects the people of El Salvador, starting with TPS. My administration granted TPS last time the issue came up. And it doesn't come up until September, and we'll take a very hard look at it this summer.

And the second issue is a bill that's working through the Congress, introduced, if I'm not mistaken, by a Democrat and a Republican—one named Berman, one named Davis—that would grant the same status to Salvadorans, Hondurans, Guatemalans, as those granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans. And we will take a look at that bill as well.

In terms of oligopoly, the best way to avoid oligopolies is to encourage open markets and competition. The best way to make sure that oligopolies do not dominate an economy to the detriment of the people is to do what the President's done: Insist that the markets be open; insist that competition allowed—is encouraged. And another way to enhance open markets and competition is through trade, honest, open trade.

And so that's what I've come to talk about today. And I believe President Flores is on the absolute right track to making sure oligopolies don't dominate this economy.

Ken Walsh, U.S. News, fine American. [Laughter]

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, when you return home, new campaign finance legislation will be awaiting your signature. I wonder if you could tell us if you're going to, given your criticisms of campaign finance legislation in the past, if you're going to sign this bill reluctantly or wholeheartedly; what the impact you think will be on our political system; and how you regard the impending legal challenge to the legislation?

President Bush. I sign it—I have a kind of a firm, semifirm signature, as it moves across the page—[laughter]. I wouldn't be signing it if I didn't think it improved the system. And I think it improves the system this way: One, individuals will be allowed to contribute more to the campaigns. I've always been skeptical of a system where monies were put into the system where people didn't have a choice, whether it be a labor union worker or a shareholder of a corporation. Sometimes shareholders of corporations—they might make an investment for, hopefully, a good rate of return, and yet they wake up and realize that some CEO or somebody's made the decision to support a political party or a candidate not of their choosing. And I've always thought that the individual ought to have a choice. And so, therefore, the fact that the system encourages more individual participation, I think, is positive.

Finally, they've raised individual limits. I also think this will help challengers. And as much as I now love incumbency—[laughter]—I think it's important to encourage challenges in the system.

I am worried about some of the provisions; I stated so in my signing statement. One such provision was that you can't—they're going to try to control who can participate in the election process in the last 60 days. And we'll see whether or not that stands up. I'm going to stay, by the way, totally apart from the legal matters.

One of the things I'm disappointed in the law is—and again, this may not stand a court challenge—but I've always thought that people who pump money into the political system—we ought to know who they are. I was a little discouraged—not discouraged—I was quite discouraged at the end of the 2000 campaign to see tons of dollars flowing into the political campaign at the last minute, on these so-called independent groups, and we didn't know who was funding them. And you know the kind of ads I'm talking about, scurrilous, untrue ads, coming into the campaign—a so-called front group, independent, and we don't have any idea who's putting the money in. And that's not good for democracy.

And so I didn't particularly appreciate the fact that this campaign bill didn't adequately address full disclosure. Now the excuse, evidently, was the courts won't allow it. Well, I would have liked to have seen them challenge the system, to see whether the courts might allow it now that we're going into the 21st century.

But nevertheless, the bill is a better bill than the current system, and I'm going to sign it. And there will be—I take it back; it will be a signature. I won't hesitate. It will probably take about, you know, about 3 seconds to get to the “W”; I may hesitate on the “period” and then rip through the “Bush”. [*Laughter*] Thank you.

Free Trade Agreements

Q. Good afternoon to both Presidents. The first question is for President Bush, because we're talking about taking very seriously the free trade agreement with Central America. President, you're also saying and talking about openness. You said that we were going to eliminate subsidies, in the International Conference for Development in Monterrey. But the market of the United States continues being a protectionist with your national—there are subsidies for agriculture. I don't know how much it would be willing—that is, your government—to eliminate these subsidies that are really disrupting the market of the small producers. And also, if the Senate is going to approve, in the short term, the permit to start the negotiations, because it also—the advancement of the free trade agreement will depend on this also.

President Bush. Let me just say one thing. Look, we buy more goods from all around the world than any nation. And of course, we're the biggest nation; we're the biggest market. But nevertheless, we buy billions of dollars of goods on an annual basis—billions. I think it's like 650 billion a year the United States purchases from countries. And Africa alone—we signed a free trade agreement with Africa, and we had a billion dollars of purchases last year, which significantly increased employment in Africa.

And there are some instances where we've got—farm policy, for example, where people—where the Congress has decided to fund certain programs. But this—our market is wide open. And by the way, any time there's unfair trade, we will respond. And I have done so, and will continue to do so, because free trade must be fair trade as well. But I think if you look at the facts and statistics, you'll find that the U.S. market is one of the most open markets in the world, and we intend to keep it that way.

President Flores Perez. I would like to say the following: Never, never, in the history of El Salvador, El Salvador has had the opportunities that they have with the United States of America, thanks to the Initiative of the Caribbean Basin. And never has El Salvador had the possibility of signing a free trade agreement with the United States before. So the possibility of openness that the region has with the United States has no precedent in the history.

Today, that we were flying with President Bush from the airport to this site, I was telling him what this openness is doing in El Salvador. And I was explaining to him that many women in the rural areas have opportunities to work today, thanks to that openness of the United States. And it is producing a dramatic change throughout the rural areas of our country.

Undoubtedly, the comparison between donated funds and trade is a comparison that is very different, because it is so much more important to have trade than donations. So in this sense, we believe that the focus of President Bush is absolutely true, that the only way to come out of poverty is through work. And the way to generate employment

in our region is, giving the possibility of investment and work and labor.

Obviously, the agricultural topic is a topic—is an issue, but this has had an enormous advance for——

Q. [Inaudible].

President Flores Perez. —the Salvadorans and the region.

President Bush. Are you asking another question?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Okay. What is it?

Q. Excuse me. My colleagues from Guatemala are asking that in Guatemala there has been the withdrawal of the visas to some militaries. And they want to know if this is part of the control or the enforcement of the improvement of economies that the countries are asking for.

President Bush. [Inaudible]

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, what is——

President Bush. Raise the mike a little.

Q. Don't think it goes that high.

President Bush. Okay. [Laughter]

Democratic Party's Radio Address

Q. What is your reaction to the Democratic Party using its national radio address to criticize you on foreign soil, saying you made this trip to Latin America merely to pander to Hispanic voters?

President Bush. Wow. That was the ad?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Or not the ad, but the—well, I guess I'd say, I'm disappointed. When I first got elected, I said, the best foreign policy for the United States is to have a prosperous, peaceful, and free neighborhood. My first trip as President of the United States, out of the United States, was to Mexico. And my longstanding interest in this—in Mexico and Central America is well known.

I firmly believe that the best policy for the United States is to pay attention to our friends, is to promote trade. Trade produces liberty and freedom. And sometimes in Washington, DC, people cannot get rid of old habits—which is petty politics, Mr. President. But that's just what happens. But people in America know that our administration is focused on what's best for America. And what's best for America is a prosperous and

peaceful El Salvador, *y Mexico, y tambien los paises in Sur de América*. There is a great opportunity for all of us to be equal partners, to work *otros para todos los personas que viven in nuestros paises*.

Señor Presidente, gracias. El honor es mio de está en este pais. It has been my honor to be in this country. Thank you very much. We have to all work together to make this happen.

President Flores Perez. I just wanted to say, just to close this conference, that El Salvador, through myself, wants to express their profound appreciation to the United States of America for having accompanied us in so many difficult times. And this has to do with the leadership of President Bush. And Salvadorans want to recognize you at this moment.

And I would like to end by saying this—and this is very personal—I have had some honors in my life, but never had I had such a high honor as President Bush calling me his friend.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The news conference began at 1 p.m. at the Casa Presidencial. President Flores Perez and some of the reporters spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to TPS, temporary protected status for immigrants.

Proclamation 7533—National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011

March 21, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Living a life free from daily bone pain or joint discomfort is something most people take for granted. Our bones, joints, and connective tissues are the structure upon which all other systems of the body depend. They give us strength, mobility, protection, and stability. And they permit us to perform a great variety of physical activities that shape our daily lives.

Our musculoskeletal structure is a complex system of tissue and bone that is regularly

subjected to trauma, metabolic and genetic processes, and the gradual wear and tear of an active life. When these bones and tissues become damaged or diseased, they can create chronic conditions that may seriously impede and sometimes permanently affect one's health and well-being.

In the United States, musculoskeletal disorders are a leading cause of physical disability. Conditions such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, back pain, spinal disorders, and fractures, also affect hundreds of millions of people around the world. And many children suffer from crippling bone and joint diseases and deformities, impeding normal development and preventing them from experiencing a full and healthy life.

The incidence of musculoskeletal conditions will increase as the average age of our population increases. And our culture's increasing emphasis on physical activity, while important to society's overall well-being, will also increase the stress factors on bones and joints. Ensuing disorders, if left untreated, could result in significant pain and suffering that would affect employment, well-being, and healthcare costs.

National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011, envisions a series of international initiatives among physicians, health professionals, patients, and communities, working together to raise awareness about musculoskeletal disorders and promoting research and development into therapies, preventative measures, and cures for these disorders. Advances in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research of musculoskeletal conditions will greatly enhance the quality of life of our aging population.

The National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, and other Federal agencies support many bone and joint studies. Industry and private professional and voluntary agencies support other initiatives. This work involves scientists examining the possible genetic causes of bone and joint diseases and studying how hormones, growth factors, and drugs regulate the skeleton. Other researchers are studying bone density, quality, and metabolism, and other ways to increase the longevity of joint replacements

for those whose daily activities have become painful, difficult, or even impossible. These research efforts can help relieve pain and suffering and give countless children and adults the opportunity for a better life.

Thanks to the hard work of these dedicated researchers, we have made great progress in understanding and treating musculoskeletal disorders. I commend their efforts and encourage them to pursue diligently further research that will help those suffering from these disorders. And I hope that all Americans will learn more about musculoskeletal problems, their long- and short-term effects, and the therapies and treatments available to help them.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the years 2002–2011, as National Bone and Joint Decade. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the decade with appropriate programs and activities; and I call upon the medical community to pursue research in this important area.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26.

Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002

March 21, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's future depends in part on ensuring that every child in America receives a

quality education. And by teaching our children the importance of serving those in need, we will help fulfill an important part of their education, showing them the rewards that come from compassionate outreach.

Education has always played a vital role in the success of our Nation. It has provided hope through the principle that any citizen can realize the American dream, regardless of background, ethnicity, or faith. By challenging young people to set high goals and to work hard to achieve them, we prepare our youth to carry on the success of the American story and to become leaders of this great Nation. A core foundation of knowledge and values is essential for students to excel and contribute to the well-being of our communities, our country, and the world.

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and they provide the cornerstone of a child's early education. Quality teachers, however, also play an important role in a child's personal and intellectual development. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, which I signed into law in January 2002, requires that, by the end of the 2005–06 school year, there must be a “highly qualified” teacher in every classroom. Through this new law, States and school districts will have multiple tools to help them meet the new teacher quality requirements. Key elements of this effort include providing State grants to recruit and train teachers, and recruiting high-quality individuals to become teachers, offering expanded student loan forgiveness for teachers. And we must encourage Americans to volunteer their time to serve as mentors to our young people.

Great teachers are also found outside the classroom, making a positive impact on children and on local families. For example, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, demonstrated the power of teaching others to pursue both intellectual and moral excellence. For this purpose, he established education and outreach centers that offered social services and humanitarian aid. Today, more than 1,400 of these centers operate in 35 countries, meeting the spiritual and material needs of local communities. These beacons of hope communicate the Rebbe's ideal of living a meaningful life through personal responsibility and dedica-

tion to those in need. On the 100th anniversary of the Rebbe's birth, I encourage Americans to help teach our young people. In classrooms, homes, and places of worship, we can all make a lasting impact on individual children and thus invest in our country as a whole.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 24, 2002, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002. I call on all Americans to help our young people better understand the importance of character and develop a true love of learning. By doing so, we invest in the future of our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 25, 2002]

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Remarks at a Celebration of Greek Independence Day

March 25, 2002

Your Eminence, I can't spend enough time with you. [Laughter] I love your gentle soul, and I love your guidance and your advice. And any time you want to come back, just give me a call. [Laughter] I'm so glad you're here. And I want to thank you all for joining us to celebrate this important day for Greece.

I want to honor the heritage of liberty that both the Greeks and the Americans share. There's no better place to do this than in the White House, the symbol of liberty and the symbol of freedom.

I want to thank the Greek Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs for being here as well. I appreciate you coming. I want to thank the Ambassador—the Greek Ambassador to the

United States and the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States as well. You all are welcome here. Thank you for coming. It's great to see you again. I'm glad to see Ambassador George Argyros is here as well. I never thought he'd get through the confirmation process. *[Laughter]* But he is my Ambassador to Spain and is doing a very fine job. I appreciate so much the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, George Tenet, for being here as well.

One hundred and eighty one years ago, our Nation supported the cause of Greek independence. And we have admired the progress Greece has made since. Yet well before we recognized the independence of modern Greece, the Greek heritage had a great impact on American independence. Many of America's founders knew Greek history better than our own. They drew on Greece's political heritage in framing our Constitution. America's love for liberty has deep roots in the spirit of Greece.

The spirit of liberty has always had enemies. It's important for us to remember our history, that there are some who can't stand liberty and freedom, as we learned so tragically on September the 11th. The terrorists who attack us hate the very idea of human freedom. They cannot stand the thought of freedom of religion. It must make them very nervous to know that a Methodist is standing next to His Eminence—*[laughter]*—in a free society, in a society that welcomes people to worship freely and as they so choose. They hate freedom of speech. They can't stand the thought of people speaking their minds. They hate our system.

They also thought we were weak and soft. And they're wrong, and they're learning it every day. They learned it in Afghanistan, where we went into that country not to seek revenge but to seek justice. And this weekend, little girls went to school for the first time—some little girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan, showing the world that we didn't go into Afghanistan as conquerors but as liberators.

And they're going to find out how tough we are. Because I want to assure you all that we're going to hunt them down, one by one, until our homeland is secure, until freedom is secure, to make sure our children and our

grandchildren can live in a free and peaceful world.

One ancient Greek statesman put it this way. He said, "We are free to live exactly as we please, yet we are ready to face any danger." He might as well have been talking about the United States of America. Fortunately, we don't face danger alone. There are other people who love freedom as well in this world. Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Greece was one of only a handful of countries that fought alongside the United States in every major 20th century war. And Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

As the 21st century dawns, Greece and America are—once again stand united, this time in the fight against terrorism. Greece is a part of the coalition of nations helping bring justice to those who would harm us, harm the people of Greece, harm anybody who loves freedom. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. We thank Greece for access to the military base in Souda Bay, Crete, and for providing a naval frigate for patrolling the Arabian Sea.

And just as Greece has stood side by side with the United States, the United States stands ready to encourage the continued warming of Greek and Turkish relations. We welcome the resumption of diplomatic talks on Cyprus and hope that they will lead to a final settlement that strengthens regional peace and stability.

America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners. Our Nation has been inspired by Greek ideals and enriched by Greek immigrants. Today, about one million Americans claim Greek origin. They've made a mark in every field. America is better for the one million Americans who live here. In my administration, John Negroponte heads our United Nations, and he's doing a fine job. And as a part of my war council, the National Security Council, sits George Tenet, whose advice and steady hand have been invaluable to our success.

Today we honor Greek independence and the Greek spirit, a spirit of liberty and a spirit of courage, a spirit that values family and

education and public service and faith, a spirit that has helped make America what it is today.

It is my honor to welcome you all here. May God bless Greece, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the Presidential Hall at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America; Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Yiannis Magriotis of Greece; Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Philon; and Cypriot Ambassador to the U.S. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis.

Proclamation 7535—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2002

March 25, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of the democratic principles and thought that fundamentally shaped the growth of democracy in world history. Societies aspiring toward more democratic forms of government have found inspiration in the Greek tradition of representative government and free political discourse. As modern Greece celebrates the anniversary of its independence, won 181 years ago, Greeks can be proud that its vibrant democracy continues and that it is based upon the beliefs in freedom and self-rule first forged in classical Greece over 2500 years ago.

These ideals have been embraced by peoples of the world who aspire towards democracy, including the Founders of the United States; and they were tested by the attacks of September 11, 2001. The terrorists sought to destroy a political and economic system that promotes individual freedoms and tolerance, defends national liberty, and supports the full participation of its citizens in the democratic process. The terrorists failed; but rather than destroying us, their attacks strengthen our resolve to stand up to this evil.

Along with the members of our worldwide coalition, including Greece, we are committed to defeating terrorism and protecting liberty.

The friendship between the United States and Greece continues to thrive and is based upon our common cultural bonds and our shared national values. Today, more than 3 million Americans proudly claim Greek heritage, representing a continuing link between our countries. From the arts and education to industry and science, Greek Americans have made significant contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic vitality of our land.

As we celebrate Greek independence, we remember the history of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve freedom and democracy. We value our friendship and continuing partnership with the government and people of Greece, and we commit to work together to provide greater opportunity and more freedoms for the citizens of the world. And we join the world in anticipating the momentous 2004 Summer Olympic Games, which will be held in Athens, the birthplace of Olympic competition.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2002, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.” I encourage all Americans to take special note of Greece’s rich history of democracy, the strong bonds of friendship and culture between our countries, and the important role that Greek Americans play in our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 27, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 28.

**Remarks Announcing the
Nominations of Dr. Elias Zerhouni
To Be Director of the National
Institutes of Health and Dr. Richard
Carmona To Be Surgeon General**

March 26, 2002

Well, thank you, Tommy, very much, and welcome to the White House for this historic announcement. I appreciate your leadership, Tommy, in leading this administration's strong efforts to improve our Nation's health care, to make sure that more Americans get affordable health care, better patient protections, that the system puts our patients first, the system understands the importance of our docs, and we value that relationship, patient and doctor.

I also want to assure our fellow Americans that we're going to make and are making an unprecedented commitment to medical research. And we're improving our public health system to make sure that we can respond quickly to any biological threat that our country may face. We're putting sound health care policies in place and, as importantly, putting a quality team in place. And that's what we're here to discuss today.

It's my honor to nominate two fine men to head important Government institutions, to take important jobs. My nominee to lead the National Institute of Health is Elias Zerhouni, and my nominee as the next Surgeon General is Richard Carmona. These are distinguished physicians who have worked tirelessly to save lives and to improve lives. They bring exceptional knowledge and skill to these critical jobs. And they are absolutely dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

It is my honor to welcome their families here as well. Thank you all for coming, Nadia Zerhouni and her children, and Diane Carmona and her children. We welcome you all, and we're glad you're here. I want to thank the Acting NIH Director, Ruth Kirschstein, for being here as well. Where are you, Ruth? There you are. Thank you so much, Ruth, for a fine job. I appreciate the Acting Surgeon General. Ken, where are you? Ken, thank you for being here, and thank you for your fine job as well.

I want to thank the former NIH Director, Harold Varmus, for being here. Antonia Novello is here. Thank you, Antonia. I remember you. [Laughter] She was a former Surgeon General under "41." [Laughter] And I'm so pleased that former House Minority Leader Bob Michel, former Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, former Congressman John Porter, as well, from Illinois, is here. Thank you all for coming. We're honored you're here. And I also want to thank the Ambassador from Algeria for being here as well. Thank you all for coming.

The National Institutes of Health is entering a new era of medical promise. NIH researchers recently cracked the genetic code, an amazing achievement with enormous potential benefits. New diagnostic tools are alerting patients when they have an elevated risk of certain diseases, so they can take an active role in preventing them. New treatment therapies will be tailor-made for an individual's genetic makeup. And many medical treatments will become less invasive. American medicine is on the verge of dramatic progress against AIDS, against diabetes, and against heart disease. We're closing in on cancer's cause and cancer's cure.

The anthrax attacks against American citizens also demonstrated the need to strengthen our defenses against bioterrorism. Medical research will improve our ability to identify and respond and treat infectious diseases, whether they occur naturally or are used as terrorist weapons. The NIH has taken a leading role in this important front on the war against terror. The work of the National Institutes of Health have never been more promising and never been more important.

Leading the NIH is a great responsibility, and I have picked the right man to do so. Dr. Zerhouni and his wife immigrated to America from Algeria with \$300 in their pocket, but a dream of opportunity. Today, he is the executive vice dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the chairman of the department of radiology and radiological science at Johns Hopkins, and a professor of radiology and biomedical engineering. He is an expert in biomedical research and is committed to extending his benefits to all Americans and all humanity.

Dr. Zerhouni will also bring strong management skills to the NIH, and they are needed. This is a large and complex organization. The NIH budget has grown dramatically from around \$2 billion in 1975 to more than \$23 billion today. And my 2003 budget proposes an additional increase of nearly \$4 billion. I urge Congress to approve this increase, and when they do, we will have completed my campaign commitment to double funding to this vital medical research over the next 5 years. Dr. Zerhouni is well prepared to manage this rapidly growing institution during times of great new opportunity and urgent biodefense needs. He has supervised research at Johns Hopkins, one of our Nation's leading research facilities. One former colleague calls him a quadruple threat: a doctor who excels at teaching, researching, patient care, and management.

Dr. Zerhouni shares my view that human life is precious and should not be exploited or destroyed for the benefits of others. And he shares my view that the promise of ethically conducted medical research is limitless. As Director of the NIH, Dr. Zerhouni will be at the forefront of our efforts to promote biomedical research with a careful regard for the bounds of medical ethics.

Dr. Zerhouni, thank you for accepting this incredibly exciting challenge.

Translating medical research into practical life-improving changes is a critical function of the Surgeon General. Since 1871, the Surgeon General has been America's chief health educator, giving Americans the best, most up-to-date knowledge on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of disease.

When I first learned that Dr. Richard Carmona once dangled out of a moving helicopter, I worried that maybe he wasn't the best guy to educate our Americans about reducing health risks. [Laughter] But that turned out to be just one of several times that Dr. Carmona risked his own life to save others. As an Army Green Beret in Vietnam, a decorated police officer in Pima County, Arizona, a SWAT team member, a nurse, and a physician, Dr. Carmona has redefined the term "hands-on medicine."

Dr. Carmona currently serves as the clinical professor of surgery and clinical assistant

professor of family and community medicine at the University of Arizona. He is also the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System. He will bring to the Surgeon General's Office a proven commitment to service and a strong management background.

The next Surgeon General will address three particularly urgent issues. First, the Surgeon General administers the 5,600-member Public Health Service Commission Corps, health care professionals who are on call for emergency duty. Members of this force were deployed in New York and Washington, DC, after the terrorist attacks of September the 11th and during the anthrax attacks that followed. Dr. Carmona has worked for many years in law enforcement and community preparedness, important preparation for any emergency that may come. Dr. Carmona is an experienced voice to help educate Americans about the best precautions and response to the threat of bioterrorism.

Second, I have asked Dr. Carmona to lead an important initiative focusing on prevention and lifelong healthy living as a key component to medical care. The research is overwhelming that simple improvements in diet and exercise would result in dramatic improvements in America's health. Studies show that overweight Americans who are at risk of developing type II diabetes or coronary heart disease can delay and possibly prevent these diseases with just moderate exercise and a healthy diet. Walking 30 minutes a day will dramatically improve your life. Playing a game with your children in your backyard will help. Walking in a park can make a difference to your health. These relatively small actions can dramatically reduce costs and strain on our health care system.

Fitness and a healthy lifestyle are a priority for me. I really like to run. It makes me feel better. The doc and I are going to encourage all our country to either run or walk or swim or bicycle for the good of their families, for the good of their own health, and for the good of the health of the Nation.

And thirdly, Dr. Carmona is going to speak regularly to the Nation about alcohol and drug abuse and the tremendous toll they take on our society. Substance abuse by students

undermines academic achievement and dims the great hope of the American Dream. Alcohol is a prime cause for many of our society's ills, not the least of which is domestic violence. And the long-term health effects of alcohol and drug abuse are devastating. If we want to live healthier and longer, we're going to have to tackle the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. And Dr. Carmona's going to make that one of his priorities.

Doctor, I thank you so very much for your willingness to serve our country.

I have found two fine Americans who are willing to serve our Nation, and I'm grateful for their service. It is now my honor to welcome to the podium Dr. Zerhouni, the nominee to run our National Institute of Health.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson; Nadia Zerhouni, wife of Elias Zerhouni, and their children, Will, Yasmin, and Adam; Diana Carmona, wife of Richard Carmona; and Idriss Jazairy, Algerian Ambassador to the United States.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Greenville, South Carolina

March 27, 2002

President's Visit

The President. I'm looking forward to getting down to Texas. But first, I'm really looking forward to campaigning here in South Carolina for Lindsey Graham. And I'm looking forward to making some announcements about homeland security, both in South Carolina and in Georgia. And then I'm going on from there to help my friend Saxby Chambliss. Then I'll be heading home to night.

It's good to be back in South Carolina. I've got a lot of friends down here, and it's always good to stay in touch with your friends.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. On campaign finance——

The President. Yes, I signed the bill this morning.

Q. But without much fanfare—a signal that you're really unhappy with it?

The President. No, I wouldn't have signed it if I was really unhappy with it. I think it improves the system. And it improves the system because it enables an individual to give more money. And I want to do—is have a system that encourages more individual participation as well as more disclosure.

I've always been concerned about a system where money is given to entities and stakeholders have no say. So I was concerned about shareholders of corporate America not having a say, as well as labor union members not having a say about how their money is being spent. This bill improves the system.

Q. Mr. President, the objection you raised in the last week of debate on the bill is that it didn't take effect immediately, the ban on soft money would not take effect until after the election. Do you find it ironic that given that that was your opposition, today, right after signing the bill, you're out raising——

The President. I'm not going to lay down my arms. I'm going to participate in the rules of the system. The Senate races are very important for me. I want the Republicans to take control of the Senate, and I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House. And these are the rules. And that's why I'm going to campaign for like-minded people.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Do you have any plans to talk to Prime Minister Sharon?

The President. I don't today. I'm sure the Secretary of State is in touch in the area, with the leaders of the area. But let me say this—and I think the important thing about the Middle East is that we're making very good progress on the Tenet accord. In other words, there's a chance we'll have an agreement on the security arrangements necessary to hopefully then get into Mitchell.

General Zinni is still in the area. Let me put it this way: I'm optimistic that progress is being made. And I've asked General Zinni

to continue to work with both parties, regardless of whether or not they're headed to Beirut or not. The most important thing is getting into Tenet, getting into a security arrangement. And we're optimistic, and we'll see.

Q. —Arafat's absence today?

The President. That the most important thing for my administration is to—is to work with both parties to make progress on a settlement in the area. And the first stage of any progress is going to be an agreement on what's been called the Tenet agreement, which is the security arrangements. And I believe we're making—I know we're making very good progress. Whether or not we're able to sign an accord soon or not remains to be seen. But progress has been made, and that is where the focus of this administration is, to get into Tenet.

Textile Industry

Q. Mr. President, are you going to do anything for the textile industry, like you did for the steel industry, in terms of tariffs?

The President. One of the things that I want the people of Greenville to know is, I've worked very closely with Jim DeMint, and we've laid out a strategy to help the textile industry. And Representative DeMint, Congressman DeMint, has been very forceful about this. We had a very good agreement with the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department is now following through.

Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, what was your reaction to Crown Prince Abdullah's speech in Beirut?

The President. You mean the one this morning? I haven't seen the text yet. I haven't seen the speech—let me get the speech. I may have a comment later on, once I get the text of the speech.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. at the city's main firehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.). The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the

Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

March 27, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2356, the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002." I believe that this legislation, although far from perfect, will improve the current financing system for Federal campaigns.

The bill reforms our system of financing campaigns in several important ways. First, it will prevent unions and corporations from making unregulated, "soft" money contributions—a legislative step for which I repeatedly have called. Often, these groups take political action without the consent of their members or shareholders, so that the influence of these groups on elections does not necessarily comport with the actual views of the individuals who comprise these organizations. This prohibition will help to right that imbalance. Second, this law will raise the decades-old limits on giving imposed on individuals who wish to support the candidate of their choice, thereby advancing my stated principle that election reform should strengthen the role of individual citizens in the political process. Third, this legislation creates new disclosure requirements and compels speedier compliance with existing ones, which will promote the free and swift flow of information to the public regarding the activities of groups and individuals in the political process. I long have believed that complete and immediate disclosure of the source of campaign contributions is the best way to reform campaign finance.

These provisions of the bill will go a long way toward fixing some of the most pressing problems in campaign finance today. They will result in an election finance system that encourages greater individual participation, and provides the public more accurate and timely information, than does the present

system. All of the American electorate will benefit from these measures to strengthen our democracy.

However, the bill does have flaws. Certain provisions present serious constitutional concerns. In particular, H.R. 2356 goes farther than I originally proposed by preventing all individuals, not just unions and corporations, from making donations to political parties in connection with Federal elections. I believe individual freedom to participate in elections should be expanded, not diminished; and when individual freedoms are restricted, questions arise under the First Amendment. I also have reservations about the constitutionality of the broad ban on issue advertising, which restrains the speech of a wide variety of groups on issues of public import in the months closest to an election. I expect that the courts will resolve these legitimate legal questions as appropriate under the law.

As a policy matter, I would have preferred a bill that included a provision to protect union members and shareholders from involuntary political activities undertaken by their leadership. Individuals have a right not to have their money spent in support of candidates or causes with which they disagree, and those rights should be better protected by law. I hope that in the future the Congress and I can work together to remedy this defect of the current financing structure.

This legislation is the culmination of more than 6 years of debate among a vast array of legislators, citizens, and groups. Accordingly, it does not represent the full ideals of any one point of view. But it does represent progress in this often-contentious area of public policy debate. Taken as a whole, this bill improves the current system of financing for Federal campaigns, and therefore I have signed it into law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 27, 2002.

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.R. 2356, approved March 27, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a Public Law number.

Remarks to First-Responders in Greenville

March 27, 2002

Thank you very much. It is great to be back in South Carolina. I didn't realize I was going to be giving an address on my old jogging path. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Mayor, I have fond memories of your beautiful city. And thank you very much for your leadership and your hospitality, and thank you all for coming.

One of the things that I'm not surprised about was how the good folks of South Carolina responded on September the 11th, in the aftermath. The good people here hurt for the people of New York, because they realized an attack on one part of America was an attack on all of America. And I want to thank you all for donating a brand new firetruck to New York City. I want to thank you for sending men and women to New York City in response to the emergency. I know that firefighters and casualty experts, emergency management director headed up north to provide help, and I'm here to thank you for that. And I'm here also to thank you for what you do every single day.

You know, the evil ones hit us, but out of that evil has come some good. I'm going to talk to you about some of that good. And one of the good things that's come is a sincere appreciation and respect for the men and women who wear the uniform, the police and the fire and the emergency medical units all across the country. And I'm here to thank you as well for your dedication and your service to the people of your communities here in South Carolina.

I appreciate so very much Tom Ridge's service. You know, he was a Governor there in Pennsylvania, just kind of cruising along. Life was pretty good. And then the President called him and said, "I've got an assignment for you, to come and set a national strategy for our homeland security. The enemy's hit us, and we'd better be ready in case the enemy hits us again. And we need a strategy." And I'm telling you, he's come to Washington, DC, with a vision and a capacity. And we're developing and have got a strategy, some of which I will share with you today.

And Tom, I want to thank you for your service.

And I want to thank the other fellow on the stage here, Jim DeMint. He is a strong Congressman. He cares deeply about the people of this State. He is—he is an ally of mine in the House, because he is a man of integrity. He cares deeply about national issues and issues that affect the people here in his district. He understands the need for us to be tough and diligent and forceful when it comes to fighting terrorists. He understands the need for us to be strong at home as well. And that's why he has led a discussion on a strategy to make sure that the textile industry here in South Carolina gets not only the attention of the administration but a strategy to help people who work in the textile industry. This man is a leader, and he needs to go back to Washington, DC.

And we've got some other people from the fine South Carolina delegation. Lindsey Graham is here, and a little later on, I'm going to try to give Lindsey a little boost. And I appreciate Hank Brown for being here as well; thank you for coming.

And I want to thank members of the statehouse who have come. You've got a fine lieutenant governor and attorney general. Thank you both for coming, and of course, your speaker, homegrown boy, David Wilkins. I'm honored that you all have been here today.

I drove in and went by the BMW plant for about the hundredth time, and it was good that I was traveling by it with Carroll Campbell, who made sure that the BMW plant came here the first time around. Governor, it's good to see you. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank the high sheriff of Greenville County, Sam Simmons—I don't know if you call him the high sheriff around here or not, but play like you do, if you don't. [Laughter] But I want to thank the sheriff. I want to thank Willie Johnson, the chief. I want to thank Tom McDowell, chief of the fire department; John Zaragoza as well. And again, I want to thank you all for coming.

The interesting thing about September the 11th is that even though the attacks were on two major cities, it reminded us—and in the aftermath reminded us that we're all vulnerable as well. I mean, after all, you might re-

member that some of the initial discussions after September the 11th, about potential threat, was about crop dusters. Now, they don't have a lot of crop dusters, you know, in Manhattan. They've got a lot of crop dusters in South Carolina or Texas. In other words, some of the intelligence we were getting was that not only were the enemy willing to use airplanes, obviously, as weapons, but what we were concerned about was that they would use other methods, like using a crop duster to spray a weapon of mass destruction, if possible. It's an indication that we had to be on alert to defend all sites and all locations in our country.

We knew they were evil, and we're beginning to learn how really evil their intentions were, after September the 11th. And that's why Tom and I and many of you all and others around the country have got plans in place to defend power-generating plants, dams and reservoirs, livestock and crops, all kinds of areas. I mean, the truth of the matter is, homeland security in the heartland is just as important as homeland security in the big cities.

And that's what we're here to talk about today, to make sure that America is safe. See, that's my most important job. My most important job is to work with Federal, State, and local officials to prevent the enemy from hitting us again and taking innocent life. I think about it every day. And even though they're still under threat—and we are under threat—we're getting better prepared every day.

I sent a budget up to Congress that reflects my priority. The first-responders of America, all across America, must have the resources necessary to respond to emergencies and save lives. In the budget we sent up, there is a 1,000 percent increase for first-responders—requests \$3.5 billion to make your jobs easier. I've requested \$327 million right away, right off the bat, to provide critical training and equipment to first-responders; 327 will come this year, hopefully; 3.5 is for next budget cycle.

In places like Pickens, South Carolina, and Union and Greer—and by the way, I've been to all three and enjoyed every minute of it. One of the bedrock principles of smalltown

life is, you help a neighbor in need. A volunteer firefighter in Fort Mills, South Carolina, put it this way: "We may not be a big department like New York City, but we have the same goal, to help our neighbors in time of trouble." That's how you all feel too. That's how the Crawford, Texas, volunteer fire department feels as well. I'm a proud booster.

And one of the things we've got to do is to understand that we've got to strengthen security in smalltown America as well by helping smaller communities and smaller counties develop what we call mutual aid agreements. And in the budget that I've submitted to Congress, there's \$140 million to do just that. If one town has got them a good hospital facility, another may be able to lend fire trucks; a third may be a home to hazardous material experts. But we've got to develop these mutual pacts so that we can coordinate efforts, pool resources—all aimed at helping a neighbor in need, if we need to.

So one of the things we're doing is focusing on the big cities, medium-sized cities like Greenville. But we understand we've got to have a strategy for rural South Carolina and rural America as well. And I'm here to assure the good folks of South Carolina that the strategies that we're putting out, the strategies that we're going to outline and work with the States and local authorities on, will also include rural South Carolina, to make sure that assets are pooled, personnel is coordinated—all aimed at buttoning up the homeland of the United States and preparing our country.

But I want you to know that the best homeland security, the best way to secure the homeland and protect innocent life, is to find the enemy wherever they hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We will hunt them down one by one.

And after September the 11th, we started. And I said as plainly as I could speak, mustering up as much Midland, Texas, as I could find—I said, either you are with us, or you're against us. And I made it clear that if anybody harbored a terrorist or they fed a terrorist or they hid a terrorist, they're just as guilty as the murderers who took innocent life on September the 11th. And thanks to a mighty

United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, I want you to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation. But we've got to do more than thank them. We've got to make sure that they've got the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. And that's why the budget I submitted to the United States Congress not only includes a significant increase for first-responders and homeland security issues, but it is the largest increase in military spending in two decades. Because I understand that the price of freedom is high, but as far as I'm concerned, it is never too high when it comes to the defense of freedom.

And that's what we're defending. We don't seek revenge; we seek justice. But it's more than just justice. This Nation will defend freedom. We defend the freedom to worship; we defend the freedom to speak; we defend the freedom for all Americans, regardless of their background, to enjoy a country that says, if you work hard, you can realize your dreams. That's what we defend.

And this enemy of ours hates what we stand for. They can't stand us. They're ruthless murderers. And they must not have understood America when they attacked us. They thought we were weak. They thought we were so self-absorbed in our materialism that all we would probably do is just sue them. [*Laughter*] Man, were they wrong.

We've thrown the Taliban out. And this past weekend, for the first time, many young women went to school. We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators, as people who are willing to sacrifice to defend our freedoms.

The first phase of the war is over—holding people accountable for harboring a terrorist—that message is now loud and clear. I think other governments have heard that message. And the next message is this: We're going to keep you on the run. If you're a killer, we're going to treat you for what you are, an international criminal with no place to hide, no place to sleep.

Oh, I know some of them think there's a cave deep enough. We're patient; we're determined; we're united. As proud and patriotic Americans, I can assure you that distance between September the 11th is not going to cause me to weaken in my determination to defend our country and to fight for freedom.

I also want to explain right quickly what I meant when I was talking about the axis of evil. Let me put it to you this way: We cannot allow nations that have got a history of totalitarianism and dictatorship—a nation, for example, like Iraq, that poisoned her own people—to develop a weapon of mass destruction and mate up with terrorist organizations who hate freedom-loving countries. We can't afford to do that, for the sake of our children and our children's children. History has called this Nation into action, and we're not going to let the world's worst leaders develop and maintain and deploy and aim, at us or our friends, the world's worst weapons.

My fellow Americans, we've got a lot at stake. We've got a lot at stake at home and a lot at stake around the world. We've been called, and I'm here to assure you this great country is prepared and willing and will answer the call to freedom.

And I believe there's another calling at home as well. I believe that we have an opportunity to fight evil at home in a different kind of way than people would have imagined. I'm asked all the time by people, "What can I do in a war against terror?" You all are answering that call. But there's something else I'd like for you and others in South Carolina and around America to do. You see, in order to fight evil, we can stand strongly in the face of evil with acts of kindness and compassion. We can better love our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself.

You see, the great strength of America is not necessarily our military might, and it's certainly not our Government, even though the system is great and the military is strong. The great strength of America are the hearts and soul—the great strength is the heart and soul of our country; that's the strength. The strength of the country comes when somebody walks across the street to a neighbor in need and says, "What can I do to help you"; when somebody walks in to a shut-in and says, "I care about you"; or somebody

mentors a child, teaching that child how to read; or a church or a synagogue or a mosque comes up with a program based upon faith of the Almighty to help a person whip alcohol or drugs. That's the great strength of America.

And I believe out of this evil will come incredible goodness. I know this country can stand squarely in the face of evil by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And today we've got a high school student, Gus Samuel. Please stand up, Gus. Gus is here because he is a living example of what I'm talking about. This guy goes to high school, and yet he is active in the Salvation Army, and he finds time to work with youngsters in the Girls and Boys Club.

Our society can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, because of guys like Gus, that we will show the world the true heart of America, and we will stand squarely in the face of the evil ones who did not understand who they were attacking.

Out of the evil will come a more lasting peace, if we're tough and firm. And out of the evil will come a new renewal of heart in the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Wyche Pavilion at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Knox H. White, Police Department Chief Willie L. Johnson, and Emergency Medical Services Director John Zaragoza of Greenville; Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler, Attorney General Charlie Condon, and former Gov. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., of South Carolina; and David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Lindsey Graham in Greenville

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It is nice to be back in South Carolina. Please be seated. Thank you.

My only regret is I didn't bring Laura with me. I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is—she is a fabulous wife and a great lady. She's flying Barney and Spot and the cat down to Crawford, Texas, as I speak. America is getting to see why I married her. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But Lindsey, thanks for mentioning Laura. She is—I love her dearly, and she's a great First Lady for country.

And you're going to be a great Senator for South Carolina. I'm here with one message: I want Lindsey Graham elected to the United States Senate. It is in South Carolina's interest that he get elected to the United States Senate, and it's in our Nation's interest that he get elected to the United States Senate. And frankly, it's in my interest that he get elected to the United States Senate, because I've got a lot I want to do. And I look forward to working with him to get it done. So I'm proud to be here on Lindsey's behalf, and I want to thank you all—the organizers of the event and you all for coming to support this good man for this important cause.

I also want to thank Jim DeMint. It's important that he win as well. Jim is the kind of fellow that I like to work with in Washington. First of all, he understands his district well. And he loves the people of his district. We've got the kind of relationship where I welcome him into the Oval Office to sit down and discuss important issues. And we can have frank discussions and come to agreement.

Now, I know there are some of them here picking on him because of textiles. Because of Jim DeMint's leadership, my administration has got a plan to strengthen the textile industry. And I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue, and so should the people of this district.

And I want to thank Congressman Henry Brown for coming all the way up from the coast. It's nice of you all to let him in. [*Laughter*] And he's doing a fine job as well.

As you know, I'm fortunate enough to make a lot of friends in your great State, and I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to be your President. But I also want to thank some of those that I spent a lot of time with in South Carolina for coming over today: Carroll Campbell and Iris, thank you all for

being here. They tell me Beasley is around here somewhere. Beasley, how are you? Good to see you. I appreciate your coming. And the Speaker—I've got no better friend than the Speaker. Election day, he took me to the Ham House. [*Laughter*] I'm still running off the pancakes. [*Laughter*] And Lieutenant Governor Peeler and Attorney General Condon, two fine friends of mine, and I was proud to call them friends back in 2000, and I'm still proud to call them friends. And it's great to see you guys, and thank you all for being here as well. And I want to thank my friend Barry Wynn as well. Barry and I have been friends for awhile, and he helped me get to where I am, and so did many of you all.

I've got a lot to do in Washington. And we need somebody who can help get that done in the United States Senate from South Carolina. Listen, you've had a fine, fine man in Strom Thurmond representing you all, and what you need is a young visionary leader to take his place. He understands how Washington works. I want the voters of South Carolina to remember, he was for a strong military prior to September the 11th. He understood we need a strong military to defend our freedoms. He doesn't need to be educated, once he gets to Washington, on this issue. He's a member of the Armed Services Committee and has served proudly. And I look forward to working with Lindsey as we fight this war on terror.

He also has been a leader on education reform. For too long, our party was identified as being antischool, that we weren't for educating children. That's changed. I had the honor of signing a piece of legislation which recognizes the importance of education in our society; refuses to allow for mediocrity; challenges the status quo when children are simply shuffled through the system, regardless of whether they can read or not; insists that every child—I mean every child—can read in America.

And Lindsey Graham stood by my side on this important piece of education reform. And not only that, he's sponsoring a piece of legislation, which I strongly support, that will forgive loans to teachers who teach in the neediest areas in America. He's a reformer when it comes to education, and the

South Carolinians ought to be proud of his record.

Now, we've got a lot to do—we've got a lot to do. There's a lot to do at home. As you know—let me put it to you this way. I was campaigning in Chicago one time, and a fellow said, "Would you ever allow for deficit spending; would that ever enter your vocabulary?" I said, "Well, under certain circumstances: Only if we're at war, or there was a national emergency, or there was a recession." Little did I realize we'd draw the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But I want to make it clear about how we dealt with the latter, and then I'm going to talk about the first two.

The slowdown in our economy—the best way to make sure an economy recovers is to trust the people with their own money. You see, when people have more money in their pocket, when they've got more money to spend, that increases demand for goods and services. And when there's an increase in demand for goods and services, somebody is going to produce goods and services. And as they produce goods and services, it firms up the job base. We cut the taxes on the American people at exactly the right time, and our economy is improving because of it.

Lindsey understood that, and he was a strong proponent of the tax relief for the American people. He was describing the other fellow's position. He said he wouldn't have supported the tax increase. Yet another reason why Lindsey Graham ought to be in the U.S. Senate—it's because we trust people with their own money. The tax money is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And when we can give it back and afford to give it back, we ought to do so.

Now, there are some of them up there that believe in times of a recession, you increase the taxes on the people. But that's not the textbook that Lindsey and I have been reading. Our textbook starts with, you trust the American people, particularly when it comes to their own money. So I need to have an ally in the United States Senate who understands how our economy works and who trusts the private sector and trusts the people with their own money.

We're going to have some issues coming up, and I'll tell you one. We got rid of the death tax, but because of the law, it can con-

ceivably come back into life 9 years from now. We need to make the repeal of the death tax permanent. That's an important issue for small-business owners. It's a particularly important issue for South Carolina farmers, South Carolina ranchers. And we needed somebody in the U.S. Senate who will vote to make that tax relief permanent.

Listen, we don't need a tax system that encourages somebody to work all their life to build up an asset base and have it taxed again, have it taxed twice. What we need is a system that encourages hard work, the entrepreneurial spirit, and allows people to pass on their assets to whoever they want to pass on their assets to.

We need an energy plan in America. We need a plan that not only encourages conservation and the development of exciting new technologies, but we also need a plan that reduces our dependency on foreign sources of crude oil. We need a plan that encourages biomass, ethanol—interesting alternatives.

But I want you all to understand something Lindsey understands and I darn sure know, is that we now import over 50 percent of our energy from overseas. Sometimes we get it from nations that aren't really pleased with U.S. foreign policy. For the good of national security, we need to explore, in environmentally friendly ways, for energy in our own country so we can reduce dependency. It's in our national security interests that we do so.

We need to get a faith-based initiative out of the United States Senate. We need to rally the great compassion of our country in order to stand up in the face of evil. We need to understand that the best welfare programs sometimes are those that come out of our churches and synagogues and mosques. Our Federal Government must not fear faith in our society. We must welcome faith, faith programs that heal hearts, that provide hope to the hopeless, that give people the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

And that's incredibly important at this stage of our Nation's history. Because in order to win the war on terror, we must not let terror affect the hearts and souls of the American people—quite the opposite. It's important for me and all of us in positions

of responsibility to rally the great compassion of America so that we can stand squarely in the face of evil, so that we can say, out of evil acts of September the 11th have come incredible goodness. And that's what's going to happen in America. I firmly believe it. I believe that out of this evil will come great goodness because of the compassion of the American people.

I just had the honor of speaking to a lot of folks who wear the uniform in Greenville, South Carolina, and surrounding neighborhoods, the police and the fire and the EMS folks, to talk about a homeland strategy that Tom Ridge in my administration is developing, a strategy that provides a significant amount of money in the new budget to provide first-responders not only with a strategy but with ample money to be able to be prepared for any emergency that might arise. We've got money in our budget for bioterrorist attack—a possible bioterrorist attack. We've got money in the budget to make sure that the INS, the folks who are supposed to know who is coming in and out of our country, do a better job of understanding who is coming in and out of our country. We're buttoning up the homeland.

And I want to tell you that my biggest job is to make sure that we do everything in our power to make sure that innocent lives are not lost in America again. I want the moms and dads to know that my priority is to make sure your children can grow up in a peaceful country. And we're making progress.

The law enforcement—law enforcement at the Federal level and the State level and the local level are communicating a lot better than they have ever before. Every morning, like this morning, I ask the FBI Director Mueller, "What are you doing in running down leads? Are you hunting them down here on the homeland, if we get a hint that somebody might do something against us?" And we are. We're chasing down every single lead.

But I want to tell you all, the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the enemy down wherever they hide and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do. The budget I submitted to the United States Congress not only makes our homeland security a priority, it makes the defense

of the United States a priority. It's the largest increase in defense spending in 20 years. And the reason why is twofold.

One, whenever we commit people who wear our uniform into battle, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible. The price of freedom is high, no question about it. But it is not too high, as far as I'm concerned.

And the other reason why I've submitted a significant increase in the defense spending is because we're in this thing for the long haul. We defend freedom. We're fighting murderers, cold-blooded killers who hate what America stands for. They hate our religious tolerance. They hate the fact that we speak freely. They can't stand our democracy. And they want to hit us again. And we're going to chase them down one by one, until we rid the world of the global reach of terror. We have no other choice, my fellow Americans. We fight for our children's freedom.

They must have not understood who they were dealing with on September the 11th. I guess they thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed that all we would do is file a lawsuit. They found out we think differently here in America. They found out when it comes to defending our freedom, we will take whatever means are necessary. They found out what I meant when I said, either you are with us or you're against us. And they found out, in the first theater on the war against terror, what I meant when I said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who attacked New York City and Washington, DC, on September the 11th.

Thanks to our mighty United States military and a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, we upheld that latter doctrine. The Taliban found out exactly what I meant. They are no longer in power, thank goodness, for the people of Afghanistan.

I want to assure you that we did not go into that theater, or any theater, to seek revenge. We seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, we didn't enter as conquerors; we entered as liberators. This past weekend, young girls, many young girls, for the first time in their life, went to school.

And I am proud of a nation that is not only tough and strong but a nation that is compassionate and cares deeply about the lives of all citizens around the world.

Thankfully, our Nation is united and determined, because we've got a lot more work to do. There are still a lot of them out there that would like to harm our country. And the best way to deal with them is to treat them like international criminals—precisely who they are—and keep them on the run and deny sanctuary and be patient and deliberate and tough and determined. The world watches the United States of America. If we were to blink, I think they might go to sleep. But I can assure you, we're not going to blink. We're determined. No matter how long it takes, this administration will lead this nation in chasing down the killers.

And not only that, we must not allow and will not allow the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons that could conceivably hold the United States and our allies and friends hostage. There is an axis of evil in the world, and the United States of America will deal with it in a firm way.

We are patient; we are deliberate; we will consult with our allies. But the world must understand, we love freedom; we hold freedom dear to our hearts. And we will not let our freedoms be threatened or our freedoms taken away from us.

You know, one of the most interesting—not interesting, one of the most compelling and moving moments during this—from September the 11th on, was Flight 93. It was a time when America got to see that there are people in our society who are willing to serve something greater than themselves. This was an airplane flying toward who knows—the White House or the Capitol. Americans on that plane on their cell phones told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. They told them they loved them and said, “Let's roll,” and drove the plane in the ground so somebody else could live.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. On the one hand, if we're tough and strong and firm, the world will be more peaceful. I believe that when the United States leads with firm resolve, we have a much better chance to solve the world's most intractable problems.

But I also know that by unleashing the compassion and goodness of America, by following the example of others who are willing to sacrifice for something greater, that we can rally the great compassion of the country so that the American Dream extends its hope into every neighborhood in every corner of this great country. Out of evil will come great good, because the great strength of the Nation is in the hearts and souls of an incredible country.

Thank you all for being here. May God bless you all. Send Lindsey Graham to the United States Senate.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at the Palmetto Expo Center. In his remarks, he referred to former South Carolina Governors Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., and David M. Beasley; Iris Campbell, wife of Governor Campbell; David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives; Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler and Attorney General Charlie Condon of South Carolina; and Barry D. Wynn, former chairman, South Carolina Republican Party.

Remarks to First-Responders in Atlanta, Georgia

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. It is such an honor to be back in Atlanta, on the campus of one of the great universities in our country. I want to thank Wayne, the president of the university, for hosting us. And Saxby, thank you for your leadership and your strong support of our national effort to defend the homeland.

I want to thank the Governor and the first lady for being here. The last time I saw you was at Booker T. Washington High School. I was honored that you all came and took time out of your day to help us focus the Nation's attention on how best to secure the homeland.

I want to thank all who work at the Center for Emergency Response Technology, Instruction, and Policy. I have just seen a demonstration that helps prepare the emergency firefighters and—firefighters and the police how to take care of a disaster or an attack, how best to protect the citizens. This is an

innovative training center. And I want to thank all those involved with the center for your hospitality and for the chance to see firsthand how Atlanta and the State of Georgia are preparing for any possible attack. I particularly want to thank the guy who—they cut off his clothes and ran him through water. That goes beyond the call of duty to impress the President. *[Laughter]* There he is. Better you than me. *[Laughter]*

I'm also here to say thanks to those who wear the uniform, the policemen, policewomen, the firefighters, the emergency medical teams, all of whom work hours on hours to serve the people of Georgia and the United States of America.

My first responsibility as your President is to protect the American people and to provide a strategy that not only protects the American people but, should there ever be another incident, provides response, quick response for the American people.

I picked a good friend, a former Governor colleague of Roy and mine, to serve as the Director of Homeland Security. His job is to develop a strategy, a national strategy that uses national, State, and local assets to protect the homeland. And I picked a very good man to take on this assignment. Tom Ridge is doing a heck of a good job, and I'm so honored he left his job as Governor.

Part of that homeland security measure is to enhance the capacity of first-responders to deal with any kind of emergency. And that's what we're watching today, the training of first-responders. Those who have called into action must be able to save as many lives as possible. And that's why the budget I submitted for '03 has \$3.5 billion available for State and local governments to enhance the capacity of our first-responders to deal with any crisis that might arise.

As well, I submitted what we call a supplemental budget request; that's an emergency request. And part of that emergency request is nearly \$5 billion to make sure that we make our airports more secure and make our borders more secure. What we want to know in America is, who's coming into the United States and why and, if they're leaving, when they're supposed to leave, in order to make sure we protect the homeland.

So, in other words, what we've done is we're making the borders more secure. We're dealing with first-time responders to make sure they've got what's needed to be able to respond.

As well, I understand how it works in rural parts of our country, like Georgia. I've got a pretty good handle on what happens in rural Georgia. I cut my teeth on rural Georgia in 1968 and '69 as a pilot trainee in Valdosta, Georgia, home of the mighty Bulldogs. I think they're called. I also understand the role of the volunteer firefighter. You've got a lot of fine citizens serving as volunteer firefighters in your State. We've got a lot in my State. I'm a proud backer of the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, Crawford, Texas.

And one of the things that I know is that not all rural counties, in Georgia or in Texas or anywhere else, can have all the equipment necessary to be an integral part of the first line of response. But I do know that neighbors like to work with neighbors. And I do know that one county might have a good hospital; another county might have the capacity to respond. So we've got money in our budget, Governor, for what I call mutual aid agreements. There's \$140 million in the budget to encourage rural counties to pool their resources, their talents, their time to be able to respond to any kind of attack. We've got a big focus on the big cities like Atlanta and the surrounding counties. But we've also got to make sure that our rural areas all across America also have got a capacity to respond.

You also need to know that we are spending a great deal of time trying to gather as much intelligence as we possibly can to make sure that we follow every lead to protect the American people. If we get a hint that somebody is coming, we're going to respond. We're chasing down every—*[applause]*—and part of a modern homeland defense system is one that shares information more timely, not only amongst Federal agencies but amongst State and local authorities.

The enemy is a dangerous group of people. There's no way to rehabilitate these folks. They are murderers. And they hate what America stands for. See, they can't stand the thought that we're a society that welcomes

all religions, that we value freedom of religion as a part of our basic core. They hate the idea of political discourse and debate, freedom to speak. They don't even like the free press. They don't like much about what America stands for. And I want to issue this warning to the American people, that they're still after us.

But we're on alert. And I want to thank all the local law enforcement officials and everybody else who has got positions of responsibility for paying attention and for reporting anything that seems out of the ordinary, so we can follow it up to make sure it's not a real threat to America.

But the surest way that we protect the homeland is to run them down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what we're going to do.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and share with you some of my thoughts about this war against terrorists and terrorism. First, I see a lot of young folks here. I want to assure you of a couple of things about our country. First, we don't do this, take this action, out of revenge. We seek justice, not revenge. We seek justice. And secondly, we take this action because we believe so deeply in freedom. We love our freedom. And this Nation will stand strong and steady when it comes to defending our freedoms.

I also want you to know that I laid out a doctrine—and it's really important for when the United States speaks, it means what they say. And I said that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you feed one or hide one, you're just as guilty as those who came and murdered thousands of innocent Americans. It's an important part of any foreign policy to do what you say you're going to do. And we did. Thanks to the mighty United States military, the Taliban no longer is in power.

But I want to make two points to the young: One, we're not alone in this. There's a vast coalition of other countries that love freedom like we do. And secondly, your country went into Afghanistan not as conquerors, but we were liberators. It is hard to believe what I'm about to tell you, but there are hundreds of young girls in Afghanistan who weren't allowed to go to school. And

thanks to the United States Government and the coalition we put together, last weekend children—boys and girls—got to go to school in Afghanistan.

But our defense of freedom is far from over. While we have held the doctrine in Afghanistan, the doctrine of "thou shall not harbor a terrorist," there still are killers running loose; there just are. And we must deal with that fact. And the best way to deal with it is to make sure there is no sanctuary, no haven, no place for them to group up or to train. The best way to deal with that is to cut off their money, is to insist that you're either with us or you're against us, insist that there be action when it comes to nations in the world, is to hold people accountable in the name of freedom.

And so the United States Government is today determined and steadfast and patient and resolved to chase down any criminal, any international terrorist, and bring them to justice. And the good news is the American people understand the cause. They understand the need. They understand that history has called us into action, and we must not blink. And we must not grow weary, because I repeat: We fight for freedom. We fight for values we hold so dear and precious.

Now, I believe that by being firm and disciplined and determined, we can achieve peace throughout the world. I believe out of this incredible evil that was done on September the 11th, we can realize good. And one of the good is going to be peace.

It is awfully hard to realize there can be peace in a place like the Middle East. My heart breaks for those innocent lives that are lost on a daily basis. And today there was another suicide bomber who murdered innocent Israelis. This callous, this coldblooded killing, it must stop. I condemn it in the most strongest of terms. I call upon Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to do everything in their power to stop the terrorist killing, because there are people in the Middle East who would rather kill than have peace.

If the United States is firm and strong in routing out terror, if the United States stays steady in our quest for peace, I believe we can achieve peace in places where people think we'll never have peace. The road is going to be hard, there's no question about

it. It'll test our will; it'll test our determination. But the enemy that struck us is going to find out what we're made out of. They've already found out a small taste about what we're made out of.

You know, when they hit us, they must have thought we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we would sue them. [*Laughter*] They were wrong. They're also wrong about one other thing. Our Nation—our Nation is not only a strong and determined nation, we are a compassionate nation. We're a nation who will show the world our true face by not only putting a military in place that's well paid, well trained, well equipped but also by loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

Today I had two fine Americans—if you all would stand, please—come out to the airport. These good folks take time out of their lives. These are citizens that have heard a call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. They spend extra time helping a neighbor in need. They've asked the question, "What can I do to make my society a better place"—you can sit down if you like—"how can I serve something—how can I serve something greater than myself?" Thank you all for coming to the airport. Thank you for your service to your community. Thank you for teaching children to read. Thank you for mentoring. Thank you for having served in AmeriCorps.

You see, if you want to help in the war against terror, find somebody whose heart may be broken and help mend it by loving them. Walk across the street and say to a shut-in, "I care for you." Mentor a child on how to read. If you're a mom or a dad, love your children with all your heart and all your soul. It's the accumulation of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define the true nature of our country. And by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, you help stand square in the face of evil.

The evil ones hit us. I believe the world can be more peaceful. I know our Nation can be more compassionate. And as a result, those who died on September the 11th and those who died subsequently defending freedom will not have died in vain.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In his remarks, he referred to G. Wayne Clough, president, Georgia Institute of Technology; Representative Saxby Chambliss of Georgia; and Gov. Roy Barnes of Georgia and his wife, Marie.

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5762

March 27, 2002

I send greetings to all Americans and to all people around the world who are observing Passover this week, which begins at sundown on March 27.

Passover marks a uniquely special time in the Jewish calendar, commemorating Judaism's foremost traditions of freedom, faith, and family. In celebrating the Israelites' liberation from enslavement and their exodus from Egypt, Passover reminds Jews of their sacred tradition. It is a time for Jewish families to share together in long-established rituals and to offer prayers that celebrate the renewal of hope in the blessings of freedom.

The story of the Exodus speaks across the millennia. By God's power and blessing, the children of Abraham overcame Pharaoh's tyranny forty centuries ago and found freedom in the promised land. Every year at Passover, Jews relive the experience of the Exodus and remember the miracles that provided them their path to freedom.

As we seek peace throughout the world, we are reminded that freedom is a precious gift. At this Passover, I hope that people of every faith will affirm that freedom is the right of all people. And as Jews observe this sacred time, I hope that your faith will be strengthened in the remembrance of your miraculous and living heritage.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed Passover.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Easter, 2002

March 27, 2002

I send greetings to everyone observing Easter this year. During this joyful season of new life and renewal, Christians around the world celebrate the central event of their faith—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, whom Christians believe is the Messiah, the Son of God.

The life and teachings of Jesus have inspired people throughout the ages to strive for a better world and a more meaningful life. Jesus' death stands out in history as the perfect example of unconditional love. The four Gospels of the Christian Bible recount Jesus' amazing life, his miraculous death, resurrection, and ascension, and his unending offer of salvation to all. The story of Jesus' wondrous resurrection comes alive again for Christians each year at Easter.

Easter Sunday commemorates in song and celebration the joy and promise of Christ's triumph over evil and death. Christians around the world gather together to sing well-loved hymns to God's glory, remembering the signs and wonders of God's grace revealed in Jesus. And they again will hear Gospel readings such as Saint Luke's rendering of that first Easter morning when the Angel asked: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"

Easter's message of renewal is especially meaningful now during this challenging time in our Nation's history. On September 11, 2001, America suffered devastating loss. In the wake of great evil, however, Americans responded with strength, compassion, and generosity. As we fight to promote freedom around the world and to protect innocent lives in America, we remember the call of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*: "As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free."

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful Easter.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Saxby, thanks. I am honored that so many showed up. I want to thank you for such a warm welcome. I'm here to deliver this message: Saxby Chambliss needs to be in the United States Senate. And I'm so pleased you agree with me. *[Laughter]*

First, I want to thank Julianne. One of the things I've learned is that a life in the public arena is a lot easier when you've got a great wife. He married above himself, and so did I. *[Laughter]* We both married schoolteachers. And like Saxby is proud of Julianne, I'm really proud of Laura. I wish she were here tonight. She's in Crawford, Texas. The two dogs and the cat—*[laughter]*—went down to Crawford, because that's where I'm headed after this event. I love my job. But even though I've changed addresses, my home is still in the heart of Texas.

I want to thank Saxby's mother for being here. She informed me when she came through to get her picture taken that she was here, but she was a Democrat. *[Laughter]* I said that didn't bother me one bit. *[Laughter]* I never would have gotten to be the Governor of Texas had not a lot of Democrats voted for me. *[Laughter]* It doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat when it comes to doing the right thing for the country and the right thing for our democracy. We welcome all people; we welcome anybody.

And looking at the mother reminds me to remind all the youngsters here to listen to your mother. I'm still listening to mine. *[Laughter]* I'm listening to her most of the time—don't tell her I said that. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Bo Callaway for being the master of ceremonies. I appreciate his long service to the United States of America. I want to thank Congressmen Barr and Collins, Deal, Linder, and Norwood, fine, fine members of the congressional delegation from the great State of Georgia, members with whom I enjoy working, members who represent your State in a proud way. And I appreciate you letting somebody from the State of Ohio

in—[*laughter*—the chairman of the Education Committee, John Boehner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I had the privilege of saying hello to one of Georgia's most distinguished citizens today, and that's Judge Griffin Bell. I'm so honored the judge is here. You all have produced a lot of fine leaders from your State, and Judge Bell is one of the finest. And I appreciate the party chairman, Ralph Reed. I appreciate his dedication to grassroots politics.

And I want to thank the R.B. Wright fifth grade choir. You read more than you watch TV. [*Laughter*] And thanks for coming.

And I want to thank all those who worked hard to make this a successful evening, and I want to thank you all for caring about your country and for doing what is right: getting involved in democracy and working hard. And when you find a good one like Saxby Chambliss, work your heart out, because there is no finer American than Saxby. He loves his family. He loves his country. He's a man of enormous experience. He's one of these can-do politicians, somebody who goes to Washington and tries to figure out how to make things better.

I value his advice on terrorism. He's sound when it comes to counterterrorism. He's been in the Oval Office to give me sound, solid advice. And I've listened to it every time he's come in there. I appreciate his love for education. He understands this: that if you can't read, you can't realize the American Dream. I like to put it this way: Reading is the new civil right, and we must have people who understand the profound impact quality education can have on the future of this country.

And I'm glad Boehner is here. I had the honor of signing a profound piece of education reform. It said a couple of things. One, it says we believe in high standards for everybody, not just a few but everybody; that we trust the people of Georgia to run your schools more than we trust the people in Washington, DC; that we're committed to spending Federal dollars on education, but for every dollar spent, we expect there to be results.

We believe—and I strongly believe—every child can learn. And, therefore, the system

must focus on every child. The name of the bill that Saxby worked on and John Boehner worked on is, "No Child Shall Be Left Behind." And that's the way I feel. And that's the way America must be, that the promise of America must be extended to every single person. Saxby understands that, and I'm going to be proud to have him in the United States Senate working on these fundamental issues that will help change America.

There is no more fundamental issue than to—making sure we have a judiciary of people that do not interpret the law from the bench, people who do not try to write law from the bench, people who interpret the law and not try to write it. And I put up a good man from Mississippi the other day. And I don't remember the senior Senator from Georgia defending this man's honor. And we're going to have more fights when it comes to the judiciary. And I'm going to put strict constructionists on the bench. And I expect people in the United States Senate, from a great State like Georgia, to do what Zell Miller did and—stood up and defended the honor and integrity of Judge Pickering. And that's what Saxby Chambliss is going to do.

He also knows something about agriculture. This State will benefit by having somebody who knows something about agriculture in the United States Senate. Saxby knows what I know: that we're the best producers in the world, that Georgia farmers and American farmers are the best. And if you're the best, it benefits our farmers to fight to open up markets around the world. And that's exactly what I'm going to do. And I want his help. You see, it's a confident nation that tears down barriers. It's a confident nation that insists that people open up their markets to our food products. It's been my policy, and I need people in the United States Senate who's willing to back me on that policy. And so do the American farmers.

I'll never forget one time in Chicago when a reporter said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" And I said, "Well, only—only if we were at war, only if there were a national emergency, or only if there is a recession." Never did I believe we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But we're dealing with it.

And let me talk about this recession. We cut taxes at exactly the right time. We understand that if you let people keep their own money, they will demand more goods and services. And as they demand more goods and services, somebody will produce more goods and services. And when you produce more goods and services, you expand the job base.

Now, some folks evidently don't understand that. They've been reading a different textbook than Saxby and I read. You see, they either want to delay the tax cut or raise your taxes. We need somebody in Washington—a friend of the taxpayer, a vote we can rely on. And let me tell you a crucial vote that's going to come up. The tax reform act started the end of the death tax. However, we need to make getting rid of the death tax permanent in the Tax Code. We don't need anybody up there who's going to waver, somebody who's going to try to check in with a higher political authority on whether this is the right move or not.

Getting rid of the death tax forever is important for small-business owners. It's important for farmers. It is important for ranchers. The death tax is a bad tax. The death tax says that someone is going to have to work all their life to build up their assets and then leave most of it not to who they choose but to the Federal Government. Saxby Chambliss understands that. It's a vote that you can count on in the United States Senate, when it comes to tax policy.

And we're dealing with the other issues. We're dealing with the national emergency, and we're dealing with the war. I had the honor of going to Georgia Tech today to talk about our homeland defense. *[Applause]* I'm glad they let one graduate in—*[applause]*—two in. *[Laughter]* I talked about my administration's commitment to protecting the homeland, to doing everything we can do to keep American families safe. Part of that protection is to make sure that if there is any attack, that we can respond quickly, so I talked about a first-responders initiative. I had the honor of being with some of the finest folks in your State, the firefighters and those who work for the police and emergency medical teams, to lay out one of my budget priorities, which is a first-responders initia-

tive. We've got \$3.5 billion in the '03 budget to make sure that if there is an attack, we can respond quickly.

I've also talked to folks about how we're going to strengthen the Coast Guard to make sure our ports are more secure. We've got an airline security bill to make sure that air traffic is—air travel is as safe as it can possibly be.

I want you to know that our law enforcement is communicating better from the Federal to the State to the local level. Any time we get any whiff or hint that somebody may do something in America, we're reacting. We're doing everything we can.

We need better control of our borders. We want to know who's coming in and why they're coming in and are they leaving. So we're doing everything we can to bolster the homeland security. It's the most important job, is to be able to assure Americans we're doing everything we can to keep you safe. But the best homeland security, the best way to protect Americans for the long run, is to find the killers and bring them to justice one by one. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I don't know what they were thinking on September the 11th. They must have taken a look at America and said, "All they'll do is sue us." *[Laughter]* They were wrong. They were wrong. I said right off the bat, you're either with us or you're against us. I meant every word of what I said.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who hit New York and Washington and you will be held accountable. And thanks to a mighty coalition, led by a fantastic United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

I like to assure my fellow citizens that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And it's important for the young in America to understand that when we went into Afghanistan, we went in not as conquerors but as liberators. Young girls went to school—many young girls went to school for the first time this past weekend, thanks to the United States of America.

I have submitted a budget that significantly increases our defense budget. It's the

largest increase in 20 years. I did so for two reasons. One, any time that we commit U.S. troops into action, they must have the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. We owe it to those who are willing to sacrifice for freedom.

I expect the United States Congress to pass the budget I submitted. I expect them to get the appropriations bill for defense out early, not late. Now is not the year to play games with the defense of the United States of America. And Saxby understands that. He knows what I'm talking about. I also have asked for a significant increase because we're in this for the long haul. We're fighting for freedom. We fight people who are killers, coldblooded murderers who hate America. They hate the fact that we worship freely in our country. They can't stand the fact that we have political discourse. They resent the fact that we're a free society. Freedom scares them.

And when it comes to defending freedom, they will find out that this Nation is determined and steadfast. And we will provide the resources necessary to chase them down. These are international criminals. They will be treated like international criminals. And we will not stop until we hunt them all down to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world.

And the task is more than one person or more than one terrorist organization. There are some nightmare scenarios that we must confront if we want to secure the peace and defend our freedoms. One such scenario is the fact that a terrorist organization could join up with some of the world's worst leaders, who harbor some of the world's worst weapons. I referred to some of those world's worst leaders as an "axis of evil." I meant exactly what I said. Now, our Nation is deliberate. We're steady. We're going to talk with our allies. But we will not let the world's worst leaders hold our Nation and our friends and our allies hostages with weapons of mass destruction.

And I believe that the fact that we will remain strong and united as a nation, that we will be determined, will yield a world that will be more peaceful. It's going to be rough at times, no question about it. And we'll call upon our citizens to sacrifice, particularly

those who wear the uniform. But as a result of a steadfast, absolute determination to defend freedom, the world's going to be more peaceful.

Out of the incredible evil of September the 11th will come some lasting good. And nothing compares to peace. We fight for peace, we long for peace, but we will not relent. We will not weary until peace is secure.

And out of this terrible evil will come some good at home. And the reason why is because the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. What a fabulous nation we are; what a great country America is. You know, the thing that I love about our country is the fact that people are willing to help people in need, and it doesn't require a government law. You see, people ask me all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" You can be vigilant, you can be alert, but you can also love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to do something against evil, do some good. If you want to do something against evil, mentor a child who may need to learn to read. Walk across the street if there's a shut-in and say to that person, "I care for you." Feed the hungry. Go to your church or synagogue or mosque and convince a Sunday school class to get a project that will help somebody who hurts. Recognize the power of faith in our society, when it comes to healing the addiction of alcohol or drugs.

That's what we can do in America. We can capture a unique spirit in this land and stand squarely in the face of those who are evil. And that's what America is doing. And that's why it's such a huge honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the earth.

I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for supporting this good man. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Chambliss' wife, Julianne, and his mother, Emma B. Chambliss; former Representative Bo Callaway of Georgia; Griffin Bell, senior partner, King and

Spalding; Ralph Reed, chairman, Georgia Republican Party; and nominee for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Charles W. Pickering, Sr., of Mississippi. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Fundraiser for
Senatorial Candidate John Cornyn in
Dallas, Texas**

March 28, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks. Everybody in Crawford says hello—[laughter]—starting with Laura. I wish she'd have come with me today, but—[applause]—she is doing a fabulous job. I tell people it's because she's from Midland, Texas. But I send her best. She's got a lot of friends here. And the country now realizes why I asked her to marry me. [Laughter] A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes, but nevertheless, she's doing great, and she sends her love. And I want to thank you all for coming here today as well.

It is my honor to come and campaign for the next United States Senator from the State of Texas. I'm going to miss Phil Gramm. He is a close friend. He is a strong, strong advocate for principles that are sound for our freedom. He has been a great United States Senator from Texas. I was disappointed he chose not to run again. I understand, but I was disappointed. But my disappointment waned when I realized my friend John Cornyn was running to take his place. I know John. I've seen him work. I've seen him in action. I've not only seen him as a campaigner but somebody who does in office what he said he is going to do. There is no question in my mind that he can do the job and bring a standard of excellence to the United States Senate. And there's no question in my mind we need him in the United States Senate to make sure our agenda moves forward.

I want to thank Bill and Rita Clements for being here. I like to call Bill the pathfinder for Republican Governors. I appreciate my friend Henry Bonilla for taking on the Texas Victory 2002 committee. It is important we send Henry back to the United States House of Representatives. I know Kay Granger from

Fort Worth is here, and I appreciate so very much working with Kay. She is a great friend, a reliable voice for sound and commonsense policy in Washington, DC.

I'm so glad to see Greg Abbott, the next attorney general of Texas, here. I know that Wallace Jefferson and Mike Schneider are here. Thank you all for coming. I know that Jeb Hensarling, the next United States Congressman from the 5th Congressional District, is here as well. Congratulations on your primary win, Jeb. Charles Matthews is here. Our party chairman, Susan Weddington, is here. I want to thank Susan for her long-time service to the Republican Party of Texas. I see Tommy Craddick is here, other members of the house and the State senate. I miss you. I wish I could count on your votes in Washington, like I could have in Austin. But thanks for coming by to see your old buddy. And thank you all for being here as well.

This is an important election for Texas. And it's an important election for the country. We've got to have a man like John Cornyn representing our State in Washington. And there are a lot of reasons why.

First, we've got to get good, conservative judges appointed to the bench and approved by the United States Senate. I want people on the bench who don't try to use their position to legislate from the bench. We want people to interpret the law, not try to make law and write law. And I sent such a man up from Mississippi the other day, a good, honest, honorable man, who had been approved unanimously by the United States Senate earlier, and yet did not get a vote on the floor of the United States Senate. We need people like John Cornyn in the United States Senate, who will work with the White House to have a solid judiciary, to make sure that the judges do what they're supposed to do in the United States and not overstep their bounds.

We need somebody like John, who is going to take a tough position, tough stand on issues like energy. I don't need to be telling my friends in Texas that we've got an energy problem, but we do. We need to do a better job of conservation, no question about it. And we will. As technology advances, we will conserve more. But for the sake of our national

security, we need to be finding more energy at home. We need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. John Cornyn will be a steady vote and a steady voice when it comes to good, sound energy policy in Washington, DC.

You know, one of the interesting issues that always faces us in Washington is what to do with the people's money. The tendency, of course, is to overpromise and then overspend. We need fiscal sanity in Washington. I want to thank Phil and his leadership on the issue of taxation. As you may remember—I think it was in this room—I said, “If you give me a chance to be your President, I will make sure the people get to keep a substantial amount of their own money.” I reminded people that we weren't dealing with the Government's money; we were dealing with the people's money. John understands that.

And we passed tax relief in Washington, exactly at the right time. You see, we understand—Phil understands, I understand, and John understands—that if you let people keep more of their own money, they will demand more goods and services. And if they demand more goods and services, somebody will help produce those goods and services. And if somebody else produces those goods and services, it makes it easier for somebody to find work. And so we cut the taxes on the people. Right in the middle of a recession, we cut the taxes, which is the right thing to do.

Now, there are some people up there who read a different textbook. See, they advocate raising your taxes. They get caught in that Washington trap. They forget whose money we're spending. John Cornyn understands we spend the people's money, not the Government money, and he'll be a reliable ally when it comes to making sure that tax relief that we passed is permanent and long lasting and real.

And I'll tell you an issue that's coming up where we're going to need his support, if they don't get it done this year. We put the death tax on its way to extinction. But because of a quirk—but because of a Senate rule, after 10 years that death tax can come back to life. I proposed, Phil has proposed, that we make

the death tax—getting rid of the death tax permanent. I guarantee he'll vote for that.

You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago in the general election, somebody said, “Would you ever deficit spend?” I said, “Well, only if we were at war or there was a national emergency or we were in recession.” Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [Laughter]

We've dealt with the recession with good fiscal policy, a budgeting process that holds the line on spending, and at the same time, let people have more of their own money back. And it's important for us to make sure that those actions we took to stimulate the private sector remain in place.

And we're also dealing with the other two issues. Today I had the opportunity of going to the Dallas Fire Department's training center to thank Texas Task Force 1 for going to New York City on September the 16th, to be there at Ground Zero to help rescue those who were trapped in the rubble. I went by there because I wanted to highlight one of the key initiatives in the homeland defense strategy, which is to make sure we've got a coordinated effort with our first-responders, to respond to any emergency that may come up from this point forward.

The reason I bring that up to you is that my most important job as your President is to defend the homeland, is to protect American people from further attacks. Not only are we working on a first-responders initiative, we've got a good, fine bioterrorism initiative as to how to respond if there were a bioterrorist attack.

We're beefing up our border security. It's important for this country to understand who's coming in and who's going out. And we know we've got a lot of work to do with the INS. It's a troubled agency that needs reform, and we will reform it.

I want to assure you all that we're doing a much better job in Washington of coordinating intelligence and information between jurisdictional boundaries, and we're sharing information in a much better way with State and local authorities. If we get any kind of hint that there's an Al Qaida cell in America, we're moving on it. If we get any whisper that somebody wants to harm us again, I can assure you, we're moving quickly.

Every morning in the Oval Office, George Tenet of the CIA comes in and gives me a briefing about what he knows. And then the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, comes in. I ask him every single day, "What do you know, and what have you done about it? If you've got any hint, Mr. Director, for the good of the American people, I want you and over 4,000 agents dedicated to protecting the homeland to move quickly."

I'm proud of the way we're responding as a nation. The Nation is on alert; we're prepared, because we understand that we fight an enemy that are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They can't be rehabilitated. They hate what America stands for. They hate our religious tolerance. They hate our freedom of speech. They hate freedom of the press. They despise freedom. They despise freedom. And therefore, the best way to secure the homeland, and the only way to secure the homeland for the long term, is to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what I intend to do.

I don't know what was on their mind when they attacked America. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* But they found out we think differently here in this country. They now know we love freedom, and we will defend our freedom with all our might.

I laid down a doctrine early. It said, either you're with us or you're against us. And fortunately, most of the world said they're with us. And we've put together a vast coalition of freedom-loving nations to defend not only America but our friends and allies.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist and feed a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the murderers who killed thousands of innocent Americans. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. I unleashed the mighty United States military and other coalition forces and, thanks to the bravery of U.S. soldiers, the Taliban has been routed out of existence.

It is so important for young Americans to know that our Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And we'll do whatever it takes to defend freedom. We view freedom as nonnegotiable. It is precious. It's also im-

portant for Americans to understand that we went into Afghanistan not as a conquering nation but as liberators. Last Saturday, many young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan, thanks to the United States of America.

We've got a lot more to do. And that's what I want to share with you, and that's what John understands. Even though we've upheld the doctrine, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as bad as a terrorist, there are other countries that might not get the message. And there are a lot of people still on the loose that want to hurt America.

And that's why I've submitted the largest increase in the defense budget during the last 20 years. Because here's what I know: If we put our soldiers at risk, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best pay. Oh, some of them are talking in Washington about it's too high a price. Listen, there is never too high a price for freedom, as far as I'm concerned.

And I submitted this budget because it's a clear signal to the American people and, just as importantly, to our enemy, that we're in this for the long pull. I have no calendar on my desk that says this must end by a certain date and I'll feel better. It doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned. So long as I'm the President, we will treat these killers as international terrorists and get them on the run and keep them on the run until we bring each and every one of them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

This fight on the war against terror is larger than any single individual or any single network. There are other nightmare scenarios that our Nation must be worried about. One such scenario would be for a terrorist killer organization to team up with some of the world's worst leaders who harbor and develop the world's worst weapons.

I've told this to a lot of world leaders, that I'm just not going to let that happen. History has called us into action. We can't look back after our time in Washington, DC, and say, "How come we let this happen?" For the good of our children and our grandchildren, we must deny the world's most dangerous leaders from having and harboring the world's most dangerous weapons. We'll be

deliberate; we'll be thoughtful; we will consult with our friends and allies. But when I said "axis of evil," I meant it.

I believe that out of this incredible evil that has been done to our country will come great good, though. I do. When the United States remains firm and strong and determined, we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people never thought peace could happen.

Oh, I know the Middle East is—looks like there will never be peace, but I can assure you we're not giving up. We're not going to let murderers disrupt a march to peace. My heart breaks for those who were celebrating Passover in the hotel, when a coldblooded killer came in and destroyed innocent life, to derail the attempts of peaceful-loving people for coming together.

But they're not going to stop us as a nation for longing for peace and working for peace. And the best way to achieve the peace is to be strong and steadfast against terror. I see a peaceful world. I do. The rest of the world watches us very carefully. I like to say, if the United States blinks, they'll go to sleep. We're not going to blink.

I also believe at home we can achieve incredible good too. People often say, "Well, what can I do to help in the war against terror?" My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. I look around the room and see a lot of my friends who I know have been doing good for a long, long number of years here in Texas. And I want to thank you for that. But it's important you keep doing it. It's important you give of your time and your money to help people in need.

This Nation is based upon some great principles: our love for freedom, our love for democracy. But our real strength is the hearts and souls of the American people. We're a tough nation; we're a courageous nation. But we're also a compassionate nation. And in order to fight terror, in order to stand squarely in the face of evil, we must help people in need. Just walking across the street to see a shut-in and saying, "I care about you," is part of fighting evil. Mentoring a child, telling your own child you love him every single day, going to a church or a synagogue or a mosque and developing a program to help

feed the hungry or clothe those who need clothes and help, that's all part of not only defining our Nation, but fighting against evil.

And that's why I'm such an optimistic soul, because not only do I know that we've got what it takes to achieve the peace, we've got the determination, the will, and the strength to have a more peaceful world. I know we've got the heart and compassion to show the world the true definition of our Nation. And it's happened. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which show the world the true worth of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for helping John Cornyn. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Landmark Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., of Texas and his wife, Rita; Greg Abbott, candidate for Texas Attorney General; Justice Wallace Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court; Chief Justice Michael Schneider, Texas First Court of Appeals; Jeb Hensarling, candidate for Texas House of Representatives; Charles R. Matthews, commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission; Tom Craddick, Texas State Representative; and nominee for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Statement on the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 29, 2002

I am pleased with the progress being made by the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group in addressing the problems facing the people of this region. Under the leadership of Secretary Norton, the working group is providing water to farmers who depend on it for a living, while taking careful steps to protect and enhance the health of fish populations in the Klamath River Basin. The working group is undertaking new environmental restoration projects in the area and has initiated a dialog with native tribes about long-term solutions to the natural resource and native rights issues in the basin.

The times are still difficult for many in the region, and much work remains to be done. It is essential that the citizens of Oregon and California in the Klamath River Basin—

whether farmer, rancher, tribe member, fisherman or environmental activist—embrace compromise and seek understanding. The working group's rapid progress, combined with the efforts of Senator Gordon Smith and Representative Greg Walden, give me great hope for a lasting solution to the challenges of the Klamath River Basin.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from Monterrey, Mexico, to Lima, Peru, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President met with U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, in the Presidential Palace, he met with Presidents Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Andres Pastrana of Colombia, and Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia, and Vice President Pedro Pinto Rubianes of Ecuador to discuss the Andean Trade Preferences Act and other regional issues.

March 24

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a luncheon meeting at the Casa Presidencial with Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize and Presidents Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador, Alfonso Portillo of Guatemala, Ricardo Madura of Honduras, Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua, Miguel Angel Rodriguez of Costa Rica, and Mireya Elisa Moscoso of Panama to discuss trade and other regional issues. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

March 25

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Se-

curity Council. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss cooperation against terrorism, issues related to NATO, and the Prime Minister's role as incoming President of the European Union. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with leaders of the Lubavitch Jewish community to sign a ceremonial copy of Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002, and commemorate the 100th birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a Lubavitch leader who died in 1994.

March 26

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation: Frank B. Strickland, Michael McKay, Thomas A. Fuentes, Lillian R. BeVier, and Robert J. Dieter.

March 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Greenville, SC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority to express his condolences concerning the earthquakes that struck northern Afghanistan on March 25–26.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA. In the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

March 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas, TX. In the afternoon, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charlotte A. Lane to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carolyn Y. Peoples to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce R. James to be the Public Printer.

March 29

In the morning, the President had a teleconference meeting with the National Security Council.

The President announced the recess appointment of Dennis L. Schornack as Commissioner and Chairman of the International Joint Commission—United States and Canada.

The President announced the recess appointment of Emil H. Frankel as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy.

The President announced the recess appointment of Jeffrey Shane as Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Michael E. Toner as a member of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Gerald Reynolds as Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 23

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

Fact sheet: The President's Trip to Peru and Meeting with Andean Leaders

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peruvian Cooperation on Counternarcotics

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for Democracy in Peru

Fact sheet: Renewal of Peace Corps Program in Peru

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peru Debt Agreement Under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peru Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Cultural Patrimony

Fact sheet: Food Assistance to Peru Under U.S. PL-480 Program

Fact sheet: Andean Center of Excellence for Teacher Training

Fact sheet: Andean Regional Initiative

Fact sheet: Andean Trade Preference Act

Fact sheet: E-Business Fellowship for the Andean Region

Released March 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-El Salvador Relations

Released March 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3986

Fact sheet: President Announces Nominees for Key Health Posts

Released March 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Announcement: Mutual Aid Agreements: Support for First-Responders Outside Major Metropolitan Areas

Released March 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved March 25

H.R. 3986 / Public Law 107-154

To extend the period of availability of unemployment assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the case of victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001

Week Ending Friday, April 5, 2002

The President's Radio Address

March 30, 2002

Good morning. Almost 7 months have passed since the attack on our country, and the shock and sadness of that day are still with us. For many, the grief and sense of loss will never fully pass, and they are in our thoughts, especially in this holy season.

The entire world is reminded again this week of the hope that lives and endures forever. For Jews and Christians, this is a time of joy and renewal. Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from oppression, by the hand of a faithful God. And tomorrow, Easter Sunday, many Christians will celebrate a hope that overcomes even death.

These holy days represent some of the most profound hopes of humanity, which are shared in many traditions. We feel our reliance on the Creator who made us. We place our sorrows and cares before Him, seeking God's mercy. We ask forgiveness for our failures, seeking the renewal He can bring.

Americans practice different faiths in churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples. And many good people practice no faith at all. For those who observe Easter and Passover, faith brings confidence that failure is never final, and suffering is temporary, and the pains of the Earth will be overcome. We can be confident, too, that evil may be present and it may be strong, but it will not prevail.

On September the 11th, a terrible evil was done to our country. America and the civilized world are now joined together in a great struggle against enemies who have no regard for innocent life. Grave challenges and dangers face us in this war. We cannot predict every turn ahead of us, yet in this season, we are assured that history is of moral design. Justice and cruelty have always been at war, and God is not neutral between them.

His purposes are often defied but never defeated.

I hope that this holy season will bring renewal of faith to those who seek it and comfort to those who need it. And to all who observe these special days, I wish you a joyful Easter and a blessed Passover.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:37 a.m. on March 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

March 30, 2002

The President. This morning I made a series of phone calls to world leaders to express my concern, listen to their concerns about the escalating violence in the Middle East.

We are at this point because there has not been enough done to fight off terror. All the leaders in the world must stand up against terror, must do everything in their power to cut off the funding to terrorist organizations, to prevent terrorist organizations from finding safe haven. And that especially applies to Chairman Arafat. I believe he can do a lot more to prevent attacks such as the one that just occurred in Tel Aviv.

I am deeply concerned about the loss of innocent lives. It breaks my heart when children and innocent women and innocent men lose their life. I fully understand Israel's need to defend herself. I respect that. It's a country that has seen a wave of suicide bombers come into the hearts of their cities and kill

innocent people. That country has a right to defend herself.

And as she does so, I urge that their Government, the Israeli Government, make sure that there is a path to peace as she secures her homeland. But they've got to keep in mind the need that there's got to be a peaceful solution at some point. I've been assured by the Israeli Government that—about the well-being of Chairman Arafat and that he won't be harmed.

I have heard him say that, well, in that he's confined, he can't do anything to secure—to help secure the region. I know he's got a lot of forces; he's got a lot of people that listen to him still; and he has got to speak out clearly. He's got to make it absolutely clear that the Palestinian Authority does not support these terrorist activities and use his security forces to prevent them from happening.

I've asked that General Zinni stay in the region. I think it's very important for our country to provide an opportunity for discussions, an opportunity for people to come together, and so Zinni will stay there. He will stay there to continue to push for a process that will ultimately get us into Mitchell, and Mitchell is the best hope for peace. It has been agreed to by the parties. It is an opportunity for those who love peace to have a framework for peace.

Last night the administration supported a U.N. Security Council resolution that urges there to be a cease-fire, to start a process that will end this cycle of violence. Here we are on one of holiest of holidays, and we're worried about people needlessly losing their lives. And our prayers and thoughts go to the families of the victims, and I pray for peace. And I urge all parties to recognize that there are terrorists in this world who can't stand the thought of peace, and all of us—all of us—must work together to condemn, find, and stop terrorist activities.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Preventing Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, with this latest terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv cafe tonight with many apparent casualties, does Chairman Arafat in your opinion really have any control over these suicide bombers?

The President. I think Chairman Arafat can do a lot more. I truly believe that. I believe he needs to stand up and condemn, in Arabic, these attacks. He's got a security force, admittedly somewhat on the defensive right now. But nevertheless, there is a security force; there is a security apparatus. We've been dealing with the leaders of the security apparatus. And they have got to do a much better job of preventing people from coming into Israel to blow up innocent people.

The leaders in the region must do the same thing. Again, I was pleased that Crown Prince Abdullah spoke out so forcefully for what he called normalization. We support that. But there is no normalcy when day after day killers destroy innocent lives. All the leaders must join with governments such as ours to strongly condemn and stop terrorist activities.

I spoke to Jose Maria Aznar today. He's the head of the EU now, and he told me, he said, you know, the world must fight off these terrorists. And the region can do more, in my judgment. The Iranians must step up and stop sponsoring terrorism. The Syrians must participate. If people want peace in the region, there has got to be a united effort against terror, and I do believe Mr. Arafat can do more.

Diplomatic Efforts in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you made a lot of phone calls today, but not to Sharon, not to Arafat. Why not, and what is the next U.S. step?

The President. Well, first of all, my administration has made a lot of phone calls into the region on a daily basis. Secretary of State Powell will be speaking to Prime Minister Sharon again.

Q. Today?

The President. Yes, today; soon, as I understand it, unless this current—this recent bombing has put the Prime Minister into a Cabinet meeting and therefore won't be able to take a phone call. But he was supposed to have made a call, like, right now.

Nevertheless, we're in constant touch with these governments, and the next step is to continue our call and our efforts and our push to fight off terror. It appears to me these aren't just isolated incidents. I mean, there's a pattern, a routine, and a constancy.

And so we will continue to lead, to talk and urge world leaders, particularly those in the region, to do everything they can to shut off the capacity of people to come and bomb.

Q. Why wasn't Arafat called by Powell today?

The President. He may be doing that; I just don't know. Mr. Arafat, he doesn't need a phone call from me. All he's got to do is watch what I just said, and that message will be delivered to him.

Q. Mr. President, have we reached a point where there needs to be a more aggressive and more visible and public U.S. effort to quell the violence? And will that include greater outreach to the nations in the region?

The President. Well, you may recall the Vice President has just returned from the region, which is a significant outreach. We're spending a great deal of time, in our capacity as the leader of a coalition against the war on terror, to continue not only our war in Afghanistan and elsewhere but also continuing to fight terror in this region.

And every phone call I make, I remind people that if you're interested in peace—and the leaders I've talked to are interested in peace—we have all got to come together to stop terror. Our role is very visible, and our role is very active. And I firmly believe that we can achieve a peace in the region, but not until—not until—there is a concerted, united effort to rout terror out.

Because what we're seeing is—we're seeing—for example, in South Carolina, I remember talking to you all and saying—this was on Thursday, saying—or Wednesday, saying that I was optimistic that we had a chance to get into Tenet. And by the time I got on the airplane and landed in Georgia, there had been this awful suicide bombing. And so it is a—it's clear to me the more progress we make toward achieving a cease-fire or meaningful security discussions, the more a killer organization will try to disrupt the process.

And therefore, the best way to make sure that we can get some meaningful dialog going is to secure the—is to help secure the region, in particular, Israel's homeland, by a united front against terror. It's essential that we—"we" meaning those who long for a peace—and again I repeat to you, every leader I've

talked to said we need peace. But there needs to be a focused coalition effort in the region against peace—I mean, against terror, for peace.

Preventing Terrorism

Q. You mentioned a moment ago that Iran and Syria need to do more.

The President. Yes, I believe they do.

Q. Can you identify other countries in the region who need to do more than they're doing now?

The President. All the countries in the region must condemn terror, speak clearly about terror. I appreciate the fact that the Saudis have spoken about a vision for peace. I thought that was a very important statement. It recognized Israel's right to exist. And that's essential. The corollary to that is, in order for Israel to exist, terror must stop.

I can understand why the Israeli Government takes the actions they take. Their country is under attack. Every day there has been a suicide bombing, and every day the Government sees the loss of innocent life.

On the other hand, I understand why some Palestinians feel so hopeless. There is a—the loss of innocent life on the Palestinian side is too much. But the Palestinians, particularly those who long for a peaceful resolution, the independent statehood of the Palestinians—is a part of that peaceful solution, but they must do everything in their power to stop terrorist activity.

Q. On Iran and Syria, do you have any evidence that those countries are directly involved in the latest series of bombings?

The President. No, I do not have evidence. But I saw, for example, that Syria once again walked out of the U.N. when there was a reasonable resolution put forward. That should say something.

And secondly, I understand the connections between Hezbollah and Iran. And there has been no evidence—I don't know who's claiming credit for this bombing. I haven't seen Hezbollah's name mentioned. But nevertheless, that's terror; that's a terrorist organization, and—but no, I have no direct evidence. Nevertheless, I do know their influence in the region. And if they are interested in a peaceful resolution, they too need to be active about cutting off funds. And as you

may recall, there was a ship that was intercepted by the Israelis, that came from Iran full of weapons.

And so my point is, is that there needs to be a focused international effort to condemn—strongly condemn—as well as rout out terrorist activities. Otherwise, we will have a difficult problem in getting to a peaceful accord.

There has been a framework laid out, and now the efforts will be focused, like they have been, on getting into the framework. In the meantime, Israel will defend herself. And again, I understand that.

You will recall, as I said in my statement, that I hope Israel keeps in mind that there needs to be a road for peace. It's in the Israelis' interests, in my judgment, not only to defend herself but to keep in mind that there has got to be a peaceful resolution in order for her people to be able to grow up in a secure and peaceful world.

Israeli Action Against Chairman Arafat

Q. Can I follow up on that point? Do you think that—it seems as if, even if they're not trying to physically harm Arafat, that they're trying to undermine him, undermine his leadership with the Palestinians. Do you think that serves any purpose?

The President. I think Mr. Arafat could have done more 3 weeks ago and can do more today. I know I have been disappointed in his unwillingness to go 100 percent toward fighting terror. That includes using his security forces to help prevent suicide bombers from crossing certain lands, and that also means speaking out clearly, in his native tongue.

I fully understand the frustrations of the Israeli people. I sympathize, and I sympathize with the frustrations of the Palestinian people, those who long for normalcy, those who want to send their kids to school and go to work. There's got to be a much more concerted effort by Chairman Arafat and others to stop terror. Terror is—so long as there's this reign of terror, there will be no peace. So therefore, stopping terror will make the conditions ripe for peace.

Q. Mr. President, did we know in advance about the invasion? And what's your position now? Should the Israelis get out of the com-

pound? Should they continue the military action or quit?

The President. Israel is a democratically elected government, and the Government is responding to the will of the people for there to be more security. And Israel will make the decisions necessary to defend herself.

My point to the Israeli Government is: As you do so, keep in mind there must be an avenue toward a peaceful settlement. As you defend yourself—and you have the right to do so—please keep in mind and work with the region to develop a strategy that will end up with a peaceful settlement.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001, and the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet.

Statement on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother of the United Kingdom

March 30, 2002

Laura and I were deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. On behalf of the American people, we send our heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to the people of the United Kingdom for this tremendous loss. She was a pillar of strength and inspiration to many people all over the world.

Laura and I and her many admirers throughout this Nation will miss her.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll

April 1, 2002

Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so glad that you came this year, especially given what happened last year: It rained. But today we have beautiful weather, and we hope you have a great time here at the traditional Easter egg roll.

I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet and their family members who are here. I want to thank the children's book authors who are here. And we hope you listen to those who read books to you. We want to encourage you to read a lot. As a matter of fact, we think it's important that you read more than you watch TV.

I want to thank the entertainers who are here. Of course, I want to thank the Easter Bunny. [*Laughter*] We want to thank all the Embassies that are highlighting their spring traditions. I want to thank the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this a successful Easter egg roll.

You know, one of the things that children say to me all the time—they say, "I want to come see your home, Mr. President." I said, "This isn't our home. This is your home, and you're welcome to the yard of your home." We're so glad you're here.

Do you know that since 1878, Presidents have hosted this event. And it is our honor to continue this tradition. The first President who did so was a guy named Rutherford B. Hayes. He decided to have the Easter egg roll here at the White House because the Members of the United States Congress said you couldn't be—they wouldn't want to host the Easter egg roll anymore on the congressional grounds.

Just to show you we don't hold a grudge, we've invited Members of the U.S. Congress here. And you're welcome, and thank you all for coming. [*Laughter*]

I also am really looking forward to starting the Easter egg roll. I want everybody to have a great time here. It is our honor to host you all. And I'd like to end by this simple—this simple statement: May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg and an Exchange With Reporters

April 1, 2002

Governor's Island Transfer

The President. I have just informed the Governor and the mayor, the Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City, that the Federal Government will transfer Governor's Island to the people of New York. I'll never forget choppering over Governor's Island with George and Rudy Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg's predecessor, and the two leaders talking about what good use Governor's Island could be put to.

Since that time, I've studied the statements of Mayor Bloomberg, who extensively talked about Governor's Island and how to improve Governor's Island and how to make it a center of educational excellence, something dear to George Pataki's heart. I looked at the law, looked at the circumstances, and decided this morning that this was the right thing for the U.S. Government, and it's the right thing for the people of New York.

I appreciate so very much the vision of these two leaders, and I appreciate their heartfelt concern for the citizens of New York City and the region. And so I want to welcome to the Oval Office with this piece of news.

George, why don't you say a few words?

[*At this point, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg made brief remarks.*]

The President. I know you will. Thanks. I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, what specifically would you like for Chairman Arafat to do, what specific action you'd like him to take in the Middle East? And in light of the current situation in Israel, does the Bush doctrine on terrorism not apply in this case?

The President. Well, first of all, there will never be peace so long as there's terror. And all of us must fight off—fight terror. And you asked about Chairman Arafat. I'd like to see Chairman Arafat denounce the terrorist activities that are taking place, the constant attacks.

We've got a plan that will lead to peace, the security plan called Tenet; there's a political plan called Mitchell. Both sides have agreed to this plan, and we urge the parties to accept the Tenet plan so that we can bring some—a peaceful resolution to an issue that's affecting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike. There's a lot of innocent people who hurt in the region because of the senseless violence and senseless murder.

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to follow up on Sonya's [Sonya Ross, Associated Press] question. Under your doctrine, a terrorist or someone who aids a terrorist is the equivalent of a terrorist. So what's keeping Chairman Arafat—what's keeping you from labeling Chairman Arafat a terrorist?

The President. Chairman Arafat has agreed to a peace process. He's agreed to the Tenet plan. He's agreed to the Mitchell plan. He has negotiated with parties as to how to achieve peace. And of course, our hope is that he accepts the Tenet plan. That's what General Zinni is in the Middle East doing, working to get this Tenet agreement in place, which is a series of concrete steps to reduce the violence in the Middle East.

President's Involvement in Middle East

Q. There were various calls on the Sunday talk shows for you to become more actively involved in this process, sir. Is there any way you would do that?

The President. You know, they must have not been with me in Crawford when I was on the phone all morning long, talking to world leaders. We've just come from a National Security Council meeting where Colin Powell was recounting his phone conversations. We've got General Zinni in the region. We've got a Tenet plan, a Mitchell plan, a roadmap to what will be a peaceful resolution to this issue.

I hope that the world community will continue to condemn terror, and if they haven't condemned terror yet, start condemning ter-

ror. It's essential for the peace of the region and the world that we rout out terrorist activities, that we condemn those activities. Suicide bombers in the name of religion is simple terror. And the free world, the civilized world must band together to stop this kind of activity if we expect there to be peace and resolution in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Q. You've made clear, sir, that you believe that Chairman Arafat needs to do much more. Do you believe that Prime Minister Sharon is doing all he can to foster peace in the region?

The President. I think it's very important for the Prime Minister to keep a pathway to peace open, to understand that on the one hand, Israel should protect herself, and on the other hand, there ought to be a pathway, the capacity to achieve a peaceful resolution to this issue. It's important for Israel to understand that. They've signed on to the Tenet agreement, and they signed on to the Mitchell plan, and that is the pathway to peace. And I believe Prime Minister Sharon still accepts Tenet and still accepts Mitchell as the way to achieve a peaceful resolution.

I was very heartened a couple of weeks ago by the Saudi Arabia Crown Prince, when he talked about the need for the Arab world to recognize Israel's right to exist. It was a positive development. There were some positive things that were taking place in the region, until the terrorist suicide bombers start killing innocent people.

Governor's Island Transfer

Q. Mr. President, why give the island now? Can you tell us what—

The President. Why now, right this second?

Q. Well, why did you make the announcement today, and what persuaded you to transfer the island to the city? And also, was this in any way to help Governor Pataki in his reelection?

The President. Well, listen, he doesn't need my help to get reelected, for starters. He's got a great record. The people of New York are discerning voters. Well, most of the time they're discerning voters—[laughter]—if you know what I mean. [Laughter]

Q. No, what do you mean? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, you're a smart guy; read between the lines. No, George Pataki has been a great Governor for New York. I made the announcement today because I had finished the necessary study of the issue, to make sure that we could transfer this property without congressional action. And I believe I can do that. It took a while to take a look at it.

It also requires—I wanted to make sure that the Governor and mayor would be using this property for education purposes. That's what the mayor said he would do; the Governor said he wanted to do that. They took a look at it and decided this is what they wanted to do. And it makes a lot of sense to me, and using it for education purposes will make it easier for me to facilitate the transfer, by the way.

Q. Mr. President, the previous administration didn't want—I was just wondering, what specifically persuaded you?

The President. Well, I took a look at it. I mean, it's a good question. I took a look at it. I listened to what George said. He's my friend; I trust his judgment. I've known him for a long time, and Rudy Giuliani as well—both of them were passionate in their appeal for us to consider transferring Governor's Island. And I knew Mike was very interested in enhancing the quality of education in New York City.

And I took a look at it. I came back—obviously, things didn't happen quickly after September the 15th trip, because we had a lot on our mind. But it took a while to work it through the White House staff, and it arrived on my desk sometime last week. And the recommendation was that we could transfer this property, if that's what I wanted to do. And it's something I want to do, because I think it's going to make the life of a city that has been tragically affected by killers and murderers better. And I think it will enhance the quality of education for the people of New York. And to me, that is a worthwhile and noble cause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Ara-

bia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7536—Cancer Control Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation is making important progress in the fight against cancer. Today, 8.9 million Americans have survived this disease, and new studies indicate that both cancer incidence and death rates have declined in recent years. Research and new technology have helped improve our ability to prevent, detect, and treat cancer. We understand better and are communicating more effectively the preventative power of regular exercise, a balanced diet, not smoking, and greater health awareness. Despite this progress, cancer remains a major public health problem that affects millions of lives.

Each day, more than 1,500 Americans die from cancer and 3,500 are diagnosed with some form of the disease. But we are closing in on major breakthroughs that will lead to new cancer therapies and life-saving cures.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is leading the way as it explores hundreds of methods to combat and prevent cancer. Recognizing that early detection of cancer often makes a difference between life and death, the NCI is utilizing revolutionary genetic and biochemical processes to develop tests that more effectively detect cancer at its earliest stage.

Scientists are discovering that the use of ultraviolet light fluorescence to examine the lungs is more likely to identify precancerous lesions than current techniques. Other NCI researchers are investigating drugs that may

stop cancerous growths by preventing new blood vessels from reaching the tissues. And a new class of drugs, known as bisphosphonates, shows great promise against cancer that has spread to the bone. The NCI's important work, in coordination with other public and private health agencies, is helping to reduce the incidence of cancer and is assisting cancer survivors to lead richer, fuller, and longer lives.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Control Initiative, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a valuable resource to support and coordinate cancer control efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels. This project helps ensure that cancer prevention, detection, and treatment programs across the country work effectively with each other by reducing duplicated efforts and missed opportunities. My Administration is strongly committed to the fight against cancer and will continue to support Federal cancer control programs.

As we observe Cancer Control Month, I applaud the scientists, healthcare providers, and public health professionals who work tirelessly to find cures for this disease and to aid and assist the patients who suffer from it. I call on all our citizens to learn more about cancer by contacting the NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER or visiting its Internet address at <http://www.cancer.gov>. I also encourage all Americans to protect their health by promoting cancer awareness in their families and communities. Individuals should pursue a lifestyle that includes regular exercise, sufficient consumption of fruits and vegetables, avoidance of tobacco products, and regular age-appropriate cancer screenings. By working together to raise awareness about the risks of cancer and the importance of medical research, we can improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and ultimately defeat this terrible disease.

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103) as amended, requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as Cancer Control Month. I call on concerned citizens, government agencies, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and other interested groups to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to preventing and curing cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

Proclamation 7537—National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every child deserves to be cared for by parents who provide love, protection, and nurturing. Safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults. When parents are unable to meet their responsibilities, the consequences are tragic for their children and for society. Nationwide, reports show that more than 879,000 children are victims of child abuse and neglect and approximately 1,200 children die from maltreatment, many at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them.

Children who are abused and neglected often carry the effects of their experiences into adulthood. They are much more likely to experience problems with substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, and to engage in criminal activities and violence against others, including abuse of their own children. The societal effects of child abuse include the need for increased child welfare services, special education resources, physical and emotional health care services, and juvenile justice facilities.

My Administration is committed to promoting effective policies that protect children from harm while strengthening and supporting families. Promoting healthy marriages, and teaching responsible fatherhood and motherhood, are key priorities of my Administration. Last year, I worked with the Congress to provide an additional \$70 million for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which is helping States ensure children's safety, permanency, and well-being. This program is designed to strengthen families at risk and prevent abuse and neglect. My 2003 budget includes a substantial increase of \$130 million for this essential program.

The problem of child abuse requires a continuing national commitment, and we must remain vigilant in working to provide safety and security to each young person in our society.

Government alone cannot prevent child abuse. Child abuse prevention requires partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement, and social service agencies. All of these organizations must work together with parents to protect children and help build healthy families and communities where children can reach their potential.

Every April, communities across the country join to raise public awareness about child abuse, to provide information about how to prevent it, and to assist families in need of support, recovery, and encouragement. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to find ways to cherish our children, and strengthen our families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by supporting the hard work of those who ensure our children's safety, and by playing an active role in creating a safer, healthier environment for our children's growth.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year

of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

Memorandum on the United States Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

April 1, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO): Determination Regarding Funds Under the Heading "Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs" in Title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-115)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 565(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-115) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$95 million in funds made available under the heading "Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs" of that Act, for assistance to KEDO, and, therefore, I hereby waive the requirement in section 565(b) to certify that:

- (1) The parties to the Agreed Framework have taken and continue to take demonstrable steps to implement the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;
- (2) North Korea is complying with all provisions of the Agreed Framework; and

- (3) The United States is continuing to make significant progress on eliminating the North Korean ballistic missile threat, including further missile tests and its ballistic missile exports.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination and the accompanying Memorandum of Justification to the Congress, and to arrange for publication of this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2.

Remarks Honoring the 2002 Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots

April 2, 2002

The President. I'm honored to welcome the Super Bowl champ Patriots to the Rose Garden. I want to thank their owner, Bob Kraft, for his leadership. And of course, I want to thank their coach. Coach Bill has brought a lot of organization and clarity of purpose to this organization. I can remember when they were down on you a little bit—I know how you feel. *[Laughter]*

As a matter of fact, the Patriots learned an interesting lesson. I remember watching all the experts talk about the Super Bowl. No one thought they'd win. They learned what I learned, that in politics and sports, the experts are often wrong.

I was really impressed by the character of this team. Most of all—I obviously watched the game—I was amazed at the play and how they won. For a guy growing up in Texas, that snow game looked pretty rough. *[Laughter]* But I know all the Patriot fans were thrilled with that game and the Super Bowl. I know you've got some great fans here.

Obviously, Members of the Congress are great fans. It's good to see Senator Kennedy, Senator Jeffords, who are here. I don't know if any Members of the Congress are here as well, but I want to thank you both for coming.

I was impressed by a lot, but let me tell you what impressed me most was when the team took the field prior to the Super Bowl.

It wasn't one of these things where the spotlight was on any individual; everybody went out at the same time. I thought that was a pretty good signal to America that teamwork is important, that the individual matters to the team, but the team is bigger than the individual. That's one of the things I try to explain to people in Washington, that we're here to serve something greater than ourself. And I appreciated so very much that signal to the country.

I remember watching the early Patriots there in Houston, when they came down to the AFL. And I remember Gino Cappelletti. And Gino Cappelletti said this about this team—I think you probably remember Gino Cappelletti, don't you, Senator Kennedy? You were around in those days—*[laughter]*—barely, but around. “I think every guy that ever played for the Patriots would be proud of this bunch. They are not only a team with great heart and toughness; they're also a good group of guys. They were champs on the field and, more importantly, champs off the field”—by sending not only a clear message about the importance of teamwork but about the importance of serving something greater than yourself in life, whether it be the Salvation Army in the Boston area or after-school programs so some child realizes somebody cares about them or how they conduct their own home life—is just as important to me and America, for that matter, than winning on the football field. So it's an honor to welcome true football champs but as well really fine Americans to the Rose Garden.

Congratulations.

[At this point, Robert Kraft, chairman and owner, and Bill Belichick, head coach, made brief remarks and presented the President with a team jersey and an autographed football.]

The President. I appreciate that. Thank you, sir. That is short. *[Laughter]* Congratulations. Congratulations to you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gino Cappelletti, retired Patriots wide receiver. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Robert Kraft and Bill Belichick.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion With Early Childhood Education Experts in Media, Pennsylvania

April 2, 2002

I just finished a discussion about early childhood development. I want to thank the experts and the teachers and the soon-to-be teachers and those who are running Head Start programs for sharing their knowledge with Secretary Paige and me.

One thing is for certain: In order for all Americans to realize the American Dream, we've got to make sure every child has the necessary foundation to be good readers, good writers, good comprehenders, which means that this Nation must do a better job of focusing our education strategy on early childhood development programs.

We've got to encourage parents to be good readers, good nurturers for their children. We've got to work with Head Start centers to make sure that they've got the curriculum necessary to teach every child the building blocks for reading. We've got to work with States, to encourage States to develop a strategy that will help focus time and attention and resources on the programs that will not only give children the basics for reading but give children the essential nourishment so that they can become ready to compete in the public school system in America.

I assured our panelists here that while I'm spending a lot of time on making sure America is safe and secure, that this initiative is a crucial initiative. It's an essential part of completing the education reforms that Senator Kennedy and Congressman Boehner and both Republicans and Democrats worked on last year and I had the honor of signing.

So this is a great initiative and a wonderful group of Americans that are here to discuss this. I'm real proud of your work. I want to thank you for your care and compassion for our fellow citizens.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the Commons/Athletic Center at Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County.

Remarks at Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County, in Media

April 2, 2002

Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's an honor for me to be here today to talk about a subject that's dear to my heart and a subject very important to the country, which is the education of every child in America.

I just had the honor of meeting with a panel of experts from not only the State of Pennsylvania but from around the country: teachers, soon-to-be teachers, people who deeply care about the education of every single person. I want to thank them for their input. I want to thank them so very much for their idealism. And I want to thank you for your commitment to our country.

Three months ago I had the honor of signing what is called the No Child Left Behind Act. It's a piece of education reform, and I believe we'll have—it was the beginning of a new era of education in America. Through high standards and accountability, we're going to make sure that every school in America is ready to teach.

Now we must take another essential step. We must make sure that every child enters school ready to learn—every child—not just one, not just a few, but every single child. On this issue we know what works, and we know our responsibilities. As parents, teachers, and caregivers, we must give our children the lifelong gift of early learning. And today I'm here to outline specific measures to help meet that goal.

Before I do so, I want to say how sorry I am that my wife, Laura, isn't with me. The reason why is because early childhood education has been a lifelong mission of hers. In Texas and in Washington, she is a strong advocate for reading to our Nation's youngest children. She will work to bridge the gaps between scientists, policymakers, and caregivers on this issue. I'm grateful for her leadership. America is beginning to understand why I asked her to marry me. *[Laughter]* A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. *[Laughter]*

I'm also honored to be traveling today with Rod Paige, who's the Secretary of Education.

You know, when I came to—I was trying to figure out who best to serve in that important position. I wanted somebody who had worked in the trenches. Rod was the superintendent of schools in the Houston Independent School District. He believed in setting high standards for every child and believed strongly in accountability. And his record was a good one, because more and more children were learning. And so I'm honored that Rod took time out of his life to come up to Washington, DC, to serve our Nation, and he's doing a fine, fine job.

I want to thank Dr. Spanier, Graham Spanier, for his hospitality. It's good to see you again, sir, and thank you for being the president of Penn State. I want to thank Ed Tomezsko, Dr. Tomezsko, for his hospitality on this beautiful campus. Thanks for letting us come.

I appreciate my friend the Senator from Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter, for being here as well. Thank you. The Governor of Pennsylvania, Mark Schweiker, is here. Thank you, Governor, appreciate you being here. And I want to thank the attorney general, Mike Fisher, for being here as well. And I want to thank my friend the Congressman from this part of the country, Curt Weldon. I appreciate you being here, sir.

I have constantly reminded America that one way to fight evil is to do some good. If you're interested in helping our country, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Today, out at the airport, I got the honor of meeting a fellow named Stan Braxton. Stan used to work for IBM. And he's retired, but he hasn't quit working, because what he decided to do was to help make people's lives better. He works in an after-school program. He provides technical assistance to nonprofit organizations in the Philadelphia area. I appreciate you coming, Stan. Do you mind standing up for a second? *[Applause]* Thank you for coming.

Out of this incredible evil done to our country is going to come some good. I truly believe it. And part of the good is that the armies and the soldiers—the soldiers in the armies of compassion are going to increase all around America. More Stans will say, "What can I do to help America?" Stan is a living example of somebody who puts serv-

ice to mankind ahead of his retirement, for example. And so, Stan, thank you for serving as a great example for our country.

You need to know that even though the subject of today's talk is early childhood development, I am going to be relentless and tireless in our pursuit of justice and to make sure the homeland is secure. We fight for not only the security of our country; we fight for freedom. We love freedom in America, and we will defend freedom at all costs. And we long for peace. We want peace all around the world. In order to make sure the world is peaceful, we must stand strong against terror and rout out terror wherever it exists. And as the war continues, though, it is important for our Nation to remember we have other important responsibilities. As we fight to defend our ideals, we must also work to realize those ideals.

We stand for equal opportunity. It's one of the ideals we believe in, in America. And equal opportunity demands schools that are effective and excellent. We must give all our children, every single child in America, the basics of knowledge and character, and we must leave no child behind. My administration will not be distracted from these goals. As we fight for freedom, I also understand that freedom means no child in America will be left behind. The new civil right in America is reading.

We made a tremendous start in our country when it comes to education reform, because of the hard work of both Republicans and Democrats. I signed a significant piece of legislation that sets high standards, requires assessment in grades three-through-eight, accountability to determine whether or not our children are actually learning. And if they are, we will have the basis to praise the teachers who are working tirelessly to see so. But if not, we'll have the capacity to correct problems early, before it's too late.

This bill offers new resources to schools, a lot of new resources to encourage success and options for parents in the case of failure. Accountability is now at the center of American education, because we believe every child can learn in America. We don't accept excuses, and we want to make sure no child is left behind.

Yet, for accountability and annual assessments to mean something, all children must start school with the basic skills necessary for learning. In order for this piece of reform to really work, we've got to make sure that every child starts at the same point. If we expect achievement from every child, all our children need to begin school with an equal chance at achievement, is what I'm saying. Every child must have an equal place at the starting line—not some children, not just those who live in rural Pennsylvania, and not those who live in urban Pennsylvania or vice versa. Every child—that is the national goal.

From years of research—and as I say, this campus has today hosted some of the great researchers in America—we know what an equal chance at achievement means. It certainly means encouraging a child's social and emotional development. No question about that. But it also means that children, before entering school, know letters of the alphabet and begin to know the sounds these letters make.

They must learn what the written word looks like and must build a strong vocabulary. And they must be excited about reading, because they've seen others do it. The way to make a child excited about reading is for them to watch others read, like their parents. Reading is the foundation for all of learning, and that foundation is built early by exposing young children to the wonders of books and the uses of language. Reading to a child early and often can change a child's life.

Like many parents, Laura and I saw this firsthand. Ever since our twins, our twin daughters, were toddlers, we would read to them at every possible opportunity. Sometimes, when I sleep at night, I think of "Hop on Pop." [Laughter] We found it to be fun, and it's important for parents to understand that it's a part of the responsibility for being a good mom or a dad to read to your children.

But it's more than just fun. It is a vital preschool learning experience. Consider this amazing finding: 10th grade reading scores can be predicted with surprising accuracy from a child's knowledge of the alphabet in kindergarten. Think about that. We can pretty well predict how well a child will read in the 10th grade if that child has been given

a—whether or not the child has been given a good education early in his or her life.

A child who cannot identify the letters of the alphabet in his or her first year of school runs a real risk of staying behind in school throughout her or his career. We cannot accept this in America. To close the achievement gap in our schools, we must close the early childhood education gap in our society. Today I pledge my administration's support in working with parents and families, Head Start and childcare centers, and our States to achieve this goal. Every child who goes to school, every single child, must be ready to learn.

As many of you know, as I mentioned, parents play a huge role, play the most important role. A parent is a child's first and most influential teacher—for many children, their only teacher until kindergarten. For most parents, helping their child learn is a joy; it's not a chore. Yet, learning activities really are not common enough. And we must encourage parents in this essential responsibility of preparing their children to learn. We must help them.

Many parents wish their children came with an instruction manual. All new parents need good information about child development; that's for sure. So later this month, Laura will be launching a series of booklets based on the best scientific research that give suggestions on child development at crucial early stages of a child's life.

I've asked the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services and Agriculture to make these publications widely available to families with newborns all across the country. These publications will be offered through a variety of programs that serve our Nation's families: WIC clinics, State departments of education, State health and human service agencies.

The White House and these agencies will also have these booklets ready, available online. I want to thank Laura and those who have helped her design these books for working hard to make this an incredibly important issue in America. And all these efforts will promote early childhood learning where it matters most—right there in the home.

After parents, Head Start centers have some of the greatest potential to encourage

early childhood learning. Many of them are already doing a terrific job. We had a chance to hear from one such center today.

Laura and I were deeply impressed by the Margaret Cone Center in Dallas, Texas, which uses a curriculum rich in pre-reading and vocabulary development activities. Before this curriculum was introduced in 1994, graduating classes who left the Cone Center and entered the local public schools scored as low as the 21st percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. After 1994, after this scientific-based curriculum had been introduced, Cone classes have scored as high as the 94th percentile in vocabulary and reading. It matters what the curriculum is in these centers. Head Start centers are a Federal responsibility, and we're determined to encourage the kind of quality that we see in centers such as the Cone Center.

We must focus Head Start on the pre-reading and language development of children, so the Department of Health and Human Services will implement an accountability system for every Head Start center in America. In addition to providing essential health and social services, centers must enhance activities for children to acquire language and number skills. These activities can and should be done in ways that are appropriate for younger children, in ways that work.

Every Head Start center in America must teach these skills and must demonstrate that its teaching is effective. We want to make sure that we understand—that the Head Start programs understand—we know what works. We want to measure the input. We want to say that in return for Federal taxpayers' help, we expect you to be providing the foundation for reading and math.

And to help Head Start centers meet these standards, we'll begin a major new effort to prepare Head Start teachers. In order for this to work, we must give our Head Start teachers the tools necessary to meet our goal. Our goal is to reach the nearly 50,000 Head Start teachers over the next 12 months by giving them the tools necessary to teach basic skills to our children.

This summer the Department of Health and Human Services will give intensive, research-based training to 2,500 early literacy

specialists, who will then instruct Head Start teachers around the country. And starting today, we'll distribute a guidebook for early childhood educators and caregivers. It's called "Teaching Our Youngest." It contains proven teaching activities to help children develop their language abilities, increase their knowledge, and discover a love for books and reading and learning.

We're also asking States to do their part. The Federal Government provides States with considerable funds for childcare. In fact, over the past decade, Federal funding for early childhood programs has nearly tripled. Yet, many children are still showing up in kindergarten not ready to learn. That's going to change.

We propose that States receiving these Federal funds must submit a plan to promote early childhood education. States must take steps to provide pre-kindergarten programs with guidelines on pre-reading and literacy skills, and they must have a plan to expand the training of childcare and preschool teachers in their State.

Just as States care about health and safety of children's bodies, they must also care about the health and progress of the children's minds. I know your Governor cares a lot about that here in Pennsylvania.

Anyone who is serious about educational reform must be serious about early childhood education. If we want all our children reading by the third grade—and that's what we want—then all our children must be ready to learn on their first day of school. This will require Americans to work together—families, teachers, caregivers, civic groups, along with government on every level.

I look forward to working with leaders in Congress on this important issue, especially Senators Kennedy and Gregg, and Congressmen Boehner and Miller. Here's what I think: Where America's children are concerned, there is no Republicans or Democrats, only moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas, all eager to help our youngest citizens succeed.

As we try harder to serve our children better, we ought to keep in mind the wise words of Theodore Geisel—he, better-known as Dr. Seuss, the guy who wrote "Hop On Pop." [Laughter] "Children want the same things

we want, to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted.” We want our children, even the youngest children in America, to be challenged and entertained and delighted by learning. This is a responsibility of every parent, and it’s a great calling for our great country.

Thank you for coming, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. in the school’s gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Edward S.J. Tomezsko, campus executive officer, Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County; and Mike Fisher, State attorney general of Pennsylvania. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Fisher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 2, 2002

Thank you very much. Well, “Governor,” thank you for those kind words. I want to thank you all for coming, and thanks for that warm welcome. It’s good to see so many friends. I want to thank you all for supporting the next Governor from Pennsylvania. I’ve been here quite a bit since I’ve been President, but I learned a new fact recently that made me a little nervous. I didn’t realize this, but Pennsylvania has more pretzel bakeries—[laughter]—than any State in the Union. [Laughter] So I decided to take a risk. [Laughter]

I love coming to Philadelphia. I love the history of Philadelphia. I love the fact that Philadelphia is the cradle of freedom; that’s what I love.

Mike mentioned Tom Ridge. You know, my biggest job is to defend freedom, is to protect our homeland. And you know better than anybody, I picked a really good man to lead the homeland defense of the United States. I want to thank you for letting Tom cut his eyeteeth here. [Laughter] He did a great job as Governor. He’s doing a really good job in Washington.

And I want to thank Mark Schweiker as well. He’s doing a fantastic job as Governor. Thank you, Mark. Pennsylvania has had two fine Governors. It’s time to make three Gov-

ernors in a row. I’m proud to be here on stage with Mike and the future Lieutenant Governor. There’s no doubt in my mind they will both do a fine job, an excellent job, for the people of Pennsylvania. I’m also honored to be here with your senior Senator, Arlen Specter. Thank you very much, Arlen, for coming. I had the privilege of traveling from the University of Pennsylvania, in Delaware County, to the hotel with Jane Earll. She’s solid on the issues. She knows what she’s talking about.

I’m also honored to be here with David Girard-diCarlo and Manny Stamatakis. These guys were my friends before I was somebody—[laughter]—and I’m proud to call them friend. I want to thank them for their hard work, and I want to thank you all for contributing your hard-earned dollars to this good candidate. I also want to thank the leaders of the political party here, the chairman and the national committeeman and national committeewoman, all of whom are willing to provide the grassroots support necessary for candidates like me and Mike to succeed.

You know, fundraising is an integral part of politics but so is getting out the vote—so is those who are willing to spend a lot of time putting out the yard signs, dialing the phones, and doing all the hard work necessary to make candidates viable. On behalf of a grateful President, and a soon-to-be-grateful Governor, thank you for the grassroots politics here in Pennsylvania.

I also want to thank Carol Fisher, Mike’s wife, for her willingness to make a huge sacrifice on behalf of a good man running for Governor. I know something about good wives. I’m very fortunate to have a good wife, myself. Laura is doing a great job as our First Lady. She is a steady hand. She was a public school librarian when I married her and really wasn’t all that keen on politics. And if the truth be known, she wasn’t all that thrilled about knowing politicians, either. [Laughter] But she is where she is, thank goodness. Thank goodness for my family, and thank goodness for the country. The American people have gotten to see why I asked Laura to marry me. There’s still a lot of doubts in people’s minds as to why she said yes. [Laughter] But I’m proud of her, and I want

you to know she's doing great, and so is my family.

I think there's a lot of reasons for the people of Pennsylvania to support Mike. First, he's done a good job as the attorney general. He's been given a huge responsibility, and he performed. He's one of these fellows that does in office what he said he would do, and that's refreshing.

Mike has led the fight against drugs, and he's made a difference. As I understand it, there's been over 6,000 arrests made to make sure Pennsylvania streets are safe from those who would sell drugs. But he also knows what I knew, that we've also got to work on demand. We've got to make sure our youngsters understand that drugs will destroy their lives and ruin their hopes. Mike can take this to the Governor's office and make a huge difference for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

He also has been making sure Pennsylvania stays safe. He's a tough crimefighter. He makes it clear that there are consequences for bad behavior in the State of Pennsylvania. And that will stand him in good stead when he becomes the Governor as well.

We had a chance to talk about education today in the car. I was promoting an early childhood reading initiative here in the Philadelphia area. Mike knows what I know, that we must set high standards for every child, that we must expect the best from every single child, and that we must hold people accountable for results. It's fine for States and the Federal Government to spend money, but for that money we expect our children to learn how to read and write and add and subtract. And if the status quo is unacceptable, if children are not learning to read and write and add and subtract, it's important to have somebody in the Governor's office who is willing to say, "That is not good enough. The fact that children can't read and write and add and subtract is not satisfactory to me, because every child counts in America, and no child should be left behind."

It is important to have a Governor who sets high standards and expects the best and a Governor who is willing to challenge a system that simply shuffles children through. During the campaign, I called that the soft bigotry of low expectations. Mike under-

stands that we must hold people accountable, that we must insist upon basic education. We must challenge failure wherever we find it, in order for the American Dream to reach every neighborhood in every community in every State of our Nation. And I want to thank Mike for that.

I had the honor of working on and signing a substantial piece of education legislation, a significant reform. I was able to work with Senator Kennedy and Senator Gregg and Congressmen Boehner and Miller to get this done. The Federal Government spends a lot of money on education, and finally we're beginning to say, "What are the results? Can our children actually do what we expect them to do?"

In that bill not only do we insist upon strong accountability to show us whether or not we're achieving standards, but we pass a lot of power back to the States, where power belongs. I fully recognize one size does not fit all when it comes to public education all across America. It's important for Governors to be empowered to meet high standards. And therefore, it's important to have good Governors, who understand high standards and accountability, in the Governors' offices all across America. Mike Fisher will be such a Governor.

And as Mike said, he understands the importance of empowering the private sector in order to create jobs. Governments don't create wealth; governments must create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes.

Mike believes in lower taxes, and so do I. You might remember, I came to Pennsylvania a lot, saying, "If you give me a chance to be your President, I will work with Congress to cut the taxes on the people who work in America." And that's exactly what we did. And not only did we do that, we did it at the right time in Washington, DC.

You see, when the economy slows down, like it had, it's important to let people have more of their own money, so they can spend it. When people have more of their own money, it creates demand. And when people demand more goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when somebody produces the goods and services, somebody can find work. The best

way to make sure America goes back to work is to trust the American people with their own money.

Now, there are some in Washington who don't understand that, but they read a different textbook than Mike and I do. There are some who say, the more money the Federal Government has, the better off America will be. That's not the way I think. That's not the way Mike thinks. And history will prove us right. By cutting taxes, we saved the country from a significant recession.

I remember campaigning in Chicago one time, and the guy said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Well, only if we were at war or the country was in recession or there was a national emergency." [*Laughter*] I didn't realize we were going to get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] We're dealing with the issue of our economy, and I want you to know that we're dealing with the issue of war and our national emergency as well.

I mentioned Tom. Our job is to make sure that if anybody hits us again, the Nation can respond. We've got a great first-responders initiative. I had the honor of meeting the fire chief of Philadelphia and leaders of the Philadelphia police force, those who lead the brave men and women who are on the front-line of dealing not only with crime but with any emergency that may come.

We've got a significant amount of money in our budget to protect the American people. Not only are we going to bolster our first-responders, to provide them more training and more equipment in order to respond; we're going to make sure our border security is better. We want to know who's coming into the United States and why they're coming in and if they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving. We've got a bioterrorism initiative to put in place a response mechanism if the enemy were to use a biological weapon or a chemical weapon on America. In other words, we're buttoning up the homeland security of the country.

You also need to know that any time we get any kind of hint that somebody may try to harm Americans, we will respond. We've got much better dialog between our Federal and State and local law enforcement officials. Our intelligence gathering is better than it's

ever been. Our information sharing is very sound.

I wake up every morning, and I get into the great, beautiful Oval Office, and I read a threat assessment. It reminds me that we're still threatened. But I'm here to tell you, our country is responding. We're diligent. We're alert. We know our mission, and we know our priority. But the best way to defend the homeland, the best way to make sure our little ones can grow up in a peaceful world, is to find the enemy wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice.

When our—when the enemy hit us, I couldn't understand what was going through their mind. They must have thought our Nation was so self-absorbed and so materialistic that all we would do would be to file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They sure were wrong.

I said some things, and I meant them. I said to those nations around the world, if you think you can hide one of those terrorists or feed them or harbor them, you're just as guilty as the terrorists. And thanks to the United States military and a vast coalition of freedom-loving nations, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

Every chance I get, I try to stress, particularly to the young in America, that ours is a nation that doesn't seek revenge; we seek justice. And that we went into a country like Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. I want to remind you all that, as a result of our military action in Afghanistan, we saved thousands of people from starvation. And as importantly, schools opened up to young girls. For the first time, many young girls got to go to school. I'm so proud of the compassion of America. I'm proud of our strength, but I'm equally as proud of the compassion of this great nation.

But we're just starting in Afghanistan, and there's still a lot of work to be done there. Afghanistan is still a dangerous place, and wherever we find them bunched-up or wherever we find their leaders, we're in hot pursuit. We're teaching these people—treating these people the way they need to be treated.

You need to understand: These are cold-blooded killers. These are people who hijacked a religion so they can kill for means which freedom-loving people can't understand. They hate America. They hate what

we stand for. They cannot stand the thought that we worship freely in America. They hate the thought that there's viable political discourse. They can't stand the thought that we're a free country, that everybody has got an equal chance in America. And so they want to harm us.

We're going to treat them as international crooks, and we're going to get them on the run. And like you read in the newspapers or saw on your TV screens, we're hunting them down one by one. Our Nation is resolved. Our Nation is united. Our Nation understands that we're in this for the long haul. History has called us into action. History has said to America, "Are you going to defend freedom or not?" And the answer clearly is, you bet we're going to defend freedom.

And that's why I've submitted a budget to the United States Congress that significantly increases our defense spending. It's the largest increase in 20 years. And here's why. First, this is a long struggle, and it's not an easy struggle. And secondly, any time the United States commits our troops into harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible pay. The price of freedom is high, no question about it. But it is not too high, as far as I'm concerned.

The world watches America very closely. They want to know: Are we serious; are we determined; will we tire and grow weary? Because if we do grow tired and grow weary, others will as well. They're going to find a determined administration who leads a determined country to defend freedom.

And I believe, as a result of being steadfast and strong and determined, we can achieve the peace. I long for peace, but I understand the road to peace can be really hard. But if America is strong and determined and we constantly keep the pressure on terrorist activities and terrorism, we can bring peace to places in the world that never thought they could have peace.

I've got a vision for the Middle East that says that Israel must be allowed to exist and be at peace with its neighbors. I appreciate the fact that Saudi Arabia spoke clearly about the need for Israel to be able to have normal relations with its neighbors, so that Israeli boys and girls can grow up in a peaceful society. I feel the same thing about the Palestin-

ians. I hope that they can have their own peaceful state, at peace with their neighbor, Israel, a self-governing country, a country in which there is economic prosperity to end the hopelessness of many of the citizens who live there.

But there are those who want to destroy that vision. There are those who want to murder to make sure that vision never comes to be. The United States of America will stand strong and continue to insist that those who yearn for peace in the Middle East and other regions around the world must do everything they can to stop the terrorist activities all aimed at making sure that peace does not exist.

Now, out of this evil is going to come some good. A strong America will lead to a more peaceful world. And at home, we can fight evil as well. People say to me, "What can I do? What is it that I can do to help?" Well, you can love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, in order to fight evil, this country can gather millions of acts of kindness and put a compassionate, kind face on our country. In order to fight evil, in order to stand squarely in the face of evil, we can let our hearts flow.

It doesn't take much; it really doesn't. Mentoring a child, teaching a child to read or telling a child you love them, a big brother or a big sister, a Boys and Girls Club member, is all part of defining the true face of America. You know, if you want to fight against—the war on terror, if you walk across the street to a shut-in and simply say, "Can I talk with you today," that in itself, is part of defining the true character of our country.

The way to fight evil is to help build character in our children. The way to fight evil is to tell your children you love them every single day, is to remember the most important job you'll ever have, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, is to love your son or your daughter with all your heart and all your soul. This country is going to win the war against evil, because not only are we militarily strong and determined, but because we're a nation that is so compassionate and so kind and so loving.

There is a new culture evolving in America. It's a culture that is shifting away from "if it feels good, do it," and "if you've got

a problem, blame somebody else,” to a culture in which each of us understand that we are responsible for something greater than ourselves. That was clearly defined on an airplane that crashed in Pennsylvania, when several people on that plane told their loved ones goodbye. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, “Let’s roll,” and drove an airplane into the ground to save other people’s lives. It is a symbol of what is possible in America. It is a sign that there are people in this Nation willing to make a sacrifice to help a neighbor in need, willing to make a sacrifice to make their community a better place.

That’s how you win the war on terror. You understand that there is a responsibility that comes with living in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. The great news is, America is rallying to the cause. I can’t tell you what an honor it is to be the President of a nation full of such great and decent and compassionate and tough and firm and freedom-loving human beings.

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for supporting Mike Fisher. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:03 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Jane M. Earll, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania; David Girard-diCarlo, cochairman, chief executive officer, and managing partner, Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP; Manuel N. Stamatakis, president and chief executive officer, Capital Management Enterprises; Alan Novak, chairman, Robert Asher, national committeeman, and Christine J. Toretti, national committeewoman, Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania; and Harold B. Hairston, commissioner, Philadelphia Fire Department.

Remarks on the Ready To Learn Program

April 3, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you. Laura and I are honored to have you all here today, and thank you for coming. Some of you have been to the White House before, and I know we’ve got some first-time visitors here. For example, this will be the first time the Vowelles

have ever been to the White House. [*Laughter*] Theo and Cleo Lion are also here to sing a song titled “W Trouble.” [*Laughter*] I don’t know the song, but the theme is familiar. [*Laughter*] My mom often used to say, “The trouble with W”—[*laughter*]—although she didn’t put that to words.

We’re delighted that so many children can be a part of this special event here in the East Room. Thank you all for coming. It’s so good to see you. It is wonderful to see children so young and so eager to learn, with so many fun opportunities to learn together. Every child is born with a love of learning—every child. We adults have a responsibility to give them every possible chance to learn and to start early.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, for being here today. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I want to thank all the good folks at PBS for coming. I appreciate your concern for our Nation’s children. And as Laura said, we’ve been aware of your programming for a long time.

I notice that we’ve got a larger-than-usual contingent of White House staff here today. I know they’re not here to see me. [*Laughter*] They’re here to see Mr. Rogers. [*Laughter*] When he comes to the White House, it’s sure to be a beautiful day in the neighborhood. [*Laughter*] It is impossible for us to count the number of lives you have touched. But you have had a huge impact on thousands and thousands of children. And there are thousands and thousands of parents and Americans who are grateful for your service to the country. In “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” every child is welcomed into the world of learning—not just a few, not just ones from certain neighborhoods, but every child.

Our goal as a nation must be to make sure that no child is denied the chance to grow in knowledge and character from their very first years. Public Broadcasting System has excelled in carrying out that responsibility. Shows like “Between the Lions” bring a combination of charm, creativity, inclusiveness, and as importantly, proven teaching methods to the task of educating young children. And these shows are being used in Head Start and day care centers to encourage early learning. The Ready To Learn program helps

make all these shows possible, and my administration is proud to support it.

America is making great progress in education reform. We're providing higher levels of support for our schools, higher standards for performance in the classrooms. We're giving teachers the resources and training necessary for their mission. We're respecting local control of our schools and respect the authority of parents, so that moms and dads have greater say in how their children are educated.

Under the bipartisan reforms we passed into law, all students in America have a better chance to learn and excel and to live out their dreams. Yet, as we prepare our schools to teach, we must prepare our children to learn. As we raise educational standards, which we must do, each of our children needs an equal opportunity to meet those standards.

And creating that opportunity must begin early, even before school starts. On the first day of school, children need to know letters and numbers. They need a strong vocabulary, and they need to love books. These are the building blocks of learning, and this Nation must provide them.

Early learning is a priority for my Government. By implementing a new accountability system, we'll make sure every Head Start center is providing early learning in the best way possible. Starting this summer, we will train Head Start teachers in proven methods to encourage early reading and language skills. And the Federal Government will work with States to promote early learning programs.

More than anyone else, parents need to be involved. Laura has begun an important effort to get new parents the information they need to start their sons and daughters on the path to learning. And we're so proud to be working with PBS and a host of other organizations to get this information out more broadly.

Reading to your children is a joy. We believe it's a responsibility. Parents are the first teachers in their children's lives, and they can also be the best.

I thank all the parents in this room for what you do and for the important example you set. I want to thank the teachers who are here for devoting yourselves to one of

the great callings in life. I want to thank the broadcasters and others who play such an important part in the life of our country.

Again, welcome to the White House. May God bless the Nation's children. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to PBS television characters the Vowelles and Theo and Cleo Lion from the program "Between the Lions"; and Fred Rogers, creator, writer, and host of the PBS television series "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East

April 4, 2002

Good morning. During the course of one week, the situation in the Middle East has deteriorated dramatically. Last Wednesday, my Special Envoy, Anthony Zinni, reported to me that we were on the verge of a cease-fire agreement that would have spared Palestinian and Israeli lives. That hope fell away when a terrorist attacked a group of innocent people in a Netanya hotel, killing many men and women in what is a mounting toll of terror.

In the days since, the world has watched with growing concern the horror of bombings and burials and the stark picture of tanks in the street. Across the world, people are grieving for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their lives.

When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying—the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. We mourn the dead, and we mourn the damage done to the hope of peace, the hope of Israel's and the Israelis' desire for a Jewish state at peace with its neighbors, the hope of the Palestinian people to build their own independent state.

Terror must be stopped. No nation can negotiate with terrorists, for there is no way to make peace with those whose only goal is death.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

**Remarks on Trade Promotion
Authority Legislation and Extension
of the Andean Trade Preference Act**

April 4, 2002

Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary. I'm glad I caught you before you packed your bags. *[Laughter]* This morning I sent the Secretary on a very important mission, a mission of peace. And there's no doubt I sent a great man to go accomplish that mission. I'm proud of your service to our country, Colin, and thank you for inviting us to this beautiful hall.

I want to thank you all for coming as well. I appreciate so very much the opportunity to talk about the values and interests of America and the fact that open trade is in our Nation's interest. And open trade helps us all adhere to values that we share, common values, values that call for respect of human rights and values that believe in the worth of each individual and values that hold democracy and freedom dear. I believe strongly in trade. I believe not only is trade in my Nation's interests; I think trade is in the interest of those nations who struggle with poverty, that desire a route out of poverty.

As Colin mentioned, I was in Monterrey, Mexico, recently—we were in Monterrey, Mexico. I said there in Monterrey, this country of ours will provide aid—we're pleased to do so and proud to do so—but direct aid is small in comparison to the benefits of trade; and that not only would we provide direct aid, but in return we expect our friends to adopt the habits that will encourage stability and peace and human rights. And there's nothing better to encourage those habits than trade.

And trade is important for American workers too. Lost in the debate on trade here at home is the fact that many people are able to find better jobs as the result of an active trade policy in the United States.

And so we're here to talk about a way to make sure that our Nation trades and our Nation works with other countries in the world to trade. In order for that—to do so, the United States Senate must pass trade promotion authority. I need that authority. Every day we go by without the authority is another day we are missing opportunities to help our economy, to help our workers, to help our country, to relate to our friends around the world. If the Senate acts to give me trade promotion authority—and I expect them to do so—I will use it to expand commerce and work for higher paying jobs for American workers.

And so today I urge the Senate leadership to lead, to act, and to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Secretary Don Evans, who's the Secretary of Commerce, for being here. He's my close friend. We spent a lot of quality time in Midland, Texas, together. He's now representing the commercial interests of our country, and I'm proud of the job he does.

And I want to thank John Walters for being here as well. John is in charge of making sure that the United States drug policy not only is clear but works. And that drug policy says, we'll work with our neighbors to interdict drugs. But in order for a drug policy to be effective, all of us in this country must make it clear to our young that drugs destroy their hopes and opportunities.

I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps who are here. Particularly, I want to thank the Prime Minister of Peru. *Bienvenidos*. It's nice to see you again, sir. Thank you for coming. I have spent a lot of time with members of the ambassadorial corps. I'm a better person for it. I see many friendly faces here. I want to thank you all for coming to support this initiative.

See, I hope—I wish Members of the United States Senate were here to see the members of the diplomatic corps who've showed up for this. They're here because they understand the importance of trade. They're here because they understand the benefits of trade to their own people.

I also want to thank the U.S. exporters who are here, America's business leaders, and

people who understand the benefits of opening up markets. I know that many of you have worked hard to help advance trade around the world, and for that we're grateful.

And we've done a lot last year; we really have. As Colin mentioned, we helped launch a new global—a round of global trade negotiations in Doha. We helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization, and that's good. That's important, to recognize and to welcome both countries, both the Republic of Taiwan and of course China, into the World Trade Organization. It's positive; it's a positive development for our country.

We've worked hard to have a free trade agreement with Jordan and bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam.

We reinvigorated trade negotiations of the free trade area of the Americas in Quebec City, as Colin pointed out. I thought those were very constructive discussions we had with your leaders. It was my chance to—my first chance to meet them. And it was—an interesting thing about that meeting, by the way, is that every country in our hemisphere was represented, except one. We welcomed every country into the meeting that had democratically elected leadership. One notable absence, I might add, Cuba; they don't democratically elect their leader. And the first, most important thing we discussed, besides preserving democracy in our hemisphere, was trade—how to encourage more free trade. And that was a positive development.

We're also in negotiations now with Chile and Singapore on free trade agreements.

And so we're now making good progress, but we've got to continue the momentum. I need the support of Congress on two urgent matters, trade promotion authority and the Andean Trade Preference Act. Both are awaiting action in the Senate. Both sit waiting for the Senate to act, and both are essential to the economy of the United States.

The trade promotion authority—sometimes Members of Congress and I think people don't pay much attention to the issue, don't really understand how it works. The trade promotion authority gives the executive branch the right to negotiate trade agreements, but Congress has the final authority to approve the agreements. It's not by grant-

ing me TPA that all of a sudden they've dealt themselves out of the mix; quite the contrary. If they pass it, they've dealt themselves into the mix. They have a chance to ratify, up or down, a treaty.

But the good thing about TPA is it allows me to negotiate or my administration negotiate, and then Congress gets to vote on the terms, up or down. And that's important for the nations represented in this world. It gives them confidence to negotiate a treaty with the United States without it being fine-tuned by numerous experts on the Hill, on what is right or wrong about trade.

It's important to have a platform for trade, and TPA provides that. Five Presidents before me, Republicans and Democrats, have had this advantage in trade negotiations—five of them. For two decades, trade promotion authority was a bipartisan commitment. It wasn't a political issue. It was a commitment, because it represented our national interest in expanding foreign markets. Those years saw many successes, and during the nineties, about one-quarter of our economic growth came as a result of exports. Our two major trade agreements, NAFTA and the Uruguay round, have improved the average standard of living for Americans.

As importantly, NAFTA improved the average standard of living for Mexico and Canada. You see, the best policy for the United States is to hope our own neighborhood is prosperous. A prosperous and vibrant Mexico is good for the United States. You want your neighbors to do well. You want your neighborhood to be peaceful and prosperous, and NAFTA helped do that.

The other thing that's interesting about trade is, people think about trade, and they think, "Well, trade is only good for big companies; only the multinational companies benefit from trade." I don't believe that's true. I know that since the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and realize his or her dreams, that trade opens up opportunities for the entrepreneur. And here's one example.

Excel Holdings is a company based in Leesburg, Virginia. We've got the owner here, which I'm about to name him here pretty quick. And I can see his wife and

two—and son and daughter, I might add. Their job—let me just say, last year, they signed a \$35 million contract with a Mexican distributor. Excel's product serves an important purpose, as it can produce up to 5,000 gallons of purified drinking water each day.

Today, Excel maintains distributors in 13 countries. The owner, a fellow who came to the United States from Egypt, Hisham Fawzi, he's with us. Hisham, thank you for coming. Here's a guy who had a dream; he wanted to build and own his own company. That's an important part of the American experience, owning your own business, coming up with a good idea and working hard to see to it that the good idea works. His idea, obviously, included markets around the world. In order for his business to succeed, he needed trade in more markets.

There are thousands of entrepreneurs in America who benefit from trade. Trade is not just good for mega-corporate America. Trade is very good for farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs, like our guest here today. I want to thank you for coming, and thank you for working hard to realize the American Dream, and good luck in your business.

In 8 years since the TPA, the trade promotion authority, expired, we have missed a lot of opportunity in America. And it's cost—and when you miss opportunity, it tends to affect the average worker in our country.

More than 150 regional free trade and customs agreements exist throughout the world. The European Union is party to 31 of them; Mexico is party to 10; the world's largest economy is party to 3. While we've been marking time, our competitors have been working, and they've been signing agreements. While we have been delaying, they've been trading. Listen, I don't fault our trading partners for making progress. As a matter of fact, I would expect our trading partners to work hard to make progress. But what we need to do is to engage in competition ourselves.

You see, when Americans—when there's a level playing field, we can compete. We're good at it. Fearful people build walls around America. Confident people make sure there are no walls. And I am confident. I'm confident in America products. I'm confident in American entrepreneurs. I'm confident in

the American worker. I'm confident in the American know-how. I'm confident in America's farmers. I'm confident in America's ranchers. And we need to be a trading nation.

And I'll submit agreements to Congress, when I have this authority, that will be in our Nation's best interests. And we'll work hard to make sure we have good trade agreements that benefit both America and our trading partners. And if Congress doesn't like it, they can turn it down, but I need the authority. It's in our country's interest that I have the authority.

And it's also in our interest to bring confidence to countries around the world, to realize we're serious about it when we speak—countries in our own neighborhood. I mean, trade promotion authority will help us establish the free trade agreement of the Americas. And that's going to be in our country's interests, in our neighborhood's interests to do that as well.

The other thing that's important about trade for our country to understand is that people who trade with America benefit. Trade is just not a one-way street. It is a positive relationship. It's important for Americans to understand that by trade, we help people, and we help poor people, and we help people get lifted out of poverty.

Listen, we're a compassionate nation. There are a lot of people in our country who deeply care about Africa and countries in Africa, who deeply care about South America and Central America. These are countries that are fine countries, work hard, but they're poor countries. And if you're concerned about helping people help themselves, we've got to trade with the developing world. And the facts are fantastic. The trade with the African nations as a result of AGOA has been a billion dollars' worth of new commerce. It's the beginning of what we all hope is a prosperity, a boom in prosperity in parts of the world that have not been prosperous.

Oh, there's a lot of talk I hear about labor and environmental agreements. A prosperous nation is one more likely to take care of its workers. And a prosperous nation is one more likely, much more likely, to be able to afford the technology necessary to protect the environment.

And then, of course, trade creates the habits of freedom. If you welcome trade into your country, it creates the notion of freedom. It gives people, consumers the opportunity to demand product, which is part of a free society. It creates an entrepreneurial class, which is a part of a free society. And the habits of freedom begin to create the expectations of democracy and demands for better democratic institutions. Societies that open to commerce across their borders are more open to democracy within their borders.

And for those of us who care about values, believe in values, not just American values but universal values that promote human dignity, trade is a good way to do that. It's a heck of a lot easier to promote human dignity and human rights through trade than it is through lectures.

And it's very important for us to always remember that a—as I mentioned earlier, a prosperous neighborhood, a democratic neighborhood, and a peaceful neighborhood is in our Nation's interests. As a matter of fact, in all due respect to nations from around the world, the best foreign policy starts with making sure your own neighborhood is prosperous and safe and sound. And I—as Colin mentioned, we have just come back—or a while ago came back from a meeting with our friends in Central America and our friends in the Andean nations. And we had very constructive dialog, but let me tell you what I heard.

I heard fine, democratically elected leaders who are troubled by the fact that the United States Congress cannot yet respond to their simple desire to trade, their desire to expand and extend the Andean Trade Preference Act. It is important for these nations—and all you've got to do is ask the Prime Minister or the Ambassadors from the four countries with whom I met—ask them the facts. That's what I ask the Senate to do. What does the Andean Trade Preference Act mean to nations that protect and defend democracy and, at the same time, fight off narcotraffickers? Trade in this instance not only is important for their economies; it is important for their security.

It is important that these nations be given market access so they can develop products

other than coca, that the workers in their countries are not prone to need to work in the narcotics industry. If we're serious about dealing with narcotics, not only will we work to reduce demand, as John Walters is going to do, but we've got to work in a constructive way, in a real way, with the Andean nations. And that means not only to work on interdiction, but it means helping these nations through trade and develop substitute products—products that can be substituted for the quick buck in narcotics.

I hope Congress understands that. I hope Congress understands that the Andean Trade Preference Act is a crucial part of making sure that our hemisphere is democratic and free and stable and secure. The United States Senate needs to affirm America's trade leadership and bring both measures I've talked about today, the trade promotion authority and the Andean Trade Preference Act, to the Floor by April 22d.

Now, I've talked to enough Members of the Senate, as have my staff, to know that there's enough Republicans and Democrats to pass both bills. And therefore the time of delay is over. By April 22d, I'd like to see the debate and get them passed. These bills are good for America; these bills are good for our friends. The time of delay must end.

And by approving these measures, and other measures such as the Generalized System of Preferences and an enhanced African trade bill, we will stand squarely with our friends in the world, recognizing that when we work together and when we trade together, the whole world can be more prosperous. We've got to seize the moment.

As you know, we fight off incredible terror. And we will. You don't have to worry about this administration. We're determined, and we're going to win against terror. And we've also got to fight off poverty and despair and hopelessness, and one way to do that is to encourage trade.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share my thoughts. May God bless not only America but all the nations of the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Roberto Danino of Peru; and Sherri Fawzi,

wife of Hisham Fawzi, and their children, Kareem and Sarah.

Message on the Observance of the Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4, 2002

Today, as we mark the 34th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I join my fellow Americans in remembering Dr. King and renewing his call for equality and justice for all our citizens.

Dr. King was a man of deep faith who dedicated his life to a crucial and just cause that changed this Nation. He graciously and peacefully called for our country to abide by the principles of unity, equality, and racial justice for every citizen regardless of race, creed, or background. For too brief a time, our Nation benefited from his work, yet his dream lives on in the hearts of a new generation. I join all citizens in recognizing this important American and his legacy of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2002

April 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation's history, patriotic Americans have responded to the call to defend our freedoms. During war and peace, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have stood vigilant, prepared, and willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect our Nation. We owe the liberties we have today to their brave service.

Americans who bear the title "Former Prisoner of War" are national heroes. Their service to our country placed them in dire circumstances, causing their capture and imprisonment by our country's enemies. These

heroes suffered great adversity and sacrificed much for freedom and for the future of America.

This year, as we remember our former prisoners of war (POWs), we also mark the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. Many of the American soldiers who defended Corregidor, until they were overwhelmed by enemy forces, never made it to prison camp. Many were killed outright, and many died after enduring unspeakable horrors. For those who survived the march, the war entered a new phase: the struggle against their captors. By enduring tremendous hardships and humiliations, and in gallantly supporting their fellow prisoners, these Americans exemplified the best of our Nation's spirit.

The families of POWs also spent long, lonely years without knowing whether they would ever see their loved ones again. As we remember our former POWs, we must also remember their families and friends who suffered along with them. Our Nation must never forget their courage.

Today, former POWs from across America work to assist their former comrades and their families to cope with the painful memories of the suffering that life as a POW inflicted. These courageous heroes have important and powerful stories to share, which can and should serve as an inspiration to succeeding generations. Through these efforts, former POWs have established a simple but enduring legacy, which ensures that their heroism and that of their fallen or missing comrades will not be forgotten.

On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we recognize the sacrifice of our former POWs and remember with honor their heroism. We also pledge that we will work to ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the courage and contributions of these selfless heroes.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2002, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering

former American prisoners of war by honoring the memory of their sacrifices. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Proclamation number. An original was not available for the verification of the text of this Proclamation.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 30

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had telephone conversations with King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East. He then had a conference call with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

March 31

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an Easter Sunday service at the Canaan Baptist Church in Crawford. Joining them were their daughter, Jenna, the President's father and mother, former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, and Mrs. Bush's mother, Jenna Welch.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 1

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

The White House announced that the President will welcome NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson for a meeting and dinner on April 9 to discuss cooperation against terrorism and preparations for the upcoming November NATO summit in Prague, the Czech Republic.

April 2

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia concerning the situation in the Middle East and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Media, PA. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

April 3

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–20.

April 4

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the evening.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–21.

April 5

In the morning, the President had a CIA briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey concerning relief efforts in Afghanistan and the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President welcomed Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to the Bush Ranch.

The President declared a major disaster in Tennessee and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding over the periods of January 23–28 and March 15–20.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Released April 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Margaret Spellings on the President's early childhood learning initiative

Fact sheet: President Announces Early Childhood Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the capture of Abu Zubaydah

Released April 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Released April 4

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1499, H.R. 2739, and H.R. 3985

Fact sheet: The President's Call to Action on Trade

Released April 5

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Tennessee

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 27*

H.R. 2356 / Public Law 107–155
Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

Approved March 31

S. 2019 / Public Law 107–156
To extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until April 30, 2002

Approved April 4

H.R. 1499 / Public Law 107–157
District of Columbia College Access Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 2739 / Public Law 107–158

To amend Public Law 107–10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes

H.R. 3985 / Public Law 107–159

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, to provide for binding arbitration clauses in leases and contracts related to reservation lands of the Gila River Indian Community

* This public law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Week Ending Friday, April 12, 2002

Interview With the United Kingdom's ITV Television Network

April 4, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Trevor McDonald. Mr. President, the situation in the Middle East is desperate beyond words. How far are you prepared to go to resolve the crisis?

The President. Well, today, I gave a speech which shows my resolve to work with all parties concerned to try to achieve a lasting peace. On the one hand, I called upon the Arab world to fight to cut off the money, to stop this business about glorifying suicide bombers by calling them martyrs, to make sure that the press does encourage violence and killing and murder. And on the other hand, I said Israel has a right to defend herself—I fully understand that—but that it's time for her to withdraw from the occupied territory.

And the reason I feel that way is that I began to worry that the foundations necessary to achieve lasting peace were becoming eroded. In order for Israel to be able to exist, it requires the Arab world's willingness to encourage the conditions so that she can exist. And in order for there to be a Palestinian state, which I support, there needs to be the conditions so that a Palestinian state can exist. And those conditions were becoming eroded, so we acted strong.

I'm sending our very capable Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to the region. He goes there with the mandate of working with the leadership in that part of the world, as well as with the European Union and others, to implement what the U.N. resolution—a recent U.N. Resolution 1042, which lays out the steps necessary to eventually get to a political solution.

Mr. McDonald. But has this come a little late, Mr. President? The Secretary of State has been there before; the Vice President has

been in the region; you've had General Zinni there.

The President. I thought my speech came right about the right time.

Mr. McDonald. But for so long now, for many, many days, if not weeks, people could see this situation spiraling rapidly out of control.

The President. Well, the problem is, you can't see the killers. You can't see the suicide bombers. And what we're trying to do is to rally the world to expose them and to expose those who are funding them and to say to Iran, "Stop it," and to Syria, "You must choose."

That's the problem. The invisible part of everything that you thought you could see, you can't see, which is killers who are going into Passover-type celebrations and killing people, killing innocent people. And we've got to stop that, Trevor; we just have to. In order for there to be peace, there must be—there must be a world effort to stop the suicide and the killers. Those people kill for one reason: to stop the peace, to stop a plan from coming into effect.

And this silly notion about somehow our Government hasn't been involved is just silly. I mean, we've had Zinni there, as you said, the Vice President's there. The Secretary of State has been there in the past; he's going back.

Mr. McDonald. So what is different this time?

The President. Well, this time hopefully there is a resolve. Hopefully, there's a resolve to the needless killing and the loss of innocent life that responsible citizens stand up and say, "Enough is enough." That's what I said today, "Enough is enough." And I believe that.

I'll tell you something else that is different. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia laid out his initiative that essentially says the Arab world must recognize Israel's right to exist,

which was a significant change, and we've got to seize on that bold initiative.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Mr. McDonald. Will Secretary of State Colin Powell meet Yasser Arafat?

The President. I have no idea yet. I'll tell you what he is going to do. He's going to go work with the leadership to bring people together. My worry is, is that Yasser Arafat can't perform. He's been given plenty of opportunities.

Mr. McDonald. Has he forfeited your trust?

The President. He certainly hasn't earned it. Here's a man who said that he has signed onto Oslo, that he was going to fight off terror. We thought we had a cease-fire arranged. We were that close to a cease-fire, and the next thing we know, there's a suicide bomber that hits. We thought a couple of months ago that we thought we had an agreement. The next thing we know, he's ordered a shipment of arms from Iran.

Now, he's got a long way to go, and it starts with him proving that he can lead. He has let his people down, and there are others in the region who can lead and those who have called upon those others in the region to lead. And Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has taken a leadership role. President Mubarak of Egypt is a leader. King Abdullah of Jordan is a leader.

And so Colin Powell is going to go to the region to gather those leaders up and to start a process hopefully that will lead to lasting peace.

Mr. McDonald. You come pretty close to suggesting that Palestinians should look for another leader.

The President. It's up to them. Far be it from the American President to get to decide who leads what country. I'm just telling you since I've been the President, the man hasn't performed.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Is there an emerging difference between the United States and Britain about how this should be solved?

The President. No, I don't think so.

Mr. McDonald. Let me tell you, the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, says sending in tanks to Ramallah and to Bethlehem is no response to suicide bombers. You seem to imply that anything should be done to counter terrorism. That's the difference.

The President. No, actually—

Mr. McDonald. And a significant one.

The President. I think I just told you that I asked for Israel to withdraw the cities which she now occupies, so the extent that that's what the Foreign Secretary says, that's fine. The man I talked to is Tony Blair, and I talked to him this morning and informed him about what I was going to say. And I gave him—he was the first foreign leader, by the way, I called to detail the speech that I delivered at 11 a.m. here in the U.S. And he was, one, appreciative of the phone call, it seemed like, and two, applauded what was going to be in the speech. He thought, at least—I hate to put words in somebody else's mouth, but from my perspective—

Mr. McDonald. [*Inaudible*]*—that it was about time, did he—*

The President. Those are your words, not his.

War on Terrorism

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, turning to the war on terror, which you declared in the aftermath of the events of September 11th, hasn't it reached something of a stalemate?

The President. Is that a serious question?

Mr. McDonald. I meant it as a serious question.

The President. Well, it's not. Well, no. Of course, we haven't had a stalemate. We're winning. I mean, we just arrested a guy named Abu Zubaydah. We crushed the Taliban; they're no longer in office. We've got schools open for the first time in Afghanistan, where girls are going. For the first time, young girls are going to school. It's been a glorious series of victories, thanks to friends such as the British.

We've got a lot more work to do—don't get me wrong—but I don't think there's any stalemate to it.

Afghanistan

Mr. McDonald. At your request, the British are sending 1,700 more troops to Afghanistan. Is there a danger that they might become sucked into a never-ending commitment?

The President. No. No, it's not, because we've got a plan on how to get out. But first things first. We've got to find those Al Qaida killers and bring them to justice. What the world needs to know is there are still a lot of these murderers on the loose. And that's what they are. And anybody who thinks that we can rehabilitate them just simply doesn't know the nature of the enemy.

Usama bin Laden

Mr. McDonald. And their leaders—on the loose, too.

The President. Well, there's one less on the loose. And we don't know if Mr. bin Laden is on the loose. I don't know if you know, but I hadn't heard from him in the——

Mr. McDonald. I was hoping you would tell us what you think. Is bin Laden alive?

The President. I have no idea. But I'll tell you this: He's not making a lot of noise these days. And maybe he's dug in one of those holes, but there's not a hole deep enough. They're going to get him if he's still alive. And these people are killers, and that's the way we're going to treat them. They're international crooks, and we're going to hunt them down one by one.

I know there's a certain kind of anxiety amongst people in the press, for example, who want this thing over with tomorrow. But that's not the nature of this war. This is a different kind of war. This is a war that requires incredible patience and resolve. And make no mistake about it: I've got the patience and the resolve necessary to win, and so does my country. We're united in this effort, and we're going to do whatever it takes to rout out these terrorist organizations.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Mr. McDonald. You've been very clear, Mr. President, turning to the question of Iraq, that it's part of an axis of evil, as I think you called it. When you meet Tony Blair in

the coming days, will you be discussing the possibility of an attack on Iraq?

The President. I'll be talking a lot of things about Iraq with him, starting with the fact that we both recognize that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous man and he harbors and develops weapons of mass destruction—make no mistake about it—that he has got a variety of weapons that can harm mankind and he's not afraid to use them, including on his own people.

And so we'll be discussing that, and we'll be discussing all options. I have no immediate plans to conduct military operations. But as one of my closest friends, personal friends amongst the world leaders, and one of my Nation's closest allies, of course we're going to discuss all options.

Mr. McDonald. I take your point about no immediate plans, but in a sense, have you made up your mind that Iraq must be attacked?

The President. I made up my mind that Saddam needs to go. That's about all I'm willing to share with you.

Mr. McDonald. And you would take action to make sure that happens? And of course, if the logic of the war on terror means anything—which you have explained—then Saddam must go?

The President. That's what I just said. The policy of my Government is that he goes.

Mr. McDonald. People think that Saddam Hussein has had no links with the Al Qaida network, and I'm wondering why you have——

The President. The worst thing that could happen would be to allow a nation like Iraq, run by Saddam Hussein, to develop weapons of mass destruction and then team up with terrorist organizations so they can blackmail the world. I'm not going to let that happen.

Mr. McDonald. So you're going to go after him?

The President. As I told you, the policy of my Government is that Saddam Hussein not be in power.

Mr. McDonald. And how are you going to achieve this, Mr. President?

The President. Wait and see.

Mr. McDonald. Do you think that the international coalition, which you—which an administration once assembled for the Gulf

war, when Kuwait was invaded and the aggressors were undoubtedly the Iraqis—do you think that that international coalition can be assembled again for another attack on Iraq?

The President. I think the coalition can be assembled to demand that Iraq let inspectors back in, like she agreed to do right after the Gulf war. I don't know why the man won't let inspectors in. He's probably got something to hide, don't you think?

And the idea of having this man, who is willing to murder his own people, have weapons of mass destruction—I'm not going to let that happen, and neither will the free world. So I'm confident that we can lead a coalition to pressure Saddam Hussein and to deal with Saddam Hussein.

Mr. McDonald. You say you are confident about this coalition. Certainly, Britain, there are grave misgivings about it. And Tony Blair is under pressure within his own party: 51 percent of the British people think, in an opinion poll, that Saddam Hussein should not be attacked at this time. How are you going to do that? How are you going to accomplish that?

The President. How am I going to change the minds of Britain?

Mr. McDonald. And a number of European countries, too.

The President. Well, we'll just watch and see what happens. I'm going to work closely with our friends and consult with our friends, like I am doing.

One thing Tony Blair does understand is that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous person. And I admire his courage for speaking the truth, and he speaks clearly about the truth. And that's one of the reasons why I like his advice and treasure his counsel.

Mr. McDonald. So what you are calling on Saddam Hussein to do is to let the inspectors back in—

The President. Yes, of course. That's what he said he would do.

Mr. McDonald. And that's the way he can avoid—

The President. But this is not an issue of inspectors. This is an issue of him upholding his word that he would not develop weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. McDonald. So whether he allows the inspectors in or not, he is on the list to be attacked; he's the next target?

The President. You keep trying to put—you're one these clever reporters that keeps trying to put words in my mouth.

Mr. McDonald. Far from that, Mr. President.

The President. Well, I'm afraid you do, sir. But nevertheless, you've had my answer on this subject. And I have no plans to attack on my desk. A policy of my Government is for Saddam not to be in office. It's in the interests of the free world that he not be in office, and it's in the interests of the free world that he not be allowed to develop weapons of mass destruction. And the first thing is he must show us whether or not he has weapons of mass destruction, just like he promised he would do.

Mr. McDonald. And you will have to build the job of the coalition to make sure that this—

The President. We've got a vast coalition for freedom right now. And I talk to leaders all the time, and of course, the subject of Iraq, amongst other subjects, comes up. And I explained to them precisely what I'm explaining to you. And most people understand that history has called us into action. History has given us an opportunity to fight for freedom, and we all will fight for freedom.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, to really put your stamp on a solution in the Middle East—which will help in other ways in fighting this war against terror, as you, yourself, have said—might you be willing to convene a summit to get both sides together and to discuss these problems and to try to resolve these?

The President. Well, we've tried summits in the past, as you may remember. There wasn't one all that long ago where a summit was called and nothing happened, and as a result we had a significant *intifada* in the area.

The only time that's appropriate for a U.S. President to call a summit, when it looks like something can get done. And in the meantime, the Secretary of State is very much involved in the Middle East. And I don't know

if you want to call it a summit, but he's going to have meetings with leaders, attempting to get in place Resolution 1042, which the Security Council has agreed to, which will lead to a political settlement—if all the parties participate.

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, thank you, sir.

The President. You're welcome. Glad you're here.

Mr. McDonald. Thank you, sir.

[At this point, the network took a commercial break.]

Pressures of the Presidency

Mr. McDonald. How do you cope with the pressures—

The President. Well, I'm a man—I believe in prayer. I believe in exercise. I've got a great wife; balance, as they say. Obviously, I'm reminded of what's important in life. We've got a fabulous team. We've got one of the great administrations in American history, and it gives me great comfort to know that the advice I get is honest, straightforward advice from very experienced people.

Aftermath of September 11

Mr. McDonald. Has anything surprised you about the pressures, having these crises—have there been any surprises since you came into the Oval Office?

The President. I think the surprise was how clearly I saw what we needed to do after 9/11. I shouldn't say surprised, I guess. Pleased with how clearly I saw things. I was obviously emotional, but I knew what the country needed to do. And I was really pleased with the way the country responded.

Mr. McDonald. How do you think America has changed after those terrible events of September the 11th?

The President. Well, I think a lot of people are now taking an assessment about what's important in life. I hope moms and dads are saying, "What can I do to be better mother or father?" I know a lot of my fellow Americans have asked, "What can we do to help fight on the war against terror?" And I answer by saying, "Love somebody. Be a good neighbor. Help some kid who just wonders whether the American experience is

meant for them, or teach somebody how to read." In other words, there's a lot of small acts that help define the face of America, which really do contribute to standing up against evil.

You've probably heard me speak. I truly believe that this is a fight against evil. These killers are evil people. They've hijacked a religion, and they want to commit murder in order to justify the goals and the ambitions of a few people.

Mr. McDonald. You understand that there are, sort of, different perceptions about this? For example, I heard after you made your latest speech about the crisis in the Middle East, a Palestinian spokesman said, "Yes, but we also live under the terrorism of occupation." Do you understand that?

The President. Sure, people have—look, my job isn't to try to nuance. My job is to tell people what I think. And when I think there's an axis of evil, I say it. I think moral clarity is important, if you believe in freedom. And people can make all kinds of excuses, but there are some truths involved.

And one of the truths is, they're sending suicide killers in—because they hate Israel. That's a truth. And you can justify it any way you want, but nevertheless, the role of the President, as far as I'm concerned, is to stand up and tell the truth, and I did today. I made it as plain as I could. I try to speak as plainly as I can. I know people don't like it when I say there's evil; this is evil versus good. But that's not going to stop me from saying what I think is right.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Your Palestinian interlocutors will say that they—you have to balance that against the fact that they live, as they say, under this occupation. They also have increasing settlements. And there is a kind of tyranny, they say, they would claim—

The President. Well, in my speech today, I recognized that they need to stop the building of settlements. And it is my Government that laid out the Tenet, and then the Mitchell plans, which both sides agreed to, which will lead to peace. The problem is, they haven't lived up to the agreement. And I'm calling

on the Palestinians to live up to the agreement. And I'm calling on the Israelis to pull out of the occupied territory, the places, the cities they've occupied recently, trying to set up a situation where we can achieve peace. That's what I want. I want peace. And I believe it can happen, otherwise I wouldn't be working so hard on it. I'm an optimist. As you can see, the way we've got the Oval Office here designed, it's open, and it's optimistic, and it's sunny. That's what I feel about life.

It was right in this room where Vladimir Putin came in, and I had a fantastic meeting with him here. Finally, we're getting rid of the cold war, where we hated each other. You know, if you'd been sitting in the fifties, saying, "Can you ever imagine a U.S. President and a Russian President sitting here and talking like friends," you'd have said, "Of course not. How farfetched is that?"

That's what I used as an example today as what is possible in the Middle East. And I think it is possible. All of us are going to have to work to achieve that goal.

Possibility of a Peace Summit

Mr. McDonald. But you're not very much into, sort of, big, set peace summits to do that?

The President. Well, he'd better—the problem is, the American President, when he calls a summit, better get it right.

Mr. McDonald. He puts his personal reputation on the line.

The President. This doesn't have nothing to do with reputation. It has everything to do with the consequences if it fails. It's not the President—see, that's the problem. It's not all about the person. It's about the people who live in the region. If a summit fails, if the President puts—lays it out there and nothing happens, generally the status—the followup is worse than the status quo.

And that's what Presidents must understand. We're dealing with people's lives and expectations. And I think there's a better way to achieve what we want, is peace. Someday that may happen, don't get me wrong. Someday you may say, "I remember when I talked to old Bush, and there he is, sitting there with a big summit." But now is not the time for one. I've got a different strategy.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 3:07 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Tony Blair and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw of the United Kingdom; Abu Zubaydah and Usama bin Laden, leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 6, 2002

Good morning. This weekend, Laura and I are hosting the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his family at our ranch in Crawford, Texas. America has no better ally in our war against terrorism than Great Britain.

Six months ago, when the United States launched military strikes against Al Qaida training camps and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, British forces were right by our side. And the success of Operation Enduring Freedom owes much to the strong support from allies like Great Britain. Yet, the war against terrorism is far from over. It will continue in Afghanistan and beyond.

The world has been brutally reminded these past 2 weeks of the price exacted by terror. Prime Minister Blair and I will spend much of our time this weekend discussing the tragic outbreak of violence in the Middle East. Across the world, people are grieving for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their lives.

When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying—the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. The United States is strongly committed to finding a just settlement in the Middle East. That

settlement must lead to two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

This goal can never be realized through terrorism. It can only be realized through a political process. Arab governments, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian people must recognize that suicide bombings are jeopardizing the very possibility of an independent Palestinian state. This week, I called upon the Palestinian leadership to order an immediate and effective cease-fire and a crackdown on terrorist networks.

Israel, too, faces hard choices. America will always be a committed friend of Israel, and we recognize Israel's right to defend itself against terror. Yet, to lay the foundations of future peace, I've asked Israel to halt incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas and begin withdrawing from those cities it has recently occupied.

Next week, Secretary of State Powell will travel to the Middle East to seek broad international support for these principles and to work towards a cease-fire that will lead to a political settlement. I have no illusions about the difficulty of this mission. Yet, our determination is strong. We'll work closely with nations in the region and with close allies such as Great Britain to end this conflict and to begin an era of peace.

This could be a hopeful moment in the Middle East. A number of Arab leaders have endorsed a proposal that brings them closer than ever to recognizing Israel's right to exist. The United States is on record supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a Palestinian state. And Israel has recognized the goal of a Palestinian state.

I believe the region could write a new story of democracy and development and trade and join the progress of our times. Yet, progress requires an atmosphere of peace, and peace requires acts of leadership, not acts of terror.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:20 a.m. on April 5 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press

Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom in Crawford, Texas

April 6, 2002

President Bush. Good morning. Laura and I are very honored to have our friends Tony and Cherie Blair and their family visit us here in Crawford. We appreciate the rain that the Prime Minister brought with him—[*laughter*]*—*and so do the other farmers and ranchers in the area. Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for bringing it.

Prime Minister Blair. My pleasure, George. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. It is always a pleasure for any American President to welcome the Prime Minister of Great Britain, because ours is a special and unique relationship. And our relationship is strong because of my respect for the Prime Minister. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel, and I appreciate his friendship.

This morning I conveyed to the Prime Minister the condolences of the American people for the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. This remarkable woman is warmly remembered on both sides of the Atlantic for her grace and her strength and particularly for her inspiration she provided during the darkest days of World War II.

Today, the bond between our peoples that she symbolized is stronger than ever. Our nations share more than just a common language and a common history. We also share common interests and a common perspective on the important challenges of our times.

No nation has been stronger in fighting global terrorism than Great Britain. I'm extremely grateful for the Prime Minister's courageous leadership since September the 11th. And the world is grateful for all that Great Britain has contributed in the war against terror, everything from special forces to ground forces to naval forces to peace-keepers.

The Prime Minister and I both understand that defeating global terror requires a broad based, long-term strategy. We understand the importance of denying terrorists weapons of mass destruction. And we understand the importance of adapting NATO to meet new threats, even as NATO prepares to take on new members and forges a new relationship with Russia.

The Prime Minister and I also agree that, even as we work to make the world safer, we must also work to make the world better. Our countries will continue to work closely to bring greater hope and opportunity to developing nations.

We also had extensive conversations about the situation in the Middle East. Both our nations are strongly committed to finding a just settlement. Both of us agree on the fundamental elements that a just settlement must include. We share a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and in security.

We agree that this vision will never be realized through terrorism and that it can only be realized through a political process. We agree that the Palestinian leadership must order an immediate and effective cease-fire and crackdown on terrorist networks. And we agree that Israel should halt incursions in the Palestinian-controlled areas and begin to withdraw without delay from those cities it has recently occupied.

The Prime Minister and I agree to work closely in the weeks and months ahead on these difficult issues. We have a common reading of history. We understand that each of our nations stands taller when we stand together. And that's why our nations will continue to stand together against freedom's enemies. And that's why we'll continue to work together, for not only the good of our own people but for good of peace in the world.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, if I could begin by thanking you and the First Lady for their very kind and gracious welcome that you have given to myself and my family, and also thank the people of Crawford and McClellan County for their kind welcome, too. And it's a real pleasure to be with you here.

And as you might expect, we've had very detailed discussions covering all the issues, from the topics of the moment through to issues like trade and bilateral issues between us. Of course, much of our discussion has focused on the situation in the Middle East. And I agree entirely with what the President said just a moment or two ago, not just in relation to what must happen in the immediate term but also as to the only basis upon which there will be and can be a viable and lasting peace there, that is a state of Israel, secure in its own borders, recognized by the entirety of the Arab world, and also a viable Palestinian state where people can live side by side with each other.

We discussed, of course, the issues of international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. I would like to pay a particular tribute to the President for his courage and for his leadership in the aftermath of the 11th of September. And I think that it is worth reflecting that over these past few months, although very much still remains to be done, we have accomplished, nonetheless, a very great deal in Afghanistan and in the pursuit of those responsible for that terrible event on the 11th of September. And we will continue to work in any way we can in order to make sure that this scourge of international terrorism is defeated.

We also agreed and made it very clear, as well, that the issue of weapons of mass destruction cannot be ducked. It is a threat. It is a danger to our world, and we must heed that threat and act to prevent it being realized.

In addition, I was grateful for the President's kind words about the contribution Britain has made in Afghanistan. We made that willingly, because we believe it is important not just that we root out the last remnants of the Al Qaida terrorist network in Afghanistan but also that we help that country to go from being a failed state, failing its region and its people, to a state that offers some hope of stability and prosperity for the future.

And finally, I would like to say a special thank you to the President for his words on Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother—that will be deeply appreciated by people of Britain. And as you may know, there have been

many Americans as well as British people paying their respects to the Queen Mother as she lies in state. Ours is, indeed, a very special and unique relationship between Britain and the United States of America. And I have no doubt at all that under the leadership of President Bush, that relationship will strengthen still further. And for that, Britain is glad—I know that the United States is—but I believe it is good for the wider world, too.

President Bush. We have now agreed to take three questions apiece. We'll start with Ron Fournier [Associated Press], a fine man who works for AP—got a couple of kids, cares deeply about the future. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Blair. I'm just thinking of how I introduce mine, now. [Laughter]

Q. Flattery will get you nowhere, sir.

President Bush. I've noticed. [Laughter]

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territories

Q. Israel is moving deeper into Palestinian territories, and there are reports today that she has launched attacks on southern Lebanon. Have you failed, Mr. President, to convince Prime Minister Sharon to pull back his troops? And why did you wait so long to demand the withdrawal and only today adding the caveat, "without delay"?

President Bush. My administration's—my words to Israel are the same today as they were a couple of days ago: Withdraw without delay. I made the decision to give the speech when I did because I was concerned about the ability for those of us who were interested in a long-term solution to take hold. I was worried about the balance being tipped to the point where we weren't able to achieve a long-lasting peace.

I gave the speech at the right time. And I expect Israel to heed my advice, and I expect for the Palestinians to reject terror in the Arab world. As Israel steps back, we expect the Arab world to step up and lead—to lead against terror, to get into an immediate cease-fire, begin the implementation of U.N. Resolution 1042.

Q. Can I follow up, please?

President Bush. No. Nice try.

Prime Minister Blair. Andy Meyer, who works for the BBC, and really nothing else

need be said. [Laughter] He's got three children.

Q. Can I just follow up from that and ask the President and the Prime Minister, what happens now if the Israelis continue to ignore what you've been asking them to do?

President Bush. I don't expect them to ignore. I expect them to heed the call, heed the call from their friends the United States, and heed the call from their friends the Great—the people of Great Britain and the leadership of Great Britain.

Q. But if they don't?

President Bush. Well, that's—as I told you, I think they will heed the call.

Prime Minister Blair. I think that most people in Israel will realize that they don't have two greater friends in the world than the United States of America or Britain. And we both understand, as well, the appalling nature of the acts of terrorism that they have been subject to. We understand that. But we are also trying to help secure a way out of the present impasse, so that we can get into a political process where some of these underlying issues can be resolved satisfactory for the long term, because the bloodshed and the carnage and innocent people dying, in the end, is not a solution to this issue. So I believe that Israel will heed the words of President Bush and will do so knowing that he speaks as a friend to Israel.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Mr. President.

President Bush. I don't know you well enough, Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters] to be able to sing your praises. [Laughter]

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, you have yet to build an international coalition for military action against Iraq. Has the violence in the Middle East thwarted your efforts? And Prime Minister Blair, has Bush convinced you on the need for a military action against Iraq?

President Bush. Adam, the Prime Minister and I, of course, talked about Iraq. We both recognize the danger of a man who's willing to kill his own people harboring and developing weapons of mass destruction. This guy, Saddam Hussein, is a leader who gasses his own people, goes after people in his own neighborhood with weapons of—

chemical weapons. He's a man who obviously has something to hide.

He told the world that he would show us that he would not develop weapons of mass destruction, and yet, over the past decade, he has refused to do so. And the Prime Minister and I both agree that he needs to prove that he isn't developing weapons of mass destruction.

I explained to the Prime Minister that the policy of my Government is the removal of Saddam and that all options are on the table.

Prime Minister Blair. I can say that any sensible person looking at the position of Saddam Hussein and asking the question, would the region, the world, and not least the ordinary Iraqi people be better off without the regime of Saddam Hussein, the only answer anyone could give to that question would be, yes.

Now, how we approach this, this is a matter for discussion. This is a matter for considering all the options. But a situation where he continues to be in breach of all the United Nations resolutions, refusing to allow us to assess, as the international community have demanded, whether and how he is developing these weapons of mass destruction—doing nothing in those circumstances is not an option, so we consider all the options available.

But the President is right to draw attention to the threat of weapons of mass destruction. That threat is real. How we deal with it; that's a matter we discuss. But that the threat exists and we have to deal with it, that seems, to me, a matter of plain common sense.

Q. Prime Minister, we've heard the President say what his policy is directly about Saddam Hussein, which is to remove him. That is the policy of the American administration. Can I ask you whether that is now the policy of the British Government? And can I ask you both, if it is now your policy to target Saddam Hussein, what has happened to the doctrine of not targeting heads of states and leaving countries to decide who their leaders should be, which is one of the principles which applied during the Gulf war?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, you know it has always been our policy that Iraq would be a better place without Saddam Hussein. I don't think anyone can be in any doubt

about that, for all the reasons I gave earlier, and—you know, reasons to do with weapons of mass destruction, also to do with the appalling brutality and repression of his own people. But how we now proceed in this situation, how we make sure that this threat that is posed by weapons of mass destruction is dealt with, that is a matter that is open. And when the time comes for taking those decisions, we will tell people about those decisions.

But you cannot have a situation in which he carries on being in breach of the U.N. resolutions and refusing to allow us the capability of assessing how that weapons-of-mass-destruction capability is being advanced, even though the international community has made it absolutely clear that he should do so. Now, as I say, how we then proceed from there, that is a matter that is open for us.

President Bush. Maybe I should be a little less direct and be a little more nuanced, and say we support regime change.

Q. That's a change though, isn't it, a change in policy?

President Bush. No, it's really not. Regime change was the policy of my predecessor as well.

Q. And your father?

President Bush. You know, I can't remember that far back. [Laughter] It's certainly the policy of my administration. I think "regime change" sounds a lot more civil, doesn't it? The world would be better off without him. Let me put it that way, though. And so will the future.

See, the worst thing that can happen is to allow this man to abrogate his promise and hook up with a terrorist network. And then all of a sudden you've got one of these shadowy terrorist networks that have got an arsenal at their disposal, which could create a situation in which nations down the road get blackmailed. We can't let it happen; we just can't let it happen. And obviously, the Prime Minister is somebody who understands this clearly, and that's why I appreciate dealing with him on the issue. And we've got close consultations going on, and we talk about it all the time. And he's got very good advice on the subject, and I appreciate that.

**Chairman Yasser Arafat of the
Palestinian Authority**

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You say that in the war against terrorism, people are either with us or against us. Whose side is Chairman Arafat on, and do you think the world would be a better place without him?

President Bush. I think Chairman Arafat—I was asked on British TV the other day, have I lost trust in Chairman Arafat? And I said, “Well, he never earned my trust, because he hasn’t performed.”

Somebody told me there’s a story floating around that somehow I am blaming the Clinton administration for what’s going on in the Middle East right now. Let’s make this very clear, that in my speech I said that Mr. Arafat has not lived up to the promises he made at Oslo and elsewhere to fight off terror. He hasn’t performed. I appreciate what President Clinton tried to do. He tried to bring peace to the Middle East. I am going to try to bring peace to the Middle East.

But in order to earn my trust, somebody must keep their word. And Chairman Arafat has not kept his word. He said he would fight off terror. He hasn’t. He needs to speak clearly, in Arabic, to the people of that region and condemn terrorist activities. At the very minimum, he ought to at least say something.

And you know, there’s all kinds of excuses. But in order to achieve lasting peace, both sides must make constructive steps, and we’re prepared to help and will help. That’s why the Secretary of State is going to the region. But Chairman Arafat has failed in his leadership, and he has let the people down. He had opportunity after opportunity to be a leader, and he hasn’t led. And I’m disappointed.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Present company doubtless excepted, one could think of quite a lot of world leaders the world might be better off without.

President Bush. Thank you for the exception.

Q. And I’m not sure necessarily whether the Prime Minister would agree with you on Yasser Arafat. But can I ask you, I think what Europeans have a problem with about expanding any war on terror to Iraq is linkage. They can see a linkage between Al Qaida and

Afghanistan. They can’t see a direct linkage to Saddam Hussein.

Would you accept that there isn’t a direct linkage and how, therefore——

President Bush. First of all, I wouldn’t accept that. But can’t they see linkage between somebody who’s willing to murder his own people and the danger of him possessing weapons of mass destruction, which he said he would not develop? I see the linkage between somebody who is willing to go into his own neighborhood and use chemical weapons in order to keep himself in power and at the same time develop a weapon that could be aimed at Europe, aimed at Israel, aimed anywhere, in order to affect foreign policy through his—you know, I can’t imagine people not seeing the threat and not holding Saddam Hussein accountable for what he said he would do, and we’re going to do that.

History has called us into action. The thing I admire about this Prime Minister is, he doesn’t need a poll or a focus group to convince him the difference between right and wrong. And it’s refreshing to see leaders speak with moral clarity when it comes to the defense of freedom.

I intend to speak with clarity when it comes to freedom, and I know Prime Minister Tony Blair does as well. And we will hold Saddam Hussein accountable for broken promises. And that’s what a lot of our discussion over there on Prairie Chapel Ranch has been about. And other than eating lunch, which we’re fixing to go do, we’re going to continue our discussions.

Prime Minister Blair. You talked about no linkage there. There is a reason why United Nations resolutions were passed, nine of them, calling upon him to stop developing weapons of mass destruction. I mean, there is a reason why weapons inspectors went in there, and that is because we know he has been developing these weapons.

We know that those weapons constitute a threat. Three days after the 11th of September when I made my first statement to the House of Commons in Britain, I specifically said then this issue of weapons of mass destruction has got to be dealt with. And the reason for that is that what happened on the 11th of September was a call to us to make

sure that we didn't repeat the mistake of allowing groups to develop destructive capability and hope that, at some point in time, they weren't going to use it. They develop that destructive capability for a reason.

Now, we've made it very clear to you how we then proceed and how we deal with this—all the options are open. And I think after the 11th of September, this President showed that he proceeds in a calm and a measured and a sensible but in a firm way. Now, that is precisely what we need in this situation too.

And as I say to you, never forget he knows perfectly well what the international community has demanded of him over these past years, and he's never done it.

President Bush. Thank you all.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11 a.m. in the gymnasium at Crawford High School. In his remarks, he referred to Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Blair, their daughter Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks During a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee

April 8, 2002

Thanks, I'm honored to be here. I'm here to explain to the Nation the importance of citizens becoming involved with preparedness in their communities. And I want to thank the chief and the mayor, and thank you, Captain, for providing an outlet for good citizens who love their country, and who generally have asked the question, "What can I do to make my community a better place?"

The reason we've come to Knoxville is because this is a model program. And I want other people to see what is possible. I also want them to see the good citizens in action, like yourselves. I want to thank you—I'm a grateful President, for a grateful nation, for helping your community.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in Training Room A of the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville; and Chief of

Police Phil E. Keith and Captain Don Green of the Knoxville Police Department. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Let me say one thing before I leave. First of all, I meant what I said to the Prime Minister of Israel. I expect there to be withdrawal without delay. And I also meant what I said to the Arab world, that in order for there to be peace, nations must stand up, leaders must stand up and condemn terrorism, terrorist activity.

There is a mutual responsibility to achieve peace, and it's going to require leadership on both sides. And the United States is firmly committed to achieving peace and is firmly committed—I am firmly committed to what I expect from both parties.

I repeat, I meant what I said about withdrawal without delay, and I mean what I say when I call upon the Arab world to strongly condemn and act against terrorist activity.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. at the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks on the Citizens Corps in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Thank you all so very much. I'm sure glad to be back in Knoxville, Tennessee. I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I want to thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to talk about some—to talk about the future of this great country and why I'm optimistic about the future of this great country and why I'm so proud to be an American, to be the President of this great country.

It makes sense to come to the Volunteer State to talk about the need for our citizens to help each other. I can understand why the

foes of the University of Tennessee dread hearing “Rocky Top.” [Laughter] I mean, it kind of fired me up, standing behind the— [applause]. It reminds me of that great volunteer spirit. Of course, in Texas, we really appreciate those Tennessee volunteers coming down to help us out.

And I appreciate the Citizens Police Academy I went to today. It shows the best of your city. You have a great mayor working with a really fine police chief, who are pooling the resources, who are providing an avenue, an outlet for people who care about your community, a place for them to come and learn the skills necessary to help protect the good people of Knoxville, should an emergency arise.

I’ve come to highlight what works, so others around the country, if they’re interested—

[At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.]

—if you’re interested in doing what is right—to encourage your citizens to become involved. And so I want to thank the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, for showing Americans—for showing Americans how best to help their communities. [Applause] Thank you all.

I also want to thank the mayors and county officials from cities from around our country. I had the honor of flying over from Washington today with the fine Mayor of Washington, DC, my friend Tony Williams. I also was with Mayor Jim Hahn from Los Angeles and others here, all of whom are utilizing their positions to encourage our citizens to become more involved in our communities. And I want to thank you all so very much for coming. We’ve got some mayors from Texas, small towns, large towns, Republicans, Democrats, all of whom care deeply about our country.

I want to thank so very much the members of the Tennessee congressional delegation for being here as well. You’ve sent a fine group of folks to Washington. I enjoy working with them. I appreciate their service to the country, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I want to remind our fellow citizens that we have a volunteer military, that we’ve asked our citizens to volunteer to protect our country. And my attitude is, so long as we

have a soldier in harm’s way, they deserve the best pay, the best support, the best equipment possible. I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress that reflects the nature of the conflict with which we’re faced. I’ve asked for the largest increase in defense spending in 20 years, not only because it will fulfill our commitment to support our troops but because it recognizes that this country is in our war for the long pull, that we’re interested in defending freedom no matter what the cost.

You know, I can’t imagine what went through the minds of those who felt like they could attack America. I can’t imagine. They must have thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so weak that all we would do was file a lawsuit. [Laughter] They found out we’re a different type of nation than they thought. They found out this Nation will do what it takes to defend that which we hold dear, and what we hold dear is freedom.

And it’s important for the young, in particular, but all Americans to understand that we seek—we don’t seek revenge; we seek justice. It’s hard for some to believe, but there are people in this world who hate what America stands for. They hate the fact that we believe people should worship freely. They hate the fact that we believe there ought to be honest political discourse. They hate the fact that we believe in human rights and the dignity and worth of each individual. These people hate America. They are cold-blooded killers, and the United States will hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

And thanks to our United States military and thanks to a coalition we put together—and thanks to the coalition we have put together, we have freed the people of Afghanistan from one of the most repressive regimes in the history of mankind. Not only are we steadfast in our desire to defend that which we believe; we also are willing to commit resources to free a nation. Several weeks ago, young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

I’m proud of the United States of America. I’m proud of our people. I’m proud of our resolve. I’m proud of the unity. I’m proud of the patience of the American people. The American people know what I know, that we have been called into action, that history has

given us a chance to lead, that history understands—that we now understand that history's call is to lead our vast coalition against terrorists and to defend freedom, no matter what the cost. And my fellow Americans, I can assure you so long as I'm the President, I will lead this world's coalition to defend our freedoms, no matter what the cost.

I've heard talk about the budget and people saying, "Well, the budget is too big for defense." Listen, the price of freedom is high. I understand that. But it's not too high, as far as I'm concerned. This Nation can show the world what we stand for, and we can show future generations what we're made out of.

Now, it's important for us to remain strong, and it's important for us to do what we say we're going to do in the world. I said loud and clear, "Either you are with us, or you're against us." And I also said, "If you're going to harbor a terrorist or feed a terrorist or think you can hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the ones who came and murdered innocent Americans, and we're going to hold you accountable."

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. We're hunting them down, and that's what has to happen. And we're doing it in a way that sometimes doesn't make it in the newspapers. I understand that. You know—and sometimes it doesn't have all the sensationalism that some on the TVs would like to see. But you've just got to know that your Government is steady and deliberate and patient. There is no cave deep enough to hide from the arm of justice of the United States of America.

And while I recognize that the best way to secure our homeland is to find the enemy wherever they hide, there's some stuff we need to do at home too. And we're doing it. And that is to have a homeland security strategy that recognizes the importance of first-responders. I want to thank the police and fire officers and EMS teams not only in Knoxville but around the country for your sacrifice on behalf of the citizens of your community.

We've got a strategy that makes sure our border security works better, a strategy that responds to any bioterrorism-type attack. We're doing a good job of buttoning up our

country. We're doing a much better job of communicating between law enforcement agencies. You see, you've got to know that anytime we get a hint, a scintilla of evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding. We're sharing information. We're on alert, and we're working overtime. And we're working diligently to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again.

But there's some things that citizens can do as well. People oftentimes ask me, "What can I do to help?" Well, let me give you some suggestions today. One way to help is to volunteer. And I said to the fellow citizens, give 4,000 hours of volunteer service for the rest of your life. If you want to help America, step up and serve your community. And there are ways to do that. There are ways to do so on the forefront of the war—on the strategy to make sure America is better prepared.

I have created what's called USA Freedom Corps. It's a chance for citizens from all walks of life to serve, to serve by serving in AmeriCorps, where you can help teach—where you can help people realize that the American experience is meant for us all. Or you can teach. Or Senior Corps—senior citizens can serve in the Senior Corps programs. Or the Peace Corps—we've had thousands of people now call in to say they want to serve America's interest in the Peace Corps by helping to spread America's values. There are ways to serve.

Today I'm talking about the Citizens Corps. It's an opportunity to work with local officials to make the homeland security more prepared. Interestingly enough, when I made the call for people to serve, we had over a million hits on the Web site for the Citizens Corps, and 25,000 Americans stepped up and said, "We want to help. We want to apply for Citizens Corps applications."

And here—there are ways to help. We need volunteers who are trained in emergency preparedness and response to participate in what we call Community Emergency Response Team programs. They first started in Los Angeles, Mayor Hahn was telling me. All the cities represented here on this stage have now got CERT programs. It gives people a chance to be a part of an emergency-

response mechanism, both urban and rural, in America. If you're interested in helping, dial up the phone and the Web site I'm about to give you, so that you can be a part of emergency preparedness in your communities.

We need volunteers on the Neighborhood Watch programs. Neighborhood Watch—I hope you're familiar with it—is a way for communities to be—citizens to become involved with making each neighborhood more secure. Neighborhood Watch is a structure which already exists. We want to expand it in America. We want more folks to be a part of the Neighborhood Watch program, to make our communities more prepared.

Operation—what's called—we call it terrorism information program; it's a tip program. This is a program where truckers can report anything that might be suspicious to local authorities. One of the most innovative tip programs in the country took place in Maine. Governor King, in working with the local FBI, signed up a lot of lobstermen, so when they're out there pulling their pots to get the lobsters, if they see something suspicious taking place along the Maine coast, that they share information with the local jurisdictions, local law enforcement jurisdictions. If people see anything suspicious, utility workers, you ought to report it. This is a way to organize that which already happens in our communities on a daily basis and a way to make the homeland more secure and more prepared.

We've got what's called the VIP program, VIPS, and that's Volunteers in Police. And that's what we've talked about today here in Knoxville. I don't know if you know this or not, but I would say the vast majority of police departments need volunteer labor to help make their departments function. The chief here in Knoxville was telling me that he could not live without the fact that we've got a lot of volunteers right from your community, probably your neighbors, that go down there on a daily basis, to help make the police department function more smoothly. This is a good way to help in your community, if you're interested in helping.

And then we have what's called the Medical Reserve Corps. This is a chance for active and retired doctors and nurses to lend a hand in preparing any community for an emer-

gency. It makes a lot of sense to say to a retired doc or a retired nurse, "You know, you've still got your skills. You still care about people. Here's a good way for you to serve the community." We need this participation from our citizenry. It's not only good for each community; it's good for the citizens to know that they're helping to serve a great nation by serving their community.

And so for those of you out there who are interested in participating, I want you to call up this number, 1-877-USA-CORPS*, or to dial up on the Internet, www.citizencorps.gov. This is a way where you can help America. The Government will help as well. I put in my budget \$203 million to help on the Citizen Corps programs, 50 of which will be immediate, through the supplemental.

In other words, we're willing to fund. But what we can't do is, we can't hire people. You've got to step up in the Citizen Corps. The money is meant to enable. You're meant to provide the manpower. So when a fellow American says, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help America be prepared better," here's a way you can help and make a huge difference in the communities in which you live.

And there's another way to help too. It's by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You've probably got a sense of my strong feelings about the enemy. I believe they're evil. The best way to fight evil is to do some good. Let me qualify that—the best way to fight evil at home is to do some good. The best way to fight them abroad is to unleash the military.

It is so important for citizens in this country to put a face on America for the world to see, the true face. And that's by loving somebody, and that's by caring for somebody who needs a hand. You know, it doesn't take much to help define the true face of America; it really doesn't. It can mean just walking across the street to a shut-in, and saying, "I care for you. Is there anything I can do to make your day brighter?" It certainly means mentoring a child, putting your arm around a child, and say, "You know, America is

* White House correction.

meant for you, and I love you.” It means organizing a program in your church or your synagogue or your mosque, to help hear the universal call of loving somebody just like you’d like to be loved yourself.

There are pockets of despair in America, and we need people of love to go into those pockets, people of faith to go into those pockets of despair, to help this country realize its potential. If you want to join in the war against terror, you can join the Citizen Corps, or you can act out of compassion and concern to help make somebody’s life brighter. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency and compassion which show the world the true face of America. Not only are we strong militarily, but we’ve got great hearts and great compassion about our fellow human—men and women.

And therefore, my fellow Americans, if you want to join us, if you want to make the country stronger, participate; help somebody in need. You know, I truly believe that out of this evil is going to come incredible good. I believe that by remaining strong in the face of terror, that we can lead the world to peace. I believe there’s going to be some problems in the world that can be solved with American strength and American leadership and a coalition that refuses to bend when it comes to the defense of terror. And out of evil will come some incredible good in America, some incredible good.

Many of you know what I’m talking about when I say that families have taken a good look at what’s important in their life. Moms and dads have now said that they’re going to love their children with all their heart and all their soul. They’re going to focus their love and attention on being the best parent they can possibly be, as we’ve taken a good look at the value systems that are important for our future.

You know, Flight 93 told me a lot about America. Here we were in the midst of this beginning of the new war of the 21st century, and some men and women on a flight decided that they needed to save others. They were on cell phones with their loved ones. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, “Let’s roll,” and they saved lives on the ground. It is that spirit that is alive and well in America, and it’s that

spirit that makes me so optimistic about the future of this great country.

I want to thank you all so very much for coming. I want to thank you for your strong support for our country. I want to thank you for your patience. I want to thank you for your understanding about what lies ahead for the country. But most of all, I want to thank you for working hard to make your neighborhood and your community the best place it can possibly be for each one of us who’s lucky enough to call themselves an American.

And I want you to know, I can’t tell you what an honor it is to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Mayor James K. Hahn of Los Angeles, CA; Governor Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; and Phil E. Keith, chief of police, Knoxville Police Department.

Remarks on the Proposed “Terrorism Risk Protection Act”

April 8, 2002

Thank you very much. Ed, thank you very much. I didn’t realize you were so eloquent. [Laughter] But I know you’re a good leader, and I know you care deeply about the people you represent, and so does Jimmy Hoffa and Joe Hunt, and so do the people—the employers here. I want to thank you all for coming to help me talk about this important issue facing the country, and that is how to make sure people stay working. That’s what we’re talking about.

You know, the enemy hit us pretty hard on September the 11th. I just came in from Tennessee, where I was talking about one way to respond to the attacks is for people to volunteer in their communities and help make their neighborhoods a better place. I told them, I said, they must have not—they miscalculated. They hit us and thought we were so weak that all we would do is probably file a lawsuit. [Laughter]

But they found out that we're thinking a little differently in America and that, when it comes to our freedom, we will do what it takes to defend freedom. And I want to remind you all that this is a long struggle that's going to take a while, that there are Al Qaida killers still on the loose. There are people who hate America. They hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that Democrats and Republicans both love our country equally. They hate the idea that we worship freely. They hate the concept that we debate issues in open. They hate freedom. They just hate it, and they are going to try to hurt us. They are.

And the best way to secure the homeland is to find them one by one, and we are. That's exactly what we're going to do. And the—we've unleashed the proud United States military, and the men and women who wear our uniform are really doing us proud.

I also want you to know that—it's just important to know that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. That's what we're doing. And we're not conquerors, but we're liberators. I am really proud of our Nation. I'm proud of the fact that young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan. That really makes me feel really good about what we're doing. I'm proud about the fact that we're not leaving the country behind, that not only have we liberated people from the clutches of this barbaric regime but we're staying around to help them with their security and help them to develop into a nation that can protect herself and a nation that will be a good neighbor in an important part of the world.

We have made some pretty good progress in a quick period of time. But you've got to remember we live in a world in which sometimes, in all due respect, the media expects things to end quickly. This isn't going to end quickly. So long as there is terrorists, we need to find them. So long as there is nations which develop weapons of mass destruction and therefore try to hold the U.S. or our friends and allies hostage through blackmail, we're going to have to deal with it—just going to have to deal with it. History has called us into action, and I'm not going to let our children and grandchildren down. And I know you're not, either.

In terms of our economy, no question that the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. I mean, it affected employment in big ways. Many of you know that. I see Bill Marriott; his business was affected, deeply affected. And thanks to some focused efforts, things are improving. But as far as I'm concerned, the notion about where we stand in terms of our economy really depends upon whether or not people are able to find work and whether or not they think they're going to have work tomorrow. That's how I judge whether or not we're healthy. If someone is looking for work and can't find work, that means we're not healthy. If someone is working and they're worried about whether they're going to be working tomorrow, that means we're not healthy, as far as I'm concerned.

And therefore, public policy must do everything we can to create an environment in which jobs are steady and growing. I thought tax relief was very important to make sure that the environment was such that people could find work.

I know energy policy is very important, and we spent a great deal of time with Jimmy and Ed talking about how to get a good energy bill out of the Congress. It's an energy bill, by the way, that is needed more than ever, particularly given the fact that there's been some threats recently by Saddam Hussein that he's going to try to cut off energy supply to affect the United States. I mean, what more reason do we need than to have good energy policy in the United States to diversify away from somebody like him?

And we need to do something on terrorism insurance as well. This is an issue that I don't think a lot of Americans understand very well, and we're going to use this opportunity to explain it. I'm going to do my best to explain it. Tom Ridge and Larry Lindsey will follow up.

It's an issue because it is a jobs issue. If people can't buy insurance on a construction project, they're not going to build the project. And if they don't build the project, somebody's not working. That's the simplest way I can describe the issue at hand.

And we have a lack of insurance coverage now as a result of the enemy attack. I don't think they actually sat down and said, "Gosh,

if we attack, we'll affect the insurance industry of America." I think that was an unintended consequence of theirs, but nevertheless, it was a consequence.

And we in Washington must deal with it and must deal with it in a hurry, because the pace of new construction is dropping dramatically in America. Banks and investors and others will not finance construction projects that do not have terrorism insurance. In order to build a project, in order to employ people, you've got to borrow money, and you can't borrow money unless there's adequate terrorism insurance. And that's not being provided today.

Nonresidential construction is down 3 percent compared to January of 2002, and down 17 percent compared to February of 2001. That's an issue that the Congress must deal with. If people who want to work can't find work, something is wrong with the economy. They should not be fooled by the statistics. If people who are working a construction job are uncertain as to whether or not there will be a job for them tomorrow, that is a problem, and we need to deal with it. And when you see construction—nonresidential construction permitting down to the extent to which it is, it is a problem. And I expect the Congress to act.

The Hyatt Corporation has acquired a new site for a 1.5 million square foot office building in downtown Chicago. That ought to be encouraging news. It ought to be encouraging news for my friend the mayor. It ought to be encouraging news for people who wear the hardhat and work, the ironworkers and the construction workers. But they've got a problem finding terrorism coverage, and so they're not getting financing for the project. Somebody wants to build it; they can't get the money to do it because the insurance isn't available. This project is valued at \$400 million, will lead to the creation of 2,500 jobs, if the Hyatt Corporation could get insurance.

There are other examples as well. A \$2 billion resort in Nevada—you've got some influence out there, Jimmy—[laughter]—could provide 16,000 jobs, is on hold because they can't get insurance for terrorism. Imagine that. You know, you've got the chance to employ 16,000 people, but because something hasn't happened in the United States Con-

gress, it's not going forward. And that's not right.

We're worried about charities that may be forced to cut back on services to the needy because of the high cost of insurance. Pension funds for teachers and other workers that hold real estate assets may experience lower rates of return because of higher terrorism insurance costs. That affects someone's retirement system. The transportation industry will face strains from the lack of affordable terrorism insurance.

Secondly, while we're doing everything we can to stop terrorist attacks, the economy must be prepared to handle an attack if they do occur. We spend a lot of time here in Washington sniffing down every lead, looking for every opportunity to run down a clue as to—somebody might be trying to get us. And I am confident—I know we're doing everything we can, but I can't predict with 100 percent accuracy whether or not another attack won't occur.

And therefore, we'd better find terrorism insurance because without it, it would be a catastrophic problem if there is another attack. It would make it really hard for our economy to recover a second time if there's an attack, without adequate terrorism insurance. I mean, on the one hand we're talking about jobs, and on the other hand we're talking about recovery if there's an attack.

Now, we passed a bill in the House that basically put the Federal Government as a stopgap for terrorism insurance. Above a certain level of claim, the Federal Government would step in. And that's important. And now it's in the Senate, and the Senate needs to respond and act. The Senate needs to get this bill done quickly. All they've got to do is talk to people in this room, Republicans and Democrats alike. This isn't a bill that says, gosh, if it passes, it'll help somebody's political party. That's not what this is all about. This is a bill that helps workers and helps strengthen our economy.

This is an important piece of legislation. I've heard some talk in Capitol Hill that the facts don't justify this type of legislation, the facts don't justify the Federal Government stepping in as a stopgap. They're not looking at the right set of facts, as far as I'm concerned. And so I expect, for the good of our

economy and for the good of the country, that the Senate act.

And I want to thank you all for your interest in this bill, and I ask you to contact Members of the United States Senate. We believe there is bipartisan support for this bill. We believe that if it ever makes it to the floor, it passes. And I know that we can work with the House version, if it's somewhat different, to get something done quickly.

This is good for workers. This is good for America. This is a way to really handle a tough situation and to make our country stronger.

Now, the strength of the country, it really is in the hearts and souls of our people. People say to me, "Are you an optimistic fellow about the future of America?" The answer is, absolutely. Absolutely. I believe out of this evil that faced us will come some incredible good. I truly do. I believe that we'll achieve peace. If we're firm and tough and stand strong against terror, continue to lead a coalition of freedom-loving nations, that we'll achieve peace in areas where people don't think we can achieve peace. I truly believe that. I know some parts of the world look like they'll never be peaceful, but I don't believe that.

And I know at home, if we make the right moves, people are going to find work. But more importantly, I know this country is going to respond to evil because we're a loving nation and respond to evil by helping people in need.

My hope is that Americans seize this moment and show the world the true face of America. And it's a face that is really defined by millions of acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis. It happens when somebody mentors a child, or a mom tells her baby "I love you" every day, or somebody walks across the street and says to a shut-in, "I care for you." That's the America I know. That's the America that really is the country that's going to defeat evil—by acts of goodness and kindness.

I've never been more upbeat about a nation in my life, because I know the true strength of the country. And the true strength of the country is the American people.

Thanks for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:27 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Edward C. Sullivan, president, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Joseph J. Hunt, general president, International Association of Ironworkers; J.W. "Bill" Marriott, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, Marriott International, Inc.; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL. He also referred to H.R. 3210, the proposed "Terrorism Risk Protection Act"; and S. 1748, the proposed "Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2001."

Interview With the Wall Street Journal

April 8, 2002

Q. Thanks for doing this. This is really—I appreciate it a lot.

The President. You bet.

Q. It's a big event tomorrow for the Wall Street Journal.

The President. Well, I understand—yes, I understand you're kind of changing your format.

Q. Yes. It will look different, color.

The President. What about the sketches? What happened to the poor sketches?

Q. They'll still be there. You'll still get one.

Counselor Karen Hughes. This is—journal—

Q. Somewhat short.

Q. Subdued color. Champagne, as they call it.

The President. What is your job?

Q. I'm the Washington bureau chief.

The President. What is Al Hunt's job?

Q. He's the executive Washington editor. I can't define that exactly for you; somebody else will have to do that for you.

The President. Somebody upstairs somewhere.

Q. He's the guy you have to worry about.

The President. Good. That's why he's here. [Laughter]

Q. It's a good day to be here. It's a good day to be talking to a former oil guy, actually.

The President. Yes.

Iraqi Oil Exports/Energy Policy

Q. And I thought maybe we would start there. You saw what the Iraqis said today about cutting off oil exports.

The President. Taking production off for a month?

Q. Yes. And the Iranians and the Libyans have said similar things. Do you worry about some form of another Arab oil embargo or some form of oil embargo by some people?

The President. Here's my thoughts on that. One, it means that we need an energy policy that encourages diversification away from places like Iraq. You know, the ANWR debate has been amazing to watch because of the amount of misinformation that has been laid out there. But the reason I bring up ANWR is because it just so happens that once production is up and running on a very small footprint in the middle of this vast country, we can produce as much oil as Iraq produces on the world market.

A good energy policy is one that obviously encourages conservation and new technologies but is also one that helps America diversify away from sources of crude oil in places like Iraq. And I—the first I heard of this, I said this is a—justifies more than ever the call for exploration in areas where technology will allow us to do so in environmentally friendly ways.

I also saw the response of other nations, nations that were willing to step up and increase production, and I appreciate that as well.

My other reaction is that Saddam Hussein is willing to cut off production even though it affects his own people. It helps define the nature of this regime. I've told people as I've made the case for—about my strong feelings about Iraq, that this is a person who is willing to poison his own people. Now it looks like he's willing to cut off revenues so that he can't feed his own people. Anyway, I'm not—I mean, axis of evil.

Q. You mentioned the statements by other countries. Did you—have you heard anything from Saudi Arabia? Did Secretary Powell hear from Saudi Arabia?

The President. I haven't, not yet. He's, as a matter of fact, eating dinner with Crown Prince Abdullah as we speak. No, I just—

I thought Ari told me that there had been some movement on the—

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. They said they're not going to follow a call for an embargo; OPEC has said that.

Q. And in terms of—if you have Iraq, if you have Iran, possibly Libya, you still have a substantial effect on the market, couldn't it?

The President. Well, it could, absolutely. There is excess supply, and we'll just see how it plays out. But to me, it indicates that—well, that's another reason why we've got to be very cautious about making bold predictions about the economy. We're an energy-dependent nation. And as a result, it's—you know, it points up to part of the fragility of our economy. In other words, when you're dependent, a price spike can affect growth, obviously.

So I'm pleased with some of the progress being made, but as I told the folks there in this speech I just gave on terrorism insurance: You know, people can try all the numbers and prognostications and all they want; I'm the kind of fellow who believes that if somebody can't find work or is worried about their job, we've got a problem. And bad energy policy or the failure to have energy policy or the fact that we're dependent upon unstable countries is a reason why I am—do not believe that we're out of the economic woods yet.

Q. Is what Iraq is doing, does it amount to a hostile act against the U.S.?

The President. Well, I wouldn't call it a friendly gesture. It is—you know, this is a man who obviously hates America. And he's not just affecting America, by the way; it's affecting countries—all countries. If, in fact, his action has the—is able to run the price of crude up, it's going to affect Europe; it's going to affect poor nations; it's going to affect poor people around the world. This is a guy who has tried to manipulate the market for short-term gain for the wrong reason, is a person who is unfriendly to all nations, as far as I'm concerned.

Q. You would like a better energy policy; that's fine, and that's understandable. In the shorter term, if you've got a problem, there are some other options you can consider. You could think about SPROs out there.

The President. Could do that.

Q. There are gas taxes that could be reduced. Either of those options appeal to you?

The President. We'll look at all options. If, in fact, his threat—look, we're the kind of people that deal with problems; that's what happens in the White House. You're dealt a problem, and we deal with it. And we'll look at all options. But let's—I think we need to be a little careful about predicting whether or not this man is going to have the effect he wants to have until—

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. The effort to do something about Saddam Hussein has obviously been kind of put on hold while this Middle East situation gets sorted out. It could take a long time to sort out the Middle East situation. How long does it stay on hold?

The President. Well, not necessarily.

Q. Not necessarily—

The President. I wouldn't—you made—repeat your question. I think you made a pretty strong assumption in your question.

Q. Well, it's only based on the 20 years of history.

The President. No, what did you just say, though—seriously, I'm not being critical. I'm just curious. Again, you just said my plans for Iraq have been placed on hold?

Q. Yes. Is that incorrect?

The President. Iraq is a problem, and again, another reason why it's a problem, we witnessed today. And we are constantly talking with our friends and allies about Iraq. I spent a great deal of time this weekend talking to Tony Blair about Iraq. As I've said, all options are on the table for Iraq, and that's about all I've—pretty much about all I'm going to say. I don't know what you meant by—

Q. It would be wrong to say that your plans are on hold?

The President. You see, I assume from your question that we're not really thinking about Iraq now, that somehow, because the Middle East has flared up, any thought about Iraq or keeping a coalition together on Iraq—

Q. I was thinking more action rather than thought.

The President. Well, I mean, we're looking at all options. And Iraq is an important country. By the way, chasing down the Al Qaida killers is still a priority, even though the Middle East has flared up. I'm in no hurry on a lot of issues. I'm a patient man; I'm a deliberate person. I understand we live in a world where people are constantly saying, "Gosh, after 6 months, how come this isn't over?" Some people say that; most Americans don't feel that. They understand that we're in the long, long pull. So you've got to put everything in context.

And the way I am, I'm a deliberate, patient man when it comes to conducting this war, thorough war, to defend our freedom. And I have said publicly that the idea of an Al Qaida terrorist network hooking up or matching up with or allied with—let me start over—"allied with," I think, is a more understandable word—a nation that has developed a weapon of mass destruction is a scenario that I will not leave our children saddled with, in other words.

And again, my timeframe is longer rather than shorter. In other words, the fact that we haven't proved whether or not Saddam—or bin Laden is alive or dead or—he may be dead, may be alive, that fact just simply doesn't bother me. Because if he is alive, we're going to get him eventually, and if he's dead, that's fine, too.

But we're making progress there, just quietly, steadily making progress. Abu Zubaydah is a very good example; for those of you who follow the Al Qaida network, you understand the significance of an Abu Zubaydah capture. And anyway, I don't know if I answered your question properly. In other words, it almost implied that things have to be immediate on all fronts; otherwise, there's not a focus. And that's just not the case.

Q. Just as a prognostication—

The President. Just as a hypothetical?

Q. See, that's not what I was going to say. You can define it, I guess.

The President. Okay.

Q. Do you think if we're sitting here a year from now talking, Saddam Hussein is still going to be in power in Iraq?

The President. That's one of those hypotheticals. [Laughter] I'm not going to—

Gas Taxes

Q. Let me go back to something I mentioned earlier, gas taxes. Any reason for Republicans to start thinking about rolling back some gas taxes at this point?

The President. I think you're asking me—you're speculating on something that hasn't occurred yet.

Gas Prices

Q. Just to follow up on that, though, how much of a—do you have any sense of how much of an increase in the price of oil or the price of gas we could see as a result of this?

The President. No, I don't yet. I understand you all are trying to make news, but this is—this is a fresh statement by—so we've just got to see how the world reacts.

But one thing is for certain: The fact that people are concerned points up the fact that we had better do something for the good of our country in terms of diversification of supply away from sources of crude oil in places like Iraq.

Israeli Withdrawal From Palestinian Territories

Q. The other part of your Middle East problem today is obviously on the West Bank. You don't seem to have gotten much of a response.

The President. Actually, there is some new news. IDF announced they were withdrawing out of two Israeli cities. What are the names of them, Steve?

Deputy National Security Adviser Hadley. Tulkarm and Qalqilya.

The President. Qalqilya. That's right. And that's a beginning. If responsible leaders want peace, they must—there are clear things that they must do. The Arabs must condemn and fight terrorism. They must cut off funding. They must stop propagandizing about the great heroic martyrdom of suicide killers. They must explain clearly that Israel has a right to exist and they intend, as leaders, to coexist with Israel in a peaceful way.

The Israelis must continue withdrawal. I was very concerned that a point had been

reached at which it would be very difficult to achieve peace. We want peace. We have laid out the vision for peace, and Israel has recognized the Palestinian state. Israel has signed on to Tenet and Mitchell, as has the PLO. And my point is that Israel has recognized the framework for peace, and it's time for her to start pulling out in order to allow all of us who care about peace to be able to work to get peace in the region.

Q. Have you been told by the Israelis that this is a response, the beginning of a response to what you asked for in the last few days?

The President. I have not been told that. All I can tell you is they're beginning to withdraw, at least from these two cities, as of an hour ago.

Q. What did you think of the Prime Minister's speech to the Knesset? Have you had a chance to—

The President. Today?

Q. Yes.

The President. I didn't see it. I had a—the only thing I've heard from him was, we had a good conversation on Saturday.

Q. A good conversation?

The President. Yes. I mean, it was good in the sense that he knows where I stand, and he heard my—it was a good, frank discussion, let me put it to you that way. Ari told me that the word was moving around that it was a very hostile conversation. It wasn't. It was just a very frank discussion about two leaders who are concerned about the region.

Q. What he said today was basically—I don't know if I can get you the exact words—but, "We're going to keep going until we're done." It didn't say when that was going to be.

The President. I just can tell you they started pulling out of cities.

Q. When you talked to him, or just in general, are there consequences if that doesn't continue?

The President. It's going to continue.

Q. Sorry?

The President. I think it will continue.

Q. The withdrawal?

The President. I think he heard what I said, and I repeated it again today, prior to this news. And Colin Powell's mission is to continue to work to set the framework for

political discussions, and part of that is for Israel to withdraw.

Secretary of State Powell's Visit to the Middle East

Q. And as part of the Powell mission, do you anticipate him meeting with Arafat?

The President. It depends on the circumstances at the time. He's got full latitude to do what he thinks is necessary to get the process headed toward a political settlement.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. And if Yasser Arafat does what sort of things between now and when Security Powell gets there, is that more likely to happen?

The President. That's up to Powell. But obviously—listen, Yasser Arafat, as I've said—somebody asked me the other day, have I lost trust in him? I said, "Well, he never earned my trust."

The way you earn trust is by leading and by, you know, not squandering missed opportunities—squandering opportunities, creating missed opportunities after missed opportunities, to provide—here you've got a nation, America. I'm the first President, I believe, to have ever gone to the United Nations and laid out a vision for a Palestinian state at peace with Israel. And this is an administration that laid out the Tenet plan, embraced the Mitchell plan that was, I guess, finalized on my watch but started under President Clinton's watch. So you've had two administrations working toward a blueprint for peace. And Mr. Arafat, instead of focusing and seizing and using his energy to achieve this vision, has not led. So he's never earned my trust.

Q. So who leads, if Arafat doesn't?

The President. Arafat is the leader. That's who we're dealing with.

Secretary of State Powell's Visit to the Middle East

Q. Do you have any interest in having Powell see alternative Palestinian leaders while he's there?

The President. I think Colin ought to visit with whomever is necessary to move the peace agenda, and he'll just use his judgment. We've got General Zinni on the

ground there. Burns, I believe—Burns is with Powell. So we've got our experts there that understand the area very well. And Powell has got an agenda, which is to move the process toward a political settlement. And obviously, we've laid the conditions out in my speech on Thursday, as to what it will take. And he's got the U.N. resolution standing behind him, a blueprint toward where we need to get, and there are responsibilities on both parties.

Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Somebody suggested to me that one reason that you dispatched Secretary Powell was that the Saudis were—that you had some frank conversations with the Saudis over the last few days, including one in which they indicated the Crown Prince might not make it to Crawford, Texas, unless the situation—

The President. No.

Q. Can you describe the conversations with the Saudis on this point?

The President. Well, listen, the Saudis are just as concerned as other nations in the region. But the idea of saying, "You must do this, or else I'm not going to come to Crawford," just isn't—that didn't happen. Not only didn't it happen, it wouldn't be a very smart thing for anybody to do. It's just not the way I—it's not the way we do things in this administration.

Energy/National Economy

Q. Let me go back to oil for just a second, and then I think you want to switch to something else. Have you gotten, in any kind of conversations with the Saudis, any assurances that they are not in the oil embargo business anymore and that they'll try to make sure others don't—

The President. I'm sure the subject will come up with Colin and the Crown Prince, but this has been relatively—you know, this is new.

Q. Right.

The President. So it'll be a topic of conversation.

Q. Yes. Yes.

The President. And as Ari said, he felt like that the OPEC, as well as the Saudis—again, tell me the news; I haven't seen it.

This is all breaking since I just arrived from Knoxville.

Counselor Hughes. The President has been in Tennessee.

The President. Ari watched the whole speech on C-SPAN in Knoxville, didn't you?

Press Secretary Fleischer. Yes. They said they're not going along with the call.

The President. So we just have to see.

Q. But it's your—the recovery is fragile enough that there are things that can still throw it off track.

The President. Oh, I think so. I don't think the recovery is a given. And that's why we need to have this terrorism bill, terrorism insurance bill. I mean, there are things that Congress can do, and I think there are some signed signals we need to send. We need a trade bill. We need an energy bill—that will help—even though it won't happen immediately. Diversification won't happen immediately. It will help calm nerves. It means that the long term is more optimistic than not.

So there are things we need to do. California, the California energy situation wasn't a year ago. And yet, it seems like it was years ago that California looked like it was running out of energy. And to me, that was a wake-up call. Where are we going to get our gas from to fuel the electricity, the new plants that were built in California?

And you know, the Prime Minister of Canada is thrilled that we're increasing demand, because he's a major supplier of gas, and we're going to have to work with them. That's why I've got this hemispheric energy group, Mexico, Canada, the United States, meeting as to how to increase supplies in our hemisphere, the need for pipelines, and where they ought to go.

In other words, that's important. And Mexico, herself, is grappling with a constitutional issue on energy. We export about 8 percent of our natural gas to Mexico. And obviously, to the extent that Mexico is able to attract capital and explore for more gas, it's good for Mexico in terms of jobs; it's good for their cash flow; and it's good for the energy picture in our hemisphere.

In my judgment, obviously, we've got to go to Alaska. It's a part of a strategy to diversify away from unstable sources of energy.

And we need more nuclear power as well. That's why the Yucca Mountain issue is an issue. We need clean coal technology. We need a comprehensive effort. And we need conservation as well. The interesting fact that came out of the California energy crisis was that they increased their conservation by about 10 percent, which is significant and necessary and good.

I believe that some of the—I've got faith that technology will—that we will have new automobiles. But it's not going to be quick enough to deal with immediate issues in the Middle East, for example. In other words, down the road there is going to be some new technology. We'll still be driving, all of us; we'll still be driving, and we'll be driving cars that make us less dependent on foreign sources of crude and are much cleaner burning.

Corporate Management Reform

Q. You wanted to switch to corporate—

Q. Yes. Well, you were talking about things that potentially threaten the recovery. Do you think that the—I don't know if "crisis" in confidence is too strong a word, but the feeling, you know, the concerns about corporate governments is a serious—

The President. I think it's a serious—I think it's an issue that we need to look at and look at very carefully. I think the markets reflect the fact, though, that most investors have still got confidence in our economy and in corporate America. But reforms are necessary, and the CEOs need to be held accountable for full exposure or full detail of assets and liabilities. There needs to be pension review. If officers sell, the employees ought to be able sell. There ought to be better information sharing. There ought to be more diversification.

On the other hand, we've got to make sure that we don't disincite companies for 401(k) compensation. I think it's a vital part of building up savings for our workers.

There are discussions now about options, how we handle options. I think options are important. I think they're a good incentive program. I think once options earn the money, that they ought to be calculated in the dilution of—yes, be part of the—that they ought to be dilutive in their earnings

per share calculations. To me, that seems like a reasonable way to handle that issue so that people fully understand the effect of options being granted.

Q. But not as Chairman Greenspan has suggested, expensing?

The President. My personal opinion is that—and I think most of the people in my administration feel like the best way to calculate—you know, earnings are earnings. And earnings per share is the calculation oftentimes used in an investment decision. And so we ought to state the earnings for what they are and affect the earnings per share. Listen, Alan Greenspan is very smart; I hate to get into a debate with him. But my view is, is that it achieves both objectives. One, what are the true earnings of the company? And two, what is the dilutive effect of options in the money? We may perhaps get to the same end that he is trying to achieve, and that is a full accounting of options. To me, that's a reasonable way to do that.

Arthur Andersen/Corporate Responsibility

Q. One of the things that's happening right now is that, obviously, Arthur Andersen is teetering on the brink. Are you—is it possible the Justice Department went a little too far and a little too hard after Arthur Andersen? Are you comfortable with the idea that they might go away, as a result of what the Justice Department has done?

The President. Well, I believe people ought to be held responsible for decisions made, and I will refer—I'll ask you to refer your questions to the Justice Department as to their tactics and decisions. Since they filed the suit, they'll be good at explaining it to you.

Q. But there are policy—I mean, there are policy issues involved. And some people say the way the Justice Department went at it is—you know, threatened to put thousands of people on the street who were totally innocent and all of this.

The President. There is a need to hold people responsible. I oftentimes talk about responsibility era—each of us need to be personally—you know, personal responsibility. I also make sure I broaden that to corporate responsibility as well. There is a responsibility

for leadership to conduct themselves in a responsible way. I'll leave the details to the Justice Department, but the idea of holding people accountable or entities accountable is a very important part of ushering in the responsible era. And we'll let—there are all kinds of pundits, and I've heard this, that, and other. We'll just let the Justice Department answer those questions about the tactics.

Q. Do you think corporate America had kind of gotten away from that responsibility?

The President. I think—I do think there have been periods where the growth and the apparent creation of wealth gets so kind of easy, in a way, that people forget—not all people but some forget.

I remember the oil business in the early eighties, and people would say, "The price is going to 100." You know? And investment decisions were pretty lax. It just seemed like there was this kind of euphoria that swept up this particular sector. And every IPO hit, and everybody was in the money and options. It just seemed like the sky was the limit. There was never going to be any reality.

And during those periods of time, sometimes, some fail to remember that they have a responsibility to people other than themselves—namely, shareholders. And when we look back at this period, I think we'll find some incidents of that.

You asked me whether or not those incidents would cause lack of confidence in the future. I don't think so at all, and I think the market reflects that. On the other hand, it does call us to action, and that's one of the reasons why we've laid out a series of initiatives to deal with this issue.

I worry about a board of directors that are too acquiescent to a CEO, beholden not to the shareholder but to the CEO. That concerns me. I'm not sure of the law that you can pass necessarily, but I do think there is a culture that can evolve out of this period of time which will remind people they have a responsibility as leaders of a corporation.

Q. Can you do anything to make that evolution happen?

The President. Well, I think it is happening. I can't, as the President, call upon, reform and change and call people to account, in a broad sense. I mean, I'm not

going to get involved in every lawsuit that comes down the pike, but I can remind people that we have a responsibility as citizens.

And there is a big responsibility in corporate America amongst the CEOs who treat their workers with respect. I was particularly grateful of the automobile manufacturers to promote product with keeping their workers' livelihoods in mind. I thought that was noble during this period of time. That sometimes stands in contrast to a corporate stereotype where people say, you know, "I don't really care about the livelihood of the workers. For me, I'm going to bottom line, focus immediate bottom line." There is a responsibility that these leaders have.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Can I just return to the Middle East for a second? I can't get over it. When—

The President. You're writing about it for your whole life.

Q. I know. I'm stuck. I'm in a rut; I admit it. It's pathetic. *[Laughter]*

The President. No, it's important.

Q. Sometimes.

The President. You know, it's an issue that has consumed enormous amounts of time by this administration and every administration preceding me in modern history.

Q. It's lifetime employment for journalists, too.

The President. It's an important issue. It's an issue in which we've got enormous stake. It is an issue that—there has to be a vision of peace; there has to be a commitment to peace. And my job is to lay out that vision and to lead parties to the steps necessary to achieve the vision. And it's going to take a while.

Step one, in order to get there, is withdrawal of troops, from the Israeli perspective; and for the Arabs, to stand up and be accountable for holding—cutting off financing of terrorists and disrupting terrorist networks. These are people that do not—the terrorists and bombers do not want peace. They want to kill to prevent peace.

Q. Just to finish that thought, though—as you've often said, you're an optimistic person.

The President. Yes.

Q. Doesn't it feel like we're further away from any kind of a resolution than we've been in a long time?

The President. Well, I—listen, I hate the killing. Yes, in one way it seems like we're a long way away from peace, obviously, when you turn on your TV and see death, suicide bombers blowing up Passover celebrations, young Arab girl blowing up a young Israeli girl.

But I also know if the innate goodness of mankind and that there are people who understand that this way is—as I said, enough is enough. I think there is enough good will in the region, inherent goodness of the people on both sides of the issue that we'll ultimately have leadership say, "We're sick of this, and now let's work together."

I don't know if it's going to be a month or a year, however long. But nevertheless, this is a—and you have to look at it that way. You have to believe that peace is possible, and I believe it is. Ask Jerry Seib if peace is possible. He knows this issue better than me.

But I believe it is, and my administration will continue to work as if it is achievable. And one of our jobs is to pick and choose the time when we spend capital, be judicious in how we approach these issues, to not create false expectations, to be realistic about what's possible, and lead.

But in order to lead, you've got to see a better day. And I feel that. This picture right here says—it's a Tom Lea. He wrote the line, "Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It's the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone." And I love that picture, because I love the man and I love Texas; because I also love the quote, because it is a frame of mind necessary—it's a frame of mind that a President must have in order to be a good President.

And I believe that there are a lot of people in the Middle East, average, hard-working mothers and fathers, who want to see a better day. And we've got to lead to that better day.

NOTE: The interview began at 5 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden and

Abu Zubaydah, leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; and Jerry Seib, Washington bureau deputy chief, Wall Street Journal. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the India-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters With Documentation

April 8, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at New Delhi on October 17, 2001. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties that the United States has concluded or is negotiating in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the investigation and prosecution of a wide variety of modern crimes, including terrorism-related crimes, drug trafficking, and "white collar" crimes. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters and related proceedings. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: (1) taking the testimony or statements of persons; (2) providing documents, records, and items of evidence; (3) locating or identifying persons or items; (4) serving documents; (5) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (6) executing requests for searches

and seizures; (7) assisting in proceedings relating to seizure and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and (8) rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 8, 2002.

Remarks on the Proposed "Citizen Service Act" in Bridgeport, Connecticut

April 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate so very much your warm welcome. I am delighted to be here in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I want to spend some time with you today talking about the spirit of our country, the great American spirit which has been tested in recent times. But history will record that we've met the test.

I saw some of that spirit today in the South End Community Center. I met a fine executive director named Tony Tozzi, and thank you, Tony, for your hospitality. I saw members of AmeriCorps who were mentoring children. I saw members of the Senior Corps, the Foster Grandparent Program who, as opposed to kind of settling in, these Senior Corps members decided to continue to give something to our society. And many are giving the most important gift of all, and that is to teach a child how to read. I want to thank you.

I appreciate Catherine Milton, the vice president and executive director of Save the Children. Thank you very much, Catherine, for your focus.

I want to thank my friend Steve Goldsmith for taking on the important assignment of being the chairman of the Corporation for National and Community Service. One of the things I feel very passionate about is our need to inspire the armies of compassion, which exist in neighborhoods all throughout America. And you'll hear me talk a little later on

about the need to fight evil by doing some good. And one of Steve's jobs is to help gather the spirit of America and channel it and focus it so everybody understands the American experience, the hope of America belongs to them, no matter where they live or how they were raised.

I want to thank my friend the Governor of Connecticut, Johnny Rowland, and the first lady, Patty Rowland, for being here as well. I want to thank Chris and Betsi Shays, the Congressman and wife from this district. And I also want to thank two other members from the Connecticut congressional delegation, friends of mine, Nancy Johnson and Rob Simmons. Thank you all for being here. Thanks for coming.

You know, I can't imagine what went through the mind of the evil people when they attacked America. I'm trying to—I've always tried to figure out who they thought they were attacking. You know, what were they thinking? They must have thought that this Nation had no character, that we were so materialistic and self-absorbed that we wouldn't act, that we might just—all we'd do was sue them. *[Laughter]* They didn't understand the true character of the American country, the Nation.

You see, we love freedom. We love the freedom to worship the way we see fit. We welcome all faiths in America, Christian faiths, Jewish faith, Muslim faith. We welcome faith. We believe in freedom to worship. We believe in freedom to speak out loud. We believe in freedom of the press. We believe in free elections. We believe in the dignity and worth of every individual. That's what we believe.

And if somebody attacks those beliefs, we'll respond. That's the character of our country, is that when we believe something, we stand up for it. We are slow to anger, but when angered, watch out. We also are—we're a nation that does not seek revenge. That's not in the American character, as far as I'm concerned. We seek justice. We're a nation of justice. This Nation has also showed remarkable character in this way: We're patient; we're a patient nation; and we're a disciplined and focused nation.

Americans understand that the new war of the 21st century, the struggle for civiliza-

tion, itself, is going to take a while. You know, we live in an age where things happen so quickly that one of my concerns after September the 11th was the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more our grief was behind us, that I thought the American people might forget that which is at stake. That's not the case—much to the chagrin of the killers, who continue to want to bring harm to America.

Make no mistake about this, that we're in for the long pull because there are people who hate us. They hate what we stand for, and they're killers. They use killing to justify their beliefs, and I'm not going to let that stand. My job is to protect the American people. And our job is to stand strong so that our children and our children's children will know the freedoms that we knew growing up. That's what's at stake, my fellow Americans; at least that's how I view it. And so long as I'm the President, that's going to be the view of this Government.

In 6 short months we have made remarkable progress. We really have. You know, I said early on, I said to the people, "You're either with us, or you're against us." I said, "Either you're standing with the United States of America in our quest and desire to protect freedom, or you're not. There is no middle ground." And I'm proud to report the coalition—there has been a vast coalition of nations that have joined us, nations of all stripes, all who understand what's at stake. I also said that if you harbor a terrorist and you feed one, you're just as guilty as the murderers who came to New York City and Washington, DC. And as a result of a great United States military and a military of many of our friends, we have liberated a country.

It's important for the young here to hear this: We didn't go into Afghanistan as conquerors; this great Nation led a coalition of military folks to go into Afghanistan as liberators. It's hard for Americans to know and to believe, but many young girls were not allowed to go to school in Afghanistan because of the barbaric nature of the Taliban regime. But thanks to the United States, and thanks to our friends and allies, girls now go to school in Afghanistan, for which I am mighty proud.

That is the character of the American people. We're plenty tough when we need to be, and we'll remain tough. But we're also compassionate. We care deeply about our fellow citizens in this world. We care deeply about the plight of children, no matter where they may live. That's our nature. And that's how I feel about it at home too. I feel like out of this evil is going to come some incredible good. I believe—I believe—that out of this evil will come peace in regions of the world that we never dreamt would be peaceful.

It's not going to be easy, and we're going to have to lead. And we're going to have to be diligent and resist and fight terror wherever we find it. But we've got a good chance for long-lasting peace. And at home there is going to be some incredible good that comes out of this evil, because Americans have got great character, and Americans care for their neighbors in need.

People say, "What can I do to join the war against terror?" And I say, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, find somebody to help. And I'm prepared to help you find somebody to help, if you want help. If you want to find a way to help your country, that's what I'm here to talk about. There are all kinds of ways to help; don't get me wrong. I mean, you can go to your church or synagogue and mosque and help a lot. You can help a lot. You can help a program—devise a program to feed the homeless, help put a program together that goes into some of the pockets of despair in America and spread love, one person at a time. That's what you can do to help.

Service and voluntarism are an integral part of the American character. DeToqueville discovered that years ago, and if he were to come back, he'd be just as proud of America now as he was then, when it came to the willingness of our citizens to serve each other.

You know, I have been so impressed by the living spirit in America. It's been unbelievable to see firsthand how alive this country has become, how focused our Nation is on serving something greater than ourselves. Perhaps it had to do with the vivid lesson of Flight 93. Here we are; we're a nation

kind of moving along; we thought oceans would separate us from any threats; kind of, you know, perhaps in a culture of self-absorption. And all of a sudden, people on an airplane called their loved ones, told them they loved them, said a prayer, and sacrificed to save somebody else's life.

To me, that was one of the most meaningful moments of September 11th and on. It spoke of a spirit that—of America that recognizes there's something greater than ourselves, the need to serve our fellow mankind. These folks did it in the most courageous of ways, but we can do it in other ways as well here at home.

And so in my State of the Union or my speech to the Nation—whatever you want to call it, speech to the Nation—[laughter]—I asked Americans to give 4,000 hours over the next—over the rest of your life of service to America. That's what I asked. I said, 4,000 hours. Now, many of you already do that. So this is—there you go—this is a drop in the bucket for you. I understand that. But many Americans don't. So 4,000 hours of service for the remainder of your life. I set that as a goal, and Americans are responding. Many have heard the call.

And in order to channel that enthusiasm, we set up what's called the USA Freedom Corps. And inside the USA Freedom Corps, we're focused on three distinct areas, one, the Citizen Corps.

I was in Knoxville, Tennessee, yesterday heralding the Citizen Corps program. This is a chance for people to help the police, the firefighters, the local emergency medical teams to respond to any disaster that might occur. And if you're interested in helping the brave men and women of the police force or fire force or emergency medical teams in your community, join. Join the Citizen Corps. It is a way to help secure America and prepare America for a disaster if one should come.

And then, of course, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps are an integral part of the USA Freedom Corps. These are programs that recognize that in America, we can change our country one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. You see, I used to like to say that Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope

in people's hearts. That requires a loving, hopeful person to do just that. And I view AmeriCorps and Senior Corps as ways to tap into the great talent and strength and compassion of America to help people in need.

And then we've got the Peace Corps, and the Peace Corps is a great way for Americans to help teach the world about the universal values that we hold dear, the true nature of America, which sometimes is distorted around the world. People don't have the true picture of our country. And one way to make sure they do is to have compassionate citizens go into communities all around the world to teach—to teach all kinds of things. But the most important lesson they teach is that we're a loving country, that we care deeply about the citizens of the world.

And so if you're interested in helping the country in those three areas, you can call 1-877-USA-CORPS. Pick up your phone and dial—[laughter]—or if you're one of these high-tech souls, usafreedomcorps.gov. And you'll find a way to help the country. This will give you a chance to participate. And this is just one way, I emphasize. It's one opportunity. And by the way, through this Web site, you'll find other programs in the communities in which you live that will provide an outlet for your energy and your compassion.

You need to know that just so people—there is a gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that are taking place in the country. We've had—29,000 people requested applications for the Peace Corps in 6 months. Applications to join AmeriCorps are up by more than 70 percent. Twenty-five thousand people have signed up for the Citizens Corps. In other words, Americans are responding, and for that, all of us are grateful.

And one of the things I'm here to talk about is how to expand America's service programs and how to make them better and how to bring in new volunteers and, at the same time, make sure that which we're funding works, that we're actually meeting some goals.

I look forward to working with the Congress. I'm going to talk to the Members who are traveling back with me to Washington, DC, after these events, to talk about the re-

authorization of these programs. The discussions are beginning to come up this week, so part of my speech is to lay the groundwork for how I think the reauthorization of these important Federal initiatives proceed.

And one of the things is funding, of course. That's an important part of any process. And I've asked for \$290 million in new funding for these programs for the year 2003. And it's to help meet these goals: 25,000 additional, new AmeriCorps members, 25,000 more than we have now today all across the country; 100,000 new Senior Corps members; and two hundred to three hundred thousand students in the Federal workstudy program. That's what we're aiming at; that's the goal we've set. Some say it's too ambitious—nothing is too ambitious for America, as far as I'm concerned.

And here are some ways we can help make the programs more effective. First, by removing barriers that discourage seniors from joining the Senior Corps. Now, remember, the Senior Corps has got programs within it like the Foster Grandparent Program, programs all aimed at using the talents of our seniors to help make citizens' lives better where people are losing hope, where despair is too common and too prevalent.

Now, under the current law, volunteers cannot join some Senior Corps programs until they reach the age of 60. I think we need to lower it. And so I chose 55, my age. I guess I'm now eligible for Senior Corps, if they'd finally give me a chance to participate. My mother is not going to believe I'm eligible for Senior Corps. [Laughter] But if we can get this through the Congress, I will be.

We need to encourage programs to expand, to give people an outlet and a chance to participate. And we need to eliminate income tests that keep seniors out of the program. Believe this or not—believe it or not—some people are not allowed to participate in Senior Corps because they make too much money. That doesn't make any sense. And I'm confident that the Congresspeople here recognize that we've got to make sure Senior Corps is open to as many people who are willing to put up their hand and say, "I love America, and I want to help."

Many seniors participate in AmeriCorps, and that's good. That's what we want. Under a new proposal that I'm making to Congress, seniors who join AmeriCorps should be able to earn what we call a Silver Scholarship. In other words, when you work for AmeriCorps you get a scholarship if you go on to college. A senior who has already been to college should be able to earn that same scholarship and donate that to a member of their family, if they so choose. It makes sense to have older Americans helping younger Americans and at the same time helping their families as well.

I want to read this, by a girl named Nicole who works in Baltimore. She's an AmeriCorps member. Perhaps some of the AmeriCorps members will understand what she's saying when I read this to you: "None of it would have happened if I had not done AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps redirected my life forever. I know the direction my life is in: service to others, particularly the poor."

This is Nicole's reflection upon what it meant to work for AmeriCorps. It is a beautiful spirit, an important spirit for America. And so we're trying to figure out ways to make sure that AmeriCorps is attractive to young—to the Nicoles of the country. Right now, AmeriCorps members who complete a year of service receive an education award worth almost \$4,700; \$4,700 that will help them go to school. And that's good; it's really good. Under the proposal I'm making is that that award ought to be tax exempt and the \$4,700 ought to have a cost-of-living adjustment.

As well, we need to reform the Federal workstudy programs. These are programs which encourage students to work off their Federal loans. It makes sense if you borrow money, that you ought to work them off. And the fundamental question is, how do we let them work it off? Right now, 7 percent—only 7 percent of the workstudy funds are required to be devoted to students who tutor, mentor, or perform other forms of service in their community, 7 percent. And so we think that we ought to raise that number to 50 percent, to say that we recognize that an incredibly valuable contribution to our society is to allow 50 percent of the students to work off their Federal loans by mentoring,

by tutoring, by becoming involved in community programs which change America one person, one soul, one conscience at a time.

One of the things we hear is that Governors and mayors and local authorities are frustrated by the bureaucracy in Washington, DC. I understand. I've been there, myself. I have been frustrated, when I was the Governor of Texas, with the bureaucracy in Washington. Goldsmith's job, as well as Les', the executive director, is to reduce the amount of bureaucracy and to trust the States and local authorities more, to give the States and local authorities more flexibility as we—how to apply these monies to meeting the needs of the local folks.

It is very important that Washington—it's important that Washington provide flexibility in selecting the groups and charities in which AmeriCorps volunteers will be placed. We've got to trust the local folks to understand local problems. You know, I like to tell people, not all the wisdom of the world is in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

But we also want to make sure people are held accountable. We want to make sure when we spend money, that it meets needs. And so Steve and the good folks at the Corporation for National Community Service are going to develop clear standards and reasonable measures of performance so that we know whether or not we're being successful. I think that's really important. I think that's what the American taxpayer expects. They expect results, and I expect results.

And so if a program is failing, we ought to be willing to blow the whistle on failure, just for the good of the people. We're trying to help. And when a program is successful, we ought to be praising the program and its success and the people who are helping.

It is important, as well, that we make sure that we create a new standard of accountability for service-learning programs in America too. The whole purpose of accountability in government is to make sure that we're succeeding. And in this case, we're aiming for a noble goal, and this is a hopeful America, a promising America, an America that says clearly to everybody: This wonderful experience and this great land belongs to you just as much as it belongs to somebody else.

I've come to talk a little bit about the character of the country, and it's a character being defined by the moment at hand. History will look back at us; generations will look back at us; and I believe they're going to say, thanks, thanks to the people who stood strong when it came to defending freedom, thanks to those who sacrificed in our military, thanks to the Congress for making sure the military had the resources necessary to take on a long struggle.

Listen, you've just got to know, there's no cave deep enough—there's no cave deep enough—for the long arm of American justice. There is no calendar. There is no calendar on my desk that says, if we don't get—if so-and-so doesn't show up, then this thing ends. That's just not the way I think. I'm a patient man, and so is the American people, much to the chagrin—much to the chagrin of the enemy that still wants to take us on.

And we'll look back at the history of America, though—I believe this is going to happen—and say what a fantastic period of time it was for kids to grow up in our country where we insisted upon quality education for every child, where there was after-school programs available, manned by loving citizens who put their arm around those who might seem hopeless and say, “I love you a lot. I love you a lot, and you're going to college.”

This is a time when you're going to find, I believe, in American history where our Government, instead of fearing faith and faith-based programs, welcomes faith and faith-based programs into the compassionate delivery—[*applause*]. This will be a time in American history when those of us in Washington, DC, or in the State capitals, recognize that oftentimes the most hopeful and promising programs of help come from places of worship. It doesn't matter what their religion is; the people hear that universal call to love somebody just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

This is a period of time when America, instead of cowering in the face of terrorism, stood defiantly in the face of evil; when not only did we fight for freedom, but we promoted the peace. And this will be a time in history when our Nation's compassion comes forth, where the collective face of America

is a compassionate, joyous nation, that will not allow evil to prevail and, in turn, make sure our neighbors are loved just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

You can understand why I'm optimistic about our country, because I am the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the earth. Thank you for coming. May God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. at the Klein Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Leslie Lenkowsky, chief executive officer, Corporation for National and Community Service. The President's principles for the proposed legislation were outlined in “Principles and Reforms for a Citizen Service Act,” made available April 9 on the White House Web site.

Remarks at a Republican Luncheon in Greenwich, Connecticut

April 9, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. It's nice to be back in the State in which I was born. I was running for Congress one time, and they accused me of not being able to represent the people of west Texas because I was born in Connecticut. And I said, “Heck, I just wanted to be close to my mother on that day.” [*Laughter*]

I know I've got a lot of people here are friends of Mother and Dad's. I just want you to know they're doing great, and so am I, and so is my wife. I'm sorry Laura couldn't be with us today. She went to the Queen Mother's funeral in London, and she's flying back tonight. But let me just tell you, for somebody who is a public school librarian, who wasn't all that thrilled about politics and all that in love with politicians, she's made a fabulous First Lady; she really has. She's brought a lot of comfort to the Nation when we needed to be comforted, and she brings a quiet dignity that I'm most proud of.

I also want to thank my friend Johnny Rowland. I'm here because I want the people of Connecticut to reelect Johnny. He's done a heck of a job as your Governor. And you get a good Lieutenant Governor with him as well. I appreciate Lieutenant Governor

Jodi Rell* for being here. Thank you very much. It's great to see you again. Lieutenant Governor Rell and I spent some quality time campaigning together, and I found her to be a very bright, very accomplished soul. It's great to see you again, Jodi.*

And I'm also here because I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House. It is important that we elect Republicans from Connecticut to support Denny Hastert.

I remember one time, right after—in the fall, people said, “Well, do you plan on campaigning?” I said, “Yes, I plan on campaigning.” It is in my interest to campaign for good candidates, because I think it's in the Nation's interest that we have people like Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson and Rob Simmons represent the good people of Connecticut in Washington, DC.

I appreciate Shays. *[Laughter]* Sometimes, he appreciates me. *[Laughter]* But I enjoy working with him because he's a man of deep compassion. He cares deeply about the human condition, and so does his wife, Betsi. And it's been an honor to call them friends, and I appreciate you all very much.

I want to thank Charlie Glazer, the event chairman, longtime friend. I appreciate your tireless work. And I want to thank those who represent the grassroots of the Connecticut party. Oftentimes, those of us in public office only focus on one aspect of politics. But I like to remind people that it takes the good folks dialing the phones and mailing the mail, holding those signs up—at least the ones that say nice things on them. *[Laughter]* They're the ones who really oftentimes don't get the credit. And so for those of you who have toiled in the vineyards on behalf of candidates such as me and those on the stage, thanks from the bottom of our heart. And thank you all for helping the party, which helps Johnny, and helping the two candidates who have got serious challenges.

First, on Johnny. The way we like to put it in Texas is, he's the kind of fellow that does in office what he said he would do. I can't tell you how important it is to have people who hold office who deliver. And one of the jobs of a Governor is to help restore faith in the political process of a particular State. And the best way to defeat cynicism

is to accomplish things on behalf of everybody, is to rise above the traditional noise that tends to dominate the political scene and perform. And that's what Johnny has done. He said he would cut taxes, and he did. He said he would reduce those taxes which inhibited growth in the State of Connecticut, and he did. And as a result, the economy here has been vibrant and exciting, thanks to Johnny's leadership.

Listen, he understands what I understand: Governments don't create wealth—we know that—but governments need to create an environment in which people are willing to risk capital, in which the entrepreneur can flourish. That's what's happening in Connecticut, thanks to Johnny Rowland's leadership.

I gave a speech the other day on the importance of making sure that children learn how to read early in life, so that when they start kindergarten, there's not this huge learning gap that takes place in America. Johnny figured that out way before my speech. He figured out preschool education was important before a lot of other people knew it was important. And I appreciate Johnny's efforts on focusing the State of Connecticut and his budget on preschool programs as well as spending billions of dollars to make sure class sizes are smaller in the State of Connecticut.

Listen, we passed historic education reform in Washington, DC. And thanks to the Members on the stage and both Republicans and Democrats working together, finally, in Washington, we were able to pass a meaningful piece of legislation, part of which is to not only hold people to high standards and to expect the best out of every child, but part of it is we're going to trust the Governors and local people to figure out the path to excellence. And it gives me great confidence in supporting such a bill, knowing that Johnny Rowland is the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Serious crime has dropped by 15.7 percent in the State of Connecticut since Johnny's been the Governor. His record speaks for itself, and I'm confident the State will be wise enough to send Johnny back to the statehouse for another term. I certainly hope so, because he's a good man.

And Nancy Johnson's got a race. And surely the people of her congressional district are

* White House correction.

going to be wise enough to send this good soul back to Washington, DC, because she is a good soul. She's the dean of the delegation. She's a leader in the Republican Party. She has got enormous respect on both sides of the aisle, and that's important. If you're a person who goes to Washington to get something done, you've got to have the respect on both sides of the aisle, and Nancy Johnson does. She is—she has been in the Oval Office more than one time with steady counsel and good advice, and she's not afraid to give it. *[Laughter]*

She is a leading authority on health care and retirement security. If I've heard her say one time, I've heard her say 50 times, "Let's work together to get a plan to make sure our seniors have got prescription drug coverage." I agree with Nancy. We need to work together to achieve some important national objectives.

Nancy is a builder. She's a good, steady soul. She is working on pension reform, and she proudly stood with me when it came time to cut the taxes. And I want you to know we cut the taxes right at the right time. She understands that when you give people their money back or let them keep their own money in the first place, it increases demand. And when you increase demand, somebody is going to supply something for you. And when they supply that good or service, it means jobs. Cutting taxes, which I understand was unpopular on some of the opinion pages around America, was the exact right thing to do, and I want to thank Nancy and Rob and Chris for their support.

And we sent the death tax on its way. We're getting rid of that death tax. But unfortunately, there is a quirk in the law that means that the repeal of the death tax is not permanent. It's hard for me to explain why you eliminate the death tax, and all of a sudden it's able to come back to life. *[Laughter]* That's Washington. *[Laughter]*

We need to make the tax cuts permanent, and the three Members from the United States Congress understand that the repeal of the death tax is an important part of letting people realize the American Dream. And we've got small-business owners all over the country who've worked all their life, who want to leave their business to their heirs,

to a son or a daughter, and can't do so because of the death tax.

Listen, getting rid of the death tax was great for farmers and ranchers. It's good to—it's a good policy if you're worried about urban sprawl, so they can keep the farmland in their families for generations. And we need to make it permanent. We need to make sure that the good work we did doesn't change because of a quirk in how Washington works. So the three Members up here are going to be important to make sure that the repeal of the death tax is forever, and that will be good for the country.

And I appreciate Rob Simmons. He and I showed up about the same time in Washington. *[Laughter]* And he is doing a fine, fine job. He's respected. When he speaks, people listen to what he has to say. As you know, he has had a lifetime of service to the country. He worked for the CIA after he served in the Army. He worked on the Senate staff. He's in the State legislature. He's worked hard, very hard, at every position he's held. And he's been a very fine Member of the United States Congress. He cares deeply about our veterans. He's a member of the Committee of Veteran Affairs. He knows our country owes a lot to the people who have worn the uniform. He's also on the Armed Services Committee. The Armed Services Committee is important for the State of Connecticut. It's important to have his voice heard on behalf of not only Connecticut, of course, but the entire Nation. But I'm confident he'd tell you things about Connecticut first. *[Laughter]* And the people of his district will be doing the State of Connecticut a very important service to send him back to Washington, DC, as well.

I have mentioned a couple of the issues that we've worked on, education and tax relief. But there's a lot to do in Washington. We need an energy policy, an energy policy on the one hand that enhances conservation, that unleashes the technology of the country to enable our cars to run cleaner, our plants to burn cleaner. But we need to explore more, too. We need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. This was made pretty clear the other day when Saddam Hussein stands up and announces he's going to try to organize an oil boycott. You

know my opinion about Saddam. *[Laughter]* The world's not going to follow him. But it just goes to show how important it is to diversify our supply away from places like Iraq.

We need to have trade promotion authority passed for the good of American workers. I need to be able to negotiate trade agreements with countries all around the world. That bill passed the House, just like the energy bill. It stalled in the Senate.

Nothing seems to be moving out of the Senate these days. A faith-based initiative passed the House. It is now sponsored by Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. It's stalled in the Senate.

We've got a lot of work to do in Washington, DC, and I appreciate these House Members' support. But there's no greater work to be done than to protect the American people. I have submitted a budget that prioritizes homeland defense and our national security. I submitted a budget that recognizes that we've got to prepare America for whatever emergency may come, a budget that puts ample amount of money in place to enable our first-responders, our brave police and firefighters and EMS crews all around the country, to have the equipment and training necessary to respond should the enemy hit us again.

I know the Coast Guard Academy is based here. In my budget, I beefed up the Coast Guard in order to make sure that our borders are more secure.

We've got to change the INS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, so we understand who's coming into our country and what is their purpose for coming into our country. We've got to make sure we have a mechanism in place to deal with any bioterrorist attack that may occur. And so we've got—and I've got a good man, a friend of Johnny's and mine who is a fellow Governor of ours from Pennsylvania named Tom Ridge, running this operation.

You also need to know that every morning that I'm in Washington, I go into the Oval Office—which is a fabulous office, by the way. *[Laughter]* It's a great shrine to our country. I sit at the desk where the Roosevelts—I guess since I'm a President, I can call them the Roosevelt boys—sat at the

desk, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan. And I think my dad had a different desk.

And so I sit there and open up a threat assessment that our people put together about noise we hear of one kind or another about the enemy still is interested in hitting us. And so I'm reminded every day that my job is to protect America, which I'm going to do. Any time we get a hint, any time we get any evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something, you need to know we're moving, and we're moving in a way that would make you proud.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to find the enemy wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. The best way—make no mistake about it—you should not be confused about the nature of the people we're dealing with. They hate us because we're free. They hate the thought that Americans welcome all religions; they can't stand that thought. They hate the thought that we educate everybody. They hate our freedoms. They hate the fact that we hold each individual—we dignify each individual. We believe in the dignity of every person. They can't stand that.

And the only way they know to express themselves is through killing, coldblooded killing. And so we need to treat them the way they are, as international criminals. And that's why my defense budget is the largest increase in 20 years. You know, the price of freedom is high, but for me it's never too high because we fight for freedom.

I've tried to speak as clearly as I possibly can. You're either with us, or you're not with us. You're either with us, or you're against us. And the good news is, there's a lot of people with us. A lot of people love freedom like we do, and we've got a vast coalition we've put together that we work on. I had the honor of welcoming Tony Blair down to the ranch. We've got no finer friend, no stronger partner in our quest for freedom than Tony Blair.

I also said that if you hide a terrorist or feed one, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators.

It is so hard for people to understand, the fact that this was a government—it's hard for

people in America to understand that this is a government that would not let young girls go to school. I mean, these were barbaric, backward people. And we got them out of office. And not only did we get them out of office, we kept a nation from starving. We're helping with their health care system. I am so proud of the contributions that our military and Americans have made. It is a signal to the world that we're not only tough—if somebody wants to take us on, they will have made a bad mistake. But we're also compassionate, and we care deeply about the plight of our fellow human beings, no matter what part of the world they live in.

The enemy must be chagrined. You know, first of all, I can't imagine what went through their mind when they attacked. I like to remind people, they must have felt we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so weak and feeble that all we would do would be to file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]*

They thought we would grow weary. They thought we would tire. Man, are they wrong. This Nation is united and strong. And it's important that we be patient and united and strong, because there are still a lot of them out there. There just are; that's the reality. I deal with reality every day. But there's no cave deep enough for these people to hide in. You just need to know that.

The other day we hauled in a guy named Abu Zubaydah. He's one of the top operatives plotting and planning death and destruction on the United States. He's not plotting and planning anymore. He's where he belongs.

History has called us into action, and this Nation is responding. You've got to understand my mindset and what I think. We've got to act on behalf of the little ones. We've got to secure the world and this civilization as we know it from these evil people. We just have to do this.

And that includes making sure that some of the world's worst leaders who desire to possess the world's worst weapons don't team up with faceless, Al Qaida-type killer organizations. We owe it to the future of this country to lead a coalition against nations that are so evil and, at the same time, desire incredibly evil weapons. And you just need to know, so long as I'm the President, my focus is

going to be defending freedom and making sure that, when they look back at history, they will have said the United States did what was necessary to keep the world free from terror and barbaric behavior.

And I want to thank these Members for their strong support of the defense budget that I submitted. And my call, of course, to the Congress is that instead of passing the defense budget last, like they always try to do, let's pass it first; let's get it done. Let's make sure our troops understand they're going to have the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible early in the budget cycle, not late.

I believe strongly in the inherent good of our country. I'm an optimistic fellow because I know what a great land we are—have—and what a great people we are. I believe out of this evil that has been done to our Nation will come incredible good. There's no doubt in my mind; there's no doubt in my mind, if we're firm and deliberate and tough, we'll achieve peace in places where we never dreamt there would be peace. If we're steady and rout out terror wherever it exists, we can achieve peace. And I know this country can respond to the evil acts by responding with acts of kindness and decency.

People say, "What can I do to help?" The answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help America fight evil, do some good in your neighborhood. Put your arm around a child who may wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them and say, "I love you." And more than that, teach them how to read, so they can understand what America is all about. If you really want to help, support your schools. Help people understand that loneliness and despair do not have to be a way of life. Walk across the street to a shut-in who may live in your neighborhood and say, "I care for you. What can I do to help you today?"

It's small acts of kindness and decency that define the true face of America for the world. If you want to fight evil, do some good. And it's that gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which will have the American people stand squarely in the face of the evildoers.

And that's happening in America. It is. Our culture is beginning to change from one of—that basically said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it,” and, “If you've got a problem, blame somebody else,” to one in which we're all responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for loving our children. The most important job you'll ever have as a mother or father is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

A responsible period of time says that you will be involved in your community, that you shouldn't just take from the great American experience but you've got to give and you've got to help people in need. It means we've got corporate responsibility in America. CEOs of corporate America must not only be responsible for full disclosure of assets and liabilities, but they must also stay focused on the health and welfare of their workers.

There is a responsibility era emerging in America to the better—to the better—and as a result, we'll be able to overcome evil with good.

And perhaps that change of attitude and change of culture is best reflected by what took place on Flight 93. For me, it was one of the most meaningful stories of September 11th and on. It's the story of average Americans flying an airplane—on an airplane, traveling our country just like everybody else has done—most everybody has done—just got on an airplane and said, “I'm going to go somewhere,” for business or pleasure, whatever it was. And they were told on their telephones that America was under attack. And they told their loved ones they loved them, and they said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to save others' lives.

It is the ultimate—it's the ultimate statement of personal responsibility to serve something greater than yourself. And that's what's happening in America. Americans all around our country are serving something greater than their own self-promotion. And that's good. And that's the American spirit. And that's why I am so incredibly optimistic about the future of this country, because we're a land full of decent and caring and compassionate Americans.

Thank you all for coming today, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Abu Zubaydah, a leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, who was captured on March 28.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

April 9, 2002

President Bush It's an honor to welcome Lord Robertson back here to the White House. NATO is an anchor of security for both Europe and for the United States. And Lord Robertson is a very strong leader who is helping NATO meet the challenges of the new century.

Since September the 11th, NATO has been a bulwark in the fight against terror. On September the 12th, for the first time in history, NATO invoked Article V, declaring an attack on one of its members is an attack on all.

NATO did so to show its strong support for the United States. And NATO nations are backing up those words with action. More than a dozen of our NATO Allies are contributing forces to the war against terror in Afghanistan. NATO aircraft have been deployed to patrol our skies in support of America's security. And the airspace of NATO members has been critical to coalition air operations. The United States is deeply, deeply grateful for this support.

This past weekend in Texas, I thanked Prime Minister Tony Blair for the many valuable contributions of Great Britain. Today, on behalf of the American people, I thank Lord Robertson for his leadership and for the help of our NATO friends.

The United States will consult closely with our allies as we move forward in the war against terror. This is an important moment for NATO, and as we prepare for the NATO summit in Prague later this year, we must address some critical challenges. NATO must develop new, flexible capabilities to meet the threats of the 21st century.

We must take on new members, securing freedom from the Baltic to the Black Sea. And NATO must forge a new relationship with Russia that is even more constructive, so that we can finally and forever abolish the divisions that are relics of a previous era.

These are difficult challenges, requiring determination and leadership. And I'm so happy that NATO has a strong visionary leader in my friend Lord Robertson. It is our fourth meeting since I've taken office, and I look forward to many more.

Lord Robertson, I appreciate you coming.

Secretary General Robertson. Mr. President, thank you very much for these kind words. And I'm delighted to be here at the White House today, because it was on this very day in this city, 53 years ago, that a group of nations came together to create a common defense against a common threat, by saying an attack on one country would be deemed to be an attack on all.

It was, however, a very different world when NATO redeemed that pledge last September. But although the world has changed, the ties that bind the 19 NATO nations together have not, because this is an alliance built on shared principles and not on convenience, built on permanent values, not on expediency.

So as the President has said, it should be no surprise that so many NATO nations—all the NATO nations—are at the forefront of this war on terror. NATO is the kind of alliance that you need, because when facing a long-term strategic challenge, there's no substitute for long-term strategic partners, partners that you can trust and who trust you.

It's also the kind of alliance that works because when the going gets tough, the sheer training, standards, and structures are what welds different nations into an effective whole. It's also the kind of alliance that lasts because it adapts and modernizes, as it will indeed do at our summit meeting in Prague in November of this year—taking in new members, rising to new challenges, creating new capabilities to defeat new enemies and new threats.

So today the President and I discussed the common threats that we face, both in Europe and in North America, including from weap-

ons of mass destruction. And NATO allies will work together to overcome these threats.

And I say this to you, that we will succeed because the record shows that NATO is an alliance that has served its members well in the past, is serving us well in the present, and as we continue to transform, will serve us well into the future.

Mr. President, this is indeed the fourth time that we've met. This is NATO's 53d birthday. It's strong, strong as it ever was. And it remains strong because the ties that bind us together are enduring, and they lie in the common values of freedom and democracy and of liberty.

Thank you very much for your kind—
President Bush. On that note, why don't I go buy you a meal?

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks on Human Cloning Legislation

April 10, 2002

Well, thank you all so very much for coming to the White House. It's my honor to welcome you to the people's house.

I particularly want to honor three folks who I had the honor of meeting earlier, Joni Tada, Jim Kelly, and Steve McDonald. I want to thank you for your courage; I want to thank you for your wisdom; I want to thank you for your extraordinary perseverance and faith. They have triumphed in the face of physical disability and share a deep commitment to medicine that is practiced ethically and humanely.

All of us here today believe in the promise of modern medicine. We're hopeful about where science may take us. And we're also here because we believe in the principles of ethical medicine. As we seek to improve human life, we must always preserve human dignity. And therefore, we must prevent human cloning by stopping it before it starts.

I want to welcome Tommy Thompson, who is the Secretary of Health and Human Services, a man who is doing a fine job for America. I want to thank Members from the

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United States Congress, Members from both political parties who are here. I particularly want to thank Senator Brownback and Senator Landrieu for sponsoring a bill about which I'm going to speak.

As well, we've got Senator Frist and Senator Bond and Senator Hutchinson and Senator Santorum and Congressman Weldon, Stupak, and eventually Smith and Kerns. They just don't realize—thank you all for coming—they seem to have forgotten we start things on time here in the White House. [Laughter]

We live in a time of tremendous medical progress. A little more than a year ago, scientists first cracked the human genetic code, one of the most important advances in scientific history. Already, scientists are developing new diagnostic tools so that each of us can know our risk of disease and act to prevent them.

One day soon, precise therapies will be custom made for our own genetic makeup. We're on the threshold of historic breakthroughs against AIDS and Alzheimer's disease and cancer and diabetes and heart disease and Parkinson's disease. And that's incredibly positive.

Our age may be known to history as the age of genetic medicine, a time when many of the most feared illnesses were overcome. Our age must also be defined by the care and restraint and responsibility with which we take up these new scientific powers.

Advances in biomedical technology must never come at the expense of human conscience. As we seek what is possible, we must always ask what is right, and we must not forget that even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

Science has set before us decisions of immense consequence. We can pursue medical research with a clear sense of moral purpose, or we can travel without an ethical compass into a world we could live to regret. Science now presses forward the issue of human cloning. How we answer the question of human cloning will place us on one path or the other.

Human cloning is the laboratory production of individuals who are genetically identical to another human being. Cloning is achieved by putting the genetic material

from a donor into a woman's egg, which has had its nucleus removed. As a result, the new or cloned embryo is an identical copy of only the donor. Human cloning has moved from science fiction into science.

One biotech company has already begun producing embryonic human clones for research purposes. Chinese scientists have derived stem cells from cloned embryos created by combining human DNA and rabbit eggs. Others have announced plans to produce cloned children, despite the fact that laboratory cloning of animals has led to spontaneous abortions and terrible, terrible abnormalities.

Human cloning is deeply troubling to me and to most Americans. Life is a creation, not a commodity. Our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured. Allowing cloning would be taking a significant step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to custom specifications, and that's not acceptable.

In the current debate over human cloning, two terms are being used, reproductive cloning and research cloning. Reproductive cloning involves creating a cloned embryo and implanting it into a woman with the goal of creating a child. Fortunately, nearly every American agrees that this practice should be banned. Research cloning, on the other hand, involves the creation of cloned human embryos which are then destroyed to derive stem cells.

I believe all human cloning is wrong, and both forms of cloning ought to be banned for the following reasons. First, anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be unethical. Research cloning would contradict the most fundamental principle of medical ethics, that no human life should be exploited or extinguished for the benefit of another. Yet, a law permitting research cloning, while forbidding the birth of a cloned child, would require the destruction of nascent human life.

Secondly, anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be virtually impossible to enforce. Cloned human embryos created for research would be widely available in laboratories and embryo farms. Once

cloned embryos were available, implantation would take place. Even the tightest regulations and strict policing would not prevent or detect the birth of cloned babies.

Third, the benefits of research cloning are highly speculative. Advocates of research cloning argue that stem cells obtained from cloned embryos would be injected into a genetically identical individual without risk of tissue rejection. But there is evidence, based on animal studies, that cells derived from cloned embryos may indeed be rejected.

Yet, even if research cloning were medically effective, every person who wanted to benefit would need an embryonic clone of his or her own to provide the designer tissues. This would create a massive national market for eggs and egg donors and exploitation of women's bodies that we cannot and must not allow.

I stand firm in my opposition to human cloning. And at the same time, we will pursue other promising and ethical ways to relieve suffering, through biotechnology. This year for the first time, Federal dollars will go towards supporting human embryonic stem cell research consistent with the ethical guidelines I announced last August.

The National Institutes of Health is also funding a broad range of animal and human adult stem cell research. Adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of human embryos and which yield tissues that can be transplanted without rejection, are more versatile than originally thought. We're making progress. We're learning more about them. And therapies developed from adult stem cells are already helping suffering people.

I support increasing the research budget of the NIH, and I ask Congress to join me in that support. And at the same time, I strongly support a comprehensive law against all human cloning. And I endorse the bill—wholeheartedly endorse the bill—sponsored by Senator Brownback and Senator Mary Landrieu.

This carefully drafted bill would ban all human cloning in the United States, including the cloning of embryos for research. It is nearly identical to the bipartisan legislation that last year passed the House of Representatives by more than a 100-vote margin. It

has wide support across the political spectrum. Liberals and conservatives support it. Religious people and nonreligious people support it. Those who are pro-choice and those who are pro-life support the bill. This is a diverse coalition, united by a commitment to prevent the cloning and exploitation of human beings. It would be a mistake for the United States Senate to allow any kind of human cloning to come out of that Chamber.

I'm an incurable optimist about the future of our country. I know we can achieve great things. We can make the world more peaceful. We can become a more compassionate nation. We can push the limits of medical science. I truly believe that we're going to bring hope and healing to countless lives across the country. And as we do, I will insist that we always maintain the highest of ethical standards.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 2505, the proposed "Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001."

Proclamation 7539—National D.A.R.E. Day, 2002

April 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Illegal drugs are the enemy of ambition and hope, destroying individual lives and undermining the health of our communities. In addition to the tragic consequences of drug use for Americans and their families, the drug trade supports terrorist networks that threaten our country and our allies around the world. When we fight the war on drugs, we also fight the war on terror.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) curriculum plays an important role in helping our young people understand the many reasons to avoid drugs. D.A.R.E. is a series of lessons, taught by specially-

trained police officers, that encourages students to live healthy, drug-free lives. According to the University of Akron Institute for Health and Social Policy, the program operates in 80 percent of our school districts, reaching 26 million young people in America each year. In addition to promoting the right decisions about drugs, D.A.R.E. helps build relationships among parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others interested in preventing drug use in their communities.

My Administration is committed to keeping the fight against drugs among our Nation's top priorities. I have proposed new goals for our country, including a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction over 5 years. My National Drug Control Strategy is a community-based approach, incorporating three core principles: (1) stopping drug use before it starts; (2) healing America's drug users; and (3) disrupting the market for drugs in our country. In addition, my 2003 budget proposes \$19.2 billion for drug control. This includes \$3.8 billion for drug treatment and research, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2002.

Drugs attack everything that is best about our country, robbing Americans, young and old, and their families of dignity and character. Today, we recognize D.A.R.E. as a critical part in our effort to teach young people how to avoid drug use and the devastating effects that drugs can inflict upon their health and on their future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 11, 2002, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon youth, parents, educators, and all Americans to observe this day by joining the fight against drugs in your communities. I also encourage our citizens to express appreciation for the law enforcement officers, volunteers, and others who work to help young people avoid the dangers of drug use.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:47 a.m., April 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Remarks on the Proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002"

April 11, 2002

Elaine, thank you very much. I appreciate the job you're doing. And thanks for that kind introduction. I want to welcome you all here to the White House, the people's house.

It's an honor to welcome those who have heeded a great call, to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's a universal call, and it's a call that has been applicable throughout history. It's really needed right now. And so I want to thank you for coming to help discuss a very important issue, an important piece of legislation, a part of making sure the future of our country is hopeful for everybody who lives here.

Part of the reason you're here is so we can unleash your talents and energy on the Hill. [Laughter] And I appreciate your willingness to be practical in Washington, because there is a piece of legislation that I hope you work on. It's an urgent time for you to act, and I think it's going to help America. This really isn't about any political party, I want to assure you. It's a way to make sure America is as hopeful as we possibly can be.

I want to thank all those who are here on stage with me, besides the Secretary of Labor. Thank you for coming. I appreciate you being soldiers in the armies of compassion.

I want to thank Senator Santorum, who is the author of the legislation I'm going to talk about, and Senator Brownback from the State of Kansas for coming. As the author of the bill, I thought you might have gotten a better seat. [Laughter] Sam got your seat because he was on time. [Laughter] I'm still for your bill. [Laughter]

Both Senators are fine people and good Members. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I appreciate Cardinal McCarrick for being here as well, my longtime friend. And I want to thank you all.

I don't know if you've met my confidant, Jim Towey, who is here. He works in our Faith-Based Office. There he is. Hi, Jim. How are you? Jim is a remarkable soul who I was able to convince to leave the private sector to come and work. And if you've got any complaints about how charitable choice is working or suggestions about how to make it work better, he's available. His job is to work with the faith community to make America a better place. He was Mother Teresa's lawyer, worked for Democrats and Republicans. This is not a political guy, you'll be pleased to hear. And he'll do his job in a way that will make you proud.

The events of September the 11th were an incredibly dark moment. But the thing I'm most proud about is, through the darkness, our character shined. This is really an unbelievable country we live in. It was heroes who risked their lives, and Americans responded with incredible generosity. I mean, our heart was united with those who lost their—those whose families grieved. It was a remarkable moment, it really was. It was a test of our character. People prayed. All faiths were praying for our country. People grieved together. All the racial issues went away because we all realized we were Americans, with everything at stake—everything at stake.

The organizations directly related to the relief efforts received \$2 billion during that quick period of time. The goodness of the country is overcoming the evil done to us.

We're overcoming the evil done to us, as well, through military action. And we will take action. I want to assure you, we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And I believe that if we're patient and resolved and united, that out of this evil will come lasting peace, peace in regions of the world that might appear now that cannot be peaceful. I believe we can achieve peace by being strong and to lead the world toward peace. Peace is the cornerstone of this Nation's foreign policy; it's what we aim for.

It's going to be—there are going to be some tough moments achieving that peace. But you need to know that we're going to be plenty tough when we need to be tough. And we're going to stay focused on keeping our homeland safe, hunting down barbaric killers one by one. That's our call. History has called us into action, and we must and we will respond.

But we need to do more than just make the world more secure. We need to make the world and our country a better place. In order to really battle evil, we must be more than just a military might. We must be a—we must show our might through our compassion for our fellow citizens.

I gave a speech in Monterrey, Mexico, the other day, talking about how this Nation will help in the development of nations who are poor and who suffer. I was proud to give that speech.

At home, though, we also have got to recognize even though we're a rich and powerful nation, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are too many people in America who wonder whether or not America is meant for them. And so part of our fight to make our country more secure must be one also to make the country a better place for all of us. And the place to start is understanding that the country can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

One person can't do everything, but a person can do something to help somebody. And your jobs as social entrepreneurs and people deeply committed to our future is to gather that love and compassion which exists. And you're doing a great job of doing that, and I want to thank you.

My job is to continue to address the spirit of the country, is to call upon the best, and I will do so. I will remind people, if they want to fight evil, they must do some good. And it's also to recognize problems when they exist and work to solve those problems, to eliminate the hurdles and barriers that prevent the neighborhood healers and helpers from doing their jobs.

The past 7 months have shown how much our country depends on charities. Yet today, America's charities face very difficult times.

It's ironic to me that in the immediate aftermath of September the 11th, we responded, and yet, there are too many charities hurting. Part of it is because of a recession; I recognize that. Part of it is that a lot of money has gone into those charities directly involved with the relief efforts. And that's good, but it's not good enough for the future of our country that many charities suffer today, and we're going to do something about it.

If there is any doubt, let me just quote a few statistics to you to make my point. America's Second Harvest, the country's largest hunger relief charity, reports that more than 80 percent of its affiliates face increased demands for food, while 40 percent have seen a significant drop in food donations and funding. That's a problem.

In Northern California, the United Way is facing an unprecedented fundraising shortfall for 2001. Giving was 14 percent below the year before. That's a problem. The group's leader said this: "I don't think we've ever had a dropoff of this magnitude. It affects our ability to serve our community." And I agree.

The United Way in Orlando was forced to lay off 17 percent of its staff in February because it fell significantly short of its fundraising goal. Many people in this room, many people whose sole purpose is to help an American in need, are confronting greater needs with fewer resources. And our Government must recognize the problem and deal with it in a constructive way.

First, as I mentioned, my job is to call upon Americans to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, to understand that being a citizen is more than just a spectator; it's a participant in your community. And I will continue to—I will continue to call upon Americans to serve. And I will continue to talk about the pockets of despair and hopelessness, so that it is clear to those who may be comfortable that they have a—there are some who aren't and we need their help.

And I'm going to make sure that our Government passes legislation that does a couple of things: one, that encourages more private sector giving, that makes giving to the armies of compassion a more profitable venture for the individual by allowing the people to de-

duct from their income taxes all charitable gifts.

The issue is for those who do not itemize. They don't get to deduct their gifts, and we ought to allow that. We ought to encourage giving by allowing the non-itemizers—listen, charitable giving is important for all of the people in our country, not just the wealthy. Everybody ought to be encouraged to give.

What's called the "CARE Act," the "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act," sponsored by Rick Santorum and Joe Lieberman, have this as a part—as a core part of the bill. It is an important part of the legislation, and I urge you all to take your message to the Finance Committee in the United States Senate that has something to do with this type of legislation. [Laughter] I'm sure they'll respond.

You probably know that the House is passing a good piece of legislation already. J.C. Watts and Tony Hall were the sponsors. It passed. And now, so the focus—that's why the focus is on the United States Senate.

The "CARE Act" as well recognizes—oh, by the way, just so the people understand the extent of what we're talking about, 84 million Americans don't itemize and therefore don't have the opportunity to deduct. And we really believe—and I know you agree with me—that changing the tax laws to provide an incentive for the 84 million could and probably will substantially raise the amount of giving in America, which will be really helpful and hopeful and positive.

The other thing the Federal Government must not do is worry about the role of faith-based programs in providing help to people in need. Let me put it a little more bluntly: The Federal Government should not not discriminate against faith. There must be a level playing field available. When we have Federal monies, people should be allowed to access that money without having to lose their mission or change their mission.

We need to know that in our society, faith can move people in ways that Government can't. I mean, Government can write checks, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done by people who have heard a call and who act on faith and are willing to share that faith. And I'm not talking about a particular

religion. I'm talking about all religions under the Almighty God.

And we should not fear those kind of programs: programs where someone's addiction may be more likely cured because of faith; programs that are willing to go into the prison systems—you know, programs that say, "Well, stamping license plates is okay, but it may not change somebody's life for the better"; programs in which they surround a child with love because of faith and provide a blueprint based upon—a future based upon love for a child. That's what we ought to recognize happens.

Listen, some of the greatest welfare programs in America are on the street corners of inner-city America in a house of worship. Some of the best places where lost souls find hope are in our synagogues. Mosques provide great hope for people who wonder whether America is meant for them. And our Government must recognize the power of these programs. These programs don't have giant bureaucracies and endless rules in which they become entangled. They keep their focus on their mission. They don't keep hours. [Laughter] They're open when needed.

There's been some anticrime programs based upon faith, like Brother Rivers, out of Boston, Massachusetts, who has done a fantastic job.

And so this act recognizes that part of the mosaic of aid and comfort in America comes from the faith community and that we shouldn't fear faith, we ought to welcome it in our society. I urge that the "CARE Act" get passed out of the Senate by Memorial Day.

I want to thank the neighborhood healers who are here. One of the things I brag about is the entrepreneurial spirit in America. But people have got to understand, the entrepreneurial spirit just doesn't pertain to starting a business. Our entrepreneurial spirit also pertains to helping people. And one of the great joys of being a candidate and eventually President is the opportunity to see these little programs that start up because somebody has heard a call. I mean, it's an unbelievable part of the fabric of our Nation. Somebody has heard the—said, "I think I'm going to take my energy and my talent into a neighborhood

where nobody else has dared walk," and have changed people's lives.

And it is amazing what happens, amazing what happens when you start off—Brother Lusk here started off with—I don't even think—well, it might have been a building; it looked like a building. [Laughter] But now he's got this magnificent place in inner-city Philadelphia, because he had a vision and a dream to make something happen.

But it is the effect—and why I feel so strongly about this mission that we're all on is because when that one soul who decides to do something changes a heart, it is likely that heart that's been changed is willing to change another heart. And it's that effect that will have an incredibly profound effect on all of us.

In order to fight evil, we must do good. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which define the true face of America, that shows what this country is truly made out of. On the one hand, we are strong and tough militarily, but on the other hand, that is—we are a nation that is compassionate and decent and caring. And no evil, no terrorist can extinguish that light.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who introduced the President; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington; Rev. Eugene Rivers, pastor, Azusa Christian Community, and cofounder, Boston Ten Point Coalition; and Rev. Herbert Lusk II, pastor, Greater Exodus Baptist Church, and founder/president, People for People, Inc. The President also referred to S. 1924, the proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002" and H.R. 7, the proposed "Community Solutions Act of 2001."

Statement on Senate Action on Election Reform Legislation

April 11, 2002

I commend the Senate for passing an election reform bill and bringing us a step closer to enacting legislation this year. I look forward to working with conferees to make sure

the reforms reflect the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford/Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Pension Reform Legislation

April 11, 2002

Employees need more information about their pension plans and more control over them. I commend Chairman Thomas, Chairman Boehner, and Congressman Portman, and the bipartisan majority in the House for passing pension reform legislation that accomplishes these objectives. The reforms will give employees better access to investment advice, additional notice of blackouts, and increased ability to diversify. Importantly, the reforms adhere to the principle that what is right for executives is also right for workers. I look forward to Senate action on this critical issue.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 6

In the afternoon, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner at the Bush Ranch for Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, his wife, Cherie, their daughter, Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth.

April 7

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Knoxville, TN.

In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic to the White House on June 7.

April 9

In the morning, the President traveled to Bridgeport, CT, and later to Greenwich, CT. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Mohamed VI of Morocco at the White House on April 23 to discuss developments in the Middle East and other key bilateral issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart D. Rick to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation: Herbert Monroe Allison, Jr., Robert Leamon Bryant, Chung Wook Kim, Tuan Joseph Pham, Frank Jao, and Marilyn Castor Mashon Pattillo.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: George M. Kraw and Judith F. Mazo (Employee Representatives), and Mary Ann Melody Larson McDonald (Public Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Judson C. Ball, Bray Bruce Barnes, William Dewayne Dunlap, Ann Hundley Hoover, Linda Nordstrom, Wilbur O. Powers, Noel Quinones, Juan F. Woodroffe, and T. Caroline D. Wyly.

The President announced his intention to designate Terry Bathen as Acting Inspector

General for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

April 10

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Republican House and Senate leaders to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda.

In the afternoon, the President met with Republican House Members to discuss welfare reform. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with California Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Andres Pastrana of Colombia to the White House on April 18 to discuss cooperation against terrorism and drug interdiction efforts.

April 11

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis J. Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt. Later, he had CIA and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon at the White House on April 17.

April 12

In the morning, from the Oval Office, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy concerning a possible NATO-Russia summit to be held in Italy in May. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President met with Edmund Stoiber, opposition candidate for Chancellor of Germany. Also, in the Oval Office, he met with Sarah Hughes, 2002 Olympic gold medalist for women's figure skating, and her mother, Amy Hughes, and

coach, Robin Wagner. He also met with U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael F. Duffy as a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint David Horton Wilkins as a member of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships: Victoria Arias, Myrna Blyth, Corrine Claiborne Boggs, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Ronald Robert Fogleman, Lisa Guillermin Gable, Kay Coles James, Jay L. Johnson, Edith Hollan Jones, Jeffrey C. Pope, William L. Roper, James Smith, and Barbara F. Vucanovich.

The President announced his intention to appoint James David Gwartney, Patricia Louise Herbold, and Demaris H. Miller as members of the President's Council on the 21st Century Workforce.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 9

Lillian R. BeVier,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice Hulett Hall Askew, term expired.

Walter Robert Bradley,
of Kansas, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years, vice Richard Rand Rock II, term expired.

Sharon Brown-Hruska,
of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the
Commodity Futures Trading Commission for
the remainder of the term expiring April 13,
2004, vice William J. Rainer, resigned.

Ray Elmer Carnahan,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of Arkansas for the term of 4
years, vice Conrad S. Pattillo, term expired.

Jack C. Chow,
of Pennsylvania, for the rank of Ambassador
during his tenure of service as Special Rep-
resentative of the Secretary of State for HIV/
AIDS.

Robert J. Dieter,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2002, vice
F. William McCalpin, term expired.

Robert J. Dieter,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2005 (re-
appointment).

Thomas A. Fuentes,
of California, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2002, vice
Thomas F. Smegal, Jr., term expired.

Thomas A. Fuentes,
of California, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2005 (re-
appointment).

Michael McKay,
of Washington, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice
Nancy Hardin Rogers, term expired.

Theresa A. Merrow,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Marshal for the Mid-
dle District of Georgia for the term of 4
years, vice Lawson Cary Bittick, term ex-
pired.

Stuart D. Rick,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Merit
Systems Protection Board for the term of 7

years expiring March 1, 2007, vice Barbara
J. Sapin.

Ned L. Siegel,
of Florida, to be a member of the Board of
Directors of the Overseas Private Investment
Corporation for a term expiring December
17, 2003, vice Miguel D. Lausell.

Steven J. Simmons,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the
Broadcasting Board of Governors for the re-
mainder of the term expiring August 13,
2003, vice Alberto J. Mora.

Frank B. Strickland,
of Georgia, to be a member of the Board
of Directors of the Legal Services Corpora-
tion for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice
John N. Erlenborn, term expired.

John Peter Suarez,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Adminis-
trator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
cy, vice Steven Alan Herman, resigned.

Submitted April 12

Jeremy H. G. Ibrahim,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the For-
eign Claims Settlement Commission of the
United States for the term expiring Sep-
tember 30, 2002, vice Richard Thomas
White, term expired.

Jeremy H. G. Ibrahim,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the For-
eign Claims Settlement Commission of the
United States for the term expiring Sep-
tember 30, 2005 (reappointment).

David B. Rivkin, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Foreign
Claims Settlement Commission of the
United States for the term expiring Sep-
tember 30, 2004, vice Laramie Faith McNa-
mara.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the IRA's completion of another act of decommissioning

Statement by the Press Secretary on Israeli Withdrawal From Two West Bank Towns

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the William Waldo Cameron Forum on Public Affairs

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the American Hospital Association

Fact sheet: Protecting American Jobs & Our Economy Against Terrorist Attacks

Fact sheet: Citizen Corps Grows Strong in America's Communities

Released April 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: King Mohamed VI of Morocco To Visit White House

Fact sheet: Strengthening Opportunities To Serve In America's Communities

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the District of Kansas, the Eastern District of Arkansas, and the Middle District of Georgia, and nominations of U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Central District of Illinois

Released April 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Pastrana of Colombia To Visit Washington

Released April 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Vice President Hu Jintao of China (meeting with the Vice President)

Advance text of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the American Society of Newspaper Editors

Fact sheet: President Calls for Action by Memorial Day To Help America's Charities

Fact sheet: Strengthening Homeland Security Since 9/11

Released April 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: President and Mrs. Bush Release 2001 Tax Return

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, April 19, 2002

**Executive Order 13262—
Amendments to the Manual for
Courts-Martial, United States**

April 11, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. 801-946), and in order to prescribe amendments to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, prescribed by Executive Order 12473, as amended, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Thirty days after the date of this Executive Order, the provisions of Federal Rule of Evidence 415, adopted September 13, 1994, will no longer be applicable to the Military Rules of Evidence. This evidentiary rule became applicable to courts-martial on January 6, 1996, pursuant to Military Rule of Evidence 1102.

Sec. 2. The last subparagraph of paragraph 4, of Part I, of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

“The Manual shall be identified as “Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2002 edition).” Any amendments to the Manual made by Executive Order shall be identified as “2002” Amendments to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States”; “2002” being the year the Executive Order was signed. If two or more Executive Orders amending the Manual are signed during the same year, then the second and any subsequent Executive Orders will be identified by placing a small case letter of the alphabet after the last digit of the year beginning with “a” for the second Executive Order and continuing in alphabetic order for subsequent Executive Orders.”

Sec. 3. Part II of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

a. R.C.M. 201(f)(2)(B) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Upon a finding of guilty, special courts-martial may adjudge, under limitations prescribed by this Manual, any punishment authorized under R.C.M. 1003 except death, dishonorable discharge, dismissal, confinement for more than 1 year, hard labor without confinement for more than 3 months, forfeiture of pay exceeding two-thirds pay per month, or any forfeiture of pay for more than 1 year.

“(ii) A bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, may not be adjudged by a special court-martial unless:

“(a) Counsel qualified under Article 27(b) is detailed to represent the accused; and

“(b) A military judge is detailed to the trial, except in a case in which a military judge could not be detailed because of physical conditions or military exigencies. Physical conditions or military exigencies, as the terms are here used, may exist under rare circumstances, such as on an isolated ship on the high seas or in a unit in an inaccessible area, provided compelling reasons exist why the trial must be held at that time and at that place. Mere inconvenience does not constitute a physical condition or military exigency and does not excuse a failure to detail a military judge. If a military judge cannot be detailed because of physical conditions or military exigencies, a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, may be adjudged provided the other conditions have been met. In that event, however, the convening authority shall, prior to trial, make a written statement explaining why a military judge could not be obtained. This statement shall be appended to the record of trial and shall set forth in detail the reasons why a military judge could not be detailed, and why the trial had to be held at that time and place.”

b. R.C.M. 701(b)(4) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) Reports of examination and tests. If the defense requests disclosure under subsection (a)(2)(B) of this rule, upon compliance with such request by the Government, the defense, on request of trial counsel, shall (except as provided in R.C.M. 706, Mil. R. Evid. 302, and Mil. R. Evid. 513) permit the trial counsel to inspect any results or reports of physical or mental examinations and of scientific tests or experiments made in connection with the particular case, or copies thereof, that are within the possession, custody, or control of the defense that the defense intends to introduce as evidence in the defense case-in-chief at trial or that were prepared by a witness whom the defense intends to call at trial when the results or reports relate to that witness’ testimony.”

c. R.C.M. 806 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection (d):

“(d) Protective orders. The military judge may, upon request of any party or sua sponte, issue an appropriate protective order, in writing, to prevent parties and witnesses from making extrajudicial statements that present a substantial likelihood of material prejudice to a fair trial by impartial members. For purposes of this subsection, “military judge” does not include the president of a special court-martial without a military judge.”.

d. R.C.M. 1001(b)(3)(A) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) In general. The trial counsel may introduce evidence of military or civilian convictions of the accused. For purposes of this rule, there is a “conviction” in a court-martial case when a sentence has been adjudged. In a civilian case, a “conviction” includes any disposition following an initial judicial determination or assumption of guilt, such as when guilt has been established by guilty plea, trial, or plea of *nolo contendere*, regardless of the subsequent disposition, sentencing procedure, or final judgment. However, a “civilian conviction” does not include a diversion from the judicial process without a finding or admission of guilt; expunged convictions; juvenile adjudications; minor traffic violations; foreign convictions; tribal court convictions; or convictions reversed, vacated, invalidated or pardoned because of errors of law or because of subsequently discovered evidence exonerating the accused.”.

e. R.C.M. 1003(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) Fine. Any court-martial may adjudge a fine in lieu of or in addition to forfeitures. Special and summary courts-martial may not adjudge any fine or combination of fine and forfeitures in excess of the total amount of forfeitures that may be adjudged in that case. In order to enforce collection, a fine may be accompanied by a provision in the sentence that, in the event the fine is not paid, the person fined shall, in addition to any period of confinement adjudged, be further confined until a fixed period considered an equivalent punishment to the fine has expired. The total period of confinement so adjudged shall not exceed the jurisdictional limitations of the court-martial;”

f. R.C.M. 1003(b)(7) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) Confinement. The place of confinement shall not be designated by the court-martial. When confinement for life is authorized, it may be with or without eligibility for parole. A court-martial shall not adjudge a sentence to solitary confinement or to confinement without hard labor;”.

g. R.C.M. 1004(e) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) Other penalties. Except for a violation of Article 106, when death is an authorized punishment for an offense, all other punishments authorized under R.C.M. 1003 are also authorized for that offense, including confinement for life, with or without eligibility for parole, and may be adjudged in lieu of the death penalty, subject to limitations specifically prescribed in this Manual. A sentence of death includes a dishonorable discharge or dismissal as appropriate. Confinement is a necessary incident of a sentence of death, but not a part of it.”

h. R.C.M. 1006(d)(4)(B) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) Confinement for life, with or without eligibility for parole, or more than 10 years. A sentence that includes confinement for life, with or without eligibility for parole, or more than 10 years may be adjudged only if at least three-fourths of the members present vote for that sentence.”

i. R.C.M. 1009(e)(3)(B)(ii) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) In the case of a sentence which includes confinement for life, with or without eligibility for parole, or more than 10 years, more than one-fourth of the members vote to reconsider; or”.

j. R.C.M. 1103(b)(2)(B)(i) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Any part of the sentence adjudged exceeds six months confinement, forfeiture of pay greater than two-thirds pay per month, or any forfeiture of pay for more than six months or other punishments that may be adjudged by a special court-martial; or”.

k. R.C.M. 1103(c) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Special courts-martial.

“(1) Involving a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months. The requirements of subsections (b)(1), (b)(2)(A), (b)(2)(B), (b)(2)(D), and (b)(3) of this rule shall apply in a special court-martial in which a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, has been adjudged.

“(2) All other special courts-martial. If the special court-martial resulted in findings of guilty but a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, was not adjudged, the requirements of subsections (b)(1), (b)(2)(D), and (b)(3)(A)–(F) and (I)–(M) of this rule shall apply.”.

l. R.C.M. 1103(f)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Approve only so much of the sentence that could be adjudged by a special court-martial, except that a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month for more than six months, may not be approved; or”.

m. R.C.M. 1104(a)(2)(A) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) Authentication by the military judge. In special courts-martial in which a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, has been adjudged and in general courts-martial, except as provided in subsection (a)(2)(B) of this rule, the military judge present at the end of the proceedings

shall authenticate the record of trial, or that portion over which the military judge presided. If more than one military judge presided over the proceedings, each military judge shall authenticate the record of the proceedings over which that military judge presided, except as provided in subsection (a)(2)(B) of this rule. The record of trial of special courts-martial in which a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, or forfeiture of pay for more than six months, was not adjudged shall be authenticated in accordance with regulations of the Secretary concerned.”

n. R.C.M. 1104(e) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) Forwarding. After every court-martial, including a rehearing and new and other trials, the authenticated record shall be forwarded to the convening authority for initial review and action, provided that in case of a special court-martial in which a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year was adjudged or a general court-martial, the convening authority shall refer the record to the staff judge advocate or legal officer for recommendation under R.C.M. 1106 before the convening authority takes action.”.

o. R.C.M. 1106(a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) In general. Before the convening authority takes action under R.C.M. 1107 on a record of trial by general court-martial or a record of trial by special court-martial that includes a sentence to a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year, that convening authority’s staff judge advocate or legal officer shall, except as provided in subsection (c) of this rule, forward to the convening authority a recommendation under this rule.”.

p. R.C.M. 1107(d)(4) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) Limitations on sentence based on record of trial. If the record of trial does not meet the requirements of R.C.M. 1103(b)(2)(B) or (c)(1), the convening authority may not approve a sentence in excess of that which may be adjudged by a special court-martial, or one that includes a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for more than six months, forfeiture of pay exceeding two-

thirds pay per month, or any forfeiture of pay for more than six months.”.

q. R.C.M. 1107(d) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) Limitations on sentence of a special court-martial where a fine has been adjudged. A convening authority may not approve in its entirety a sentence adjudged at a special court-martial when, if approved, the cumulative impact of the fine and forfeitures, whether adjudged or by operation of Article 58b, would exceed the jurisdictional maximum dollar amount of forfeitures that may be adjudged at that court-martial.”.

r. R.C.M. 1109(e) and (e)(1) are amended to read as follows:

“(e) Vacation of a suspended special court-martial sentence wherein a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year was not adjudged.

“(1) In general. Before vacating the suspension of a special court-martial punishment that does not include a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year, the special court-martial convening authority for the command in which the probationer is serving or assigned shall cause a hearing to be held on the alleged violation(s) of the conditions of suspension.”.

s. R.C.M. 1109(f) and (f)(1) are amended to read as follows:

“(f) Vacation of a suspended special court-martial sentence that includes a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year.

“(1) The procedure for the vacation of a suspended approved bad-conduct discharge or of any suspended portion of an approved sentence to confinement for one year, shall follow that set forth in subsection (d) of this rule.”.

t. R.C.M. 1110(a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) In general. After any general court-martial, except one in which the approved sentence includes death, and after any special court-martial in which the approved sentence includes a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year, the accused may waive or withdraw appellate review.”.

u. R.C.M. 1111(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Cases including an approved bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year.

If the approved sentence of a special court-martial includes a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year, the record shall be disposed of as provided in subsection (a) of this rule.

“(2) Other cases. The record of trial by a special court-martial in which the approved sentence does not include a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year shall be forwarded directly to a judge advocate for review under R.C.M. 1112. Four copies of the order promulgating the result of trial shall be forwarded with the record of trial, unless otherwise prescribed by regulations of the Secretary concerned.”.

v. R.C.M. 1112(a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) Each special court-martial in which the accused has waived or withdrawn appellate review under R.C.M. 1110 or in which the approved sentence does not include a bad-conduct discharge or confinement for one year; and”.

w. R.C.M. 1305(d)(2) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) Forwarding to the convening authority. The original and one copy of the record of trial shall be forwarded to the convening authority after compliance with subsection (d)(1) of this rule.”.

Sec. 4. Part III of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended in Mil. R. Evid. 615 by striking the period at the end of the rule and adding “; or (4) a person authorized by statute to be present at courts-martial, or (5) any victim of an offense from the trial of an accused for that offense because such victim may testify or present any information in relation to the sentence or that offense during the presentencing proceedings.”.

Sec. 5. Part IV of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

a. All “Sample specification(s)” subparagraphs in the Punitive Articles (Part IV, M.C.M.) are amended by striking “_____ 19 _____” and inserting “_____ 20 _____”.

b. Paragraph 27e(1)(a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) of a value of \$500.00 or less. Bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 6 months.”.

c. Paragraph 27e(1)(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) of a value of more than \$500.00 or any firearm or explosive. Dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 5 years.”.

d. Paragraph 27f(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) Dealing in captured or abandoned property. In that _____ (personal jurisdiction data), did, (at/on board - location), on or about _____²⁰ _____, (buy) (sell) (trade) (deal in) (dispose of) (_____) certain (captured) (abandoned) property, to wit: _____, (a firearm) (an explosive), of a value of (about) \$ _____, thereby (receiving) (expecting) a (profit) (benefit) (advantage) to (himself/herself) (_____, his/her accomplice) (_____, his/her brother) (_____).”.

e. Strike paragraph 31c(6).

f. Paragraph 43e(1), is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Article 118(1) or (4)—death. Mandatory minimum—imprisonment for life with eligibility for parole.”.

g. Paragraph 45e(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) Carnal knowledge with a child under the age of 12 years at the time of the offense. Dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for life without eligibility for parole.”.

h. Paragraph 46c(1)(h) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vi) Credit, Debit, and Electronic Transactions. Wrongfully engaging in a credit, debit, or electronic transaction to obtain goods or money is an obtaining-type larceny by false pretense. Such use to obtain goods is usually a larceny of those goods from the merchant offering them. Such use to obtain money or a negotiable instrument (e.g., withdrawing cash from an automated teller or a cash advance from a bank) is usually a larceny of money from the entity presenting the money or a negotiable instrument. For the purpose of this section, the term ‘credit, debit, or electronic transaction’ includes the use of an instrument or device, whether known as a credit card, debit card, automated teller machine (ATM) card or by any other

name, including access devices such as code, account number, electronic serial number or personal identification number, issued for the use in obtaining money, goods, or anything else of value.”.

i. Paragraph 51e(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) By force and without consent. Dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for life without eligibility for parole.”.

j. Paragraph 51e(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) With a child under the age of 12 years at the time of the offense. Dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for life without eligibility for parole.”.

k. Paragraph 62c is amended to read as follows:

“c. Explanation.

“(1) Nature of offense. Adultery is clearly unacceptable conduct, and it reflects adversely on the service record of the military member.

“(2) Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces. To constitute an offense under the UCMJ, the adulterous conduct must either be directly prejudicial to good order and discipline or service discrediting. Adulterous conduct that is directly prejudicial includes conduct that has an obvious, and measurably divisive effect on unit or organization discipline, morale, or cohesion, or is clearly detrimental to the authority or stature of or respect toward a servicemember. Adultery may also be service discrediting, even though the conduct is only indirectly or remotely prejudicial to good order and discipline. Discredit means to injure the reputation of the armed forces and includes adulterous conduct that has a tendency, because of its open or notorious nature, to bring the service into disrepute, make it subject to public ridicule, or lower it in public esteem. While adulterous conduct that is private and discreet in nature may not be service discrediting by this standard, under the circumstances, it may be determined to be

conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. Commanders should consider all relevant circumstances, including but not limited to the following factors, when determining whether adulterous acts are prejudicial to good order and discipline or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces:

“(a) The accused’s marital status, military rank, grade, or position;

“(b) The co-actor’s marital status, military rank, grade, and position, or relationship to the armed forces;

“(c) The military status of the accused’s spouse or the spouse of co-actor, or their relationship to the armed forces;

“(d) The impact, if any, of the adulterous relationship on the ability of the accused, the co-actor, or the spouse of either to perform their duties in support of the armed forces;

“(e) The misuse, if any, of government time and resources to facilitate the commission of the conduct;

“(f) Whether the conduct persisted despite counseling or orders to desist; the flagrancy of the conduct, such as whether any notoriety ensued; and whether the adulterous act was accompanied by other violations of the UCMJ;

“(g) The negative impact of the conduct on the units or organizations of the accused, the co-actor or the spouse of either of them, such as a detrimental effect on unit or organization morale, teamwork, and efficiency;

“(h) Whether the accused or co-actor was legally separated; and

“(i) Whether the adulterous misconduct involves an ongoing or recent relationship or is remote in time.

“(3) Marriage. A marriage exists until it is dissolved in accordance with the laws of a competent state or foreign jurisdiction.

“(4) Mistake of fact. A defense of mistake of fact exists if the accused had an honest and reasonable belief either that the accused and the co-actor were both unmarried, or that they were lawfully married to each other. If this defense is raised by the evidence, then the burden of proof is upon the United States to establish that the accused’s belief was unreasonable or not honest.”

1. Paragraph 92e is amended to read as follows:

“e. Maximum punishment. Dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for life without eligibility for parole.”

m. Paragraphs 32e, 33e, 46c(1)(g)(iii), 46e, 49e, 52e, 58e, 78e and 106e are amended by striking “\$100.00” each place it appears and inserting “\$500.00”.

Sec. 6. These amendments shall take effect on May 15, 2002.

a. The amendments made to Rules for Courts-Martial 806(d) and 1001(b)(3)(A) shall only apply in cases in which arraignment has been completed on or after May 15, 2002.

b. The amendments made to Rules for Courts-Martial 1003(b)(7), 1004(e), 1006(d)(4)(B), and 1009(e)(3)(B)(ii) shall only apply to offenses committed after November 18, 1997. In cases not involving these amendments, the maximum punishment for an offense committed prior to May 15, 2002, shall not exceed the applicable maximum in effect at the time of the commission of such offense. Provided further, that for offenses committed prior to May 15, 2002, for which a sentence is adjudged on or after May 15, 2002, if the maximum punishment authorized in this Manual is less than that previously authorized, the lesser maximum authorized punishment shall apply.

c. The amendment made to Military Rules of Evidence 615 shall apply only in cases in which arraignment has been completed on or after May 15, 2002.

d. Nothing in these amendments shall be construed to make punishable any act done or omitted prior to May 15, 2002, that was not punishable when done or omitted.

e. Nothing in these amendments shall be construed to invalidate any nonjudicial punishment proceeding, restraint, investigation, referral of charges, trial in which arraignment occurred, or other action begun prior to May 15, 2002, and any such nonjudicial punishment, restraint, investigation, referral of charges, trial, or other action may proceed in the same manner and with the same effect

as if these amendments had not been prescribed.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 11, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 12, and it was published with its attached annex in the *Federal Register* on April 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7540—Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2002

April 12, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Pan America comprises a set of regional relationships that connects the nations of the Western Hemisphere in an increasingly interdependent network of commercial and cultural communities. Every nation in Pan America, with one notable exception, is committed to promoting freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. Over the past year, the Pan American nations have become increasingly united in purpose, seeking to ensure the preservation of the freedoms inherent in democracy, to promote good governance, to enhance economic development across the hemisphere, to protect human rights, and to combat terrorism, transnational crime, and narcotics trafficking. Continued progress in achieving these goals will greatly improve the future of the Americas.

As a testament to the enduring spirit of cooperation that binds us together as citizens of North, Central, and South America, the Pan American nations have built a common front against the threat of terrorism. Meeting in consultation on September 19, 2001, the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council invoked the Rio Treaty, declaring that the terrorist attacks of September 11, were attacks against all of the Americas. Later that same month, the OAS Foreign

Ministers called for measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation and adopted binding commitments, demonstrating that this hemisphere is prepared to guard the freedoms that form the foundation of democracy.

This firm response to the terrorist acts followed another milestone for the region, namely, the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. In approving this document by acclamation, the nations of the Western Hemisphere established democracy as the birthright of every person in the Americas. The words of this charter affirm that governments cannot be democracies in name only, but must build upon the guiding principles of our time and struggle to ensure the preservation of essential civil liberties.

Pan America's unprecedented spirit of cooperation bodes well for the 2004 Summit of the Americas, when we will have the opportunity to review our progress and renew commitments to enhancing hemispheric relationships. Communication, trade, travel, and advances in technology have all combined to produce unprecedented levels of integration and interdependence in the Western Hemisphere. And our continued efforts toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas exemplify our commitment to building a legal framework that opens the way to self-sustaining and wide-ranging prosperity. The free exchange of ideas and goods brings a unique vitality to our region, and serves as a catalyst for continuing economic development at the local and national levels.

This past year provided sobering evidence that our freedoms are not free. We must continue to work together as a unified community to support and defend all peoples that are denied their rights and privileges by governments that fail to respect the essential elements of democracy and human rights. In countering the threats of tyranny, poverty, and lawlessness, our collective goal must be to further the partnership we share as standard bearers of a bold vision. By working together to promote democracy, free trade, economic prosperity, effective governance, and human rights, we will keep the new Pan American spirit of freedom and cooperation alive and well for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,
President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2002, as Pan American Day and April 14 through April 20, 2002, as Pan American Week. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States of America to honor these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7541—Jewish Heritage Week, 2002

April 12, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation's history, America has benefited from a greatly diverse population, comprising a vibrant mix of ideas, religions, national origins, and ethnic backgrounds. And from this mix, we have inherited a Nation based on democratic principles, free enterprise, and the freedom to pursue a better way of life.

Jewish Americans have played an important part in the success of the American experience. They have dedicated themselves to the challenges of building a better America; and their patriotism, hard work, and faithful commitment to community and family have enriched our culture and improved our country.

Since our Nation's founding, millions of Jews have immigrated to America, embracing the promise of opportunity and tolerance

that forms the heart of the American dream. Jews fled persecution, pogroms, and the horrors of deadly prejudice to begin new lives where they could worship in freedom, prosper in society, and realize their dreams in peace. They also brought with them a spirit of faith and a strong work ethic that enhanced our culture and promoted national prosperity.

The Jewish community in America has helped shape our Nation's heritage and further our efforts toward building a land where all people can live free and be treated equally under the law. As entrepreneurs and public servants, scholars and philanthropists, and countless other callings, Jewish Americans have provided wisdom, energy, and leadership wherever they settled and in whatever calling they followed.

During the early days of our Republic, President George Washington wrote to the Hebrew congregations of Philadelphia, New York, Charleston, and Richmond, to say that "The power and goodness of the Almighty were strongly manifested in the events of the late glorious revolution: and His kind interposition in our behalf, has been no less visible in the establishment of our present equal government. In war He directed the sword, and in peace He has ruled in our councils." President Washington's message is equally applicable today, as we engage in our war against terrorism and work to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East.

In celebrating Jewish Heritage Week, we reflect with joy upon the many contributions Jewish Americans have made to the arts, education, industry, science, and our very way of life. The values and traditions of Judaism have contributed greatly to our culture and history; and they have played a major role in the success of our great Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 14 through 21, 2002, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to learn about the history of Jewish Americans and to participate in activities that highlight the accomplishments of these citizens.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 2002]

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The President's Radio Address

April 13, 2002

Good morning. Monday is tax day, and this year tax day will be different. This year your tax rates are lower, and you will keep more of your hard-earned money to spend or save as you see fit.

Last year I signed a tax relief bill that will continue to reduce Federal taxes by more than a trillion dollars over the next 10 years. Relief began almost immediately. Single taxpayers received checks for up to \$300. Single parent taxpayers received up to \$500. And married couples received up to \$600. By now, American taxpayers have already benefited from \$57 billion in tax relief.

Yet, when it comes to tax relief, once is not enough. So the best news is that tax relief is continuing this year. The child credit was increased to \$600 and made available to lower income Americans. For a single mom with two kids making \$18,000, this one change alone provides \$800 in tax relief. We're beginning a new low 10-percent bracket this year. We're making it easier for low-income workers to take their first steps up the ladder of opportunity. And starting this year, you will be able to save more of your money, tax free, whether in an education savings account, an IRA, or a 401(k).

Tax relief helps the working people of our country with more money to provide for their families and pay their bills. And perhaps the best news of all is that even more relief is on the way for many years to come.

The tax bill will continue to increase the child credit up to \$1,000 per child by the

year 2010. The marriage tax will be reduced. And the unfair death tax will be completely abolished. Millions of successful small businesses that pay on the personal income tax schedule will find their taxes are going down.

And when the tax cut is fully phased in, 43 million married couples will see their taxes reduced on average by over \$1,700 per year. Thirty-eight million families with children will receive an annual tax cut of almost \$1,500 to help pay for education, child care, or other expenses. Eleven million single mothers will be able to keep an average of \$770 more of their income each year to care for their children. Thirteen million seniors will see their taxes reduced on average by more than \$900. And 3.9 million Americans will have their income tax liability completely eliminated.

Next week, the House will take up legislation to make this tax relief permanent. And I urge Congress to pass this vital measure.

Tax relief is a crucial part of my administration's overall economic growth agenda, to create more high-paying jobs. Like our balanced energy plan and our determination to knock down trade barriers, tax relief will help you achieve the economic security you need to realize your dreams.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:55 a.m. on April 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Tax Day in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

April 15, 2002

Thank you all. Well, thank you for that warm Iowa welcome. It's nice to be here. Bill, thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share some things with you about our great country.

First, I want to thank the folks who work here, who spent some time talking to me about how much they enjoy working here in

the company, talking about their families, what tax relief meant for them in real terms. I appreciate the Governor of the State of Iowa, Tom Vilsack, for coming. Thank you, Governor, I'm honored you're here. I had the privilege of flying down from Washington with two fine—I mean fine—United States Congressmen, Jim Leach and Greg Ganske, and I'm honored at your presence. I appreciate Mayor Paul Pate for being here, the mayor of Cedar Rapids. I want to thank him for his hospitality today.

And I want to thank my fellow Americans. I want to thank you all for your patience and your determination and your love for freedom. This is a fabulous country, and I want to thank you all.

Today, as you know, is April 15th—[*laughter*—tax day. Today, at least, we get to call it tax relief day. It was right here in the State of Iowa, when I was running for President, asking people for their votes, that I said if you gave me a chance to be President, I'd work hard to let people keep their own money. I reminded people that the money we're talking about is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And we kept that promise. I say “we,” a lot of—more than one guy up there in Washington working on behalf of the working people; I think you noticed that today. I'm going to spend some time talking about it and why it's important, but we've also got other priorities in this country. I want to spend a little bit of time talking about those priorities.

We've got a priority to make sure our homeland is secure. My most important job is not politicking; my most important job isn't to give speeches everywhere. My most important job is to make sure people don't hit America again, is to make sure we're secure.

And I want to assure you that your Federal Government is doing everything humanly possible to secure the homeland. We've got a first-responders initiative to work with the police and fire and emergency medical corps, those brave men and women who serve us on a daily basis. We've got a bioterrorism-response initiative going on that says if they ever do use a bioterrorist-type weapon, that we know how to respond.

We're doing a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and who's

going out of our country. We need to know who's coming in and why they're coming in. We're securing our borders in a better way. And as well, we're taking every bit of information we get, every hint and running down every lead to make sure if somebody is still here in our country who wants to hurt innocent Americans, we're going to disrupt their plans.

They're out there. You just need to know that the people we're dealing with are cold-blooded killers. It's hard for Americans to understand the mentality of somebody who hates freedom, because we love freedom. We value our freedom to worship the way we want to worship, the value of our freedom to raise our families the way we want to raise our families, the value of the freedom to be able to speak our minds or to read a free press. There are people who hate freedom, and therefore they hate America, because we're the bastion of freedom.

I don't know what got in their mind on that day when they attacked us. They must have thought this country of ours was so weak and so materialistic, so self-absorbed, that all we would do would be to file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They found out we think a little differently here in America. They now know that we know the best way to defend our homeland is to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

In order to make sure America is secure, we must be relentless and steady and patient. We must find those who want to hurt us because of the beliefs we hold dear, and bring them to justice. I want you to know, I use the word justice. And for the young here, you need to know our country does not seek revenge. We seek justice. And when we say we're going to do something, we're going to do it, because the credibility of our country is at stake.

I said, you know, that the Taliban regime, because they were feeding these guys and giving them a nice place to hang out, we were going to get them. We were going to run them out of business. And that's exactly what we did, thanks to the United States military.

But we were not conquerors. We were liberators. We went into Afghanistan, and we routed out one of the most barbaric regimes

in the history of mankind. And as a result of the United States, plus other nations, young girls were able to go to school for the first time. I cannot tell you how proud I am of a country that on the one hand is willing to defend its freedom and, on the other hand, is willing to fight for the freedoms of others as well. When those young girls went to school, I was so proud of the United States military and our country.

We've got a lot of work to do. Oh, I know there's a certain impatience sometimes with the commentators and the writers and all the people that make our political process whole. But you just need to know, there's a lot more to go, and I'm not tired. I don't have a calendar on my desk that says by a certain date, all this business has got to end. That's not how it works. That's what the enemy wants. They want us to quit, because we're impatient. But it's not going to happen. It can't happen.

History has called us into action. We must never look back and say, "How come we didn't act when there's called into action?" We must be steadfast in that which we believe and steady in our resolve. And I can assure you it doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or whether you're a Democrat or whether you don't even give a darn about political parties; this country is united when it comes to defending the freedoms we hold dear.

And so we're going to keep them on the run. And I've told world leaders: Either you're with us, or you're not with us. And I mean every word of it. And they now know our country means every word of it as well. And so we're in for a long time, but it's worth the price.

For those of you who have got relatives in the military, a son or a daughter, or an aunt or uncle, or a mom or a dad, I want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for not only their sacrifice but for your understanding as well. The cause is noble, and the cause is just.

And I wasn't kidding when I said that in order for our children to grow up in a safe world, in order for our children and our children's children to be able to have the same freedoms that we enjoyed coming up, that we can't let the world's worst leaders harbor

and develop the world's worst weapons, so that they might try to blackmail us or hold us hostage or launch one of those awful weapons at us, that we must be steadfast not only in routing out Al Qaida and terrorist organizations who would do us harm, but we've got to draw the line when it comes to nations, for example, a nation that was willing to gas its own people, a nation willing to assassinate people who speak out in dissent and, at the same time, develop a weapon that can be used against us.

We're deliberate; we're patient. I'm under no hurry, but you can rest assured that when it comes time to protecting our freedoms and our country, this Government is going to take action.

I believe strongly the collective will of people who love freedom can make an enormous difference in this world, and I will continue to work with the coalition of leaders and countries that share the same values we share, leaders and countries that understand that, if we let terrorists run rampant, they will affect the peace in regions of the world where we long for peace. I know that one of the good things that's going to come out of the evil done to America, with the right leadership and the right focus, is a lasting peace all around the world. I believe that as sure as I'm standing here.

As well we had problems here at home right after September the 11th. You know it; I know it. I'm sure you were concerned about your jobs, and when the enemy hit, they not only killed a lot of innocent people, but they affected our economy. And it's one of the reasons I'm so proud we cut the taxes on the people who work, because you see, if you let people keep their own money, they tend to want to spend it. *[Laughter]* And when they spend it, they're going to buy a good or a service, and somebody will provide the good or a service. And when they provide or produce the good and service, it means somebody is going to find work. The best way to make sure that workers continue to work in the face of a recession is to cut the taxes on the people who do the work in America, and that's what we did.

These tax relief plans were fair. To me, that's really important. It wasn't one of these targeted deals, where some get it, and some

don't. We basically said, "If you pay taxes, you get relief." It was straightforward; everybody understood it; and it's going to be around for a long time. Tax relief began immediately, and I want to remind the people about what took place before September the 11th. Tax rebate checks started coming in the mail. A single payer received up to \$300. Single parent taxpayers received up to \$500. Married couples received up to \$600. In the State of Iowa, there were 974,000 refund checks mailed out, totalling \$426 million. And that was an important part of making sure people could realize their own dreams and, at the same time, making sure this recession eventually didn't take—didn't strangle our economy.

The good news is, is that tax relief is continuing—this wasn't a one-time event—that there is more tax relief coming. And if you file out your forms—and I kind of suggest you do here, pretty quick—[*laughter*]^{*}—that you'll see the child credit was increased to \$600, and made available to more lower income Americans. For a single mom with two children, making \$18,000 a year, this one change alone provides \$800 of tax relief. This year we're beginning a new 10 percent bracket. We've lowered the bracket. We're making it easier for low-income workers to stay—take their first steps up the ladder of opportunity. Starting this year, you'll be able to save more of your own money, tax free, through education savings accounts, IRA, or 401(k). And I hope you take advantage of it. Saving is good for your families, and savings are important for your future.

You know, one of the interesting things that we discussed today was how these tax relief actually—I mean, benefits people. Sometimes in Washington, it's all theory. And yet, behind every tax—every check that went out, there's a true story. Today the Madsen family shared with us—where are you? There he is, right behind me—big John—shared with us—two beautiful kids—talked about how tax relief helped them with their mortgage payments. He spoke about owning a home and how the tax relief helped him do that. It's a fantastic feeling. I know, when you own your home, John.

It was important for the Galvin family to make improvements on the house—there he

is, Terry*—make improvements on the house they brought last August. By the way, they needed to make an improvement on their house because this good couple has got a huge heart, and they're willing to adopt children, to provide them a loving and safe and promising home. And I want to thank them for the love they show for their kids.

Patty Wignall talked about how tax relief helped her purchase school supplies and clothes for her children. She was wondering whether or not we could crank up the refund checks again. [*Laughter*] No. [*Laughter*]

But in the code—the code is going to continually change. I want to share with you what's going to happen. By the year 2010, the child credit will increase up to \$1,000 per child. It just started this year, to increase. That's good for moms and dads and families. At the same time, the marriage tax will be reduced, and the unfair death tax will be completely abolished.

Small businesses—maybe some of you all harbor ambition to run your own business. A small business generally pays tax not at the corporate rate but at the personal income rate, because they're sole proprietorships or partnerships or Subchapter S corporations. And by reducing the marginal rate on taxes, we encourage the growth of small businesses, which is incredibly important for the future of America. And it's important to make that dream of owning your own small business vibrant and alive and well. And we have done so through tax reform.

Marginal rates will continue to fall, and that's important. And as they do, and when fully phased in—I want you to hear these statistics—43 million married couples will see their taxes reduced, on average, by more than \$1,700 a year; 11 million single moms will be able to keep an average of \$770 more of their income each year, to care for their children; 13 million seniors will see their taxes reduced, on average, by more than \$900; and 3.9 million Americans will have their Federal income tax liability changed forever—they won't pay taxes.

Tax relief is absolutely right for America. It was important. And I believe one of the reasons why we're seeing encouraging signs

^{*}White House correction.

in the economy is because of tax relief. But we need to do more. My attitude is, so long as somebody is working for work and can't find it, we need to continue making sure we increase jobs. I worry about people worrying about their work. I know that's not the case here in General Mills, because you're a strong, vibrant company. But there are people out there who are wondering whether or not they're going to get a paycheck tomorrow. There's still some uncertainty in our economy. And besides tax relief, there are things we need and can do.

First, in order for the long-term job security of our country, this country needs to have an energy plan. We need to have a plan, because if there is a disruption in supply, it's going to affect jobs. You've got to understand, we import more than 50 percent of our energy from countries around the world. And I'll be perfectly blunt with you: Some of them don't like America. Some of the people sending our energy our way really don't care for us that much. And for the good of our national security and economic security, we need an energy plan.

Now, an energy plan has got to start with encouraging conservation. We can do a better job of conserving energy. And we must do a better job of developing alternative uses—for example, a car. I believe that within a—the lifetime of—my lifetime and others here, we'll be driving hydrogen powered cars and trucks, the technology which will enable us to keep our air cleaner and technologies that will make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

But we've got to do more than just enhance technology. It's going to take a while to get these cars to be ready for the market and the infrastructure to be able to deal with them. And it's going to take more than just conservation. We need to focus on renewable sources of energy, starting with ethanol produced right here, from corn in Iowa.

And we need to explore for more energy here at home. And we can do so in an environmentally friendly way. And that is what's important, that technology has changed to the point where I can confidently say that exploration for energy in ANWR in Alaska can be done without leaving a footprint that

will affect the environment in a negative, harmful way.

Oh, I've heard the propaganda. But let me tell you this: When Saddam Hussein stood up and said he wanted to cut off energy—and we're importing energy from him—it makes sense to me that we'd better, in order to make sure he doesn't hold us hostage, that we'd better figure out a way to explore for more energy at home.

So there's a bill—one of them came out of the House, and there's one on the floor of the Senate—would not only promote ethanol, not only promote conservation and encourage the development of technologies that will change our lives in positive ways, but it will also encourage exploration here at home. We need that bill. It's good for economic security for those who work in America, and it's important for our national security as well.

A second thing we need to do is we need to promote world trade. You know that Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has got more trade per capita than nearly any other city in the United States. Let me tell you what that means. That means when we open up markets for products in the United States, the good people of this city are working because of that. Trade equals jobs, and this Nation ought not to be afraid to work hard to open up markets. Listen, we're the best farmers and ranchers in the world, and we ought to be selling our foodstuffs and our meats all across the globe.

In order to make sure that our job base continues to grow, we've got to help small businesses. I just talked about the affect tax relief will have on small businesses. It's a positive part of stimulating growth. Most new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. And that's an important fact for people to understand. And so we need regulatory reform; we need health care reforms; we need Government contracting reforms to make sure the small-business sector continues to grow in America.

In order to make sure the job base remains strong, we've got to make sure our folks are educated. A good education system will mean that people are going to be able to find good work in America. And one of the things we did—it was Republicans and Democrats, I might want to remind you—came together

and said, public education ought to be a top domestic priority. We passed historic reforms which sets high standards and, at the same time, trust the Governors and local folks to manage the path for excellence. The people who care more about the Iowa children when it comes to education, are Iowans, not people in Washington, DC.

One thing that's pretty interesting to note is that some of these tax reforms are going to expire at the end of 10 years, or in 2011. It's a quirk in the law. I think that doesn't make much sense. It's going to be hard to plan your future, if you think all of a sudden these things get kicked in full time and then go away. They need to make these tax cuts permanent. For the good of the working people in America, for the good of families, for the good of small businesses, for the good of farmers and ranchers, we need to make the tax relief plan permanent in the Tax Code.

There is a lot of issues facing us. But one of the issues I want to talk quickly about—not an issue, just—I want to remind you about—is that if you want to fight the war against terror and you're living right here, you want to stand up against evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. People ask me all the time, people say, "What can I do? How can I help? What can I do to make the country I love as strong as it can be?" And that is, just do some good in your neighborhood.

It is these acts—millions of acts of kindness and compassion that really define our country. It's the hearts and generous spirit of Americans from all walks of life that will help us stand squarely in the face of evil. When you tell your child you love them and give them a hug, that's part of making sure the future of the country is as strong as it can be. If you ever walk across the street and tell a shut-in, "What can I do to help you," that is part of defining the great compassion of our country.

I believe 9/11 was a wake-up for America. It made us realize that we're vulnerable, that two oceans no longer separate us from terror, and we've got to do something about it, and we are. But I also know that 9/11 really made us remember what is important in life, that families are important and children are im-

portant and loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself is incredibly important.

To me, one of the most—the most meaningful of moment—or one of the most meaningful moments came when the people on Flight 93 got on the cell phones on that airplane, and listened to what was taking place on the ground. And they called their loved ones, and they said, "I love you." They said a prayer, and they drove the plane into ground to save somebody else.

It's the American spirit of sacrificing for something greater than ourselves. And that thing greater than ourselves is freedom. And that thing greater than ourselves is a country based upon fabulous values. And that's why it is my honor, not only to be here today but to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth, because of our great people.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the warehouse at General Mills, Cedar Rapids. In his remarks, he referred to William "Bill" F. Mowery, plant manager, General Mills, Cedar Rapids; and Gov. Thomas J. Vilsack of Iowa. The President also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Greg Ganske in Cedar Rapids

April 15, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, Greg, thank you very much for that warm introduction. I want to thank you all for the warm welcome. I'm here because I want Greg Ganske to become the next United States Senator from Iowa.

I'll never forget that I ended up where I am because of the good folks in Iowa. It all started here. And I want to thank many of you who—I want to thank you all so very much for making this, Greg tells me, the largest fundraiser in Iowa history. I want to thank you all very much for supporting Laura and me. I want to thank those of you involved in the grassroots politics in Iowa for all your hard work, for the phones you dial and for the envelopes that you stuff. I want to thank

you all for working hard to make our country as great a country as it can possibly be.

It is an honor to be back in Iowa. I'm only sorry that First Lady Laura Bush didn't come with me. Like Ganske, we both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]* I appreciate Corrine Ganske. I appreciate her patience. I appreciate her willingness to work with Greg to ensure that he becomes the next United States Senator from Iowa. I was most impressed that Ganske's mother-in-law came. *[Laughter]* That's a good sign. *[Laughter]*

I want you to know that I am incredibly proud of Laura, just as proud of Laura as Greg is of Corrine. She has brought a lot of calm and steadiness to our country. You know, when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. She didn't particularly care for politics. She wasn't all that thrilled to be around politicians. But people in America are now beginning to realize why I asked her to marry me. A lot of folks are still somewhat concerned as to why she said yes. *[Laughter]* But I want you to know that she is doing a fabulous job, and I'm really proud of her.

I want to thank Greg's colleague Jim Leach for being here tonight. Jim Leach is one of the true class acts of the United States Congress. He still reminds me that he was a fine wrestler in high school and college but not nearly as good as Dan Gable, and I want to thank Dan Gable for being here as well tonight, too. I know Greg is proud to call you friend and supporter, and I know Iowa is proud to call you son. And they're also proud of Cael Sanderson and his incredible accomplishments as one of the finest college athletes ever. Cael, thank you for being here tonight as well.

I know that two former Governors are here, friends of mine, people who distinguished themselves when they held the high honor of being Governor of Iowa, and that's Terry Branstad and Bob Ray. I want to thank you all for coming.

I know that Ron Corbett is here, and I appreciate Ron helping Greg, and I appreciate him being the president of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. And Chuck Larson, the chairman of the Republican

Party, he's doing a fantastic job on behalf of the Republicans in Iowa.

But most of all, I want to thank Greg for his willingness to run for the Senate. You know, Washington, DC, needs people like Greg who care more about getting things done than trying to be as shrill as they possibly can be. Washington, DC, needs people of accomplishment, people who are not interested in needless partisan fighting but who put America—and Iowa, in this case—foremost in their agenda. And that is Greg Ganske.

I was here today at General Mills, and I want to thank that fine company for their hospitality and remind people that April 15th, today, can actually be called tax relief day. *[Laughter]* I came to Iowa, and I laid out a tax relief plan in Des Moines, Iowa—it's the first place that I talked about it. And I said, "If you give me a chance to be the President, I look forward to taking your message to Washington, DC." And that is, first of all, that the money we're dealing with is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

I said as plainly as I could, "If you give me a chance to be the President, I'm going to work with whoever will listen, to make sure people have got plenty of money, their own money in their pockets, so they get to make the decisions as to what to do with their own money." And thanks to people like Greg Ganske, we delivered on that promise. Tax relief was incredibly important not only to working families in America; tax relief came at the right time. Our economy was beginning to grind down. Our economy was slowing down too much.

And people in Washington, people like Ganske and Leach and others, understand that when you let people keep their own money, they will spend. And when they spend on goods and services, somebody is going to produce those goods and services. And when somebody produces those goods and services, it means jobs for the working people. Thank goodness we cut the taxes on the American people when we did.

And part of that tax relief not only deals with the marriage penalty—because Greg and I and others, believe we ought to promote families and promote marriage—part

of it recognizes the—many in Iowa are struggling to raise children. Single moms is—the toughest job in our country is being a single mom. And we increased the child credit.

But the other thing we did which was important for Iowa is that we put the death tax on its way to extinction. It is important for Iowa farmers—repealing that death tax is important for people who own the land. It makes no sense to have a Tax Code that taxes people's assets twice.

Now, what's curious about how the United States Senate works is that the repeal of the death tax is not permanent. In 2011, it can come back to haunt small-business owners and farmers and ranchers and people who work all their life to leave their assets to their children. And what we need is to make all tax relief permanent, and Greg Ganske is willing to make that tough vote, and I appreciate that very much.

There's a practical reason to elect Ganske, because he's going to be part of the change of leadership in the United States Senate. And when we change the leadership in the United States Senate, thanks to his election, Senator Chuck Grassley will become chairman of the Finance Committee, and that's going to be good for Iowa. And that's not only good for Iowa, that's good for America. I appreciate Chuck. I appreciate his hard work. He, like Greg, is a fine, solid—solid—citizen who represents your State with a lot of class and a lot of distinction in Washington, DC. We need a majority because I want my judges to be given a fair hearing.

I want to tell you I appreciate Greg's understanding of the importance of trade. Jim Leach reminded me that here in Cedar Rapids—this is a town that relies upon trade—more dollars per capita generated through trade than almost any other city in the United States. Of any city in the Nation that understands the importance of trade, it's right here.

And the President needs what's called trade promotion authority. I need the ability to negotiate trade agreements all around the world. There are some in Washington, DC, who want to build walls and protection around America, but a confident nation is one that tears those walls down. We are the

best farmers in the world, and we ought to be selling Iowa products all across the world.

I appreciate very much Greg's understanding of the need for a comprehensive energy policy. I submitted a plan to the House that Greg sponsored and supported, that is a balanced plan. It says on the one hand we've got to do a better job of conserving energy in America, and we've got to use our technologies to lead the way to not only cleaner air but to better conservation. I believe that one of these days we're going to have brand new types of cars that are going to make us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and we'll be more better at cleaning our air. And that's coming down the road. And part of the bill that we worked together on has got those incentives for technological development, and it's going to happen. It's going to happen in our lifetime.

But I want you to know that in the meantime, for the sake of economic security and for the sake of national security, we need to be finding more energy at home. We import more than 50 percent of our energy from around the world. And some of those countries from which we import, they don't like America. And I don't like to be in a position of having to rely upon energy from countries that don't like us.

I've heard the rhetoric like you. I just want you to know, I've got all the confidence in the world that we'll be able to explore at home and protect the environment. Technology has developed so that we can have a exploration program that doesn't permanently scar the environment, that understands the importance of environmental policy. And as we're working on sound, comprehensive energy policy, we must also work on renewables—renewables such as ethanol.

All of these elements are a part of an energy bill that Greg helped get out of the House, that is stalled in the United States Senate. I repeat: For the sake of economic security of those who work for a living and for the sake of national security, we need Senators in Washington, DC, who will promote and work for sound energy policy. It's good for the country.

I appreciate Greg's big heart. He's a fellow who's always served his fellow citizen. He's used his God-given talents as a surgeon to

help those in need, and that's important, to have people with big hearts in Washington, DC. I appreciate his deep concern about the Medicare funding formulas that so affect rural Iowa. He gave me an earful on Air Force One, I want you to know. *[Laughter]* I appreciate so very much his concern about the doctor-patient relationship and making sure that's intact.

But most of all, the thing I appreciate him is, he's a good thinker and a hard worker who cares deeply about the citizens of this State. Greg Ganske is going to make a United—a fine United States Senator, and there's no doubt in my mind he's going to win next November. And I look forward to working with him in the Senate on a lot of issues other than those I've discussed.

I want to talk about three issues facing America. First, our homeland security. My most important job is to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans.

You need to know that the nature of the people we're dealing with, they're cold-blooded killers. They hate us, and you know why they hate us? They hate us because we love freedom. They hate us because we love the fact and honor the fact that we worship freely in America. They can't stand the thought of free elections, free press. And they're out there.

But I also want you to know, we're doing everything in our power to protect the homeland. We've got a homeland security strategy that is preparing our noble and brave first-responders, should something happen—that would be the police and the fire and the EMS folks. We've got an initiative on bioterrorism that's smart and wise. We're increasing our security at our borders. We want an INS—that's the folks who're supposed to know who's coming in and coming out—to be modern. We want to know who's coming in our country and why they're coming in and if they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving.

And I also want to assure you that any time we get any lead, any hint that somebody might try to do something to an American citizen or an American city, we're responding. We're chasing down every single lead there is. We're on alert. Our law enforcement

officials are communicating much better than ever before.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to run down the killers, one by one, and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do. History has called us into action. And we're not going to tire, because when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, when it comes to civilization itself, this Nation is going to stand tall.

You know, I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the Al Qaida killers. I guess they just thought they were going to hit us, and because we were so materialistic, in their minds, so self-absorbed, so incredibly selfish, that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* They were wrong. Any time anybody—any time it comes to defending that which we hold dear, this Nation will be strong and resolute and determined.

I'm sure you've read about the budget priorities that I—the budget I submitted, with its priorities. And by far the biggest priority is a increase in the spending for our national security and the defense budget. And I want to explain why.

First, any time we commit a troop into action, that person must have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible—the best pay possible. You see, I've heard the debates in Washington about how high the budget is. The price of freedom is high, but as far as I'm concerned, it's never too high.

I've also submitted a budget that's increased because we're in this thing for the long haul. There is no calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date we're going to quit. I don't feel any constraints of time. I'm a patient man. And fortunately, so is the United States of America, much to the chagrin of our enemy.

Our first task was to uphold the doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists." And the Taliban understood—understands now exactly what the United States of America meant.

But I want to assure you that this great Nation does not seek revenge. We seek justice. We don't have revenge in our heart. We're going to defend freedom by holding people accountable. The Taliban, the hosts

to the parasites, was one of the most backward and barbaric governments that modern man has ever seen. And thanks to a vast coalition and the United States military, we routed them out.

And as a result, we were liberators of a country. It's so important for you all to remind the young, your children or your neighbors, that this great, mighty Nation freed people. We gave people a chance—young girls a chance to go to school for the first time in their life. Not only are we protecting the homeland, we're also protecting the human dignity of people around the world.

There's a lot of work to be done. Afghanistan is still a dangerous place. A couple of weeks ago they bunched up, and we got them. I don't know if they're going to bunch up again. *[Laughter]* But if they do, we're going to rout them out. We denied sanctuary for them. We've ruined their training bases. We're disrupting their finances. We got them on the run. We're treating them exactly the way they are, international criminals. And the only way to treat an international criminal is to hunt them down and bring them to justice. For the good of the world, this country is going to do exactly that.

And I meant what I said when I talked about making sure that our Nation or our friends are never threatened or blackmailed by some of the world's worst leaders, harboring and developing the world's worst weapons. We cannot allow nations that—run by people who have gassed their own citizens, nations who want to destroy our friends and allies, nations who hate America, to develop and deploy weapons of mass destruction. You need to know I'm patient. I'll consult with our allies and friends. I'm steady when it comes to the mission, but they're not going to get away with it. For the good of our future, they're not going to get away with it.

And so our Nation has got to keep its resolution. But that's easy, because this is such a fabulous land. We know what's at stake. I want you to know that out of this evil is going to come some good, and I firmly believe that. If we remain steadfast and strong and determined to rout out terror, we can achieve peace in the world. That's my dream, and that's my hope. Oh, I know talking about

military budgets and getting them and all that stuff is part of my—the way I talk. But you just need to know, in my heart is the drive and desire to achieve lasting peace.

And we're willing to work for peace in regions of the world where some may say peace never has a chance. I am very proud of the hard work and the diligent effort of Secretary of State Colin Powell, working to lay the foundations for peace in the Middle East.

And I also believe that out of this evil will come incredible good at home. People say, they say, "Well, gosh, I want to try to contribute in the war against terror." And there's an easy way to do that: It's to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good: Mentor a child; start a program in your church or your synagogue or a mosque that feeds the hungry; understand that in our Nation there are pockets of hopelessness and despair, but those pockets of hopelessness and despair can be changed as a result of loving Americans working hard to save our country one heart and one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us, but they have given us a good chance to work for peace and to show the world the true compassion of America. If there's a young one out there looking for something to do, we've got what's called the USA Freedom Corps. Go to the Peace Corps and help spread American values. Become a teacher and teach a child not only how to read and write and add and subtract, but teach them the important values that make our country unique.

I always have said that I believe our Nation can work together to change a culture which has said, "If it feels, just go ahead and do it," and, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe—I believe we're in the process of ushering in a new type of culture, one which says, we're all responsible for the decisions we make in life; that if you're a mom or dad—that if you happen to be fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, it's your responsibility to love that child with all your heart and all your soul; if you're fortunate enough to be an American—responsibility to love your neighbor; that if you run in—if you're in corporate America, you have a responsibility to your

workers and your shareholders to fully disclose assets and liabilities.

And this great country is responding. The gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness truly defines our Nation. The notion of sacrificing for something greater than yourself has become a part of our national conscience. Sacrifice, again I repeat, is to help somebody in need.

That sacrifice came very clear to me and Americans on Flight 93, when people, passengers, people going to work or wherever they were going to, were on cell phones and realized America was under attack and realized the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. And they told their loved ones they loved them, said a prayer, and sacrificed their lives so others could live.

To me, that defines the American spirit and what is possible, in all kinds of ways, across the country. The evil ones hit us, but this great Nation is not going to allow the evil ones to have its day. This great Nation will rise up, with its goodness and kindness and compassion, and show the world not only our strength, not only our determination, but show the world we understand the true meaning of love.

I want to thank you all for coming tonight. It is my honor—it is my incredible honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:23 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center. In his remarks, he referred to Dan Gable, former head coach, men's wrestling, University of Iowa; and Cael Sanderson, wrestler, Iowa State University.

Statement on the Death of Byron R. White

April 15, 2002

Laura and I are saddened by the news of the passing of Justice Byron White. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Justice White was a distinguished jurist who served his country with honor and dedication. He will be missed.

Remarks on the Proposed Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution

April 16, 2002

Well, John, thank you very much for inviting me to this beautiful room, and thank you all for coming today.

Justice is one of the defining commitments of America. In our war against terror, I constantly remind our fellow citizens: We seek justice, not revenge. We seek justice for victims. We seek justice for their families. And for justice to prevail in our struggle for freedom, we must rout out terrorist threats wherever they exist. And that's exactly what this country is going to do. And while the war goes on and while our fight for freedom continues, we will continue to work for justice at home, including justice for the victims of violent crime.

I appreciate John Ashcroft's leadership, his stand on principle, and his wise counsel during my time as the President. I appreciate so very much Senator Feinstein and Senator Kyl carrying this cause that I'm here to support. I want to thank the chairman, and I want to thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for coming as well, Senator Leahy and Senator Hatch. I want to thank all the Members from the United States Congress for being here, Congressmen Barrett and Chabot and Wicker.

I too want to thank John Walsh. I appreciate not only you standing up for victims; I appreciate you putting the pictures of the Al Qaida killers on the TV screen to help America remain alert, to help this country understand that we're still in danger from attack. I want to thank you for being a good American, and I want to thank you for helping the cause.

I want to welcome the leaders of victim rights groups from all around the country. I particularly want to thank and congratulate those who are award winners today.

As John mentioned, in the year 2000, Americans were victims of millions of crimes. Behind each of these numbers is a terrible trauma, a story of suffering, and a story of lost security. Yet, the needs of victims are often an afterthought in our criminal justice system. It's not just; it's not fair; and it must

change. As we protect the rights of criminals, we must take equal care to protect the rights of the victims.

Many of the victims of crime have gotten a crash course in the complications and frustrations of our criminal justice system. One victim put it this way: "They explained the defendant's constitutional right to the nth degree. They couldn't do this, and they couldn't do that, because of his constitutional rights. And I wondered what mine were. And they told me, I hadn't got any." The guy sounded like he came from Texas. *[Laughter]*

But too often, our system fails to inform victims about proceedings involving bail and pleas and sentencing and even about the trials themselves. Too often, the process fails to take the safety of victims into account when deciding whether to release dangerous offenders. Too often, the financial losses of victims are ignored. And too often, victims are not allowed to address the court at sentencing and explain their suffering or even to be present in the courtroom where their victimizers are being tried.

When our criminal justice systems treats victims as irrelevant bystanders, they are victimized for a second time. And because Americans are justifiably proud of our system and expect it to treat us fairly, the second violation of our rights can be traumatic. "It's like a huge slap," said one victim, "because you think the system will protect you. It's maddening and frightening."

Thirty years ago, a grassroots movement began to stand up for the rights of victims. It resulted in domestic violence shelters, support groups for families of homicide victims, rape crisis centers. They exist in cities and neighborhoods all across America, because Americans care about their neighbors in need. One good example is in John's home State of Missouri. It's called Aids—Aid for Victims of Crime, Inc., in which volunteers provide counseling and court advocacy and other essential services to the victims of crime.

Victims' rights groups are active every single day. There isn't a day that goes by that they're not involved in somebody's life, and they're especially important during times of disaster and crisis. You know, when the bomber hit Oklahoma City, victims' rights

groups were on the scene immediately thereafter to help. And the same happened after 9/11 in New York, in Washington, Pennsylvania. Victims' rights groups were there. Hundreds of counselors and chaplains and social workers, victims' service providers helped their fellow Americans deal with the unspeakable pain and suffering caused by the terrorist murders.

The Attorney General will shortly present awards to outstanding individuals and groups for their work on behalf of victims. I had the honor of meeting the winners, and I want to congratulate them publicly for loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. You've chosen to live out the words of Saint Paul: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." And our Nation struggles—as our Nation struggles to overcome the evil of September the 11th, your lives, the example you set, stand out as models of compassion and integrity.

The victims' rights movement has touched the conscience of this country, and our criminal justice system has begun to respond, treating victims with greater respect. The States as well as the Federal Government have passed legal protections for victims. However, those laws are insufficient to fully recognize the rights of crime victims.

Victims of violent crime have important rights that deserve protection in our Constitution. And so today I announce my support for the bipartisan crime victims' rights amendment to the Constitution of the United States. As I mentioned, this amendment is sponsored by Senator Feinstein of California, Senator Kyl of Arizona—one a Democrat, one a Republican, both great Americans.

This amendment makes some basic pledges to Americans. Victims of violent crime deserve the right to be notified of public proceedings involving the crime. They deserve to be heard at public proceedings regarding the criminal's sentence or potential release. They deserve to have their safety considered. They deserve consideration of their claims of restitution. We must guarantee these rights for all the victims of violent crime in America.

The Feinstein-Kyl amendment was written with care and strikes a proper balance. Our

legal system properly protects the rights of the accused in the Constitution, but it does not provide similar protection for the rights of victims, and that must change.

The protection of victims' rights is one of those rare instances when amending the Constitution is the right thing to do. And the Feinstein-Kyl crime victims' rights amendment is the right way to do it.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. In his remarks, he referred to John Walsh, host of the television series "America's Most Wanted." He also referred to S.J. Res. 35, the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Remarks to the Leaders of the Fiscal Responsibility Coalition

April 16, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. I appreciate you coming and giving me a chance to discuss the budget of our country.

First, I want to thank Ted Fowler and Grady Rosier for leading this noble effort to make sure that Congress gets the message that fiscal sanity and discipline is important as we fight our war against terror. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here, the Deputy Director of the OMB; I don't know where "The Blade" is, but—[laughter]—he's traveling. But I want to thank you all very much for making up the Fiscal Responsibility Coalition.

Now, last night was not only the night people were supposed to file their taxes, but Congress was supposed to file its budget. The House has, and the Senate hasn't acted yet. But I want you to know that we fulfilled our responsibility.

And I want to talk about budgeting in the face of the war against terror and budgeting in the face of a slowdown in our economy. It's an important issue because sound budgeting is going to determine whether or not—and sound appropriating is going to determine whether or not people are going to be able to find work.

First, I think it's important on any budget to set priorities. And I want to share with

you the three priorities that I've set and why I did it. Homeland security: We've doubled the amount of money available for homeland security, because my most important job is to protect our homeland. I need to be able to say to the American people that you can go about your lives because we're doing everything we can to protect you. And we are.

We've got money in our budget for first-time responders—those are your police and your fire and your emergency medical teams—so that they can have a capacity to respond to any emergency that may occur, if one does. We've got money for bioterrorism in our budget. We've got medicines available. We're beefing up the public health units around the country. We've got money in our budget for border security. I mean, let's be frank about it, we've got to know—do a better job about knowing who's coming in and why they're coming into America, how long they intend to stay, and whether or not they're staying for as long as they say they're staying.

We beefed up our Coast Guard to make sure that our ports and—ports of entry are better protected. We're doing a much better job here in America of communicating between law enforcement agencies. We've got money in our budget to modernize the capacity for the FBI to communicate internally, as well as with other law enforcement agencies around the country.

You just need to know that any time we get any hint that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding. We're chasing down every possible lead to make sure the homeland is secure.

But the reality is, is that the way to secure the homeland is to find these killers, wherever they try to hide, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to secure America. I know some Americans wonder what is—how long this is going to go on. The answer is, for however long it takes. History has called us into action. We're not going to blink. We're not going to get tired. We're going to do what is necessary to defend our freedoms.

I like to tell people in these speeches I'm giving that I can't imagine what went through the mind of the killers. They must have

thought we were so materialistic, so self-absorbed, that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* They found out that we think differently here.

And so my budget prioritizes our national defense. It's the biggest increase in the defense budget in 20 years. And there's a couple of reasons why. First, any time we send our troops into harm's way, they've got to have the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay. I mean, we owe it to our soldiers that it be this way.

And secondly, the size of the budget request ought to indicate to the American people that we're in it for the—and the enemy, by the way—that we're in this for the long pull; that there is no calendar on my desk that says, "Oh, by the way, this thing must end by such and such a moment." That's just not the way I'm thinking, and it's not the way our military is thinking. And the Congress needs to understand that as well, that it's expensive to fight for freedom, but it's not too expensive because it's freedom we fight for.

These people, these terrorists still want to hit us. They're cold-blooded murderers. That's just what they are, and we're denying them places to hide. And slowly but surely, we're going to get them. And just ask their chief operating officer, Abu Zubaydah, what it's like to be on the wrong side of the United States of America. We got him, and America's safer for it, but there's more out there.

I feel the same way, by the way, about nations that are going to develop these weapons of mass destruction, who have got a history of hating America, hating freedom, and using these weapons against their own people, for example. I've got one country in mind, as I laid out that characteristic. *[Laughter]*

But we can't, for the good of our children and for the sake of our future, allow them ever to team up with an Al Qaida organization and try to hold us hostage or hold the free world hostage. And it's just not going to happen. I'm going to be patient and deliberate, be steady. And our budget reflects that.

And so—and the third priority has been to make sure that we promote economic vitality and growth. And so the priority in the

budget was the tax cut that many of you worked on and is now in place. And I will tell you that I remember giving speech after speech after speech saying our economy needs a tax cut. It's important to let people have their own money so that they can spend. And when they do, demand increases, and then somebody will meet that demand with a good or a service, and then somebody will be able to find work. And it made a huge difference in our—in the vitality of our economy that we cut the taxes. Those taxes need to be permanent, by the way. And I look forward to working—*[applause]*.

And the budget also included a blueprint for the economic stimulus plan that I signed. And again, I want to thank some of you in this room for working on this—a good thing.

And so I urge Congress to get moving on the appropriations process, particularly when it comes to the Defense bill. Generally, here in Washington, they wait and put the Defense bill out last. I'm not going to read any reasons why into that; it just happens. I'll let the experts tell you why.

It seems like, to me, if we're at war—and we are at war—that they ought to get the Defense appropriations bill out first and not play games with the Defense appropriations. And so I'm asking Congress to do that. I've made this clear to the leadership. I had a breakfast; they were—seemed to be very responsive. And now it's time for the appropriators to act.

I also ask Congress to pass the supplemental that we submitted. It's emergency funding for defense and homeland security and economic security, and we'd like to get that done by Memorial Day. It's time for them to get that supplemental passed.

The key, however, in making sure that this all fits together is that Congress understand the consequences of excessive spending beyond the priorities. The budget we submitted sets our priorities, but areas outside of our priorities will increase in expenditure by 2 percent, which is a pretty darn healthy increase in times of war. It means that we're going to meet other obligations. The education bill, for example, is an increase, after a substantial increase from last year.

And one of the things that I'm urging Congress is to make sure that when they begin

to think about programs and what they're going to spend the money on, is to think of the lessons of the past. We must not repeat the mistakes in the sixties, when increased spending required by war was not balanced by slower spending in the rest of Government, that the appropriators thought, "What the heck, we'll just spend it on everything without any fiscal discipline in Washington, DC." And as a result, in the seventies, we faced unemployment and growing deficits and spiraling inflation.

In times of—now is the time for us to be responsible when it comes to spending the people's money. That's not to say that it's not always time to be responsible when it comes to spending the people's money, but it's a time to be disciplined. The lesson ought to be clear that when you have excess spending, it's going to cost people their jobs, and Congress has got to be very careful about that.

The recession—no question, I remember when I was campaigning, I said, would you ever deficit spend? Or—and I said, "Yes, only if there were a time of war, or recession, or a national emergency." Never thought we'd get—[laughter]. And so we have a temporary deficit in our budget, because we are at war, we're recovering, our economy is recovering, and we've had a national emergency. But never did I dream we'd have the trifecta. [Laughter]

But the key is to make sure it's as small as possible and to make sure it doesn't last very long. And so you'll hear some who will say, "Well, let's raise taxes as the way to deal with this temporary deficit." That, of course, would slow the economy down. It would make deficits worse.

The best way to make sure that we get rid of this deficit, this short-term, temporary deficit, is to continue stimulating our economy—more jobs, more growth equals more tax revenues—and at the same time, have strong fiscal discipline here in Washington, DC.

If we restrain spending, even though we're at war, even though our economy is still clunking along, if we react responsibly, we can return to a balanced budget—something I want—as early as 2004. But tough choices on Capitol have to be made.

I intend to help them make those choices. I want them to—[applause]. I think we can do so in the spirit of cooperation, focusing on what's best for America. This doesn't have to be a time for harsh partisanship, where people are trying to advance their own political agendas as opposed to focusing on what's best for the country.

What's best for the country is winning the war on terror, buttoning up the homeland, and keeping this economy growing so people can find work. That's what's best for the country. And we don't have to get into needless partisan screeching over the budget. We've got to be wise and reasonable with the people's money.

And we've got to have some goals, and I've set the goals in terms of the war and set the goals in terms of the homeland. Our economy needs to get growing. But we also can focus on making sure we end this deficit. And we can do so, if the United States Congress does not overspend. And that's what I'm here to ask for your help on.

I know you're interested in our country. I know you're most interested in the budgeting process. And we need your help, to help them hold the line on spending. You've got a tool, and that's called your voice, and the people you work with. And I've got a tool, and that's called a veto. [Laughter] And perhaps—and together—[applause]—I don't think that's going to be necessary, because I believe, in this difficult time for America, there's a common spirit on Capitol Hill and one that we can promote and use for the benefit of the people.

And let me conclude by telling you, as people who've got influence in your communities and around the country, that there is a way you can help fight in this war against terror beyond trying to affect the budget, make sure you keep employing people. And that is, to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. Mentor a child; tell your own children you love them every single day; help a shut-in; get your church or synagogue or mosque to feed the hungry. Always remember there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America, pockets of—places where—but a place that can be changed, as

a result of a loving soul entering someone's life.

The best way to fight evil in America is, do some good. And it's those collective acts of kindness and decency and compassion which will not only—stands America squarely in the face of evil, but which will turn the evil acts done to us as incredible good for people, people all around the country.

This is a great country. There's no doubt in my mind that not only will we be able to achieve peace, but we'll achieve a hopeful America for everybody.

Thank you all for coming, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Fiscal Responsibility Coalition members Theodore M. Fowler, Jr., chairman of the board, National Restaurant Association, and W. Grady Rosier, chairman of the board, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; Deputy Director Nancy Dorn and Director Mitch Daniels, Office of Management and Budget; and Abu Zubaydah, a leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization who was captured March 28.

Memorandum of Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

April 16, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-14

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, Public Law 107-115, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit

this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia

April 17, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. At ease. Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. General Myers, thank you. General Bunting and General Casey, Secretary Marsh, Congressman Goodlatte, Albert Beveridge, members of the corps of cadets, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to thank you for your warm welcome and thank you for inviting me to one of America's great institutions. I brought along a little graduation present. I'm sure you'll like it; some of you will need it. [Laughter] As Commander in Chief, I hereby grant amnesty. [Applause] General Bunting, I'm sure you can tell who needed it. [Laughter] And I know you'll be generous in the interpretation of this doctrine. [Laughter]

I want to congratulate the winners of the George C. Marshall ROTC Award. The more than 260 young men and women who represent—the winners represent the best of our country and the best future for the United States Army. You stand out among the nearly 30,000 young Americans who are today enrolled in the Army ROTC, the officers who will serve in the military of the future and one day will lead it.

A majority of the Army's current officers started out in the ROTC. For nearly 90 years, this great program has developed leaders and shaped character. Those looking for idealism on the college campuses of America will find it in the men and women of the ROTC. ROTC's traditions and values are a contribution and a credit to every college and every university where they're found.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was in the ROTC at City College of New York, an experience that helped set the course of his life. In his own words, he said this: "The order, the self-discipline, the pride that had been instilled in me by our ROTC prepared me well for my Army career or, for that matter,

any career I might have chosen.” Colin Powell’s career has taken him from service in Vietnam to the top rank in the military and now on a peace mission to the Middle East. America is fortunate and I am proud to have ROTC graduate Colin Powell serving our country.

Only one other Army general has gone on to serve as Secretary of State, and that was George Marshall himself, VMI’s highest ranking cadet in the class of 1901.

As Army Chief of Staff, General Marshall became the architect of America’s victory in the Second World War. He fought tenaciously against our enemies and then worked just as hard to secure the peace. President Truman considered George C. Marshall the greatest man he knew. Above all, said Winston Churchill, Marshall “always fought victoriously against defeatism, discouragement, and disillusionment.” The key to morale and to victory, Marshall said, is “steadfastness and courage and hope.”

And today, we are called to defend freedom against ruthless enemies. And once again, we need steadfastness, courage, and hope. The war against terror will be long. And as George Marshall so clearly understood, it will not be enough to make the world safer; we must also work to make the world better.

In the days just after September the 11th, I told the American people that this would be a different war, fought on many fronts. Today, around the world, we make progress on the many fronts. In some cases, we use military force. In others, we’re fighting through diplomacy, financial pressure, or special operations. In every case, we will defeat the threats against our country and the civilized world.

Our progress—our progress is measured day by day, terrorist by terrorist. We recently apprehended one of Al Qaida’s top leaders, a man named Abu Zubaydah. He was spending a lot of time as one of the top operating officials of Al Qaida, plotting and planning murder. He’s not plotting, and he’s not planning anymore. He’s under lock and key, and we’re going to give him some company. We’re hunting down the killers one by one.

We’re learning a lot about Al Qaida operations and their plans. As our enemies have

fled their hideouts in Afghanistan, they left some things behind. We found laptop computers, drawings, and maps. And through them, we’re gaining a clearer picture of the terrorists’ targets and their methods.

Our international coalition against these killers is strong and united and acting. European nations have frozen almost \$50 million in suspected terrorist assets, and that’s important. Many European states are taking aggressive and effective law enforcement action to join us in rounding up these terrorists and their cells. We’re making good progress. Yet, it’s important for Americans to know this war will not be quick, and this war will not be easy.

The first phase of our military operation was in Afghanistan, where our Armed Forces continue to perform with bravery and with skill. You’ve got to understand that, as we routed out the Taliban, they weren’t sent in to conquer; they were sent in to liberate. And they succeeded, and our military makes us proud.

The battles in Afghanistan are not over. American and allied troops are taking risks today in what we call Operation Mountain Lion, hunting down the Al Qaida and Taliban forces and keeping them on the run. Coalition naval forces, in the largest combined flotilla since World War II, are patrolling escape routes and intercepting ships to search for terrorists and their supplies.

As the spring thaw comes, we expect cells of trained killers to try to regroup, to murder, create mayhem, and try to undermine Afghanistan’s efforts to build a lasting peace. We know this from not only intelligence but from the history of military conflict in Afghanistan. It’s been one of initial success followed by long years of floundering and ultimate failure. We’re not going to repeat that mistake.

In the United States of America, the terrorists have chosen a foe unlike they have any—they have never faced before. They’ve never faced a country like ours before: We’re tough; we’re determined; we’re relentless. We will stay until the mission is done.

We know that true peace will only be achieved when we give the Afghan people the means to achieve their own aspirations. Peace—peace will be achieved by helping

Afghanistan develop its own stable government. Peace will be achieved by helping Afghanistan train and develop its own national army. And peace will be achieved through an education system for boys and girls which works.

We're working hard in Afghanistan. We're clearing minefields. We're rebuilding roads. We're improving medical care. And we will work to help Afghanistan to develop an economy that can feed its people without feeding the world's demand for drugs.

And we help the Afghan people recover from the Taliban rule. And as we do so, we find mounting horror—evidence of horror. In the Hazarajat region, the Red Cross has found signs of massacres committed by the Taliban last year, victims who lie in mass graves. This is the legacy of the first regime to fall in the war against terror. These mass graves are a reminder of the kind of enemy we have fought and have defeated. And they are the kind of evil we continue to fight.

By helping to build an Afghanistan that is free from this evil and is a better place in which to live, we are working in the best traditions of George Marshall. Marshall knew that our military victory against enemies in World War II had to be followed by a moral victory that resulted in better lives for individual human beings.

After 1945, the United States of America was the only nation in the world strong enough to help rebuild a Europe and a Japan that had been decimated by World War II. Today, our former enemies are our friends, and Europe and Japan are strong partners in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. This transformation is a powerful testimony to the success of Marshall's vision and a beacon to light the path that we too must follow.

In the second phase of the war on terror, our military and law enforcement intelligence officers are helping countries around the world in their efforts to crack down on terror within their borders. Global terrorism will be defeated only by global response. We must prevent Al Qaida from moving its operations to other countries. We must deny terrorists the funds they need to operate. We must deny them safe havens to plan new horrors and indoctrinate new recruits.

We're working with Yemen's Government to prevent terrorists from reassembling there. We sent troops to help train local forces in the Philippines, to help them defeat terrorists trying to establish a militant regime. And in the Republic of Georgia, we provide temporary help to its military as it routs out a terrorist cell near the Russian border. Wherever global terror threatens the civilized world, we and our friends and our allies will respond and will respond decisively.

Every nation that joins our cause is welcome. Every nation that needs our help will have it. And no nation can be neutral. Around the world, the nations must choose. They are with us, or they're with the terrorists.

And in the Middle East, where acts of terror have triggered mounting violence, all parties have a choice to make. Every leader, every state must choose between two separate paths, the path of peace or the path of terror. In the stricken faces of mothers, Palestinian mothers and Israeli mothers, the entire world is witnessing the agonizing cost of this conflict. Now, every nation and every leader in the region must work to end terror.

All parties have responsibilities. These responsibilities are not easy, but they're clear. And Secretary of State Powell is helping make them clear. I want to thank Secretary Powell for his hard work at a difficult task. He returns home having made progress towards peace.

We're confronting hatred that is centuries old, disputes that have lingered for decades. But I want you to know, I will continue to lead toward a vision of peace.

We will continue to remind folks they have responsibilities in the short run to defuse the current crisis. The Palestinian Authority must act—must act on its words of condemnation against terror. Israel must continue its withdrawals. And all Arab states must step up to their responsibilities. The Egyptians and Jordanians and Saudis have helped in the wider war on terrorism, and they must help confront terrorism in the Middle East. All parties have a responsibility to stop funding or inciting terror. And all parties must say clearly that a murderer is not a martyr; he or she is just a murderer.

And all parties must realize that the only vision for a long-term solution is for two states—Israel, Palestine—to live side by side in security and in peace. That will require hard choices and leadership by Israelis, Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors. The time is now for all to make the choice for peace.

And finally, the civilized world faces a grave threat from weapons of mass destruction. A small number of outlaw regimes today possess and are developing chemical and biological and nuclear weapons. They're building missiles to deliver them and at the same time cultivating ties to terrorist groups. In their threat to peace, in their mad ambitions, in their destructive potential, and in the repression of their own people, these regimes constitute an axis of evil, and the world must confront them.

America, along with other nations, will oppose the proliferation of dangerous weapons and technologies. We will proceed with missile defenses to protect the American people, our troops, and our friends and allies. And America will take the necessary action to oppose emerging threats.

We'll be deliberate, and we will work with our friends and allies. And as we do so, we will uphold our duty to defend freedom. We will fight against terrorist organizations in different ways, with different tactics, in different places. And we will fight the threat from weapons of mass destruction in different ways, with different tactics, in different places.

Yet, our objective is always the same: We will defeat global terror, and we will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

America has a much greater purpose than just eliminating threats and containing resentment, because we believe in the dignity and value of every individual. America seeks hope and opportunity for all people in all cultures. And that is why we're helping to rebuild Afghanistan. And that is why we've launched a new compact for development through the Millennium Challenge Account. And that is why we work for free trade, to lift people out of poverty throughout the world.

A better world can seem very distant when children are sent to kill other children and old hatreds are stoked and carefully passed from one generation to another and a violent few love death more than life. Yet hatred, fanaticism are not the way of the future, because the hopes of humanity are always stronger than its hatreds.

And these hopes are universal in every country and in every country—in every culture. Men and women everywhere want to live in dignity, to create and build and own, to raise their children in peace and security.

The way to a peaceful future can be found in the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity. Dignity requires the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, respect for women, private property, equal justice, religious tolerance. No nation owns these principles. No nation is exempt from them.

Sixty years ago, few would have predicted the triumph of these values in Germany and Japan. Fifteen years ago, few would have predicted the advance of these values in Russia. Yet, Americans are not surprised. We know that the demands of human dignity are written in every heart. The demands have a power and momentum of their own, defying all pessimism. And they are destined to change lives and nations on every continent.

America has acted on these hopes throughout our history. General George Marshall is admired for the war he fought, yet best remembered for the peace he secured. The Marshall plan, rebuilding Europe and lifting up former enemies, showed that America is not content with military victory alone. Americans always see a greater hope and a better day, and America sees a just and hopeful world beyond the war on terror.

Many of you will help achieve this better world. At a young age, you've taken up a great calling. You'll serve your country and our values. You'll protect your fellow citizens. And by your effort and example, you will advance the cause of freedom around the world. And so I'm here to thank you for your commitment and congratulate you on the high honor you have received.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in Cameron Hall as part of the George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Maj. Gen. (Virginia militia) Josiah Bunting III, superintendent, Virginia Military Institute; Maj. Gen. John T.D. Casey, USA, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command; former Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr.; Albert J. Beveridge III, president and chief executive officer, George C. Marshall Foundation; and Abu Zubaydah, a leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization who was captured March 28.

Proclamation 7542—Death of Byron R. White

April 17, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of Byron R. White, retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on the day of his interment. On such day the flag shall be flown at half-staff until sunset upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions; and at all U.S. embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:09 a.m., April 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 22.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Andres Pastrana of Colombia and an Exchange With Reporters

April 18, 2002

President Bush. Before the President and I will answer a couple of questions from both the U.S. side and the Colombian side, I do want to welcome my friend Andres Pastrana back to the White House.

President Pastrana is a—has taken on a huge task in his country. One is to defend democracy and the institutions of democracy, and he's done a great job at that. Secondly, is to fight—is to fight narcotrafficking. He has led a valiant effort at eradicating coca fields, standing strong against the narcotraffickers.

And as well, he fights terrorism in his country. He fights well-organized, well-funded groups that are out to destroy democracy in Colombia. And he has been strong in his support for democracy not only in his own country but in the region. We had a good discussion about a variety of issues about how to change the focus of our strategy from counternarcotics to include counterterrorism. I explained to him that a supplemental I sent up to the United States Congress would do just that.

As well, we talked about the need to get the Andean Trade Preference Act passed out of United States Senate, reconciled if there's any differences with the House of Representatives, and to my desk as quickly as possible. I am a strong supporter of trade with the Andean—with our Andean friends. The President knows first hand how important that trade is, not only for commercial reasons but also as a way to help fight against narcotrafficking, provide opportunities for people in his country.

This is a good friend, and it's my honor to welcome him back to the White House.

Mr. President.

President Pastrana. Thank you very much, President Bush. Once again, thank you for having us here in the Oval Office. I think you've said everything.

The only thing that I wanted to say is, first of all, thank you for your help, for your leadership in helping Colombia and helping the

world. At the end, we are fighting a common enemy that is narcotrafficking and narcoterrorism. We have full support of President Bush and the Government, first in trying to, as you said, Mr. President, in change of authorities—the use of the military equipment sent by the United States to Colombia to be used against also narcoterrorism, not only against narcotrafficking.

Secondly, as you said, you have been a big supporter of ATPA. The Andean preference act is fundamental for us. It's commerce. As we said, we don't want aid; we want commerce. And that's what we need in Colombia, also, as one of the big components of the social side of Plan Colombia; that is, social investment. And social investment is jobs, better jobs and well-paid jobs.

So I think that with the help of the Government, but the most important, with the help of the U.S. Congress, we will have ATPA before the end of May. And that's going to be fundamental to continue our fight on drugs.

So thank you very much, Mr. President, for all your help.

President Bush. *De la AP, Senor Fournier* [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. I think that's you, Ron. [*Laughter*]

Venezuela

Q. Mr. President, if I could ask you about another Latin American issue. Your administration was slow to condemn the Venezuelan coup. How does that square with your war on terrorism rhetoric, that America will always stand up for democratic values?

President Bush. My administration was very clear, when there were troubles on the streets in Venezuela, that we support democracy and did not support any extraconstitutional action. My administration spoke with a very clear voice about our strong support of democracy.

It is very important for President Chavez to do what he said he was going to do, to address the reasons why there was so much turmoil on the streets. And it's very important for him to embrace those institutions which are fundamental to democracy, including freedom of press and freedom for—the ability for the opposition to speak out.

And if there's lessons to be learned, it's important that he learn them.

Mr. President, care to comment on that?

President Pastrana. Yes. First of all, I think there's no doubt in Latin America of the support and promotion of President Bush on democracy in the region. I think that's something that nobody could put in doubt of your support in promotion of democracy in the whole region.

As you said, what we're expecting is that President Chavez said in his speech that he's going to be a—try to look for a reconciliation inside Venezuela, that he is going to correct many mistakes. And we hope that what he's going to correct is toward strengthening democracy, respect, as you said Mr. President, civil laws, give guarantees to the opposition, the freedom of the press, respect of human rights. And that's what all Latin America are supporting and what we want in the case of President Chavez.

In our case, for example, I think one of the mistakes was regarding the presence of the guerilla groups in Venezuela. Yesterday, unfortunately, Mr. President, the media, national and international, we had information that Mexico closed the office of the narcoterrorist group in Mexico. And the first information is that they could be in Venezuela.

So that's why today, Mr. President, I'm sending a letter through my Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, asking if there is the FARC, these members of the FARC are present in Venezuela or not; that we need that information. We approved a very clear resolution in the Group Rio meeting in Costa Rica last week, supporting what you promote in the Security Council, ban any presence of terrorists in any countries. And that's what we want to do in Latin America.

Northern Command

Q. Mr. President, how do you respond to the reaction of Canada and Mexico to participate with troops in the Northern Command that was announced yesterday by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld? Do you think Mexico

and Canada will, in the future, participate with troops in the Northern Command?

President Bush. Well, I think that the restructuring of our command structure really represents that we're in a new world and that we face new threats. Our relationships with Canada and Mexico will not change as a result of restructuring. It's a better way for us to organize against an enemy that is willing to strike at America and our neighborhood. And that's what this reflects. It reflects the ability to coordinate a possible response against an enemy that's fearless.

And these are killers. They're coldblooded killers. And they've hit us before, and they want to hit us again. And so the unified command structure now is going to reflect the true threats that we face.

We used to not face these threats in the past. We thought two oceans would keep us safe. We thought there's no way that an enemy could possibly strike America again after Pearl Harbor. And were we wrong. We were really wrong.

And so that—

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Excuse me for a second, please. And so therefore, it is very important for us to make sure that we prepare our military, as well as our respective homeland securities, against attacks. So not only are we looking at how—for a new command structure for military, we're also working very closely with Canada, *y tambien Mexico*—on making sure that our border is more secure, on making sure that we've got better intelligence sharing, on making sure that cooperation at all levels is as good as it can possibly be.

And it is as good as it can possibly be. I'm real pleased with the efforts we're making with our neighbors.

Venezuela/War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, do you believe, as President Pastrana said, that Colombian guerrillas are operating from Venezuelan territory? Is there anything that the United States can do to help him fight that?

And you mentioned freedom of the press when you were talking about things President Chavez should do. What other specific

things do you think he should do following this coup?

President Bush. Well, first, the reason I mentioned freedom of the press is because when things got hot in Venezuela, he shut the press down. I want you all—I've never thought about doing that, no matter how—what kind of questions these guys ask here. [Laughter]

Mr. President, I've always believed in a free press. I don't care how tough the questions are, or as significantly, how they editorialize in their news stories, but nevertheless—because I respect the press, and so should President Chavez. It's essential he do that.

And so there's a good example of what I'm talking about. When the pressure gets on, leaders should not compromise those institutions that are so important for democracy. The right for opponents to speak out is essential. There is—one of the things that is essential is that people be given the liberty of expressing their opinion without fear of reprisal.

The first part of your question was whether or not FARC is utilizing Venezuela to strike our friend. I'll let our friend speak to that. He's a man who has to live with this problem. We discussed this very issue. I am—and by the way, it's not just FARC basing in Venezuela to strike Colombia; it's as well FARC striking Venezuelan ranchers that aren't protected by the Venezuelan Government.

But why don't you speak to that, Mr. President?

President Pastrana. Thank you, Mr. President. I think that, as you remember some weeks ago, there was—announced that FARC was using the Venezuelan territory to attack the Colombian militaries. And these were, as you remember, 2 or 3 days before all the crises in Venezuela. The chief commander of the army, General Vasquez, personally said to President Chavez that FARC was using Venezuelan territory to attack Colombia.

So that's why we had a meeting last week, the 10th of April, between the Foreign Minister of Colombia and the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, because we are asking questions and we want answers of what was happening. And we proposed the creation of a

binational commission between Colombia and Venezuela to study all these reports that were putting on the press and on the media by journalists of Colombia and Venezuela, of the presence of the FARC on Venezuelan territory.

That's why we sent the letter yesterday, asking the Venezuelan Government if it's true that members of the FARC that were turned away from Mexico—the office of the FARC was closed in Mexico—we were asking, and we want answers, if these guys are or not in Venezuela. That's what we're expecting of the answer of the Foreign Minister of Venezuela.

Q. Mr. President, what will be your message, then, for countries—in this case, Venezuela—or other countries that might open their doors to so-called terrorists?

President Bush. Well, we've spent a lot of time talking about—these aren't “so-called” terrorists; these are terrorists in Colombia. And the reason they're terrorists is because they're using murder to try to achieve political ends. They tried to blow up the recent—recently tried to blow up the man running for President. They've captured people. They're after Andres.

And so my message is that we will work with you to rout out terror. We've put FARC, AUC, on our terrorist list. We've called them for what they are. These are killers who use killing and intimidation to foster political means. And we want to join, with Plan Colombia's billions of dollars, to not only fight the—and by fighting narco-trafficking, by the way, we're fighting the funding source for these political terrorists. And sometimes they're interchangeable.

And we've got to be strong in the fight against terror. And the United States—listen, my biggest job now is to defend our security and to help our friends defend their security against terror. That's what I spend a lot of my time doing. And each area of the world requires a different response—that in some parts of the world, we'll do it militarily; in some parts of the world, we'll help our friends to deal militarily; in some parts of the world, perhaps, we can rout out terror through just simply cutting off money; in other parts of the world, diplomacy seems to have an effect. We're working with our

friends in Europe to use their law enforcement officials to arrest known Al Qaida killers hiding in their country, or plotters.

We've been at this now for 7 months. Colombia has been at this for a lot longer period of time. And we're beginning to make a lot of progress. The key to success is not to grow tired in the fight against terror. And I can assure you I won't. I know this good President is dedicated to fighting terror.

And it's essential for Colombia to succeed in this war against terror in order for her people to realize the vast potential of a great, democratic country. Colombia is an essential part of a peaceful South America. Colombia has got a fantastic tradition, a noble tradition of democracy. It's led the way. And I'm confident that with the right leadership and the right help from America, the kind of leadership Andres is providing now, that Colombia can succeed. And it's in everybody's interests that she does succeed.

Listen, thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; and AUC, the United Self-Defense Forces/Group of Colombia. President Pastrana referred to Foreign Minister Guillermo Fernandez of Colombia and Foreign Minister Luis Alfonso Davila of Venezuela.

Remarks at the President's Environmental Youth Awards Ceremony

April 18, 2002

Welcome to the Rose Garden, and thanks for coming. Congratulations on what you've done for our country. I know you're proud to be here, and I know your moms and dads are proud that you're here too. And I want to thank your teachers that are here with you as well. Teaching is a noble profession, and we appreciate your care for the country and the future of our country. So, welcome. The Rose Garden really is a fitting place to honor people who care about our environment. As you can see, it's a really beautiful place.

I want to thank so much the award winners for turning idealism into action, for taking

a great spirit and love for our country and doing something about that spirit and love for our country. Communities are better as a result, but as importantly, you're providing a really good example of service. You're showing other people that people can make a difference in people's lives, and that's really important.

I want to thank Christie Todd Whitman for being such a great Administrator of the EPA. You know, she and I were Governors together. She was the Governor of New Jersey, and I was the Governor of Texas. And I got to know her well as a great Governor. I knew that when I picked her, she'd be really good at this job, and I want to thank her for her service.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. We've got a Senator here today; Senator Specter is here. We're pleased. Zach Wamp and Rob Simmons and Jeff Flake from Tennessee, Connecticut, and Arizona, I want to thank you all for coming as well. I want to thank the regional administrators of the EPA for being here. I want to thank you for your hard work and appreciate your dedication to the country.

You know, America has learned a lot about ourself in the last 7 months—we really have. We've seen the unity and public spirit of our country. We've seen a great good that can come out of a terrible, terrible evil. And we've rediscovered the importance of taking a stand, of serving something greater than ourself. It's a really important lesson of September the 11th, that in order to fight evil, you can do so by doing some good.

I've asked Americans to dedicate 4,000 hours, the equivalent of 2 years of your lives, to serving your neighbors and your Nation. As part of joining the war against terror, dedicate 4,000 hours to help somebody or some cause or some community.

Our winners today have gone a long way toward meeting that goal already. I may have to assign you another 4,000 hours here pretty soon. *[Laughter]* You've developed the good habits of service, and you're making a big difference in a very important area, and that's our Nation's environment.

Good stewardship begins with the simplest of things. That's what's interesting about the environmental movement. What may appear

to be a small act is really important, cleaning up a park or recycling or encouraging people and showing people how to conserve energy. Good stewardship means understanding the consequences of our actions and convincing others to not needlessly destroy our environment. A good steward also understands that we share this Earth with other creatures, and we have a responsibility to provide them places to live and areas to roam.

In serving others, I think you've shown good works don't have to be these huge projects. What may seem like a small act when taken alone can produce tremendous results when combined with the efforts of others.

Thirty young Americans are going to receive an award today. And if you multiply their works by a hundred or a thousand or a million, you've got more than just projects; you've got a movement. When citizens take responsibility for our environment, there's no limit for the good they can do.

The Federal Government has got responsibilities, as well, to protect the environment. America's experience with environmental protection really makes me optimistic about our future. The modern environmental movement was born in America, born right here in our country. And we've made tremendous progress since its birth.

Since 1970, we've reduced emissions of six key air pollutants by 29 percent. That's significant progress, but more significant given the fact that our economy grew by more than 160 percent. We've shown that you can grow your economy so people can work and, at the same time, be better stewards of the environment.

Some problems such as lead emissions from automobiles have been virtually eliminated—1970, that wouldn't have been the case. Kind of hard for some of us to remember back to 1970; some of you weren't even born. The Administrator and I, we were born then—*[laughter]*—well, it might have been a little bit before then. *[Laughter]* So we remember. Not only do we have a better economy, the world's strongest economy, but we have significantly cleaner and healthier air. We've got better water. And our land is better protected and better managed and more accessible to more Americans.

And we can do more, and we will do more. We're promoting the development of cleaner fuels and new technologies. We're supporting conservation efforts in order to use our resources more wisely. We work with Congress to improve our laws so more brownfields will be cleaned up and redeveloped and more communities can be revitalized. Our clean—our Clear Skies Initiative would improve air quality by dramatically cutting power emissions—emissions from power plants. Our Global Climate Change Initiative commits our Nation to significantly reducing greenhouse gas intensity. And last week, I sent to the Senate legislation necessary to implement a global treaty to control the worst environmental pollutants, in order to reduce air, land, and water pollution around the world. I'm confident the Senate will act.

Stewardship is the calling of Government, and it is the calling of every citizen. In my Inaugural Address, I urged Americans to act as citizens, not as spectators, in building communities of service and a nation of character. You each shown us the way by your own example. I hope that in the years ahead you'll never lose the idealism we honor today. Your communities need it, and your country needs it.

And now, I'd like to welcome back Administrator Whitman to highlight this year's winners of the Presidential—of the President's Environmental Youth Awards. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Secretary of State Colin Powell and an Exchange With Reporters

April 18, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

The President. I'm pleased to welcome the Secretary of State back to the Oval Office. Presidents and Secretaries of State have sat here for a long time, trying to figure out how to reduce violence and bring peace to the Middle East. The Secretary went over with a vision on how to do that.

We talked about the two states living at peace with each other. He carried that message of hope and peace, that our Nation is—will work hard to achieve a peace. He also carried the message that people must—must be focused and must work hard to achieve a peace. People in the region have got certain responsibilities.

The short-term responsibilities are these: The Palestinian Authority must act on its condemnation of terror; the Israelis are withdrawing from Jenin and Nabulus, and they must continue their withdrawals; and neighbors in the region must condemn terror, cut off funding for terror, must make it clear that people who suicide bomb are not martyrs, that they kill or are murderers of innocent people.

As well, the Secretary's trip made it clear that our Nation thinks beyond the shortterm, that we're serious when we talk about two states living side by side and that we're laying the foundations for peace, the structures necessary to get to peace. Progress is being made toward our vision. In order for that vision to be achieved, leaders must take responsibility; leaders in the region must be responsible citizens for a peaceful world.

The Secretary delivered that message loud and clear, and I want to thank him for his work.

Mr. Secretary.

Secretary Powell. Thank you, Mr. President. I did try to deliver that message loud and clear that the United States does have a vision, a vision that leads to two states living in peace, side by side—the only solution to this conflict. And I talked about what the sides have to do with respect to restoring a sense of security so the two peoples and—have confidence in one another and begin negotiations once again, essentially put down security element to our strategy. We made clear to the leaders in the region that we want to move forward with negotiations as early as possible, and we're looking at different ways to do that once security has been established—link the negotiations closely to security.

And the third part of our framework was the humanitarian part. There would be a

great need for humanitarian relief, for reconstruction efforts, and all that has to be part of an integrated strategy.

And we can begin working quickly on that integrated strategy if the Palestinian Authority, if Chairman Arafat and those Palestinian leaders not only denounce violence, but take action to act against those who continue to encourage violence and perform acts of terrorism and violence. The terrorism, violence has to stop. I made that message very clear.

I'm pleased that the Israeli Government is now continuing withdrawal. I hope it will be accelerated, and we will bring that to an end as quickly as possible, because that is one of the difficulties that we have now in moving forward in the integrated strategy.

And Mr. President, we will be staying in close touch with the situation, by phone and with various members of the administration who are already in the region, such as Ambassador Bill Burns, and with the assets of the Department of State and other departments of Government to make sure that the strategy is understood and shared with our friends around the world who are ready to execute it.

The President. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel/ Jenin

Q. Mr. President, you said progress has been made toward our vision. Where? And secondly, do you believe that Ariel Sharon is a man of peace, and are you satisfied with his and his Government's assurances that there was no massacre in Jenin?

The President. I do believe Ariel Sharon is a man of peace. I think he wants—I'm confident he wants Israel to be able to exist at peace with its neighbor—with its neighbors. I mean, he's told that us here in the Oval Office. He has embraced the notion of two states living side by side.

And a progress is made, Terry, as a result of the United States and the Secretary of State going to the region and convincing the parties that we'll never get to peace if there's violence. And the situation prior to the Secretary's arrival was at a boiling point, and thanks to his hard work, he has laid out not only a vision of hope, which is important, but

has convinced others that these terrorist acts will forever and constantly undermine the capacity for peace.

As he mentioned and I mentioned, there have been withdrawals from the West Bank. Mr. Arafat did condemn terror, and we will hold him to account.

This is a part of the world where killing had been going on for a long, long time. And one trip by the Secretary of State is not going to prevent that from happening, but one trip by the Secretary of State laid out the framework and the path to achieve peace. The United States has an obligation to do just that, and he did. And I have done that, and we will continue to do that.

Q. And Jenin?

The President. I was told by the Prime Minister last—a couple of days ago that they were withdrawing from Jenin, and I believe they will—oh, the—we'll see what the evidence says.

Future Involvement in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you said yesterday that you plan to stay engaged in the Middle East. What is the next step? Do you send Mr. Tenet to the region? And specifically, do you support an international peace conference?

The President. Well, let's make sure everybody understands that we have been engaged from the beginning of this administration. It's a—the Mitchell plan came into being as a result of the mission that President Clinton called together. But as a—the Secretary of State and myself and the administration embraced the Mitchell plan. It is a way to achieve peace. All parties signed on to it. We worked to get them to sign on to it.

The Tenet plan, as a result of this administration sending George Tenet to the region to lay out a security cooperation agreement—and so when you—not reading into your question, I just want to make it clear that the history of this administration shows that the Middle East is an incredibly important part of our foreign policy.

I went to the United Nations, spoke clearly about two nations living side by side. And so not only have we been, as they say, engaged—of course, we will be engaged. It is essential that we continue to work to fight

terror. There will never be peace in parts of the world unless we're willing to rout out terror.

And as I said in my speech yesterday, that this war against terror is a part of making sure the world is not only safer but, eventually and as importantly, better. And as the Secretary said, that there must be a humanitarian aspect to peace in the Middle East, that people must have hope, that the hope doesn't come from killing; the hope comes from an ability to realize what all of us want, which is to raise our children in a peaceful and secure environment, hope they get educated, and people can realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

And that is exactly where our vision is. And that's why we will be engaged not only there but around the world where we fight terror. This is the calling of our time, to fight terror. And this Government will be strong in our battle against terror.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Israeli Withdrawal From Palestinian Territories

Q. Mr. President, does it trouble you that Israel hasn't withdrawn without delay, as you requested? And does the demand still stand for a full and immediate withdrawal?

The President. Well, Israel started withdrawing quickly, after our call, from smaller cities on the West Bank. History will show that they responded. And as the Prime Minister said, told me—he gave me a timetable, and he's met the timetable.

In Ramallah, there is an issue with the "Zeevi five" killers. They're housed in the basement where Colin visited with Mr. Arafat, and we will work with the Israelis to figure out a solution to the "Zeevi five." These people are accused of killing a Cabinet official of the Israeli Government. And I can understand why the Prime Minister wants them brought to justice. They should be brought to justice if they killed this man in cold blood.

And so I can—the situation in Ramallah is based upon that particular part of the problem. In terms of the Church of the Nativity, hopefully progress is being made. Once the people are out of the Church of the Nativity, Israel will leave—pull back out of Beth-

lehem. This is good progress. I'm convinced that the Secretary of State's trip helped achieve this progress.

Listen, thank you all.

Q. Mr. President, can I ask one question on the Middle East?

The President. You had your shot.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi, who was killed October 7, 2002. The Secretary of State referred to U.S. Ambassador to Jordan and Amman William J. Burns. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Reauthorization of Welfare Reform Legislation

April 18, 2002

The President. Thank you very much, Tommy. I want to thank you all for coming, and welcome to the people's house. Today we're here to talk about the inspiring commitment and persistence of Americans who left welfare for better lives. And we're here to talk about the compassion of American companies which hired them. And we're here to talk about the next actions we must take in welfare reform to encourage work and to encourage families.

I want to thank Tommy for his leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services. I knew he was going to be a good one, because I saw what he did as Governor of Wisconsin, and he brought that very same skills of leadership and vision to Washington.

And I want to thank another member of my Cabinet who is here as well, Elaine Chao. Thank you for coming, Elaine. She is the head of the Department of Labor.

I want to thank Rodney Carroll, president and CEO of the Welfare to Work Partnership. I want to thank Rodney for his vision; I want to thank Rodney for his successes. I want to thank the dozens of welfare-to-work

stories, the actual examples of people who made the firm and solemn commitment to work hard to embetter themselves. I want to thank you for your example, and I want to thank you for making America a better place.

I want to thank all the company executives who are here, those who have made the commitment to serve their community by serving a—by helping a neighbor help themselves. My goal is to produce a bipartisan piece of legislation that will continue the good reforms of the 1996 welfare law.

I've invited Members of the Senate and the House here today. The House is working up—working on making—is getting this bill ready. They're marking it up, as we call—say it here in Washington. The Senate sent fine of its three Members, Senators Breaux, Santorum, and Bayh, and I want to thank the three United States Senators for joining us today. Glad you're here. You can clap for them. *[Applause]* Just remember that on the next vote. *[Laughter]*

As Tommy said, welfare reform is one of the great success stories. I used to say it was conservative to change welfare; it was compassionate to help people help themselves. Since the law passed in 1996, welfare case-loads have dropped by more than half. And today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty, including 2.8 million fewer children than in 1996. That's success—that's success. No one can deny that that has not been a successful piece of legislation.

But the real success is not found in numbers, not in—found in the number of case-loads cut. That's just a statistic. The real success is found in the number of lives which have been changed, and changed for the better. Real success is shown in the stories of hope and dignity, of hard work and personal achievement.

On stage with me are four success stories, Tiffany Smith and Christine Anthony, Emory Bent and Bernadine Murphy. They are inspiring to me, and they will be inspiring to Americans when they hear their stories, because they are people who know how to persevere against tough odds and dedicated themselves to climbing that hill, to defeating those odds. And I'm so grateful that they're

here, and I want to talk about two of the stories.

Emory Bent—he was unemployed, he was homeless, and he was struggling with drugs. The staff at Project Renewal in New York provided Emory with counseling, support groups, food and shelter, job training and education. In other words, somebody decided that Emory needed some help. In Emory's words, "Project Renewal helped me be a man and stand on my own two feet and be responsible for myself." Once he was hired by Home Depot, Emory said, "I felt like I was a member of society." Emory will be completing his college degree this year.

What's not said on this piece of paper and what I've discovered since I met Emory in the Blue Room, here in the White House, is that even though the program helped, he is more than willing to give praise to an Almighty.

Audience members. Hallelujah. Amen.

The President. A faith-based initiative helped as well. You see, when you help people change their hearts, it can help them change their lives. And sometimes we need a power bigger than Government or the private sector to help in our lives. And Emory is a walking testimony of what can happen.

And then there's Bernadine Murphy of Chicago. She lived in a homeless shelter too. In this case, she had three children with her. It was just 3 years ago that she was in a homeless shelter. She also struggled with drug abuse, and her self-esteem was, as she put it, "nonexistent."

Bernadine enrolled in a 13-week training program, spent 11 weeks working part time with a mentor, somebody who put an arm around her. In her words, "The course made me feel like I was working towards something and helped me begin the long process of rebuilding my self-esteem." That's what she said. Thanks to the course, Bernadine moved into her own apartment, not somebody else's but her own, and now works at the law firm of Bellows & Bellows. Standing next to Bernadine when I went through the line was one of the partners at Bellows & Bellows. I said, "Does she make a pretty good hand?" That's Texan for, "Is she a good worker?" *[Laughter]* She said, "Really good—really good."

Those are just two of the four stories here today, obviously emotional stories and true stories. But they're among the millions of stories that have taken place in America. They're a tribute to the personal effort of those who leave welfare and to the organizations who've helped them, as well as the businesses that hired them.

I want to thank the Welfare to Work Partnership, which is a national campaign that has rounded up and encouraged over 20,000 businesses to provide more than 1.1 million jobs to former welfare recipients. You know, up here in Washington, there's a lot of talking that goes on. What we like to find are those who can actually deliver, and this program has worked. It took a lot of talking, I'm sure, to convince the businesses, the 20,000. But the amazing thing, is the results are fantastic.

There is a responsibility in America if you're—if you're running a business. You have a responsibility to your employees; you have a responsibility to tell the truth when it comes to your assets and your liabilities—*[laughter]*—and you have a responsibility to be a good neighbor in your communities, in your cities, in your States, and in our country. You have a responsibility, as far as I'm concerned, and part of that responsibility is to give back. And one way you can give back is to help hire people coming off welfare.

I urge people—I urge businesses to join the Welfare to Work Partnership or any like such partnership, so that they can meet and realize the beauty of the stories that we just heard today. It's part of being a good American citizen to reach out to a neighbor in need.

We're encouraged by the results of the welfare law, but we're not content. There's more work to be done. We want many more stories like those we've heard today. And so we will continue a determined effort to bring opportunity and hope to all Americans, opportunity and hope in parts of our country where opportunity and hope does not exist. And it's important for Americans to understand there are pockets of despair in our country, and we cannot rest so long as there are pockets of despair.

This year the 1996 welfare law must be reauthorized by Congress. That means they've got to pass something like it again.

I propose spending a lot of money on welfare, to make sure that we can help people help themselves, spending \$17 billion a year from 2003 to 2007, the same level it was last year. But remember, the caseloads are going down, so we can keep the money the same—and the caseloads are going down. It's a generous commitment to helping people help themselves.

But we need to do more than just spend money. Money can help, of course, but money can't put hope in people's hearts. And so I want to talk about four goals that I think are important for the next bill.

First, we've got to strengthen the work requirements for those on welfare. We've got to aim high. We've got to expect the best. Today, States, on average, must require work of only 5 percent of adults getting welfare. That's not a very high standard. I propose that every State be required, within 5 years, to have 70 percent of the welfare recipients working. We promote work because it is the pathway to independence and the pathway to self-respect.

I don't think we would have seen the emotion or heard the stories we heard today if it weren't for a desire to have people work. Work is important. The welfare recipients must spend at least 40 hours a week in work and in preparing for work. And that's important. Because many adults on welfare need new skills, this plan will allow States to combine work with up to 2 days each week of education and job training. In other words, we recognize some can't immediately get into the workplace. I know that. But part of the work requirement has got to be people helping themselves through education and job training.

People need—some people need intensive, short-term help, and I know that as well. And so our proposal offers 3 months in full-time drug rehabilitation or job training. Adolescent mothers can meet their work requirements by attending high school.

But at the heart of all these proposals is that—a simple commitment to return an ethic of work as an important part of the American life.

Secondly, we must encourage to work—we must work to encourage strong marriages

and homes. Strong marriages and stable families are good for children, and stable families should be a central aim of welfare policy. We should not be afraid to promote families in America.

Building and preserving families is not always possible; I know that. I understand that, but it should always be a goal. Under my plan, up to \$300 million will be available to States to support good private or public programs that counsel couples on building a healthy marriage. It recognizes that if there's a focus on marriage, that some marriages can be saved.

I also believe it's very important to make sure that we do everything we can to prevent unwanted pregnancies. And one way that works every time is abstinence. It's fail-safe. *[Laughter]* And it makes sense for the Federal Government to aim for an ideal. So in my budget, I've got \$135 million for abstinence education programs. And not only will abstinence work when it comes to unwanted pregnancy, it will work to fight sexually transmitted diseases.

Thirdly, we must give States greater flexibility in spending welfare money. Today, confusing and conflicting regulations are keeping people from getting help. The intent is there, but sometimes the regulatory world stands in between those who need help and the ability to get help. And Tommy and I are committed to doing everything we can to eliminate the bureaucratic hoops that people have to dive through.

And so the proposal I've submitted that will be in law will provide waivers to allow States to redesign how the Federal programs operate in their States. Rather than dictate to States how each major welfare and training program should operate, waivers would allow States to be more innovative in providing care to low-income families. Let me put it to you this way. They do things a little differently in Louisiana, where Senator Breaux is from. And they do things differently than Pennsylvania or Indiana. And it makes sense to trust the local folks to help design the programs necessary to meet the local needs, and that's what we're doing.

And finally, even as welfare proceeds, it is incredibly important that we encourage the work of charitable and faith-based groups to

help people in need. America's neighborhood healers, the social entrepreneurs of our country, fill needs that no welfare system can possibly fill. And the Government ought to be the ally of the faith-based and charitable programs.

We ought not to worry about faith in our society. We ought to welcome it. We ought to welcome it into our programs. We ought to welcome it in the welfare system. We ought to recognize the healing power of faith in our society. We ought to say to churches and synagogues and mosques, love—if you want to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, start a program to help the homeless, to feed people.

I support legislation—Rick Santorum is the sponsor in the Senate, along with Joe Lieberman—that encourages charitable giving by allowing non-itemizers to deduct charitable gifts, so that we can get more money in the hands of people who are trying to help people in need. We ought not to allow the Federal Government to discriminate, when it comes to the distribution of Federal money, against faith-based grassroots programs. Faith-based initiatives is an integral part of the next step of welfare reform, and I encourage the Congress—the Senate—to get this bill moving. And if there's any differences with the House, get it reconciled and get it on my desk. And the same on welfare reauthorization.

I want to thank the Senators for being here. I want to thank the House Members for working on it. We need to get this done. It's for the good of the American people.

You know, this is a fabulous country we have. I don't know what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. They must have thought all we were going to do was file a lawsuit or something. *[Laughter]*

But we're not only going to fight evil—we're not only going to fight evil with a focused effort to defeat terrorism, but we're going to fight evil by doing some good in our country. It's the millions of acts of kindness and compassion which take place every single day which really define the America that we all know. It's those business folks, people in the business community, in the private sector, who said, "What can I do to help? How can I help somebody?" And when they

end up helping somebody who's been on welfare, they realize they're more help than the person they're trying to help.

And that's what this is all about. I want to thank you all again. I want to thank those who have had the courage to stand up and seek self-esteem and independence. I want to thank the—those who have been mentors and provided love in the darkest days of people who wondered whether there was any hope in our society. And I want to thank corporate America, those who have sat up and said, "I'm going to be a good citizen. Not only am I going to provide for my shareholders and my employees, I'm going to provide for people who need a helping hand."

It's such an honor to be here today. Again, I want to thank the four good souls who have agreed to stand up here. Thank you for your example. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Public Law 104–193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on the Death of Canadian Troops in Afghanistan

April 18, 2002

All Americans are deeply saddened by the deaths yesterday of four brave Canadian military personnel in Afghanistan and by the injuries sustained by eight others. I immediately expressed to Prime Minister Chretien my deepest sorrow and sympathy at this tragic accident. Canada's fallen heroes and their families are in our hearts and prayers.

Canada is a vital member of a mighty coalition against terrorism and hatred. It is shouldering great burdens and making tremendous sacrifices to make the world a safer place for all people. It is doing so in defense of the values that define the Canadian nation and that unite our two peoples.

As I told the Prime Minister, we will work together with Canada in a thorough and timely investigation to determine exactly how yesterday's tragedy in Afghanistan occurred. We will draw every possible lesson from what

happened and do everything we can to protect coalition forces engaged in this vitally important mission.

Statement on House of Representative Action on Tax Relief Legislation

April 18, 2002

I commend the House for its bipartisan passage of legislation to make permanent last year's tax relief. Tax relief is right for America, and it has been right for our economy. Taxpayers need to know they can count on continued lower tax rates as they plan and invest for the future. I urge the Senate to act on this measure because failure to do so would penalize every American who pays Federal income taxes.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Strengthen Border Security and Urging Action on Immigration Legislation

April 18, 2002

Improving our Nation's border security is vital to protecting Americans from future terrorist attacks. I commend the Senate for passing legislation that strengthens border security and gives our law enforcement officials additional tools to secure our homeland. I look forward to Congress sending me this important legislation as soon as possible so that I can sign it into law.

I also continue to urge Congress to act to strengthen families and make America more welcoming. Congress should pass a temporary extension under 245(i) so that immigrants eligible to become legal residents will not be forced to leave the country and their families to have their immigration status resolved.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released this statement in Spanish.

Proclamation 7543—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2002

April 18, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Thirty years ago, advocates from some of the most crime-ridden neighborhoods of St. Louis, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., founded the Nation's first assistance programs for crime victims. These centers were established in communities where violence was common, and they were clear about their mission: to bring help, hope, and healing to those who had suffered the effects of crime. The creation of these victim-assistance programs launched a movement that brought domestic violence shelters, homicide victim support groups, and rape crisis centers to help victims in cities and towns throughout the United States.

The crime victims' rights movement also brought changes in the way the criminal justice system treats and interacts with crime victims. In many cases, crime victims began to be treated with greater respect and to play an important role in criminal justice proceedings.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan assembled a task force of nine national leaders to travel the country and listen to service providers, criminal justice professionals, and victims. The Task Force's Final Report listed 68 recommendations for meeting victims' needs, including the need for a Federal constitutional amendment. The momentum generated by this report helped spur passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, which now supports thousands of assistance programs throughout the Nation. The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 and other laws have given victims of Federal crimes many important rights.

All 50 States have now passed victims' rights laws, and more than half the States have amended their constitutions to guarantee rights for crime victims. However, more remains to be done to secure victims' rights. I support a Federal Constitutional Amendment to protect the rights of victims of violent crime.

Our Nation has come to realize the tragic toll that crime takes, and we have developed the resources to ease crime's physical, emotional, and financial impact. This support network, which was already in place on September 11, made us better prepared to deal with the unspeakable pain and tragedy inflicted by the terrorist attacks. Along with the many firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and rescue workers who responded in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, hundreds of counselors, chaplains, social workers, volunteers, and victim service providers came together for the common purpose of helping the victims, the families, and our Nation.

My Administration has made the fight against crime a top priority. But when a crime does occur, I am dedicated to providing assistance and comfort to victims and to ensuring that the rights of victims are protected. At the time of their great trauma, crime victims deserve nothing less than our complete support.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage every community to embrace the cause of victims' rights and services and to advance them in all sectors of our society.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 22, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

Remarks at the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner

April 18, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all very much. Thank you

for that warm welcome. I'm honored to be your President, and I'm honored to be a proud backer of the Crawford Texas Volunteer Fire Department. [Laughter]

Anybody here from—

Audience members. We love you, George! [Laughter]

The President. I was hoping somebody would be here from the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department. [Laughter] It's a long drive from Crawford, but thanks for coming. [Laughter]

This evening we pay a fitting tribute to our Nation's first-responders, the men and women who answer America's alarms. Yours is one of the highest callings in our country and one of the hardest. Your neighborhoods depend on you and so does your country. And you've never let us down.

It's good to be here with Hal Bruno. This man was one of the finest names in TV journalism. You know him as a champion of fallen firefighters and a champion of their families. And as a lifelong volunteer, Hal, you have the respect of the people in this room, and we thank you for your service.

And America has come to know my friend, a steady and strong man, the man I picked to be the FEMA Director, Joe Allbaugh. I'm proud of—[applause]—there's something reassuring about old Joe. [Laughter] It might be his haircut. [Laughter] But I know him well and trust him because he's got a big heart. And as Hal just told me, I'm proud of the fact that he's welcomed into any firehouse in America.

And I give my thanks to a former volunteer fire chief, an eloquent former volunteer fire chief, the man who founded the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, my friend Congressman Curt Weldon. I want to thank Chief Dave Paulison for his willingness to serve our country.

I want to thank the Congressmen who are here, Steny Hoyer as well as Rob Andrews. I understand that Senator Biden and Senator Sarbanes are to be here. They might be trying to pass some legislation right now—I hope. [Laughter] I've got a few suggestions in mind if they—[laughter]—if they're interested. But I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. Thank you for

taking time out of your evenings to be here and support this really important evening.

I want to thank Chief Nigro, Chief Plaugher, and Chief Shaffer for their leadership and for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. And I want to thank you all for being such fine Americans.

This annual event recognizes more than a million Americans who accept the difficult and dangerous work of fighting fires. At this hour, across our country, career and volunteer firefighters are waiting for the next call and prepared for anything that might come. Every one of them knows the risk that may be only minutes away, and every firefighter has made a decision. It has been said that a firefighter's first act of bravery is taking an oath to become a firefighter.

We often read about surveys that ask Americans whom they trust and respect the most. In addition to their own family, one of the groups the young people of America most often name is the firefighters of our country—and rightly so. You defend us against humanity's oldest enemy.

In many ways, modern societies have gained control over fire. We have invented new methods of detecting fires and new practices to prevent them. Yet, we know there will always be fires, and someone will have to face the flames. America will always need the kind of people who do that work. There is no substitute for the raw courage of the firefighter.

On September the 11th, the world saw once again the true meaning of heroism. Thousands of lives were saved from certain death by the courage of rescuers. Thousands were killed in the attack on our country, but not one of the victims was abandoned. Undoubtedly, for many who died that terrible day, the last voice they heard was the voice of a rescuer.

A woman who lost her daughter at the World Trade Center has written this: "We do not know what Ann's final time on Earth was like. But one thing we do know; if she were conscious of being in a fire, she would have known that somewhere firemen were looking for her, and if it were humanly possible, they would save her or give their lives trying. She learned that as a fireman's daughter."

Another fireman's daughter is here this evening, along with her three brothers and their mom, Rosalie. They are the family of Chief Ray Downey, who will always be remembered as one of the heroes of September the 11th. Those who knew him would tell him—tell you he was the bravest of the brave, a fireman's fireman. And today I proudly sign legislation designating a post office in Deer Park, New York, as the Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building.

It is our job to make sure that our country does not forget the sacrifices of that day and the valor of those who made them. We will remember all the innocent people who were murdered and the terrorist leaders who sent the murderers. And we'll remember our mission, to run down the terrorists one by one and bring them to justice.

I can't imagine what went through their minds when they were plotting this horrible evil. You know, they must have thought America was so materialistic, so self-centered, so self-absorbed, so weak that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They found out we think a little different here in America.

These people are nothing but cold-blooded killers. And that's exactly how we're going to treat them. There is no cave—[*applause*]*—there's not a calendar on my desk that says, you know, you got to quit by this date. I'm patient; so is the American people. We're united. You see, when it comes to defending that which we hold dear, we're plenty tough, and we hold our freedoms dear.*

This is a different kind of war than we've used to in America. The days after September the 11th, I told the American people, and I'm telling them every chance I get, that this will be a war that will be fought on many fronts. Sometimes we'll use our military; sometimes we'll cut off their money; sometimes we'll conduct operations that no one will see, except the enemy when we grab them.

I want you to know we're making good progress. But it's going to take a long time. It's going to take a lot longer than some of the calendar watchers would like. But that's okay, because we've got the resolve. Much to the chagrin of the enemy, this Nation has the resolve and the desire and the will to

do what it takes to defend our freedoms and to make sure our children and our grandchildren can grow up in a free and peaceful world.

I sent up—I sent up a budget to Congress that reflects the nature of the war we're in. It's a big increase, no question about it. It's a \$48-billion increase for our Armed Forces. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan. And it's necessary. Here's my attitude: If we put our soldiers in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment; they deserve the best training; they deserve the best support possible from the United States of America.

I've also made homeland security a priority in the budget, with \$3.5 billion in proposed spending for our country's first-responders. We must prepare our country for whatever emergency may come and commit new resources to train and equip our firefighters, our police, and EMS crews all around the country.

You know, people oftentimes ask me what can they do to help fight in the war against terror. Firefighters answer that call every day. But there are other ways to fight in the war against terror as well. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to join the war against terror, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

That's why I'm calling on people to join the USA Freedom Corps, and one of the initiatives is to help our firefighters and police and EMS teams—have volunteers support you all, have elderly help out in Neighborhood Watch. I mean, there are ways citizens can join in this war against terror.

And there are other ways as well. If you mentor a child, you're doing some good. If you say to a shut-in, "What can I do to help you out," you're doing some good. If you go to your church or synagogue or mosque and help people feed the hungry, you're doing some good. And it's the millions of acts of kindness and compassion which stand squarely in the face of evil.

I am so proud—I am so proud of the way America has responded. You know, I think we're beginning to defeat the old culture which said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem,

blame somebody else.” You’ve lived the culture of personal responsibility, of being responsible for something greater than yourself. That’s what the firefighter does. And making the sacrifice and risking your life, you’re a part of a movement, of a culture that says, “It’s important to serve something greater.”

That was best seen in Flight 93. It’s one of the moments that I’ll never forget—when brave men and women on a flight were told via telephone on the plane that America was under attack and they, themselves, had become a weapon. They said to their loved ones—they told their loved ones they loved them; they said a prayer; one guy said, “Let’s roll;” and they drove an airplane in the ground, to serve something greater than themselves in life.

Out of this evil will come incredible good in America. Out of the evil done to our country will come more peace in the world, a culture of personal responsibility, a willingness to serve something greater than ourselves in life. The enemy thought they hit a weak Nation, but instead, they hit the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. And it is my honor to be the President of the greatest Nation.

Thank you all. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:08 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hal Bruno, chairman, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; R. David Paulison, U.S. Fire Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Daniel A. Nigro, chief, Fire Department of New York City; Ed Plaughner, chief, Arlington County Fire Department, Arlington, VA; and Terry Shaffer, chief, Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department, Shanksville, PA.

Memorandum on Foreign Assistance to Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan

April 18, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–15

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Eligibility of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan to Receive Defense Articles and Services under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 3(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, I hereby find that the furnishing of defense articles and services to the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 19.

Memorandum on Emergency Military Assistance to the Government of Nigeria

April 18, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–16

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Determination to Authorize the Furnishing of Emergency Military Assistance to the Government of Nigeria

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C.

2318(a)(1) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that:

- (1) an unforeseen emergency exists that requires immediate military assistance to the Government of Nigeria; and
- (2) the emergency requirement cannot be met under the authority of the Arms Export Control Act or any other law except section 506(a) of the Act.

I therefore direct the drawdown of defense articles and defense services from the Department of Defense, and military education and training, of an aggregate value not to exceed \$4 million, to provide assistance to the Government of Nigeria.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 19.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Beltsville, Maryland

April 19, 2002

Death of Canadian Troops in Afghanistan

The President. I want to say publicly what I told Jean Chretien the other day, that how sorry I am that Canadian soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan. It was a terrible accident, and parents and loved ones of the soldiers have my most heartfelt sympathy. And I wish we could bring them back, but we can't.

I appreciate so very much our sacrifices that the Canadians are making in the war against terror. And again, sorry this accident took place.

Q. Sir, should there have been better communication between the—

The President. We'll find out. We'll find out what took place. It's just a terrible accident.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Some international groups criticized conditions in some of the camps in Palestine as horrific.

The President. Well, we'll find—again, I think there's a—I share a deep concern about the humanitarian plight of people who live in that region. Obviously, I worry about families whose lives have been affected by the terror. I think it's very important for all of us as we—work toward a vision of peace to understand that we must provide hope where there is no hope, provide an opportunity where there seems to be no opportunity; that the best way for a lasting peace is for countries in the regions to uphold their responsibilities and remember that a peaceful situation requires there to be an opportunity for the Palestinians, peace for the Israelis. I am concerned about the living conditions of people throughout the region, and all governments have responsibilities for those living conditions.

I worry about high unemployment rate in countries in the region. And I worry about the fact that some young feel like they have no hope, and we need to work together to provide hope. Part of a lasting peace is for there to be hope in the region.

Energy Legislation

Q. Mr. President, will you sign an energy bill without ANWR?

The President. There is a energy bill with ANWR passed by the House, an energy bill without ANWR passed by the Senate—soon to be energy bill without ANWR passed by the Senate. And we'll see what happens. I do think it is very important for the American people to understand we need more supply to offset the national security risk of importing oil from parts of the world that do not like America. And I am confident we can find more supply in an environmentally friendly way.

President's Visit to James J. Rowley Training Center

Q. Tell us about your visit this morning. We understand you got behind the wheel.

The President. I did get behind the wheel.

Q. How did it go?

The President. Have you ever done a J-turn before?

Q. No, sir.

The President. I have. [Laughter]

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes, it is. At least, this is the first time I'll ever admit to doing a J-turn.

Q. Did you pull it off?

The President. Let me just say this: The Secret Service has got some of the best instructors in the world, and they took a fellow who hadn't been driving much and taught me the J-turn. It was a pretty exciting feeling.

Q. Looking forward to doing it in the pick-up, sir?

The President. There will be no J-turns in Crawford. [*Laughter*]

Situation in the Middle East

Q. There are critics who say that you're easing up on Israel and that your comments—

The President. I think what people need to do is to read my speech in the Rose Garden, where I laid out a vision for peace and called upon all parties to uphold their responsibilities. In order for there to be peace, leaders must lead, and people must be responsible. There is joint and shared responsibility for peace. Israelis have got responsibility; the Palestinian Authority has got responsibility; and the nations in the region have got responsibility. And if there is a sincere desire for peace—which I hope there is, and I certainly have—then my job is to continue to lay out that vision and to call upon people to achieve—to do that which is necessary to achieve the peace.

Listen, thank you all. I hope you have a great weekend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the James J. Rowley Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; and ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 14

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

April 15

In the morning, the President met with the National Security Council. He also met with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA. Upon his arrival at the airport, he met with senior volunteer Maxine Phipps. Later in the afternoon, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences: L.D. Britt, William C. De La Pena, Vinicio E. Madrigal, and Linda J. Stierle.

April 16

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. In the afternoon, he met with President Tarja Halonen of Finland in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia to Washington on May 14.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Mortgage Corporation: Cesar Benito Cabrera (real estate representative), Michelle Engler (community interests representative), David James Gribbin III (public representative), William Dodd Powers (mortgage lending representative), and Catherine Lynne Stepp (homebuilding representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Bruce Growick, James R. Haring,

and Janice Tuck as members of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association: Victor Henderson Ashe (community interests representative), Molly Hering Bordonaro (real estate representative), William Robert Harvey (mortgage lending representative), Manuel J. Justiz (public representative), and Taylor C. Segue III (homebuilding representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert J. Cottrol, Timothy M. Hagle, and Allison H. Eid as members of the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise.

The President announced his intention to appoint William Grayson as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellows.

April 17

In the morning, the President traveled to Lexington, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, he met with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to express his condolences over the friendly fire incident earlier in the day near Kandahar, Afghanistan, where four Canadian soldiers were killed by a bomb from a U.S. fighter jet.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark W. Everson to be Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rebecca Lent as U.S. Commissioner of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

April 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he received notice that, in an apparent accident earlier in the morning,

a small plane had crashed into a high-rise building in Milan, Italy.

In the afternoon, he had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

April 19

In the morning, the President traveled to Beltsville, MD. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will host the U.S.-European Union Summit in Washington, DC, on May 2.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and Mrs. Aznar to Camp David on May 3-4.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 15

Marcos D. Jimenez, of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas E. Scott, resigned.

Submitted April 16

L. D. Britt, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for the remainder of the term expiring May 1, 2005, vice John F. Potter.

William C. De La Pena, of California, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2007, vice Robert E. Anderson, term expired.

Vinicio E. Madrigal, of Louisiana, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2003, vice Carol Johnson Johns.

Linda J. Stierle, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring May 1, 2007, vice Shirley Ledbetter Jones.

Randy Paul Ely, of Texas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice D. W. Bransom, Jr., term expired.

Thomas M. Fitzgerald, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Frank Policaro, Jr., term expired.

Walter Lukken, of Indiana, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2005, vice David D. Spears, term expired.

James E. McMahon, of South Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Karen Elizabeth Schreier, resigned.

Stephen Robert Monier, of New Hampshire, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years, vice Raymond Gerard Gagnon, term expired.

Ruben Monzon, of Texas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Hiran Arthur Contreras, term expired.

Gary Edward Shovlin, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice Alan D. Lewis.

David William Thomas, of Delaware, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Delaware for the term of 4 years,

vice Timothy Patrick Mullaney, Sr., term expired.

Jose Gerardo Troncoso, of Nevada, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of 4 years (reappointment).

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 14

Statement by the Press Secretary on the situation in Venezuela

Released April 15

Transcripts of press gaggles by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: Governor Tom Ridge Will Join Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill and Customs Commissioner Robert Bonner To Launch the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls on Congress To Make Tax Relief Permanent

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Southern District of Texas, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Western District of Pennsylvania, the District of Delaware, the District of New Hampshire, and the District of Nevada

Released April 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in Crawford, TX

Fact sheet: President Calls for Crime Victims' Rights Amendment

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Texas and U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota

Released April 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Senate vote not to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Virginia

Announcement: The White House Announces National Finalists for 2002–2003 White House Fellowships

Released April 19

Statement by the Press Secretary on the May 2 U.S.-EU Summit in Washington, DC

Statement by the Press Secretary: Spanish President To Visit Washington

Acts Approved by the President

Approved April 18

H.R. 1432 / Public Law 107–160

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3698 Inner Perimeter Road in Valdosta, Georgia, as the “Major Lyn McIntosh Post Office Building”

H.R. 1748 / Public Law 107–161

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, as the “Tom Bliley Post Office Building”

H.R. 1749 / Public Law 107–162

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 685 Turnberry Road in Newport News, Virginia, as the “Herbert H. Bateman Post Office Building”

H.R. 2577 / Public Law 107–163

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 South State Street in St. Ignace, Michigan, as the “Bob Davis Post Office Building”

H.R. 2876 / Public Law 107–164

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in Harlem, Montana, as the “Francis Bardonoune United States Post Office Building”

H.R. 2910 / Public Law 107–165

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, as the “Norman Sisisky Post Office Building”

H.R. 3072 / Public Law 107–166

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Main Street in Forest City, North Carolina, as the “Vernon Tarlton Post Office Building”

H.R. 3379 / Public Law 107–167

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Carlls Path in Deer Park, New York, as the “Raymond M. Downey Post Office Building”

Week Ending Friday, April 26, 2002

Proclamation 7544—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2002

April 19, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's organ and tissue donor program is an important part of our healthcare system. Through the organ donor program, Americans can provide hope to those who face difficult and often life-threatening conditions caused by the failure of vital organs. The selfless generosity of organ and tissue donors helps meet a significant and growing need in our country.

Statistics show that approximately 60 Americans receive a transplant every day. However, at the same time, another 15 people die because not enough organs are available. There are more than 79,500 patients waiting for an organ transplant, and another person joins the waiting list every 13 minutes.

My Administration is committed to expanding the organ and tissue program to close this gap. Last year, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy Thompson assumed leadership of this effort through the "Gift of Life Donation Initiative." This Initiative involves collaboration among businesses and employees to make organ donation information more available. It also includes the development of a national forum on donor registries, a new model donor card, and increased cooperation between HHS, other Federal agencies, and State governments to promote donor awareness.

Every day, Americans across our Nation provide help for those in need in countless ways. During this week, we renew our efforts to foster this compassion and to help save lives by promoting organ and tissue donation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon all medical professionals, educators, volunteers, government agencies, and private organizations to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7545—National Volunteer Week, 2002

April 19, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Citizen service has always been a cornerstone of our democracy. Since our founding, Americans have stepped forward to serve the needs of others, strengthen our communities, and defend the freedoms we treasure.

Our country and the world continue to see the compassion, strength, and generosity of Americans in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Volunteers from across the Nation united to help meet the needs of those harmed by the tragic attacks, volunteering their time, their financial resources, and their kindness.

The spirit that guided our response to the attacks is still evident in Americans of every age group and background who volunteer their time to enhance the lives of others. These compassionate people work through a broad range of organizations that reflect the diversity of our country, including private charities, faith-based organizations, schools, neighborhood groups, volunteer centers, service clubs, and Federal service programs. The efforts of millions of Americans help solve some of our most pressing problems and build bonds of trust among people.

To tap further into our Nation's vast resources of compassion and strength, I recently created the USA Freedom Corps (USAFC). And I have called on all Americans to give at least 2 years—or 4,000 hours—during their lives in service to others. This service is essential to forging a united response to overcoming the challenges that face our Nation.

The USAFC will help unleash our armies of compassion, enhance homeland security, provide additional service and volunteer opportunities in our communities, and help people in America and around the world to meet important needs. Many Americans are already answering the call, volunteering a few hours each week or a few days each month to aid a local school, by mentoring or tutoring a child. Citizens are also donating their time to support a place of worship, to offer their expertise to a neighborhood association, or to strengthen a local service organization. Others are serving our country full time in the military or in programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps. I urge citizens to keep a record of their service experiences in a journal that will enable them to share them with their children and grand children, inspiring new generations to engage in community service.

The spirit exemplified by America's volunteers will help create a culture of responsibility and caring that will inspire us to achieve greatness as a Nation. During National Volunteer Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about how they can serve, to volunteer to help those in need, and to encourage the volunteers across the country who are answering the call to service. Americans looking for a way to serve can contact the

USA Freedom Corps web site at www.usafreedomcorps.gov or call, toll-free, 1-877-USA-CORPS (872-2677).

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Volunteer Week. I call on all Americans to join together to celebrate the vital work that volunteers perform every day across our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 20, 2002

Good morning. This week Secretary of State Colin Powell returned from the Middle East and reported on his intensive and productive meetings.

In this region, we are confronting hatred that is centuries old and disputes that have lingered for decades. Yet, America has a vision for peace, and by calling all the leaders of the Middle East to their responsibilities, Secretary Powell made progress toward peace.

To defuse the current crisis, the Palestinian Authority must act on its words of condemnation against terror. Israel must continue its withdrawals. All Arab nations must confront terror in their own region. All parties must stop funding or inciting terror and must state clearly that a murderer is not a martyr; he or she is just a murderer.

All parties must realize that the only long-term solution is for two states, Israel and Palestine, to live side by side in security and peace. This will require hard choices and real

leadership by Israelis and Palestinians and their Arab neighbors.

The time is now for all of us to make the choice for peace. America will continue to work toward this vision of peace in the Middle East, and America continues to press forward in our war against global terror. We will use every available tool to tighten the noose around the terrorists and their supporters. And when it comes to the threat of terror, the only path to safety is the path of action.

In the days just after September the 11th, I told the American people our war against terrorism would be a different war, fought on many fronts. And we are making progress on many fronts. Yesterday the United States and the world's other leading industrialized nations blocked the financial assets of another 10 terrorists and terrorist organizations. This joint action among close allies is an important step in choking off the financial pipeline that pays for terrorist training and attacks.

A total of 161 nations around the world have joined together to block more than \$100 million of suspected terrorist assets. The United States also works with our friends and allies around the world to round up individual terrorists, such as Abu Zubaydah, a top Al Qaida leader captured in Pakistan. From Spain to Singapore, our partners are breaking up terrorist cells and disrupting their plans. Altogether, more than 1,600 terrorists and their supporters have been arrested or detained in 95 foreign nations.

In Afghanistan, the United States and its partners are pressing forward with a military campaign against Al Qaida and the Taliban. More than a dozen of our NATO Allies are contributing forces to this fight. Right now, hundreds of Royal Marines from Great Britain are leading an operation to clear and seal off regions where our enemies are trying to regroup to commit murder and mayhem and to undermine Afghanistan's efforts to build a lasting peace.

And we're working with nations such as Yemen, the Philippines, and Georgia that seek our help in training and equipping their military forces to fight terror in some of the world's distant corners.

We're making progress. Yet, nothing about this war will be quick or easy. We face dangers and sacrifices ahead. America is ready; the morale of our military is high; the will of our people is strong. We are determined; we are steadfast; and we will continue for as long as it takes, until the mission is done.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:10 a.m. on April 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Earth Day in Wilmington, New York

April 22, 2002

Well, thank you for that warm welcome on a snowy day. *[Laughter]* We had a great time in the park, and I want to thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity to hammer and stack, place gravel—*[laughter]*—in a beautiful part of the world. This is quite a sight for a fellow from Texas. *[Laughter]* It's quite a sight for anybody in America. And George is right, this is some of the most beautiful country in our entire Nation.

I want to thank you all very much for welcoming me here on Earth Day, a day every spring when America can reflect on our natural world and our duties as Americans to do everything we can to promote the spirit of Earth Day. We have a duty in our country to make sure our land is preserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, our parks are accessible and open and well-preserved. And that's why I'm here, to trumpet this duty and to thank those who assume their duty.

I firmly believe that the—32 years after Earth Day, America understands our obligation much more so than in the years past, that we must be careful of our actions. Americans understand that. Good stewardship is a personal responsibility of all of us, and it's a public value. And that's what's important for Americans to understand, that each of us have a responsibility, and it's a part of our

value system in our country to assume that responsibility.

Somebody who understands that is the Governor of the State of New York, George Pataki. He's a great Governor; he's a good friend. He wields a pretty mean hammer. *[Laughter]* I'm proud to call him friend. And I know the people of New York are proud to call him Governor. He's the kind of fellow who does in office that which he says he's going to do. It doesn't matter what your political party is, as far as I'm concerned. What matters is—in this case, what matters is that he does—he kind of defeats cynicism by performing. And therefore, what I was going to say is, it doesn't matter what your party is; you've got to admire that in a man.

I also appreciate Christie Todd Whitman's service to the country. Pataki, me, and Christie Todd were all Governors at one time or another and got to know each other. I knew she was a very good Governor of New Jersey and she'd be a great Administrator of the EPA, and she hasn't let me down.

I want to thank Congressman Sherry Boehlert and John McHugh and John Sweeney for being here as well, the three Congressmen; thank you all for coming. David Skovron of the—chairman of the Adirondack Council, I want to thank you, David, wherever you are. I want to thank Steve McCormick of the Nature Conservancy. I appreciate the good work of the Nature Conservancy. It's a fantastic organization that's doing America a lot of good. I want to thank the members of AmeriCorps. I want to thank the Student Conservation Association, particularly its leadership, the sergeants. I want to thank the Adirondack Council, the Adirondack Park Agency, and all the good folks here who care about the environment and who care about this beautiful part of the world.

You know, Christie Todd talked about Teddy Roosevelt, and I—every morning when I go to the Oval Office, I sit at the same desk he used as well as Franklin Roosevelt as well as other Presidents. But the guy who wrote the book "Theodore Rex," Edmund Morris, came in, took a look at the Oval Office, and said, "You know, Teddy Roosevelt sat there." And it reminds me of what a huge responsibility I have. And I'm grateful for that.

And it also amazes me that in this very park, Teddy Roosevelt used to hang out. It was here that he formed a lot of his views, and I can see why. These parks helped shape his view of conservation, which had a significant impact on our park system here in America—eventually helped with the beginning of a park system that is worthy of protection and worthy of our focus and attention.

Thousands of acres in the Adirondacks are unchanged. And it's important for people to realize why: Not because they were neglected but because people have cared for the acreage; not because people have said, "Well, let's just let it sit;" it's because there have been thousands of man-hours put into this area to make it work for the good of all. And that's important for people to realize.

Generations of New Yorkers have made a commitment and have said this: "Tread lightly here, and make sure we place sensible limits on the reach of development." And that's what's happened. Here we see good stewardship in action. The Adirondack Park is among the first protected wilderness areas in our country. Yet, this land is also home to many, a place to work, a sanctuary for visitors who come here to appreciate the peace and beauty they can find here.

In the north country of New York, you have chosen the way of cooperation. Private organizations, land owners, government at all levels are working with each other as opposed to against each other. And for those who care deeply about our environment and our country, the lessons learned here are essential. And that is, we must cooperate, we must work together. It is a standard for good conservation being set here, and I'm here to herald it and thank you all.

The Adirondack Park also depends upon the work of volunteers. And for those of you who volunteer here, I want to thank you, as do—those who work here thank you as well. You give your time for an incredibly worthy cause. You help maintain the place so that future generations can use it and know it like you have known it. You protect the wildlife so they have room to roam and a place to live. I was most impressed by how—by the discussion of the beaver dams and the care

for not only the trail system but for the beavers, themselves. It was an understanding of the importance of good stewardship.

The other thing the volunteers do is they welcome people here—after all, this is the people's land; this isn't one person's land; it's the people's land—inform visitors about the mountains so they can enjoy their time and leave only footprints behind.

All together, 200,000 Americans lend their time to the care of our national parks and Federal lands, and that's impressive. The commitment they show is more than good stewardship; it is responsible citizenship.

Not only do people have responsibility, obviously, but so does your Government. And the Federal Government has got a big responsibility, and I understand that. And I accept the responsibilities of our Government. For three decades, we've acted with clear purpose to prevent needless and, at times, reckless disregard of the air and the water and the soil and the wildlife. This commitment has yielded tremendous progress. Our lakes and rivers are much cleaner than they were on the first Earth Day.

Limits on toxic emissions have greatly improved the quality of the air we breathe. The Clean Air Act has helped reduce acid rain and urban air pollution. We've done all this at a time when our economy and population grew dramatically. We have shown that we can expand our economy for the good of all of us, while also being good and conscientious stewards of the environment. And that's an important lesson. Americans can be proud of these achievements.

We also see there is work ahead. The Federal Government should do more to assist the States and communities in promoting conservation. I have made it my goal of my administration to revitalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, particularly the grants it provides to States and local communities. The fund was created to help acquire, conserve, and improve recreational facilities on public lands. Yet in recent years, the Federal Government has fallen way short of meeting this commitment. So I've asked Congress to increase the fund's State grants by 38 percent, to make sure that the States get their share of the money, as the authors of the law intended. This will allow for more

innovative conservation approaches, such as the ones led by George Pataki and other Governors and other local officials around the country.

May probably not come as much of a surprise to you, but I don't believe all wisdom resides in Washington, DC. I think the people closest to the land are those who probably love the land more than folks in Washington, DC. And this is a way to make sure that power and money get out of Washington, for the good of the environment.

I also call for new clear skies legislation, to set new tough standards to reduce air pollution. For decades, New Yorkers have been fighting acid rain. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments helped reduce the problem. And now we should do more at the Federal level. Some of the biggest sources of air pollution are the powerplants, which send tons of emissions into our air. Therefore we have set a goal: With clear skies legislation, America will do more to reduce powerplant emissions than ever before in our Nation's history.

We will reach our ambitious air quality goals through a market-based approach that rewards innovation, reduces cost, and most importantly, guarantees results. Mine is a results-oriented administration. When we say we expect results, we mean it. We will set mandatory limits on air pollution, with firm deadlines, while giving companies the flexibility to find the best ways to meet the mandatory limits.

Clear skies legislation, when passed by Congress, will significantly reduce smog and mercury emissions as well as stop acid rain. It will put more money directly into programs to reduce pollution, so as to meet firm national air quality goals and put less money into the pockets of lawyers and regulators.

My administration will foster technologies that I'm absolutely convinced will change America for the better. We will promote innovative ways to encourage conservation. I believe we'll be driving automobiles driven by fuel cells in a relatively short period of time, and we're promoting that technology. I know we need to promote renewable sources of energy to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We also must encourage natural resource restoration, and one good place to start is

in the farm bill that's right now before Congress. Good stewardship is the daily work of America's farmers and those who own the land. I like to tell people, Laura and I are proud to be Texas—own a Texas ranch, and for us, every day is Earth Day. If you own your own land, every day is Earth Day. If you have to make a living off your land, it's important to make your land as productive as is possible. Every day is Earth Day. And so, therefore, I support—strongly support a strong farm conservation effort in the farm bill before the Congress. With more funding and incentives for conservation, we can help our farmers preserve wetlands and wildlife habitat and to better protect water quality.

Americans have reached a great consensus about the protection on the environment; we've come to understand the success of a generation is not defined by wealth alone. We want to be remembered for our material progress, no question about it, but we also want to be remembered for the respect we give to our natural world.

This Earth Day finds us on the right path, gaining in appreciation for the world in our care. Each of you here today is doing your part to advance that work and to spread this spirit. And on behalf of our country, I want to thank you.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. at Whiteface Mountain Ski Lodge. In his remarks, he referred to Steven J. McCormick, president and chief executive officer, Nature Conservancy. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

April 22, 2002

The President. Please be seated. We meet this evening to recognize some of our Nation's finest artists and scholars and authors. We honor their lifelong pursuit of excellence, and we hold up their achievements to future generations.

I want to welcome you all. I want to thank Dr. Bruce Cole, who is the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Eileen Mason, Acting Chairman for the

National Endowment for the Arts. I want to recognize Mrs. Lynne Cheney; Secretary of State Colin Powell and his wife, Alma; Tom Ridge, who is the Director of the Homeland Security Office.

Tonight we've got members of the Supreme Court with us: Antonin Scalia and his wife, Maureen; Stephen Breyer and his wife, Joanna. We've got a special entertainment tonight provided by my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here: from the United States Senate, Pete Domenici and Joe Lieberman, and from the House of Representatives, Norman Dicks, Mike McNulty, Tom Petri, Silvestre Reyes, and Louise Slaughter.

I also want to thank Adair Margo, who is the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. I want to thank the members of that committee, as well as the members of the National Council on the Arts and National Council on the Humanities.

I also want to pay tribute to the memory of Michael Hammond, who passed away in January after serving for only one week as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. A classically educated scholar, Mike Hammond was also a composer and an educator and an expert on the neurology of the brain. All of us who were privileged to know Mike will miss him deeply.

The men and women who are about to receive the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal are singers and dancers and painters and producers and actors and writers and scholars. Yet, for all their differences, they have one thing in common: They're all teachers. They teach us about a "Boy Named Sue"—[*laughter*—about an "Odd Couple." They teach us about a "Last Lion" or a "Ragman's Son." They help us to see more clearly and to think more deeply. They connect our past to our present and point the way to our future. And of course, they all have "The Right Stuff." [*Laughter*]

Honoring our leading artists and writers comes naturally to us. Yet, art and literature are often the first targets of tyranny, because they're the most prominent features of a free, creative, and open society. This creativity,

this openness, and this freedom are what America defends today.

This evening, as we celebrate the achievements of these remarkably talented women and men, let us also take just a moment to celebrate the Nation that esteems their craft, their hard work, and their sacrifice. America is proud to stand for creativity and freedom and civilization, and we honor these men and women who embody these values for America and for the world.

It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Humanities Medal winners.

First, Jose Cisneros: Jose is well-known and well-loved for his historically accurate depictions of the Old Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[At this point, Maj. James M. McAllister, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Robert Coles is a scholar, teacher, psychiatrist, best known for his sensitive observation of the inner lives of our children. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Sharon Darling, a former schoolteacher, is president of the National Center for Family Literacy, an organization that spans the Nation and reaches thousands of families every single year. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. William Manchester is a gifted historian and biographer who makes the past come alive for millions of the readers. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Richard Peck has written more than 25 novels for younger readers which stress the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Eileen Jackson Southern, who could not join us tonight, is a pioneering musicologist who has helped us understand the power of African-American music. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation.]

The President. Tom Wolfe is a chronicler of our times who has told us more about ourselves than many shelves of sociology books. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, established by Congress in 1949, has worked more than 50 years to put historic preservation on the national agenda. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Medals of Arts winners.

Rudolfo Anaya, called the Godfather of Chicano Literature, has written many works about the myths and folklore of the Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Johnny Cash: The Man in Black, country legend, an American beloved by millions. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Kirk Douglas is a distinguished actor, director, writer, and producer who has brought us more memorable performances on stage and screen than nearly anybody else for the past 60 years. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Helen Frankenthaler is an abstract expressionist painter whose works combine thoughtfulness with spontaneity. And I'm proud to say that Laura and I have one of her early works, "Painted on the 21st Street," which hangs in the private residence

at the White House. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Judith Jamison: She's a master dancer, teacher, choreographer, and arts administrator who has been a creative force in the dance world for nearly four decades. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Yo-Yo Ma: World-renowned cellist who represents the very best in classical music. I tipped my hand a little earlier, but later on this great American figure will be performing with another world-renowned figure. *[Laughter]* Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Mike Nichols: The endlessly inventive comedian, producer, and director of stage and screen. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. The Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, begun by master dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey in 1958, today ranks as one of America's most prestigious dance companies. Major, please read the citation.

[Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Yes. Alvin Ailey. Congratulations.

And now it is my great pleasure to introduce my wife—*[laughter]*—the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush.

[The First Lady congratulated the honorees and introduced Yo-Yo Ma and Condoleezza Rice, who performed a duet on cello and piano.]

The President. Well, thank you all for coming tonight. It's been a fantastic evening. Again, I want to congratulate our honorees. And may God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Following Discussions With King Mohamed VI of Morocco and an Exchange With Reporters

April 23, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Oval Office. We've had a really good discussion about a number of matters. No question that Morocco is a great friend of the United States of America, and for that, Your Majesty, we are very grateful. I appreciate your steadfast support when it comes to the war on terror. I appreciate your leadership in the region.

Today I've informed His Majesty that our Government will work to enact a free trade agreement with Morocco. It's in our Nation's interest that we do so. His Majesty believes it's in his nation's interest that we have a free trade agreement as well.

To this end, it's very important that the United States Senate act on free trade, to give me the trade promotion authority, as well as to work on an extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act. Trade is an important part of good foreign policy; it's an important part of making sure Americans can find jobs. And the Senate needs to act, and it needs to act now.

We will continue our discussions over lunch. I look forward to those discussions. His Majesty brings a lot of knowledge, a lot of vision, and it's my honor to welcome him here to the Oval Office.

Your Majesty.

King Mohamed. Thank you. Well, as I told you, I will ask that—*[inaudible]*—to translate me. It will be easier for me and safer for you. *[Laughter]*

[At this point, King Mohamed spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The translation follows.]

His Majesty wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for the words you have just expressed about Morocco and words which

honor His Majesty personally, the royal family, as well as the entire Moroccan people.

We are honored for—with the relations we have enjoyed so far with the United States. But I think it's time that we have to shift the gear to go on higher speed. And we have also—we are determined to carry out all kinds of programs dealing with our cooperation, our collaboration, all fields.

With respect to terrorism, Mr. President, we are also determined to go ahead with you in fighting terrorism. And this is something of concern to Morocco as much as it's of concern to the United States and all the democratic people in the world.

With respect to the free trade zone which you have just announced, Mr. President, I would like to thank you and to tell you how much we appreciate this initiative coming from yourself, Mr. President, and from the United States. We will work closely with your collaborators, in particular, Mr. Zoellick, who I have met twice and who will be visiting Morocco together with his colleagues. We will work very closely with them in order to bring about the concretization of this great program of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Morocco.

His Majesty wishes, Mr. President, to praise the efforts you personally make, and your administration, to promote peace and understanding in the world. He wishes also to thank and to praise Mr. Secretary of State Colin Powell for what he has done so far and especially the effort he just deployed lately and the visit in the region of which we are beginning to see the results.

And His Majesty wishes that the Secretary of State would have recovered by now from the trauma he has had when he first met with His Majesty in Agadir. *[Laughter]*

And I would like to thank also Mrs. Tutwiler for the excellent work she has been doing since she arrived to Morocco.

Situation in the Middle East

President Bush. Thank you, Your Majesty. We'll answer a couple of questions, or I will. Barry [Barry Schweid, Associated Press].

Q. Mr. President, on that trip, the Secretary came home with an Israeli idea, but others said similar things, for an international

peace conference. And since he's been home, the White House reaction seems to be a little lukewarm. Is that something you think is a viable idea, a foreign ministers conference, perhaps?

President Bush. Well, what's first important to know, that our Government means what we say, and we said that the only way for there to be lasting peace is for there to be two states living side by side, at peace with each other; and secondly, that in order to achieve that vision, all parties have responsibilities. The Arab world has responsibilities, and we will work with them to delineate those responsibilities and to encourage them to accept those responsibilities. Mr. Arafat has got responsibilities, and that is not only to renounce terrorism but to fight terror. Mr. Sharon has got responsibilities, and that is to continue his withdrawal.

There is a strategy in place. We're analyzing all options to help achieve this vision. And I look forward to visiting with His Majesty about ideas such as a conference. The key is, however, for the leaders of the world to work toward that vision by assuming, accepting, and acting on the responsibilities necessary to achieve peace.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters], are you here?

Q. *[Inaudible]*

President Bush. Who? Oh, there he is. There you are, sorry.

Resignation of Karen Hughes

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned that the long hours and the pressure of working in this building will drive away more people, like Karen Hughes? And would you be here without her?

President Bush. Well, first of all, Your Majesty, one of my close friends and adviser has informed the White House today that she is moving back to Texas. And the reason why is, is because her husband and son will be happier in Texas, and she had put her family ahead of her service to my Government. And I am extremely grateful for that approach and that priority. And Karen Hughes will be changing her address, but she will still be in my inner circle. I value her judgment, and I will have her judgment. I value her advice;

I have her advice. And I value her friendship, and I will have her friendship.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. King Mohamed referred to Robert B. Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative; and Margaret Tutwiler, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco.

Remarks Honoring the United States Winter Olympic and Paralympic Teams

April 23, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the south grounds of the White House. It's an honor to have you all here. Before I get started, I was wondering if anybody had their cell phone so I could speak to their mother. *[Laughter]*

It is a great honor to host our Nation's Olympic and Paralympic athletes here at the White House. I've really been looking forward to this day. In February you showed the entire world the best of the American spirit. You competed with honor; you won with humility; and you made America proud. On behalf of all Americans, congratulate—I congratulate you and thank you for inspiring our country.

It's good to welcome Mitt Romney back to the White House. Mitt, you did a fabulous job. I appreciate Lloyd Ward, the CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, for being here. Thank you, Lloyd. And Sandy Baldwin, the president of the U.S. Olympic Committee—it's good to see both of you again. I want to thank Mel Martinez, who is a member of my Cabinet, for coming today. Mel, thank you for being here.

And I'm glad to see Congressman Jim Ryun, who knows a little something about Olympics, a silver medalist who participated in the '64, '68, and '72 Olympics. Thank you for coming. I appreciate Tristan and Manuel being up here with me.

Americans will remember the 2002 games because we had the honor of hosting them, because the level of competition was so high, and because we had the thrill of seeing our

fellow Americans perform at the highest level and achieve unprecedented success.

We watched a lot of our stars, a lot of our fellow citizens. Sarah Hughes—I was pleased to see her go from shock to joy as she learned she had won her first gold medal at the age of 16 years old. We cheered for Jim Shea, who just weeks after his grandfather's death followed in his victorious footsteps by winning a gold medal. We shared in the pride of Vonn Flowers, whose gold medal in bobsledding made her the first African-American to win a gold medal in an Olympic winter games. A lot of us had Ohno fever. *[Laughter]*

And then America's Paralympics overcame great odds to excel in their sports. Sarah Will took home four gold medals in skiing, despite the fact that she's paralyzed from the waist down. Sarah Billmeier lost her left leg at 5 years old and this year skied away with a gold and two silvers. And Manuel Guerra contacted polio as an infant. This disease left him disabled in his left leg, but he pursued his love of hockey, and this year he and his teammates won the gold in sledge hockey.

All of your victories required hard work and skill and the determination to meet your goals. They also required great support. The honors you won are a tribute to devoted coaches and trainers, to loving parents who sacrificed to help you realize your dreams, to friends and supporters, and to more than 30,000 volunteers who helped make the Salt Lake games possible.

We've always supported our athletes here in America. But this year we looked at them with even greater pride and even more hope. You served as symbols of unity and strength and determination and of a peaceful competition and cooperation with people from all around the world. It was an important time for America, and you didn't let us down.

Our 2002 Olympians and Paralympians showed tremendous character. These teams were uniquely American. After all, we had firefighters on our team; we had members of the Armed Services; we've got community volunteers. And your commitment to your communities will serve you well as champions. You see, you're now more than athletes; you're role models—role models to children who dream of winning a gold medal

themselves, role models to young people who need someone to look up to, someone to set a positive example for how they should live their lives and how they should treat others.

This is a big responsibility, but the good news is you've all proven that you're up to the challenge. I want to thank you for representing the highest ideals of our Nation and for making America so proud.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Olympic gold medalists Tristan Gale, women's skeleton, Sarah Hughes, women's figure skating, Jim Shea, men's skeleton, Vonetta Flowers, women's bobsledding, and Apolo Anton Ohno, men's short track speedskating; and Paralympic gold medalists Manuel Guerra, Jr., goalie for the ice sledge hockey team, and Sarah Will and Sarah Billmeier, women's skiing. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7546—National Park Week, 2002

April 23, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our national park system helps preserve our history, heritage, and the natural beauty of our Nation for the enjoyment of all our citizens and many international visitors. Thanks to our park system, many of these treasures retain their original beauty and grandeur. The parks are places for recreation, education, and reflection, and we must take care of them in a way that preserves them for posterity.

In 1872, the Congress established in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming what we all know now as Yellowstone National Park. This beautiful area later became the first to be designated as a national park. Our national park system was established in 1916 to protect and maintain our natural resources and historic sites. Today, there are 385 na-

tional parks on 84 million acres, visited annually by 280 million people from around the world.

My Administration's "National Parks Legacy Project" was initiated to ensure proper care for our national park system. Through thoughtful and diligent efforts, the National Parks Legacy Project will enhance the parks' ecosystems, improve outdoor opportunities, address infrastructure needs, and establish accountability through performance goals. The National Parks Legacy Project and other actions such as our support for the Everglades Restoration Plan and our request to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund are important steps to support existing and future parks, vital habitats, and threatened ecosystems. I have asked the Secretary of the Interior to prepare an annual report on the conditions of our national parks and to offer specific recommendations for improvements.

We must also pay tribute to the role that the dedicated 20,000 men and women of the National Park Service play in preserving our parks. Each day these professionals and more than 120,000 volunteers work to make national parks accessible, safe, educational, and well maintained. Their job is critical to the future of our parks and national treasures, and America is grateful.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 28, 2002, as National Park Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of national parks and to learn more about these areas of beauty and their historical importance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:22 a.m., April 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

April 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 23, 2002.

**Remarks at the National Teacher of
the Year Award Ceremony**

April 24, 2002

The President. Well, thank you, Rod. Thanks very much. I want to welcome you all to the White House and the spectacular Rose Garden. I'm a part of a proud tradition: For 25 years, American Presidents—for 50 years, American Presidents have been privileged to present the National Teacher of the Year Awards.

This ceremony not only honors a single individual; this ceremony honors an entire profession. Teachers make extraordinary contributions to the communities in which they live and, therefore, make extraordinary contributions to our entire country. We give our teachers a great responsibility, to shape the minds and hopes of our children. We owe them our thanks and our praise and our support.

I wish the First Lady would be here today. She is—she reminds me on a daily basis of the importance of being a teacher. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. She really didn't care for politics much—[laughter]—didn't particularly care for politicians. [Laughter] But I'm so glad she said

yes when I asked her to marry me. She's a great First Lady and loves the idea of teaching, and one of her jobs is going to go around the country and remind people of the noble profession of teaching and encourage people to become teachers.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige. I've known Rod a long time; we're fellow Texans. When I picked somebody to be the Secretary of Education, I didn't want some theorist; I wanted somebody that had actually been in the trenches, who understood the importance of public education and how to make it work. And I wanted somebody that had a passion to make sure that no child got left behind in America. And I found the right man in my friend Rod Paige, to be the Secretary of Education.

Secretary Paige. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank two Members of the United States Congress: Judd Gregg, with whom I worked closely on the education bill we passed—he's from the State of New Hampshire—Todd Tiahrt from the State of Kansas. Thank you both for coming.

I just had the honor of having my picture taken in the Oval Office with 57 teachers of the year, and it was joyous. It was great. I want to thank you all for coming. It seemed like some of you were just as excited as I was to welcome—[laughter]—but it's a great office, as you could see. It's such an honor to be in that office on a daily basis, just like I know you feel it's an honor to be in your classrooms on a daily basis. So congratulations; thanks so much for being a teacher; thanks for setting such a great example; and welcome.

I also want to thank and congratulate our four finalists: Marian Galbraith, Henry Brown, Tracy Taylor Callard, and Chauncey Veatch. I'm going to say something about Chauncey a little later on.

Before I do so, though, I want America to remember how important it is to have good teachers in our classrooms. Teachers help students to read and write and to think and to count. These skills are essential, yet teaching them is only a part of a teacher's work. A good teacher instills in their students a lifelong interest in learning. A good teacher

gives young people a sense of their own possibilities, along with a respect for themselves and for others.

To paraphrase Oliver Wendell Holmes, the greatest teacher makes others believe in greatness. And they leave a lasting mark on the lives around them. And that's why it's easy for me to say teaching is such a profound profession. Teachers are indispensable. We ask a lot from them, and teachers are right to expect a lot from us.

I believe there is a role for the Federal Government in public education. It's—the role is to work with local folks to set the highest of high standards and to expect the best. It's to support people at the local level, with the full understanding that the best education emanates out of the classrooms, not from bureaucracies in Washington, DC. The role is to fund, which we do. And the role is to support our teachers through teacher training, retention, and recruitment, as well as to understand that simple things can matter to teachers a lot, like allowing for there to be a tax deduction for out-of-pocket expenses. We'll take the side of teachers as we work hard to provide a first-class education for every child—and we mean every child—in America.

This year's National Teacher of the Year understands the need to make sure no child gets left behind. He's made extraordinary contributions to his students, two of whom are with us today. I'm so honored that both these gentlemen came from California all the way over here to Washington to honor a teacher. It says a lot about our honoree.

This is a man who spent more than 25 years serving his country in the United States Army. Colonel Veatch, after serving the Army, turned to teaching over a decade ago. He now teaches social studies at Coachella Valley High in Thermal, California, where the overwhelming number of his students come from migrant families.

Chauncey Veatch is known as a kind and courteous, a tireless worker, a team player, a man who has transformed the school in which he works and the community in which he lives. Nearly all of the students at Coachella Valley High School are Hispanic. *Y por eso, Mr. Veatch habla espanol.* [Laughter] He speaks Spanish. He uses the language

to communicate with his students and to show respect for a culture. He's involved in many after-school programs and community events. In short, he's changed a lot of lives for the better.

Through Chauncey Veatch's efforts, students long considered discipline problems started showing up on the honor roll. A teen with a learning disability who read at the elementary school level became an active participant in class. Boys dropped out of gangs to join the Cadet Corps, the student campus security force that he helped organize.

One migrant student at the high school had to work with his family until November, but Mr. Veatch saved him a place in his class and then spent hours with the student helping him catch up. According to this young man, "Mr. Veatch does this for all of his migrant students." No child will be left behind.

Mr. Veatch's former principal, Rick Alvarez, has paid this tribute to him. "Believing our students can succeed," Rick says, "is not a desire or a facade but is actually something Chauncey lives. This caring can be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice and felt in his presence and mostly seen in his actions."

Chauncey Veatch says his mission as a teacher is to be "a dream maker for my students, not a dream breaker." He understands that parents of every background share the same dreams for their children, dreams of improvement and independence and hope. "To dream is to be filled with hope," he says, "I know this because I see the faces of hope daily."

We want all our schools and all our teachers and principals to look at our children and see the faces of hope. And that's exactly what the teachers we honor today have done, on a daily basis.

Mr. Veatch, for teaching is not just a career; it is a high calling; it's a form of service to children and to a nation he loves. He has served both the children and our country extraordinarily well, and it is my honor to present Chauncey Veatch the National Teacher of the Year Award. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rick Alvarez, assistant superintendent of administrative services, Coachella Valley Unified School District.

Remarks at the Dakota Ethanol Plant in Wentworth, South Dakota

April 24, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Ron, I want to thank you very much. I thought Washington was where it got a little windy. *[Laughter]* You've got to remember, I was raised in west Texas. I'm kind of used to the wind. It reminds me of home.

I want to thank you all for a warm welcome. Thank you for being so gracious. Ron, thank you very much for hosting us here. I appreciate the briefing I had and the chance to meet with some of your fellow citizens in South Dakota, a chance to talk about ag policy. And I want to thank all those for coming as well.

I appreciate so very much Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman traveling with me today. I'm proud of the job Ann is doing. She's a great leader for the Ag Department. She understands farmers, understands farming, and she's doing America a fine job.

I want to thank your Governor for coming. Janklow and I have been friends for a long time. I was a Governor of Texas, he was a Governor of South Dakota; and he kept telling me what to do all the time when I was around him. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate you being here, Governor. Thank you very much.

We share something in common; we both married above our heads. *[Laughter]* I'm sorry my wife isn't with me. I had the honor of saying hello to the first lady of South Dakota at the steps of Air Force One. I bring up Laura because I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian who really didn't like politics and didn't care for politicians, either, I might add. *[Laughter]* And she has been such a calm and steady influence for the country, and she's come a long way from a public school librarian to a great First Lady. I'm real proud of her.

I want to appreciate the Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle, for being here today. Tom, I'm honored you'd come. And Tom and I have spent some quality time together. I invite him to the Oval Office for breakfast—he doesn't eat much, I want you to know, which is good for my wallet. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate working with him. And I also

appreciate Senator Tim Johnson being here as well. Thank you, Tim, for coming. As well, we're honored to have the only Congressman from the State of South Dakota, John Thune—thank you for being here, John.

I want to spend some time talking about agriculture and the importance of agriculture for our country, but before I do, I want to tell you about the war. I want you to know that we're fighting against killers, cold-blooded murderers, and they still want to hurt us. Bill Janklow and I were talking coming in about what he has done to help secure the homeland here in South Dakota. And for that, I am grateful, and you need to be. He takes it seriously. He is on top of the situation here in South Dakota.

And I believe that around the country we're making great progress toward making our homeland more secure. We've got to do a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and why they're coming in, and, if they're going out, when they're supposed to be going out. We've got a good amount of money in the budget, as Senator Daschle can tell you, to make sure that our first-responders are ready, should something happen. We've got a good initiative on bioterrorism that we're working on, to make sure the homeland is secure.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these murderers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what America is going to do. The reason I tell you that is it's important for you to know that this war to secure our homeland and to protect freedom is not going to end anytime soon. I don't have a calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date we're going to quit. That's not how I think, much to the chagrin of the enemy. You see, I don't know what they were thinking when they attacked America. They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-centered, so weak that all we were going to do was to file a lawsuit. They found out we don't file lawsuits when it comes to defending freedom; we send our United States military.

And I've submitted a budget to the United States Congress that sets our defense as the number one priority. It's a big increase, no question about it. But my attitude is we're in it for the long haul, and we must send

that signal not only to the enemy but to our coalition partners. And secondly, anytime we commit a U.S. citizen who wears our uniform to combat, or in harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible. The price of freedom's high, but as far as I'm concerned, it's not too high, and we're going to pay it.

And there's no cave deep enough for them to hide. We're going to get them one by one, because this Nation is patient and we're plenty tough when it comes to defending our country.

But it's also important to know that we're a compassionate nation as well. I remind our citizens, particularly the young, that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan to uphold the doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the ones that came to kill America, and routed out the Taliban, we didn't go in there as conquerors; we went in as liberators. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes ever. And now, thanks to the United States of America and our coalition partners, young girls go to school in Afghanistan.

We've got a lot of work to do on the war front. We've got a lot of work to do on making sure that Afghanistan is a viable nation which can defend herself and is a good neighbor in an important part of the world.

And so you just need to know that I am proud of America; I'm proud of the fact that we're unified. This isn't a Republican war; this isn't a Democrat war; this is an American war. And our country is unified, and we are strong, and we are resolved. And that makes this President and I know it makes the Members of the Congress feel really good.

And we have work to do at home as well. The enemy, when they hit us, did affect our economy. And there's no question about that. And my attitude is, anybody who wants to work who can't find work—we've got a problem in the economy. And there was a lot of people who wanted to work who couldn't find work.

What I thought was necessary was to cut the taxes on the people who work. See, my attitude is if you get people more money, they increase demands for good and services. When they increase demand for goods and

services, somebody produces the goods and services. And when somebody produces the good and services, somebody's going to have a job to produce the goods and services. For the good of the jobs in America, cutting taxes and passing an economic—and signing an economic stimulus bill was good. It was good for the country.

And part of the tax relief package was the repeal of the death tax. The death tax is particularly tough on South Dakota and Texas farmers or anybody who farms or ranches. It's a tax that keeps taxing somebody's assets over and over again. You know, it's this—you get taxed by the income tax; you die; you keep paying taxes even after you're dead. It's not a fair tax, and we got rid of it.

Except for, there's a quirk in the rules in the United States Senate that means that, after 10 years, it's conceivable that the death tax doesn't go away. The House made the repeal of the death tax permanent. I saw that Senator Daschle is going to bring that to a vote on the floor of the Senate, for which I am grateful. It is time to get rid of the death tax forever.

American agriculture is incredibly important for our economic vitality. I—when I was the Governor of Texas, I had the honor of being the Governor of the second largest farm State in the Union. I'm heading to Crawford after tonight. It's not a very big town; almost everybody there is in agriculture business.

Like you all, I like to—I used to like to go down and sit around the coffee shop. They don't let me go down to the coffee shop anymore. [Laughter] But I think I got a pretty good handle on the importance of agriculture for the future of this country, and one of the most important ways to make sure the agriculture economy is strong is to promote value-added processing.

I said when I was running for President, I supported ethanol, and I meant it. I support it now, because not only do I know it's important for the ag sector of our economy, it's an important part of making sure we become less reliant on foreign sources of energy. I appreciate Senator Daschle working on the RFS standard.

And I appreciate John Thune working on the bio-energy rebate program, to make sure

that we help increase, on the one hand, the demand for ethanol and, on the other hand, the supply of ethanol. It's good public policy for America. It's good for our air; it's good for our economy; and it's good for our national security.

Thank goodness we're self-sufficient in food. But we're not so self-sufficient in energy. And pretty soon they're going to get an energy bill to my desk, and I look forward to signing it. On the one hand, it's going to encourage more conservation. On the other hand, hopefully it will spur not only the development of renewables but more oil and gas at home, and the two are not mutually exclusive. The less reliant we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the better off we are in America.

I mentioned we're self-sufficient in food, and that's good. And we generally produce more than we need here at home. And if that's the case, it seems like we ought to figure out how to sell more of it overseas. The more markets that are open for U.S. farmers and ranchers, the better off our economy will be.

It is important that this Nation embrace free and fair trade. It is important that we understand that when we're good at something—and we're the best farmers and ranchers in the world—we ought to work to open up markets to sell our products all across the world.

And I will tell you the days are over with, with American ag being kind of shunted aside when it comes to international trade agreements. We need to keep American ag in the forefront of trade agreements. It ought to be the cornerstone of international trade policy. And that's been my record thus far as the President, and it will be my record so long as I am the President.

I understand that the Senate is getting to take up a trade bill, for which I'm grateful. I look forward to getting that bill to my desk. It's important to get it passed and to get it moving. And it's important to get a farm bill to my desk as well. We need good farm legislation. It's—the farm bill needs to get done quickly so that the farmers who are out there fixing to plant know what the rules of the game is. And we can do it. We need to put aside all the posturing, all the noise, and for

the good of American agriculture, get a trade bill to my desk and get a farm bill to my desk.

I want you to know that this great country is going to make the right decisions when it comes to peace, is going to make great decisions when it comes to how to bolster our economy and make sure we understand that a strong ag sector is good for America, good for everybody in America. But this country also is going to stand squarely in the face of evil, and here's how: We're going to love our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves and show the world that good overcomes evil every single time.

We can not only boast of a strong military and hopefully a vibrant economy all across the country, but we can do small acts of kindness that, in their aggregate, in their total, defines the true nature of America. You know, when you go to your Sunday school or your synagogue or mosque and vow to help somebody in need, you're really helping define the face of America. When you mentor a child who seems lost or hopeless, you're helping to define America. When you teach in a classroom, when you love your children and you tell your children you love them every day, that's part of making sure that America is as compassionate as can be.

No, the enemy hit us, but out of this evil is going to come some incredible good. Out of this evil is going to come a nation that will be stronger, more resolved, tougher, but also more loving.

I believe that the country is on the verge of changing the culture which for years has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a day in which each of us understand we're responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for something greater than ourselves.

That came home to me on Flight 93: When Americans were on an airplane, they got the word that they were—the enemy was going to use the airplane as a weapon. They got on cell phones and told their loved ones goodbye; they said a prayer; they drove the plane into the ground to save somebody else.

It's the America that I know, and it's the America that I love that was represented in

that act, and that happens every day. It happens every day here in South Dakota. It happens every day in States and communities across the country. That willingness to serve something greater than yourself is such a wonderful part of the American character.

And my call to you is, if you want to fight evil, do some good; love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's happening all across America—because, folks, I happen to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth because of our people.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. in a storage warehouse at the plant. In his remarks, he referred to Ron Alverson, president, board of directors, Lake Area Corn Processors, the plant's ownership cooperative; and Gov. William J. Janklow of South Dakota and his wife, Mary Dean Janklow. The President also referred to RFS, the proposed Renewable Fuels Standard to specify a percentage of the Nation's fuel supply to come from renewable domestic fuels like ethanol and biodiesel.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Corporate Responsibility Legislation

April 24, 2002

I commend the House for acting quickly to pass reforms that improve corporate responsibility and protect shareholders. The House bill includes the three core principles of my 10-point plan—providing better information to investors, making corporate officers more accountable, and developing a stronger, more independent audit system. With 80 million Americans participating as shareholders of companies, we must ensure high standards, tough disclosure requirements, and accurate information. The House bill is a responsible approach to addressing these important issues.

Message on the Observance of Armenian Remembrance Day

April 24, 2002

Today, we commemorate an appalling tragedy of the 20th century, the massacre of as many as 1.5 million Armenians through

forced exile and murder at the end of the Ottoman Empire. These horrific killings left wounds that remain painful for people in Armenia, in Turkey, and around the world. I join the Armenian community in America and across the globe in mourning this horrendous loss of life.

Today is an occasion for the world to reflect upon and draw lessons from these terrible events. It is a day for recognizing that demonizing others lays the foundation for a dark cycle of hatred. Transcending this venomous pattern requires painful introspection about the past and wise determination to forge a new future based on truth and reconciliation. In this spirit, I look forward to Turkey restoring economic, political, and cultural links with Armenia.

The United States greatly values the contributions that Armenians make to our national life. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their centuries-old culture, traditions, and religion. The United States is also deeply grateful for Armenia's swift and decisive cooperation in the war against terrorism. Just as the United States reached out to the Armenian people to provide shelter and freedom early in the last century, so did Armenia extend a supportive hand to the American people in the immediate aftermath of September 11. Our two peoples stand together in this fight in support of values that define civilization itself.

I am also very proud of America's strong support for a free Armenian state, whose citizens enjoy the fruits of peace and increasing prosperity. In the months to come, America will continue to increase its security cooperation with Armenia and with Armenia's neighbors to combat terrorism and pursue a lasting and just settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which will strengthen peace and stability in the Caucasus. The United States will also continue its strong support for Armenia's efforts to develop democratic and free market institutions, and to deepen its integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

On behalf of the American people, I send warm wishes and expressions of solidarity to the Armenian people on this solemn day of remembrance. Together, our nations look

with hope and determination toward a future of peace, prosperity, and freedom.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Senatorial Candidate John Thune in
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

April 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you. It is great to be back in South Dakota. I want to thank you all for such a warm and gracious welcome. I am here because I want John Thune to become the next United States Senator. I want to thank you for helping him. He is—my attitude is, anytime you find a person of high character and strong values, you've got to help him, and I want to thank you for doing that.

I'm going to spare you from a lot of my speech that I'm going to give a little later on, but I do want to tell you it's a huge honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We've got a lot on our plate, and I hope to have this good man beside me in the United States Senate, just like he has been beside me as a fine Member of the United States House of Representatives.

We've got a war to win, and we're going to win the war. We've got an economy to worry about, and we're going to make the right decisions to encourage economic vitality and growth in all sectors, including the agricultural sector.

Today I had the honor of going to an ethanol plant. I made it very clear to the people there—and I'm going to continue to make it clear—that I meant what I said when I ran for President, that value-added processing—ethanol—is good for South Dakota; it's good for farmers; it's also good for America.

One of the things I also said—I remember clearly, when I came to South Dakota campaigning—I said if you give me a chance to be President, I'll work hard to cut the taxes on the people of our country. And thankfully, we did. And we did so right at the right time.

There's—some people up there in Washington read a different textbook than John and I read. [Laughter] You see, we believe that if you let people have their own money—and it's not the Government's money, of course; it's your money—that you'll spend it. And when you spend it, somebody produces a good and service. And when they produce a good and service to meet the demand, that means somebody is going to work. The best way to encourage the creation of jobs is not through excessive Federal Government; it is through trusting the people of our country with their own money. We cut the taxes, and we cut them at the right time.

I'm going to talk about some other issues a little later on, but one thing I want to remind our country is that we're great. And we're great not because of our Government; we're great because of our people. The thing that I am most proud about, about America, right after this terrible incident of September the 11th, is the American spirit: how strong we have stood in the face of terror; how determined we are as a nation to defend that which we hold most dear, which is our freedoms; and how compassionate our nation can be.

I'm going to say this a little later on, but I want to say it again here—that we can fight evil and will, with a strong military. But at home, we need to fight evil through acts of compassion and decency and kindness. As Americans love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, we show the world the true face of this great country and in so doing stand squarely—squarely—in the face of evil.

I want to thank you all for the many prayers—I had some pictures taken back there, and a lot of people came through and said, "Mr. President, we pray for you and your family." It means a lot to me. It means a lot to me to be a President of a country that prays for their President, and it means a lot to me to be the President of a country that is full of so many decent and honorable and hard-working and bold Americans.

Again, I want to thank you for helping John. This is a very important election. He is—I stand here knowing the character of the man. I know his values. I know his strengths. He will be great for South Dakota in the

United States Senate, and he will be great for America as its next Senator.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

**Remarks at a South Dakota
Republican Party Rally in Sioux Falls**
April 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you very much; thank you for that warm welcome. I'm really glad I came back to South Dakota. John said to me, he said, "Well, you might want to come over to South Dakota. A few of my friends might show up." [Laughter] I want to thank all of you for coming.

I'm here for a couple of reasons. First, I'm here because I firmly believe that John Thune should be the next United States Senator from South Dakota. And I'm here to thank the people of this good State who work so hard for the Republican Party, who know that our party represents strength and compassion, that we trust the people of America. I want to thank those of you who man the phones and lick the envelopes, who carry the signs. I want to thank the grassroots support that are so incredibly important not only for making sure our point of view is heard but incredibly important part of our democracy. Your job of turning out the vote and talking to the neighbors and going to the coffee shops and spreading the word is incredibly important. And it's going to be an important reason why John Thune gets elected next November.

I want to thank John's wife, Kimberley, for making the sacrifice necessary to—for her husband to run for this high office. John and I share something in common; that is, we both married above ourselves. [Laughter] My regret is that my wife, Laura, isn't with me here tonight. But I will tell you, I am incredibly proud of this fine soul. She is doing a great job as the First Lady for our country.

Audience member. [Inaudible]—in South Dakota!

The President. I had the honor of serving as the Governor of my State, and while I was

the Governor, I got to know the Governor of your State. He is—he's one of a kind. [Laughter] I'm proud to be with my old Governor friend, and I know you're proud of the job he's doing as your Governor. I also want to thank the first lady, Mary Dean, as well.

I want to thank the party chairman, Joel Rosenthal. I want to thank the national committeeman, the national committeewoman. I want to thank you all.

This is a—this is a really large crowd. [Laughter] It says something about the vitality of our message, and it says something about the strength of our candidate for the United States Senate. Here's what I like about John. I like his values. I respect his intellect. I appreciate his dedication to hard work and his desire to get things done in Washington, DC, on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota. He's not afraid to stand up for what he believes, and it's refreshing to hear his voice amongst the shrill partisans in Washington, DC. He's a steady hand, and he's a man with whom I can work.

We've worked on big issues thus far. One of the most important issues we worked on was making sure the people of South Dakota and America got to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. When it comes time to spending money in Washington, DC, both of us understand the money we're spending is not the Government's money. The money we're spending is the people's money. And we cut your taxes right at the right time.

You know, our economy was floundering. When I went into office, the economy was grinding down, and that deeply troubled me. Anytime somebody in this country wants to work and they can't find a job, I'm troubled by that. But I understood this economic fact: If you let people keep their own money, they're going to spend it; they're going to demand something. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or service, that means somebody is going to find work. The tax cuts we passed, in spite of some of the big spenders in Washington, DC, helped this economy get back on its feet.

And we need a good farm bill out of Congress. We don't need any more politics with the farm bill. Let's get a farm bill on my desk

that makes sense for the South Dakota farmers. Farming is an incredibly important part of this national economy of ours. It's important to understand that good farm policy is not only good for the economy; it's good for our national security as well. Thank goodness we can feed our people in America.

And what's bad for our national security is that we are too dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We're too dependent on sources of energy from some countries that don't particularly care for America. And one way to help reduce that dependency is to promote, encourage value-added processing with America products such as ethanol.

I told the people—I told the people when I was running, I was for ethanol. And a lot of people said, “Well, he's from Texas. He's not for ethanol.” Listen, I'm the President of everybody, and I understand what it means to be reliant upon somebody else's energy. There's plenty of room for ethanol in the energy mix in America. We must have it. We must have it for the good of our farm economy; we must have it for the good of our air; and we must have it for the national security reasons of the United States of America.

My view about trade is this: If you're good at something, you ought to promote it. And one of the things we're good at is raising meat and growing crops. America has got a competitive advantage when it comes to our agriculture. We grow more than we need here in America, and therefore, we ought to have policy that helps us feed the world. I want free trade, and I want fair trade. The House has passed a trade promotion authority, and so should the United States Senate.

And the good news is, John Thune understands that. And he also understands this, that our party has been compassionate. We've been conservative, but we have been compassionate when it comes to issues like welfare reform. One of the great successes in recent history has been the welfare reform law, which says if you're dependent upon Government, it's hard to realize your dreams. Listen, we'll help people who cannot help themselves. But we have reduced dependency upon Government as a result of encour-

aging and training and insisting that people go to work.

There is a welfare reform reauthorization coming up; in other words, we've got to rewrite the bill. I want to make sure someone like John Thune is elected to the Senate so that if that bill gets reauthorized when he's a Senator, there will be a voice for reason and compassion, a voice that understands, with a job you find dignity, and a voice who will join me in promoting family and marriage in the welfare reform bill.

Like the farmers here, I'm kind of an early morning fellow. I get up every morning; I take old Barney and Spot outside. *[Laughter]* Spot then joins me in the Oval Office. After all, she was born in the White House and is used to the trappings there. Barney's only a year and a half, so he doesn't spend much time inside the Oval Office. After all, we've got a new rug in there. *[Laughter]*

I walk in the office; I sit behind a desk that has been used by Presidents ranging from the Roosevelts to Kennedy to Reagan, and I read a threat assessment. I read a list of potential threats to our country, and it reminds me that my most important job is to do everything in my power to protect the American people, that my most important job is to make sure that the enemy doesn't hit us again.

And we're making progress. I want you to know that we take this notion of homeland security very seriously. Today I was visiting with your Governor, and he explained to me what South Dakota is doing. I'm most impressed with his leadership on this issue. You need to know that we follow every single lead. If we hear somebody might want to hurt us, we're running them down.

We're making sure our borders are more secure. Here in America, we're a welcoming society. But we want to know who's coming in, and we want to know who's going out.

As part of our homeland defense strategy, we're spending money and working closely with our first-responders, the brave police and fire and EMS teams all across America. We want to be prepared in America, and we've got a strategy to do just that. And for those of you who wear the uniform who are here tonight, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

We take the threat of bioterrorism very seriously here in America, and we've got a strategy to deal with that.

What I'm telling you is, we're doing everything in our power to protect the American people. But the surest way to protect the American people is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice.

I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they attacked America. I guess they must have thought that this was a soft nation, that we were so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so weak that all we were going to do was to file a lawsuit. [Laughter] They found out we think differently here in America. They found out that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms—the freedom to worship, the freedom to speak, the freedom to assemble, freedom of the press—that we're a mighty nation, and if threatened, we will respond.

I can't tell you how proud I am of the United States military. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful nation and a grateful Commander in Chief.

The world is also finding out that when America says something, we mean it, that when we say we're going to do something, we're going to follow through. Early on, I said to the world that either you're with us, or you're against us. The good news is, a lot of the world is with us, and for that we're grateful. I also said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a killer, if you hide a killer, you're just as guilty as the killers." And the Taliban regime in Afghanistan found out exactly what we meant.

It is so important for Americans, particularly young Americans, to understand that this Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, our military and our coalition partners did not go in as conquerors; we went in as liberators. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. In so doing—in so doing, we opened up schools for the first time for many young girls. I am proud of the efforts. I'm proud of our steadfast resolve, our determination, our unity, and I'm proud of the values that our country holds dear. You see, we value the worth of every single individual,

regardless of their religion, regardless of their status.

I have submitted a budget to Congress—and I'm so proud that John is supporting this budget—that makes the defense of our country the number one priority. It's a significant increase in the defense budget. It's the largest increase since Ronald Reagan, and I have done so for two reasons. One, anytime this Nation commits our young to battle, anytime we put our troops in harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible support from the Government of the United States of America. And I have submitted a significant increase because it is an indication of the struggles ahead. It is a signal to the world that the United States is in this war for the long haul.

I don't have a calendar on my desk that says by such and such a moment this war will end. I don't operate under false deadlines. And I know the nature of the enemy; they're coldblooded killers. And we have no choice but to defend ourselves and defend our friends by hunting them down.

The second phase of the war after Afghanistan is to deny sanctuary, training bases, or recruitment facilities for any one of these killers. To put it bluntly, we're treating them like they are: international criminals. And we've got them on the run, and we're hunting them down one person at a time. There is no cave deep enough for this patient Nation. They think they can run, and they think they can hide, but they're going to be sorely disappointed.

Our war against terror is more than just a person; it is more than just a network. We understand that history has called us to defend freedom so that people can grow up in a free society, not only in America but around the world. And so I want you to know that when I talk about an axis of evil, I mean it. We will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to harbor and develop the world's most dangerous weapons. History has given us a chance to rise up, and rise up we will, in the defense of those values we hold dear.

And so I want to thank my fellow citizens here in South Dakota and all around America for their—for their unity and purpose and resolve. I truly believe that by being firm and

tough, we can achieve peace. That's what I want. I want lasting peace. I want peace not only for America; I want peace for regions of the world that are plagued by terror. I want peace so people can grow up and realize their God-given potential. I believe that when America fulfills its duty and honors the mission, that peace is more likely to come.

And I also know that out of this terrible evil done to America can come incredible good. People oftentimes ask me, "What can I do to help?" And my answer is this: Love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself; if you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, it's the collective action of millions of acts of kindness that take place every day in America that truly defines the character of our country and allows us to stand squarely in the face of evil.

If you want to help your country, mentor a child. If you want to help your country, go to your church or synagogue and mosque and rally good people to feed the homeless. If you want to help your country, remember there are pockets of despair and loneliness that can be solved by somebody putting their arm around somebody and saying, "I love you." This country has risen to its task, because not only do we defend our values but because we're a nation full of great hearts and kind souls and decent people.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. I believe America is beginning to realize the importance of serving something greater than yourself in life, the importance of recognizing that as you serve something greater than yourself in life, you serve your country.

That lesson came home so clear. I think the young here, when they read the history of 9/11, should remember what took place on Flight 93. People getting on an airplane thought they were just going through an average day of travel. They were told the plane served as a—was serving as a weapon. They were told what was on the ground. A couple of people got on the phone and told their wives and loved ones goodbye, they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane to the ground to save lives.

It's the American—it is that spirit, it is that ultimate sacrifice, that sense of personal re-

sponsibility which is helping to change this Nation. You see, the culture says, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." There's a new awakening here in America that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—that we are responsible—that if you are a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving that child with all your heart and all your soul, and if you're a good citizen, you're responsible for loving a neighbor. And that's what's happening in America.

This is a great country. I can't tell you how optimistic I am about the future of our land. I'm optimistic that we'll achieve peace. I'm optimistic that we will stand squarely in the face of evil, with acts of kindness and decency. And I'm optimistic that this country will remain the most hopeful place on the face of the Earth.

It is an honor, a high honor, to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. Thank you for giving me that privilege. May God bless you all. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:33 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Arena. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate John Thune; Gov. William J. Janklow of South Dakota and his wife, Mary Dean Janklow; and Joel Rosenthal, chairman, Ron Schmidt, national committeeman, and Mary Jean Jensen, national committeewoman, South Dakota Republican Party.

Remarks Following Discussions With Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

April 25, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I was honored to welcome Crown Prince Abdullah to my ranch, a place that is very special for me and a place where I welcome special guests to our country. The Crown Prince and I had a very cordial meeting that confirmed the strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

Our partnership is important to both our nations. And it is important to the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East and

the world. We discussed the critical importance of the war on terror. Much of our discussion centered on the Middle East and how to defuse the current situation so we can get back on the path to peace.

Our two nations share a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. I reiterated that all parties have responsibilities to help achieve that vision. The Palestinian Authority must do more to stop terror. Israel must finish its withdrawal, including resolution of stand-off—standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem, in a nonviolent way.

We discussed the need for Arab states to condemn terror, to stop incitement of violence, and as part of a long-term peace, to accept Israel as a nation and a neighbor. We also agreed the world must join in offering humanitarian aid to the many innocent Palestinians who are suffering.

I told the Crown Prince how much I appreciate his vision for a peaceful and integrated Middle East and how I appreciated his leadership in helping rally the Arab world toward that vision. I also appreciated the Crown Prince's assurance that Saudi Arabia condemns terror.

The Crown Prince is going to be in America for several more days, and officials from both our Governments will be continuing our discussions with the hope that our efforts can help return us to the path of peace—a lasting peace.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, Saudi officials have taken strong issue with your characterization of Prime Minister Sharon as a man of peace and say that your tolerance of what he's doing risks damage to U.S.-Arab relations. Were you and the Crown Prince able to bridge differences over that issue and find ways to fix the fragile Arab support?

The President. Well, first of all, one of the really positive things out of this meeting was the fact that the Crown Prince and I established a strong personal bond. We spent a lot of time alone discussing our respective visions, talking about our families. I was most interested in learning about how he thought

about things. I'm convinced that the stronger our personal bond is, the more likely it is relations between our country will be strong.

I made it clear to him that I expected Israel to withdraw, just like I've made it clear to Israel. And we expect them to be finished. He knows my position. He also knows that I will work for peace; I will bring parties along. But I think he recognizes that America can't do it alone, that it's going to require a unified effort, and one of the main things about this visit was to solidify that effort.

He's a man with enormous influence in the Middle East. I respect that a lot, and I'm confident we can work together to achieve a peace.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Oil

Q. Mr. President, the Crown Prince raised the prospect of Saudi support for Iraq's oil embargo, and are you concerned that Arab nations might use oil as a—try to use oil as a bargaining chip in the Middle East crisis?

The President. Well, Saudi Arabia made it clear and has made it clear publicly that they will not use oil as a weapon. And I appreciate that, respect that, and expect that to be the case.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, to follow on what Sandra asked you, do you feel like you made some personal headway in meeting with the Prince today, in reassuring him of the United States belief that all parties in the region must work harder to—

The President. I—

Q. —do you feel like—do you feel like you need to convey this message, perhaps in a stronger way, by sending somebody to the region to meet with other Arab leaders who are raising concerns along these lines?

The President. Well, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], we just sent somebody to the region. And that somebody has just returned from the region, and his name is Colin Powell. And we're exploring all options. A lot of our discussion with the Saudi delegation was how to get back on the path to peace. Clearly, there's some things that must be done in the short run—finish the

withdrawal by Israel, for the Palestinian Authority to clamp down on terror. We discussed that in very plain and straightforward terms.

As to where we head from now, one of the things that I think is important for the Crown Prince to have heard is we're interested in his advice; we're interested in his counsel. We share a vision, and I reminded him how much I appreciated his statement toward Israel. I thought that was a breakthrough moment. And it—and then he went and sold that in Beirut, and I appreciated that as well.

So there's a shared vision. And as to how to achieve that vision is something we must consult with our friends. And that's what this meeting was about. It went on quite a while because there was a lot to discuss, plus, I want you to know, I had the honor of showing him my ranch. He's a man who's got a farm, and he understands the land, and I really took great delight in being able to drive him around in a pickup truck and showing him the trees and my favorite spots. And we saw a wild turkey, which was good. But we had a very good discussion, and I'm honored he came to visit.

Last question.

Saudi Arabia and Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, do you believe—you said that the Crown Prince is against terror. Do you think he will speak out? Did he make any promises about speaking out? Should he speak out? And secondarily, in Saudi Arabia, do you believe the leadership is doing enough to deal with their own problems with terrorism that comes out of their own country? Fifteen of the 19 hijackers—

The President. Yes, I—the Crown Prince has been very strong in condemning the murder of U.S. citizens. He's been very strong about condemning those who committed those murders. And I appreciate that a lot. Right after 9/11, he was one of the strongest voices of condemnation. He understands how devious Usama bin Laden has been. He knows that—that anybody who—you know, that a strategy by some would be to split the United States and Saudi Arabia. It's a strong and important friendship, and he knows that, and I know that, and we're not going to let

that happen. So he's been very strong in the condemnation of terror, for which I'm grateful.

And we're constantly working with him and his Government on intelligence-sharing and cutting off money. And we're reminding him, on occasion, where we find money flows, and the Government has been acting, and I appreciate that very much. He's got a—right now we're working on an issue in the border region with Yemen to make sure that Yemen doesn't become a haven for Al Qaida killers. And I appreciate his cooperation on that matter as well. It's in his interest that we rout out terror.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:06 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Statement on Senate Action on National Energy Policy Legislation

April 25, 2002

The Senate today passed legislation that includes many of the provisions called for in my administration's national energy policy. Together, the House and Senate energy bills include the major conservation and environmentally responsible production measures needed to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

I am pleased that the House-Senate conference committee will have before it the elements of a comprehensive energy policy. The two bills reflect my administration's call to provide tax incentives for alternative and renewable fuels and technology; modernize our electricity laws; open a small portion of ANWR to responsible exploration; increase automotive fuel efficiency while protecting American lives and jobs; and ensure continued safe operation of our nuclear facilities.

It is imperative that America increase its energy independence, and I look forward to working with the conferees to ensure that we enact a balanced and comprehensive energy policy this year.

NOTE: The statement referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks on the National Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford

April 26, 2002

The President. Good morning. The Department of Commerce announced that our economy grew by 5.8 percent in the first quarter of 2002. That's a very encouraging sign for American workers and American families. Yet, as encouraging as this number is, I am not content. We've got more to do.

This morning I had a conference with my economic team, and we all agree that a major force contributing to the high growth figure is a short-term swing in inventories. This means that the impetus behind growth won't last very long, that we must continue working to make sure the short-term recovery is a long-term recovery.

Today's report is strong evidence, however, that our tax relief plan is working. If you look at the figures behind—the rationale behind the figures, you'll see that a lot of it had to do with consumer spending. And the more people—money people have in their pockets, the more likely it is they're going to spend. And tax relief is an incredibly important part of this recovery.

Now that's why, as part of making sure that the economy grows long term, is that we make the tax relief permanent, so that there's certainty in the Tax Code. The economic stimulus bill I signed—passed out of both Houses and then I signed—will help for the long-term growth—was an important piece of legislation that will help in the out-months and out-years.

We must continue to encourage investment and hiring. One way to do that is to get this energy bill done and get it to my desk. I'm pleased that it passed the House; I'm pleased that it passed the Senate. I look forward to working with them on the reconciliation to get it to my desk.

A second way to encourage long-term growth is to give me trade promotion authority, allow me to negotiate trade agreements, which will open up markets for U.S.-manu-

factured products as well as products produced by American farmers and entrepreneurs. I'd like to get that bill soon. I think it's an important piece of legislation. It passed the House. Senator Daschle said he'd bring it up in the Senate. I hope it's done quickly. It's important that it be done quickly.

Also, to make sure that our economy grows, it's important for Congress to hold the line on spending. I submitted a budget; I expect them to adhere to the budget. If we overspend this year, it's going to have an effect on long-term growth.

And finally, it is important to pass the terrorism insurance bill. One of our concerns is that as a result of people not being able to get proper insurance against terrorist acts, capital—construction projects in the private sector that normally would have gone forward, haven't done so, so far.

So these are the steps that are necessary to make sure the—that we have long-term growth in our economy. I'm pleased with the numbers. I realize there's going to be some—it's an estimate—there will be other revisions on this quarter. But it's a good sign. It's a good sign that we're on the path to long-term recovery. But, as I repeat, I'm not content with this number, and I know we've got a lot of work to do.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Scott [Scott Pelley, CBS News], why don't you start.

Discussions With Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, late yesterday the Saudis said they had warned you that U.S. credibility could suffer because you haven't done enough to rein in Sharon. What did you say to the Crown Prince on that, and what's the next U.S. move?

The President. Well, I told the Crown Prince that we've got a unique relationship with Israel, and that one thing that the world can count on is that we will not allow Israel to be crushed. And I think that's an important statement to make. It's a part of our foreign policy; it has been a part of our foreign policy; it will continue to be a part of our foreign—the Saudis understand that.

I also reiterated what I told the country and the world on—early April, and that is, all parties have responsibilities in order to make sure there is peace. The Crown Prince is interested in peace in the region, and so am I. And I said to the Crown Prince, and he—and we had a good discussion about the obligations of the Arab nations. The Crown Prince was clear in his denunciation of terror. Chairman Arafat has got obligations, and so does the Israelis. And I once again enunciated what those obligations are, and—so that the Crown Prince understands my foreign policy. And it's important that we speak with clarity, and I will continue to do so.

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territory

Q. It's been 2 weeks since you said that Israeli withdrawal ought to be coming without delay, and yet yesterday there was yet again another incursion looking for Palestinians. Have you talked—what else can you say to the Israelis to make your point clear?

The President. The Israelis understand my position. I've been very clear on that. And there has been some progress, but it's now time to quit it altogether. It's time to end this—

Q. Why don't they—

The President. Well, we'll see what happens. It's—I know they've heard us.

Tax Cuts and Federal Deficit

Q. Mr. President, you've called again for making the tax cut permanent. But there's new figures out now suggesting that the deficit may double—may be double earlier forecasts because of a shortfall in tax collections. How do you reconcile that? How do you deal with that larger—

The President. Well, first of all, let me remind everybody of the facts. I haven't seen this particular story. Of course, it's all speculative to begin with. I don't know the models that they guessed, but it's guesswork thus far. In our guesswork from the OMB, we projected over \$100 billion of deficit.

I remind—I want to remind you what I told the American people, that if I'm the President—when I was campaigning—if I were to become the President, we would have deficits only in the case of war, a recession,

or a national emergency. In this case, we got all three. And therefore, we're recovering from all three.

Now, I have submitted a budget that sets clear priorities, and the number one priority is to defend the homeland. And I expect Congress to pass the defense appropriations bill early and get it to my desk. That's going to be an important signal to send our own military, for the country to send to the world, that we're in this for the long haul.

But the best way to build up—you know, the best way to reduce deficits and to get back into balance is to encourage economic growth. The more growth there is, the more tax revenues there will be coming into the Treasury—and hold the line on spending. It is very important for Congress not to overspend.

We'll see whether they can get a budget. The House got a budget. We'll see whether or not the Senate gets a budget. But I've laid out my budget. I'm very serious about the budget. And the best tool I have besides persuasion is to veto. And I'm mindful of what overspending can mean to interest rates or expectations of interest rates. And it's very important that we hold the line on spending.

Morning Run

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. Did you run today?

Q. I did, this morning.

The President. Good. Do you care to tell the country what your time was?

Q. You know what, I forgot to turn my watch on. [Laughter]

The President. Feeble excuse for a slow run. [Laughter]

Aid to Israel

Q. It was a slow run. It was a slow run.

Some conservatives in Congress, including Representative DeLay, are pushing at a resolution to take a very strong pro-Israel stand. A bipartisan group of lawmakers want to put some more aid to Israel, roughly \$200 million, into the supplemental. Do you support these positions, and do they in any way complicate your desire to make clear to moderate Arab nations that, you know, you're making demands on everybody, including Israel?

The President. Well, first, let me address the supplemental. I submitted a supplemental, and when I did so, I was mindful that oftentimes supplementals become—a supplemental can be a vehicle for a lot of additional spending. In order to make sure our economy remains strong, we've got to watch the line on spending. And so when I said, when I submitted the supplemental, that this was a number that was comfortable with, I meant that.

In terms of the resolution, I haven't seen it, but I'm not surprised that Congress would want to express its strong support of Israel. This is clearly a Congress that believes that our relationship with Israel is unique, and Israel is a democracy. I also hope and believe that Congress recognizes we've got interests in the area as well, beyond Israel, that we've got—have good relationships with the Saudis and the Jordanians and the Egyptians, and our foreign policy is aimed to do that. People know exactly where I stand, and that's very important in the realm of foreign policy.

Now I've got to go over to a fundraiser.

RNC Luncheon/Logan Walters Wedding

Q. A fundraiser?

The President. Well, that's opposed to a fundraiser.

Q. What's a fundraiser? Tell us about that.

The President. A fundraiser? Well, it's a—well, it's just kind of a cute way of saying I'm going to go over and see people and thank them for being a part of my campaign. And they actually get to do this for free. And I'm glad. But these will be people, evidently, from all around the country. I haven't seen the list, but I'm told that they are. And I look forward to thanking them. It's really a way of thanking people, many of whom I—I suspect I haven't seen since I've been the President. It's a nice, casual setting to say hello to people, and I'm looking forward to it.

And then, of course, tomorrow night, for those of you who followed the campaign, we'll all be going to watch little Logan get married. It's going to be an emotional moment for us, because we love Logan. And interestingly enough, Logan is marrying the niece of Don Evans' wife. And so I've known

them for a—known the family for a long period of time. Logan's bride's father was the Boy Scout in my Cub Scout den. Now, you can chew on that for the rest of the day. [Laughter]

Root [Jay Root, Fort Star-Telegram], good to see you. How's little Root?

Q. Good, he's doing good. His fingers are about like mine. [Laughter]

The President. That's good. Tell him hello for me. Tell the bride hello.

Q. You know, they've got a lot of planes out at the airport there.

The President. Are there?

Q. [Inaudible]—little planes—[inaudible]—flying in—

The President. Well, they're coming in for a fundraiser.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Logan Walters, former Presidential Aide, and his fiancée, Katherine Marinis, executive assistant, political affairs, Executive Office of the President. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 22

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Wilmington, NY, where he worked on a trail maintenance project on the Ausable River Trail in Adirondack Park. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

April 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. In the afternoon, he met with Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to discuss Bulgaria's potential admission into NATO.

April 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Wentworth, SD. In the afternoon, he traveled to Sioux Falls, SD. In the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to designate John L. Howard as Federal Environmental Executive of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his appointment of Mark A. Carter, John G. Cruz, and Grace Flores-Hughes as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Paul Hammerschmidt as a member of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation's Veterans and, upon appointment, to designate him Cochair.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.: Audrey J. Roberts (retailers/consumer representative), Kenneth Rocks (labor representative), Donald R. Elliot (industry representative), Diane K. Morales (defense representative), and David D. Spears (agriculture representative).

April 25

The President announced his intention to nominate James Franklin Jeffrey to be Ambassador to Albania.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roel C. Campos and Harvey Jerome Goldschmid to be Commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

April 26

In the morning, from the Bush Ranch, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to express his condolences concerning recent terrorist attacks in the Philippines. Later, he had a teleconference with economic advisers.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon at a neighboring ranch in Crawford.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 22

Michael F. Duffy,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2006, vice James Charles Riley.

Carol C. Gambill,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of 3 years (new position).

James Knoll Gardner,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Jan E. DuBois, retired.

Thomas Forrest Hall,
of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Deborah Roche Lee, resigned.

G. Wayne Pike,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Larry Reed Mattox, term expired.

Mark G. Yudof,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of 2 years (new position).

Submitted April 25

James Franklin Jeffrey,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

Richard M. Russell,
of Virginia, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, vice Arthur Bienenstock.

Mark Sullivan, of Maryland, to be U.S. Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice Karen Shepherd, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 22

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Conservation and Stewardship on Earth Day

Announcement of the citations for the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal honorees

Announcement of nomination of U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Released April 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks to the press by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes announcing her resignation

Released April 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman

Released April 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, May 3, 2002

**Memorandum on the Military
Drawdown for Georgia**

April 24, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-17

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Military Drawdown for Georgia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-429), as amended by title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-115), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, defense services from the Department of Defense, and military education and training of an aggregate value of \$4 million for Georgia, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 26. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7547—National Day of
Prayer, 2002**

April 26, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength, and guidance. In times of trial, we ask God for wisdom, courage, direction, and comfort. We offer thanks for the countless blessings God has provided. And we thank God for sanctifying every human life by creating each of us in His image. As we observe this National Day of Prayer, we call upon the Almighty to continue to bless America and her people.

Especially since September 11, millions of Americans have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty. We have all seen God's great faithfulness to our country. America's enemies sought to weaken and destroy us through acts of terror. None of us would ever wish on anyone what happened on September 11th. Yet tragedy and sorrow none of us would choose have brought forth wisdom, courage, and generosity. In the face of terrorist attacks, prayer provided Americans with hope and strength for the journey ahead.

God has blessed our Nation beyond measure. We give thanks for our families and loved ones, for the abundance of our land and the fruits of labor, for our inalienable rights and liberties, and for a great Nation that leads the world in efforts to preserve those rights and liberties. We give thanks for all those across the world who have joined with America in the fight against terrorism. We give thanks for the men and women of our military, who are fighting to defend our Nation and the future of civilization.

We continue to remember those who are suffering and face hardships. We pray for peace throughout the world.

On this National Day of Prayer, I encourage Americans to remember the words of St. Paul: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2002, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask Americans to pray for God's protection, to express gratitude for our blessings, and to seek moral and spiritual renewal. I urge all our citizens to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 1. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 27, 2002

Good morning. This week, Americans had some good news about strong growth in our economy, yet we cannot be content or complacent. Job creation and business investment are still not what they should be. We want short-term recovery to become long-term expansion. And one of the best ways to encourage high-paying jobs and long-term growth is expanded trade.

I'm pleased that the United States Senate is set to begin an important debate on trade legislation that will help American workers and farmers and consumers. I have traveled around the country and seen the value of trade, and foreign leaders have told me how trade will strengthen security and economic growth in our hemisphere.

The benefits of greater trade are beyond dispute. During the 1990s, U.S. exporters generated about one-quarter of our economic growth through the sale of American goods abroad. Trade boosts our productivity and creates higher paying jobs. The latest global trade agreement and NAFTA have improved the average standard of living for an American family of four by up to \$2,000 a year.

Now is the time to build on this record of success. The Senate should pass the pending trade legislation without delay. Trade promotion authority would give me the flexibility to negotiate with other countries to open their markets and get the best deals for American producers and workers. Congress would still have the final up or down vote on any trade agreement. The previous five Presidents have had this authority; it expired 8 years ago. And since then, America has sacrificed its traditional leadership role in trade.

For two decades, trade promotion authority was a bipartisan commitment. It was a commitment because it represented our national interest in expanding foreign markets. More than 150 trade agreements exist throughout the world. The European Union is party to 31 of them and Mexico to 10. The United States is party to just three. Passage of the TPA will give America's entrepreneurs and workers and farmers and ranchers a fair shot at the markets of the world.

The Andean Trade Preference Act is a good example of how trade can also help increase the security of America. Over the past 10 years, this law has given the four Andean nations more access to our markets, which they report has created 140,000 jobs. The law has also helped provide an economic alternative to the production of drugs. We need to renew and expand the Andean Trade Preference Act as soon as possible. If we fail to act before May 16th, 90 days worth of import

duties will come due, raising prices for American consumers and hampering the region's economic development.

I recognize that some American workers may face adjustment challenges as a result of trade. I support helping these workers by reauthorizing and improving trade adjustment assistance programs that will give workers impacted by trade new skills, help them find new jobs quickly, and provide them with financial assistance.

Nearly 5 months have passed since the House of Representatives approved trade promotion authority and the Andean trade legislation. Every day we go without expanding trade is another day of missed opportunities to strengthen our economy.

The Senate must act and affirm America's trade leadership in a bipartisan manner. We cannot let this initiative fall victim to partisan politics. Our trading partners are waiting for us. American workers are depending on us. And America cannot afford further delay.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6 p.m. on April 25 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

April 28, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I am pleased by today's developments in the Middle East and believe they'll prove to be important steps along the path to peace in the Middle East.

I commend the Israeli Cabinet for its decision this morning to allow Chairman Arafat to move freely, to accept international monitoring of six prisoners who are at Chairman Arafat's compound, and to withdraw its forces from Ramallah. The Palestinian Authority has agreed to accept this approach.

Many parties contributed to today's positive development. The United Kingdom

played an especially important role in creating a framework for international monitoring of the six prisoners.

I've called on all parties to step up their responsibilities, and today's developments are a positive sign that they are doing so.

Much hard work remains, and this is a time for all of us to commit to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East. Chairman Arafat should now seize this opportunity to act decisively, in word and in deed, against terror directed at Israeli citizens. As we work to improve the security situation in the region, all of us must step up our efforts to bring humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the Palestinian people.

This morning I called Crown Prince Abdullah to thank him for his visit to the United States. Our discussions forged a personal bond of friendship and strengthened the 60-year relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. The Crown Prince has offered a number of constructive ideas for making political progress between Israel and the Palestinians. We will continue to build on these ideas as we move forward to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Saudi Peace Plan

Q. Mr. President, on the Saudi peace plan, where are the points of objection that you've not been able to agree upon?

The President. Well, they came with some constructive ideas, and we listened very carefully to their ideas, and we will continue to work with them and others in the region to promote them. I believe that there is a lot of common ground, starting with all parties assuming responsibility—their responsibilities.

The Crown Prince clearly understood there is a responsibility for the Arab world. He also believes strongly that Chairman Arafat must step up and believes that Israel should withdraw from the territories. And that is taking place now.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Ramallah/Bethlehem/Jenin

Q. Mr. President, is today's proposal that was accepted by Mr. Sharon and Mr. Arafat a model for lifting the siege in Bethlehem? And are you concerned that the Israelis have not allowed the U.N. monitors into Jenin yet?

The President. Well, first of all, on the Jenin issue, that's being worked out now at the U.N.

And secondly, in terms of Bethlehem, I believe we're making good progress toward ending that part of the Israeli incursion, and hopefully it will get done soon.

But the big news, of course, is Ramallah, and Chairman Arafat is now free to move around and free to lead. And we expect him to do so.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Okay, Stretch.

Q. —on that point, what would you expect to see from Chairman Arafat in the next 24, 48, 72 hours in terms of explicit demonstrations of his leadership?

The President. Well, of course, one of the things that Chairman Arafat must do is condemn and thwart terrorist activities. And it's important he do so.

Again, I keep saying this, and it's so important for all of us involved in this process to recognize there are clear responsibilities. And his responsibility is just what I said, to renounce, to help detect and stop terrorist killings. The Israelis have got responsibilities.

The key responsibility for the world at large is to help end the suffering of the Palestinian people through humanitarian and economic assistance. I am very serious about our Government's involvement in a—in humanitarian relief. I—my heart grieves for a people who have no hope, and there are a lot of people who have no hope in the Middle East. There are some Palestinians—a lot of Palestinians who wonder whether or not life is worth living. And we've got, as a world, have got to help them understand there is a positive life ahead for they and their children.

There is—people in Israel, of course, are deeply concerned about their security, and I can completely understand that. And therefore, all of us—Arab nation, Palestinians,

United States, the EU—must all continue our collective effort to fight terror.

There are clearly people in the Middle East who would use terror as a weapon to derail any peace process. And for there to be peace—something I long for and something I know that Israel and the Palestinian people long for—in order for there to be peace, we must continue to rout out terror. And the message can't be more clear, and we're going to continue to hold people accountable for results.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Q. Did you invite Mr. Sharon to visit?

The President. As I understand—yes, we did. Listen, I'm pleased anytime people want to come and visit. We've had the King of Morocco; we've had Crown Prince Abdullah, obviously. And when I talked to him on the phone this weekend, the subject didn't come up, but as—I understand that there is a—discussions going on about a potential trip. I welcome a trip here to the United States. I welcome people from that part of the world to come and bare their soul and discuss their plans for peace.

The thing I always look for when I talk to the leaders is a vision for peace. It's impossible to achieve a peace unless there's a vision. And one of the things I appreciated about the Saudi initiative a while ago was it laid out a potential peace process, a plan for peace, a way to get to peace in the region—something we all long for.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Are you ready to include Arafat in that open invitation? Are you ready now to include Arafat in that open invitation?

The President. Mr. Arafat must perform. Mr. Arafat must do his job. I've called upon Mr. Arafat in the past; I'll continue to call upon Mr. Arafat to lead. The other day—somebody asked me one time, a while ago, they said, "Has he disappointed you? Has he lost your respect?" I said, "Well, he hasn't earned my respect yet. He must earn my respect by leading." And there are a lot of people, a lot of Palestinians who are suffering, and now is the time for him to step up.

This has been a hopeful day for the region, and we must continue to press forward to peace.

I want to thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. at the Bush Ranch.

Remarks at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 29, 2002

Well, thank you very much for that warm, New Mexican welcome. It's nice to be back in this beautiful State. I'm particularly delighted to be sharing the podium with a remarkable American, Pete Domenici. He didn't finish the story. After I interrupted him, he re-interrupted me—[*laughter*—and gave me my marching orders. [*Laughter*] I said, “Yes, sir, Mr. Senator.” [*Laughter*]

No, I really enjoy working with Pete, and I appreciate so very much that leaders such as Pete have been working to make America a more welcoming place for people with disabilities. The work is progressing. We are making progress, but it certainly isn't finished. There's a lot to do, and some of the greatest health needs and obstacles and stigmas concern mental health. We are determined to confront the hidden suffering of Americans with mental illness.

Pete and I share a lot in common. We love the Southwest. We care deeply about issues that face our country. And we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I love being with Pete and Nancy, because their love and respect for each other is so evident and so profound. And I love watching Nancy's face, because it reveals and is a window into a compassionate heart. And I want to thank Nancy Domenici.

I also want to thank Charles Curie for coming. Pete introduced Charles. Charles is a good hand, and I appreciate him being here. I also want to thank Phil Eaton and all the good folks here at the University of New Mexico. I'm so honored also to be traveling today with Heather Wilson. Heather is a solid citizen who brings a lot of dignity to the office she holds and a lot of class. And I'm proud to call her friend. I want to thank

the State officials who are here, the Lieutenant Governor, thank you for coming.

I also want to tell you about a lady I met named Lucy Salazar. Where's Lucy? Is she here? Lucy, thank you for coming. It's kind of off the subject but really not off the subject, because one of the things I try to do when I go into communities is herald soldiers in the armies of compassion, those souls who have heard the call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself and have followed through on that call, the selfless citizens whose compassion for their neighbor is really one of the things that makes America so strong and powerful, particularly as we stand tall in the face of evil.

I like to tell my fellow citizens that if you're interested in fighting evil—which, by the way, we're going to do—if you're interested—[*laughter*]. But one way to help is do some good. And it's that collective good that will define the true value and character of our country.

And Lucy Salazar is a retired Federal Government worker. She teaches reading skills to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children. She's incredibly important. She helps those with disabilities participate in the fine and performing arts. She volunteers through her church. She is a great citizen, and often-times, citizens such as her never get the praise they deserve. Lucy, thank you for coming and representing thousands of people like you.

Millions of Americans—millions—are impaired at work, at school, or at home by episodes of mental illness. Many are disabled by severe and persistent mental problems. These illnesses affect individuals; they affect their families; and they affect our country.

As many Americans know, it is incredibly painful to watch someone you love struggle with an illness that affects their mind and their feelings and their relationships with others. We heard stories today in a round-table discussion about that—what the struggle means for family.

Remarkable treatments exist, and that's good. Yet many people—too many people—remain untreated. Some end up addicted to drugs or alcohol. Some end up on the streets, homeless. Others end up in our jails, our prisons, our juvenile detention facilities.

Our country must make a commitment: Americans with mental illness deserve our understanding, and they deserve excellent care. They deserve a health care system that treats their illness with the same urgency as a physical illness. To meet this goal, we've got to overcome obstacles, and I want to talk about three such obstacles this morning.

The first obstacle is the stigma, the stigma that often surrounds mental illness, a stigma caused by a history of misunderstanding, fear, and embarrassment. Stigma leads to isolation and discourages people from seeking the treatment they need. Political leaders, health care professionals, and all Americans must understand and send this message: Mental disability is not a scandal; it is an illness. And like physical illness, it is treatable, especially when the treatment comes early.

Today, new drugs and therapies have vastly improved the outlook for millions of Americans with the most serious mental illnesses and for millions more with less severe illnesses. The treatment success rates for schizophrenia and clinical depression are comparable to those for heart disease. That's good news in America, and we must encourage more and more Americans to understand and to seek more treatment.

The second obstacle to quality mental health care is our fragmented mental health service delivery system. Mental health centers and hospitals, homeless shelters, the justice system, and our schools all have contact with individuals suffering from mental disorders. Yet, many of these disorders are difficult to diagnose. This makes it even harder to provide the mentally ill with the care they need. Many Americans fall through the cracks of the current system. Many years and lives are lost before help, if it is given at all, is given.

Consider this example—and for the experts in the field, they will confirm this is a story which is oftentimes too true—a 14-year-old boy who started experimenting with drugs to ease his severe depression. That happens. This former honor student became a drug addict. He dropped out of school, was incarcerated 6 times in 16 years. Only 2 years ago, when he was 30 years old, did the doctors finally diagnose his condition as bipolar

disorder, and he began a successful program, a successful long-term treatment program.

And to make sure that the cracks are closed, I am honored to announce what we call the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. It is charged to study the problems and gaps in our current system of treatment and to make concrete recommendations for immediate improvements that will be implemented, and these will be improvements that can be implemented and must be implemented by the Federal Government, the State Government, local agencies, as well as public and private health care providers.

To chair the Commission, I've selected Michael Hogan, Dr. Hogan. I appreciate your coming, Michael. Dr. Hogan has served as the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health for more than 10 years and is recognized as a leader in this profession. He has been focused, as a State official, on how our mental health system works and how it doesn't work.

I look forward to the Commission's findings. I look forward to their proposals. I look forward to making progress and fixing the system so that Americans do not fall through the cracks.

The third major obstacle to effective mental health care is the often unfair treatment limitations placed on mental health in insurance coverage. Many private health insurance plans have developed effective programs to identify patients with mental illnesses, and they help them get their treatment they need to regain their health.

But insurance plans too often place greater restrictions on the treatment of mental illness than on the treatment of other medical illnesses. As a result, some Americans are unable to get effective medical treatments that would allow them to function well in their daily lives.

Our health insurance system must treat serious mental illness like any other disease. And that was Senator Domenici's message to me at the Oval Office. *[Laughter]* And it was Nancy's message when we had them up for dinner. *[Laughter]* And I want to appreciate the fact that they have worked tirelessly on this problem.

I have a record on this issue. As the Governor of Texas, I signed a bill to ensure that patients who critically need mental health are treated fairly. Senator Domenici and I share this commitment: Health plans should not be allowed to apply unfair treatment limitations or financial requirements on mental health benefits.

It is critical that we provide full—as we provide full mental health parity, that we do not significantly run up the cost of health care. I'll work with the Senator. I will work with the Speaker. I will work with their House and Senate colleagues to reach an agreement on mental health parity this year.

We must work for a welcoming and compassionate society, a society where no American is dismissed and no American is forgotten. This is the great and hopeful story of our country, and we can write another chapter. We must give all Americans who suffer from mental illness the treatment and the respect they deserve.

Thank you all. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:34 a.m. at the Continuing Education Center. In his remarks, he referred to Charles G. Curie, Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; R. Philip Eaton, interim vice president, Health Sciences, University of New Mexico; and Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13263—President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

April 29, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to improve America's mental health service delivery system for individuals with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is hereby established the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (Commission).

Sec. 2. Membership. (a) The Commission's membership shall be composed of:

(i) Not more than fifteen members appointed by the President, including providers, payers, administrators, and consumers of mental health services and family members of consumers; and

(ii) Not more than seven ex officio members, four of whom shall be designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the remaining three of whom shall be designated—one each—by the Secretaries of the Departments of Labor, Education, and Veterans Affairs.

(b) The President shall designate a Chair from among the fifteen members of the Commission appointed by the President.

Sec. 3. Mission. The mission of the Commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive study of the United States mental health service delivery system, including public and private sector providers, and to advise the President on methods of improving the system. The Commission's goal shall be to recommend improvements to enable adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. In carrying out its mission, the Commission shall, at a minimum:

(a) Review the current quality and effectiveness of public and private providers and Federal, State, and local government involvement in the delivery of services to individuals with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances, and identify unmet needs and barriers to services.

(b) Identify innovative mental health treatments, services, and technologies that are demonstrably effective and can be widely replicated in different settings.

(c) Formulate policy options that could be implemented by public and private providers, and Federal, State, and local governments to integrate the use of effective treatments and services, improve coordination among service providers, and improve community integration for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances.

Sec. 4. Principles. In conducting its mission, the Commission shall adhere to the following principles:

(a) The Commission shall focus on the desired outcomes of mental health care, which are to attain each individual's maximum level of employment, self-care, interpersonal relationships, and community participation;

(b) The Commission shall focus on community-level models of care that efficiently coordinate the multiple health and human service providers and public and private payers involved in mental health treatment and delivery of services;

(c) The Commission shall focus on those policies that maximize the utility of existing resources by increasing cost effectiveness and reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulatory barriers;

(d) The Commission shall consider how mental health research findings can be used most effectively to influence the delivery of services; and

(e) The Commission shall follow the principles of Federalism, and ensure that its recommendations promote innovation, flexibility, and accountability at all levels of government and respect the constitutional role of the States and Indian tribes.

Sec. 5. Administration. (a) The Department of Health and Human Services, to the extent permitted by law, shall provide funding and administrative support for the Commission.

(b) To the extent funds are available and as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707), members of the Commission appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses while engaged in the work of the Commission, including per diem in lieu of subsistence. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(c) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director, who shall be selected by the President. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Commission shall be provided by executive branch departments and agencies.

(d) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 6. Reports. The Commission shall submit reports to the President as follows:

(a) *Interim Report.* Within 6 months from the date of this order, an interim report shall describe the extent of unmet needs and barriers to care within the mental health system and provide examples of community-based care models with success in coordination of services and providing desired outcomes.

(b) *Final Report.* The final report will set forth the Commission's recommendations, in accordance with its mission as stated in section 3 of this order. The submission date shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the President.

Sec. 7. Termination. The Commission shall terminate 1 year from the date of this order, unless extended by the President prior to that date.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 29, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 3.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Heather Wilson in Albuquerque

April 29, 2002

The President. Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in New Mexico. I'm glad to know my Texas passport is still active. *[Laughter]*

I'm here because it is very important for the people of New Mexico to send Heather Wilson back to the United States Congress. I'm here to give my whole-hearted support to her candidacy.

Before I spend a little time fleshing that out, I want to say something about the senior Senator from New Mexico. There's no finer American in the United States Senate than Pete Domenici. I'm proud to call him friend, and I'm proud to get lectured by him all the time. *[Laughter]* It seems like he's always got important issues on his mind, the labs, mental health parity. But he is a great ally and a really fine Senator.

I'm also honored to have served with—been the President at the same time that Joe Skeen was the United States Congressman from another congressional district here in New Mexico. We're going to miss old Joe, but I'm confident he still has my address and willing to give—

Audience member. *[Inaudible]*

The President. That's good. But thank you for your service.

I want to thank John Dendahl, the party chairman of the Republican Party of New Mexico, and all the party leaders who are here. I particularly want to say something about the grassroots, the people who work the phone banks and lick the envelopes and do all the work necessary to keep people like me and Pete and Heather in office. And I want to thank you for your loyalty; I want to thank you for your passion for our political party; and I want to thank you for the endless hours you put on our behalf.

I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor and all the State officials who are here.

And I want to thank you all for supporting Heather. Here's the way I feel: Anytime you find somebody who brings such class and dignity to a political office, we as Americans owe our support to her. And Heather Wilson brings a lot of class and a lot of dignity.

You know, in Washington there's a lot of—there can be a lot of noise, a lot of shrill voices, people who are—people up there sometimes are the ones who like to divide people into camps and call names and point fingers. They think that's effective, and it's such a wonderful contrast to have the quiet dignity and the competence of Heather Wilson in the United States Congress. It is so good and refreshing and good for our democracy and good for our country that people like Heather are willing to serve. She can get things done for New Mexico.

The thing I appreciate, Heather, is she is there for the right reason, to serve the people, to represent the people of New Mexico. And I'm proud of our political party, make no mistake about it, but I'm proud of the fact that Heather puts our country first, that she understands the importance of our Nation and what it stands for.

I remember so well going to Griegos Elementary with Heather. She said, "You come to my district. I want you to go, first and foremost, to an elementary school." Because she understands that when we educate our children, the American Dream will be extended to every neighborhood. I appreciate that spirit.

She told me that the day I signed the no-child-left-behind legislation, which was a significant piece of educational reform, supported both by Heather and by Pete, that she went back to Griegos. And it was a fitting place for her to go, because this is a piece of legislation which says that America will refuse to condemn any child to failure. It is a piece of public—legislation that says to our public schools, we'll set high standards for every child—I mean every child—that we trust the local people to chart the path to excellence, and that we refuse to accept a system that simply shuffles children through. And the beneficiaries of this type of mentality are going to be the children who go to Griegos, and Heather knows that. And I want to thank you for your strong support on education reform. It means so much to this part of the world, to all our country that we got this legislation done.

I also appreciate so very much Heather's values. You know, we're coming in; I said—I'm trying to get her to talk about issues; she wants to talk about Little League baseball. *[Laughter]* Here I am, trying to tell her what's going on the world, which we eventually got to, but the first thing on her mind was to let me know that her son and Jay's son is a Little League player and how proud of the fact that she was that the lad suits up, gives it his all, occasionally gets a base hit. Must be Jay's genes. *[Laughter]* But she loves her family. She loves her husband. And I think that's also an important trait for anybody to serve our public well.

And Jay, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding and support for this fine lady who serves New Mexico in the United States Congress.

I also want to thank Heather for her strong support for Kirtland Air Force Base. People got to—I think it's important, when people start heading in these voting booths next fall, that—particularly in this part of the world—that they understand Heather's influence, that she's making a difference, that she's getting things done for this part of the world. And one of the things that she's good at is understanding the importance for national defense. Kirtland Air Force Base is an incredible part of that national defense of the United States.

I remember so well campaigning here in New Mexico and then coming back to the Barelbas Job Opportunity Center, which she and Pete helped get started. Pete and Heather were telling me that there's been 6,000 people that have been helped in this job center, people to be able to find work. And I want to thank you all for inviting me back for—when we opened up that facility, and I want to thank you for leading on that.

But jobs is an incredibly important part of Heather's agenda, and it's an incredibly important part of mine. And it—here's the way I feel about it: If anybody's looking for work and can't find work, we've got a job problem. And I know the numbers are beginning to look better, but you know, I leave the numbers for the statisticians and the bean counters. We're practical people that's—got to keep asking the question, how do we keep America employed, and how do we keep the job base growing?

And one other thing Heather understands is the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which small businesses can grow and the entrepreneurs of America can flourish. And we campaigned on the idea that if you let people have more of their own money—I emphasize "their own money"—that there would be more money to spend, more demand for goods and services. And with more demand for goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when they produce the goods and services, it means somebody is going to find work.

This tax cut that I campaigned on and fought for, that Pete and Heather and Joe supported, was the right thing for America at this point in our history. And it has made a big difference in helping people find work.

Heather also understands the need to have fairness when it comes to Medicare. And she is going to take a leadership role in helping to provide prescription drug coverage within the Medicare system, so our seniors do not go without. It's an important initiative, and thank goodness she's willing to lend her talent to get this job done. She's close to the Speaker on this issue, and when you're close to the Speaker on this issue, you have a good chance to make a significant difference for the elderly of not only New Mexico and the United States of America.

There's a lot more issues that we could talk about where Heather has taken a leadership role, but I do want to talk about one more, and that is energy. Our Nation has not had an energy policy. And I came along with the Vice President, and I tasked him to develop an energy policy, one that recognizes that technology is going to help us conserve better. And we need to conserve more. We need to be wiser about how we use our energy. And part of our vision and part of our plan and part of our initiative is to make sure that we're able to get power to the consumer across a modern infrastructure, as opposed to one that is now aging and decrepit.

But we also recognize that it is important for us to find more energy in America, that we ought to produce more. We have a national security problem. Over 50 percent of our energy comes from other countries, and some of those countries don't like us. Some of them aren't our friends. And so for the sake of our national security and for the sake of our economic security, we need an energy bill. One passed the House, and I want to thank Heather for her leadership. One has passed the Senate, and I appreciate Pete for his leadership. And now it's time for Congress to act and get a bill to my desk which I can sign.

I mentioned national security, and that's on my mind these days. Every morning when I'm there in Washington, I walk into the

beautiful Oval Office and read a threat assessment prepared by our intelligence agencies, and it's in a list of what we're learning and what we think and what we know about an enemy that still wants to hit America. So every day I'm reminded that my biggest task and most important job is to protect the homeland.

And we're making progress. We're still a vulnerable nation, and the reason we're vulnerable is because we've got an enemy that hates us, an enemy that is nothing but cold-blooded killers. That's all they are, as far as I'm concerned. We're doing a much better job of sharing information—of gathering information and sharing it. To put it in Midland, Texas, terms: Any time we get a hint, we're following up on it. Every time we get a sense that something may be about to happen or somebody is trying to attack a U.S. citizen or facility, you just need to know we're responding. Our number one priority of our law enforcement agencies around America is to run down every lead, every hint.

We've also got a strategy here at home to deal with bioterrorism. And that's a real threat to America, but we must be prepared if such a threat were to come. We've got an initiative to make sure that our borders are more secure. We've got to do a better job at the INS of understanding who is coming into our country, why they're coming into our country, and how long they intend to stay in our country. And if they're going to be here for a short period of time, are they actually leaving our country? For the sake of our national security, we've got to reform the INS and bring it up to speed and make it a modern agency with the capacity to gather and disperse information in a modern way.

But the best way to secure the homeland for America is to run these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And it's not going to be easy, nor is it going to happen as quickly as some might like. I do not have a calendar on my desk that says, "At such and such a time, you will stop. You, President Bush, on such and such a date will have run out the string, and it's time for you to quit." That calendar doesn't exist, because my mind-frame is this: When it comes to defending our freedoms, no matter how long it

takes, that's exactly what this country is going to do.

We're not going to forget what happened on September the 11th. We've learned more about the enemy. We learned a good lesson, that two oceans can no longer protect us, that because we're an open society, we're a vulnerable society. But we're not going to allow our openness and our love for freedom to go away. I mean, one of the things the enemy wants to do is to say, "You know, since you love freedom, you're under attack." And I guess the corollary is, is that, "Get rid of your freedoms." But that's not the way we think in America. When it comes to defense of our country, when it comes to our defense and defending our values, we're plenty tough. And that's the way it's going to be, much to the chagrin of the killers.

I have unleashed the United States military, and they have not let us down. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, a son or a daughter or a husband or a wife, I want to thank you, on behalf of a grateful nation, for their sacrifice and your understanding.

I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress which makes a priority of our national defense. And I expect that—the appropriations process to pass the defense bill first. In times of war, I ought to have the defense appropriations bill on my desk as soon as possible. We don't need any people playing politics with the defense of the United States of America.

You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago one time, they said, "Would you ever have a deficit?" I said, "I hope not." I said, "I think it's important for us to make—to work hard to have a balanced budget." But I said, "Yes, I'd have a deficit if I were the President only if we were at war or in a recession or in times of emergency." I didn't think I was going to draw the trifecta. *[Laughter]*

But when it comes time to defending our freedom, we need to understand, even though the price of freedom is high, it is not too high. It is never too high. And that's what the Congress has got to say, and that's what the Congress has got to know.

The other thing that's important for us is to uphold the doctrines that I lay out, or the country lays out. And when we said, "If you

harbor a terrorist, you're just as bad as a terrorist," I meant it, and the Taliban found out exactly what we meant.

Now, one of the things that's important for our fellow citizens to understand is that we're not seeking revenge; we're seeking justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, we went in not as conquerors—we weren't interested in conquering anybody—we went in as liberators. And I'm so proud of the fact that not only is this Nation tough and strong but that we care deeply about young girls who had never been to school in their lives, and we're proud to have freed the people of Afghanistan from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

We've got a lot of work to do there. And so you just need to know that our military is going to be there for awhile. I mean, they've got these little pockets of these killers showing up, and we're just going to have to find them, keep chasing them down. We've got work to help this country rebuild her military, so that she can defend herself. We've got work about—to make sure that the humanitarian aid and assistance that we're so generously providing is effective. So we'll be there for awhile. We'll be there for awhile.

And another reason why we're going to be there is because the second phase of this war—our strategy has been to deny sanctuary to any of the killers in anywhere else, in any other country. So when we find a country that looks like a safe haven for them, a place where they may try to bunch up and train or set up a logistical command center, we're shutting them down. We've got a great coalition, thanks to our Secretary of State and my administration. We're nurturing that coalition. We're reminding them that to be a member of this coalition, you've got to perform. We don't need any sweet talk; what we want is results. And so we're denying sanctuary to Al Qaida killers and terrorist killers. And so therefore, if they have no sanctuary, it's more likely they'll remain in Afghanistan, which is fine with us, because that's where we're prepared to chase them down.

I wish I could tell you that—what the timetable is going to be. I can't. But the good

news is, the American people don't expect a timetable. They're unified, and for that I'm grateful. We are strong, and for that I'm grateful. We're a disciplined nation when it comes to our defense, and for that I'm incredibly grateful as well.

You know, this war on terror is bigger than just an organization. It's certainly bigger than one person. We've also got to deal with—and we will—and confront—and we will—the fact that nations—there are nations in this world who hate America who are developing and have developed weapons of mass destruction. And a nightmare scenario for future generations of freedom-loving people is to allow one of these nations to team up with a terrorist organization so that they could blackmail America and our friends and hold us hostage. And you just need to know, I'm just not going to let that happen.

History has called us to action. History has given this chance—this nation a chance to lead. And that's exactly what we're going to do, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

I'm pleased with the support I'm getting in Congress. I want to thank Pete and Heather and Joe for their strong support for the national defense of the United States. I am going to make sure that as the budget process goes on, that I will defend the priorities that I have submitted to Congress, primarily our national defense and homeland security, and make a clear case to Congress not to overspend, to show some fiscal discipline and some restraint, that we've got plenty of money to fund our priorities. We've just got to make sure we stay focused on the priorities.

I also want you to know that there are a way for every one of us to help join in this war against terror to fight evil. And the way I like to put it is, go love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you want to fight evil, do some good; that if you want to show the killers that we're not going to be intimidated, feed the homeless, mentor a child, start a program, a faith-based program in your church or synagogue or mosque, all aimed at showing somebody who may have fallen to the depths of despair that somebody loves them, that there is a good and gracious God that loves them. And you

can be a messenger, on behalf of the good and gracious God, to help somebody in need.

And that's what's happening around America. This is a unique moment, because the character of our country is shining through. I mean, we're tough, but we're compassionate. We're strong, but we want to help the weak. And by doing so, the country is an amazing place for people who are fortunate enough to become an American. When people see our true character, they're amazed that we're a welcoming society. It doesn't matter how you were born or where you're raised; it doesn't matter if your mother or dad speaks Spanish and not English, because you're welcome in America. This country is available for you and your children.

We need to show the world that when they hit us, they not only awakened our military and our strength and our resolve; they also awakened a deep and abiding compassion in our fellow human beings, who may not be as fortunate as we are.

I want to thank you all, if you're doing that. If you're not, I call you to do it. I ask you, on behalf of the country, to redouble your efforts or to begin your efforts to help somebody who might hurt, to love somebody who needs love. And in so doing, you help strengthen America. You help us defeat an enemy that tried to change our country.

It is such an honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. I'm honored you came today, and I want to thank you for supporting a really fine soul, in Heather Wilson.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the Pyramid Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Pyramid Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico; and Representative Wilson's husband, Jay Hone. Representative Wilson is a candidate for reelection in New Mexico's First Congressional District.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion With Community Leaders in South Central Los Angeles, California

April 29, 2002

The President: Well, thank you all very much, my fellow Americans. I'm honored to

be here. I want to thank you, John, very much for your leadership and your vision. It's nice to see your mother here. My mother is still telling me what to do, too. [Laughter] I'm sure you're listening. [Laughter] So am I.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and just share some thoughts with you about what's on my mind. I want to thank Reverend Murray. I want to thank him for riding back from the airport with me and sharing his thoughts and his vision and his hope.

I want to thank John Mack. John's reputation had preceded him and managed to even make it to the State of Texas. [Laughter] He's a great leader of the Urban League, and I want to thank him for his visionary and steadfast leadership. As John told me, that in the aftermath of the civil unrest, this part of the world began to rebuild, became a more hopeful place, and John quickly pointed out, partly because of the leadership of the two men I just named. And I want to thank them for being such solid citizens in a community that needed leadership.

I want to thank, as well, Charles Kim and Antonia Hernandez for inviting me and helping set up what has been a very interesting and important discussion for me. You see, the President is—can still learn. And I try to learn and absorb what's best about America, so I can share it with other Americans. And the spirit of the discussion we had was important for me to see and hear. I wish all of America could have heard how optimistic and hopeful people were.

These are folks from the religious community, community-based community, the business leaders. We had bankers. We've got some entrepreneurs that are—and I know a little something about entrepreneur—the entrepreneurial spirit, and these were the entrepreneurs' entrepreneur. [Laughter] I want to thank them for telling me their stories.

You know, I firmly believe God is on the side of justice and reconciliation. But as Martin Luther King said, "God isn't going to do it all by Himself." And I was with—I like to put it this way, that these good folks are soldiers in the armies of compassion. We had some generals; we had some sergeants; we had some privates; but all of them a part of

this army; all of them anxious to make the American experience extend throughout all neighborhoods. And I feel the same way.

I fully understand that 10 years ago this city, because of some violence—a lot of violence—saw incredible destruction in lives and in property. Mr. Kim was talking about the dashed dreams of many of the Korean entrepreneurs. A lot of hopes were lost. The violence and the lawlessness always affects the most poor, always hurts the weakest. And yet out of this violence and ugliness came new hope, and we discussed that today.

I want to congratulate this city. Mr. Mayor, you're the mayor of a great city. And I want to congratulate the leaders here and the people here, to show the rest of the country what is possible, what can happen, what is possible in America when people put aside differences and focus on what's best for all.

And that's what I heard today at the table. We talked about economic development. I believe strongly it's important for people to learn to own, own their own business. And we talked about the hurdles between ownership and reality and what the Government can do about those hurdles. I heard from bankers talking about the CRA and how to make that more effective. I heard from shopping center developers who believe strongly and understand fully that investment in south central L.A. is, first and foremost, good business policy. And it obviously is good social policy as well. And I want to thank them for sharing that with me.

I heard about the renaissance program. More than once did I hear about it. [*Laughter*] I was about ready to sign up. [*Laughter*]

We talked about education. I like to put it this way: Reading is the new civil right. Because if you can't read, you cannot possibly be educated, and if you're not educated, you can't succeed. And so in order to make sure that everybody—and I mean everybody; I don't care how you vote—everybody gets a shot, we've got to make sure that everybody gets educated.

And there is a role for the Federal Government to play. We fund, and that's important. But I firmly believe that the Federal Government and local governments must expect the best from every child—I mean the best. Every child can learn. I refuse to accept a

system that quits on certain children because it's deemed—they're deemed to be too hard to educate. We must determine as a society whether our children are learning or not. And if they're not, we've got to insist upon change. We can't have a system that just simply shuffles children through. That's got to end if we're going to make sure that every child gets educated in America.

I am passionate on the subject of education. I also am wise enough to know that all wisdom doesn't exist in Washington, DC. We can write a pretty good check, but we ought not to be telling the local folks how to chart the path to excellence. We ought to be encouraging educational and social entrepreneurs to get involved with the education of every single child. And when there's failure, we need to blow the whistle on failure. And when we find success, we need to praise success.

We talked about after-school programs. Big Lou Dantzler was talking about the Challengers Boys and Girls Clubs, and I want to thank Lou for his leadership.

We talked about—we talked about faith and the importance of faith in our society. Now, I don't want Government to be the church, and I don't want the church to be the Government. But Government should not fear faith and faith-based programs. Government should not worry about programs that come out of church or synagogue or a mosque, all aimed at loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. The universal call to love is something to be nourished, not feared.

And I—there is a role for Government. When we fund programs, we ought not to discriminate against faith-based programs, and we ought not to cause the faith-based program to have to change its mission in order to receive any money. Otherwise it won't be a faith-based program. It will fall into the old Government program. See, Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts. It cannot put faith in people's lives. And faith is a powerful—faith is a powerful motivator. Many a program relies upon faith, and we ought to welcome the faith-based programs into the compassionate delivery of help.

I know firsthand. I know what faith can mean in somebody's life. That's why I remind people, I'm just a humble sinner who sought redemption. And I—[applause].

Audience member. Preach, Mr. President. [Laughter]

The President. Well, I don't want to get too far. [Laughter]

Audience member. Well—[laughter].

The President. You know, we have a chance to show the world that out of the evil that was done on September the 11th can come incredible good. I believe that; I truly do. I believe that by being firm and tough when it comes to hunting down killers, that eventually we can help bring peace to the world. That is my goal. I want the children and their children's children to grow up in a peaceful world. And I think we can do that; I do.

And we can show the world the true face of America as well. Oh, it's a diverse face, no question about it, which is our strength, not our weakness. But it's a face that can be bound by common goals and common values. It's a face that can stand squarely in the face of evil by the collective acts of people doing good in America.

And that's what I heard today. The great hope of the country really isn't the Government. The great hope of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our people. You've showed it in this community. Ten years after civil unrest that made history, the community is rebuilding herself with great hope and great promise.

And that's an important lesson. It's an important lesson not only for other communities; it's an important lesson for our whole country, because out of the evil that was done on September the 11th can come incredible good. And it's happening.

So my job as the President is to rally—rally the spirit of the Nation, and to thank those who are integrally involved in helping people help themselves. I want to thank John again for such a kind invitation. I am so honored that you would invite me, a Texan—[laughter]—to come right here to L.A. and to herald what is possible.

You know, we live in a great country—I mean, the greatest country on the face of the Earth. I'm proud of America. I'm proud

of our country. I'm proud of what we stand for. Oh, I know there's pockets of despair. That just means we've got to work harder. It means you can't quit. That means we've got to rout it out with love and compassion and decency. But this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And it is such an honor to be the President of such a great land.

Thank you all for coming today. May God bless you. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:01 p.m. in the Media Center at the First African Methodist Episcopal Renaissance Center. In his remarks, he referred to John Bryant, founder, chairman of the board, and chief executive officer, Operation HOPE, Inc.; Juanita Smith, Mr. Bryant's mother; Rev. Cecil L. Murray, senior minister, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles; John W. Mack, president, Los Angeles Urban League; Charles Kim, executive director, Korean American Coalition, Los Angeles; Antonia Hernandez, president and general counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Mayor James K. Hahn of Los Angeles; and Lou Dantzler, president and chief executive officer, Challengers Boys & Girls Club.

Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Los Angeles

April 29, 2002

Thank you all very much. It is a high honor to be back in the great State of California. I am honored to be speaking in front of so many folks who are here for a common purpose, and that is to see to it that this good man, Bill Simon, becomes the next Governor of the State of California.

I want to thank Bill and Cindy. Flying in on Air Force One today, we had a good chance to visit, to talk about our families, to talk about our shared values. And after our conversation, it was quite clear to me that both he and I married above ourselves. [Laughter] I want to thank Cindy Simon for her willingness to join Bill in this fantastic journey to become the State's next Governor. It takes a very strong wife and a good partner to be willing to make this sacrifice.

I know firsthand, because I've got a great wife. The country is beginning to see why

I asked Laura to marry me. She's calm, and she's steady; she's strong. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. [Laughter] But I'm sorry she's not with us tonight. She's back in Washington, DC. But I am really proud of the First Lady of the United States.

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who are here, Congressmen Rohrabacher, Issa, and Miller. I want to thank them for their friendship, and I want to thank them for joining in helping pass an agenda that is positive for all Americans. I want to thank Bill Jones—California's secretary of state is here as well. I'm not sure if Bruce McPherson's here, the Lieutenant Governor candidate, but he's a fine guy. And I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here as well.

And I want to thank you all for supporting this good man. I want to thank you for the friendship you've given him, for the contributions you make, and for your willingness to do more than just contribute, the willingness to go out and talk him up and to tell your friends and neighbors. As we say in Texas, it's coffeeshop chatter that helps somebody get elected.

I want to thank all of you who are here who are involved in grassroots politics in California. I want to thank you for your making the phone calls, for licking the envelopes, for doing all the hard work necessary to see to it that candidates can win elections.

This is a good man I'm campaigning for and a good man you're supporting. He's a fellow who's got his values straight. He's an entrepreneur with a generous heart. He loves his family, and he loves his country.

I've been reading about what some of the comments have been here in California. Some of the Democrats are saying, "This is a fellow who's never held elective office. Heck, all he's been is a successful businessman. [Laughter] What can he possibly know about running any organization?" [Laughter] Sounds familiar. Sounds like Ann Richards is advising the Davis campaign. [Laughter]

In 1994, the people of Texas voted for a positive vision for a great and diverse State. And that is exactly what's going to happen in the great State of California this November. This great and diverse State is going to vote for a breath of fresh air, a positive vision.

This State will reject old-style politics and elect as its Governor a man who is willing to lead, a man who doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think, a man who will stand on principle, and a man who has got the courage to do what is right for the people of the State of California.

I appreciate so very much Bill's emphasis on education. As he mentioned, we just passed historic reform in Washington, DC. Let me tell you what the bill says. It says we believe every child can learn in America, and therefore, we expect high standards for every single child. The bill says that we trust the local people to make the right decisions for the children of California or Texas or any other State in the Union. The bill says that when we spend money, we expect results. And the bill says that when we confront—when we find failure, we must be courageous enough to confront it, for no child should be trapped in a school that refuses to teach and a school that refuses to change.

That is the philosophy of Bill Simon, a philosophy which will suit all the citizens of this State in good stead.

I appreciate Bill's understanding about the importance of energy for the State of California. It's hard to believe that our Nation has had no comprehensive energy plan for a long time. And as a result, the people of this State began to suffer. And so in Washington, we put together a plan that says, on the one hand, we've got to do a better job of conserving our scarce resources. And at the same time, we've got to use our vast technological know-how to develop renewable sources of energy. But it also says that for the sake of our economic security and for the sake of our national security, we must become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Bill and I know that we've got to be wise about how we explore for oil and gas in our own country. And we both believe that through technology, we can do so in an environmentally friendly way. But it's time for this State to have leadership when it comes to energy. In order for people to be able to find work, this State needs to have a Governor who understands the need to have a comprehensive energy plan, and Bill Simon is that man.

I appreciate Bill's understanding of the need to have fiscal discipline in our seats of government. And at the same time, he understands that the money we're spending is not the Government's money. The money we spend, whether it be in Washington or Sacramento, is the people's money.

I remember campaigning right here in this room, and I said if I was fortunate enough to become the President, I would go to Washington, DC, and insist that we return some of the people's money back to them. For the good of the entrepreneurial spirit in America, we let them keep more money. For the good of small business growth, people should keep more money. For the good of encouraging people to be able to realize their dreams, they ought to be able to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. And fortunately, Congress listened, and the tax cut we passed came at the exact right time.

I heard some of them talking up there about, "Well, you know, we need to raise taxes," or "We've got to stop the tax relief." They're reading the wrong textbook, as far as I'm concerned. I don't know what course they took, but what America should not do is, in the face of economic difficulties, raise the taxes on the people. What America must do is trust people with their own money. And Bill Simon understands that as well as anybody who's running for office in America today.

He's a good man with a good agenda for everybody who lives in the State of California. When he wins, he's going to be the Governor of everybody. Doesn't matter whether somebody voted for him or not; this good man will represent the best interests of all the people of this important State.

We've got a lot on our agenda in Washington. We're talking about trade promotion authority, and that's incredibly important, to be able to open up markets. Listen, the State of California benefits when we trade. And I hope Congress finally gets me a trade promotion authority. I hope Congress finally gets me an energy bill. I hope Congress acts. But there's nothing more important than making sure we defend the homeland of the United States of America.

I have the high honor of walking in the Oval Office every morning that I'm in Wash-

ington. I'm an early morning guy, and I've got an interesting routine. I get up and get the First Lady a little coffee—[laughter]—sometimes I read the headlines of the newspapers—[laughter]—rarely do I read the editorial pages—[laughter]—in all due respect; take the dogs out. And Spot, the dog who is now 13, born to Millie at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, joins me in the Oval Office. Barney, the 1½-year-old Scottish terrier, is not allowed in. [Laughter] After all, we've got a beautiful new rug. [Laughter]

But I sit at this fantastic desk called the H.M.S. *Resolute* desk. It's a desk that Theodore Roosevelt had used and Franklin Roosevelt had used. President Kennedy used it. You might remember the picture of John-John Kennedy looking out from the door at the desk. And I sit there in this beautiful sanctuary of democracy and read a threat assessment. Every morning, I see a compilation of intelligence about what the enemies may or may not do. And it reminds me of the most solemn task I have, and that is to protect innocent Americans from further attack.

And make no mistake about it, the people we're dealing with are nothing but cold-blooded killers. I can't put it any more plainly, and we're going to deal with them as such.

You need to know our country is doing a heck of a lot better job of sharing intelligence. Anytime we get a whiff of somebody thinking about doing something to us, we react. We react within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we react. We chase down every single lead there is. There's great cooperation now—or better cooperation now between our CIA and the FBI and much better cooperation between the Federal Government and the State government and local authorities.

At the same time that we're chasing down every single lead, we're also making the homeland more secure. The budget I've submitted to Congress has got a significant increase in monies available for border security, for a response to bioterrorism, monies for our bold and brave first-responders, the police, the fire, and the EMS teams all across America. No, we're active, and we're serious. But the surest way to protect the homeland is to chase these killers down, one by one,

and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I oftentimes think about what was going through the minds of the Al Qaida killers. They must have taken a look at America and said, "This nation is so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so self-centered and so weak that all they would do would be to file a lawsuit." [Laughter] They were wrong. They have learned firsthand that when it comes to defending our freedoms, our Nation is strong, united, and resolved. And we're making good progress, thanks to a fantastic coalition of nations that heard the call, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists." And a lot of nations have made the right choice.

And they also learned firsthand that when it comes to defending freedoms, we're plenty tough, because of a fantastic United States military. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful Commander in Chief. And I thank you for supporting them.

I submitted a budget to the United States Congress that significantly increases our defense spending. I did so for two reasons: One, that any time we put a soldier in harm's way, he or she deserves the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay; and secondly, I submitted a significant budget because I wanted the world and our coalition and the enemy to realize we're in this battle for the long pull. I don't have a calendar on my desk, that beautiful desk, that says, "By such-and-such a date, you will be finished." That's not how I think. I think that whatever it takes, no matter how long it takes, I will lead this Nation to defend freedom against terrorist killers.

But the spirit of this Nation is so strong and powerful, and the world has got to know and the youth of America must know that this great Nation doesn't seek revenge. There's no revenge in our heart. We seek justice. And when we rid—when we got rid of the most—one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, the Taliban, we didn't go to that country as conquerors; we went as liberators. I want you all to remember that for the first time, many young girls were able to go to school, thanks to the United States of America.

The first phase ended with the Taliban out. Oh, some of them are hiding in caves, but there's no cave dark enough to hide from the United States of America. The second phase is to make sure that Al Qaida can't bunch up anywhere else, that they can't use a weak country as a training base or a place to recruit or a place to operate—from which to operate. And we're making good progress there. When the United States stays strong and steady, the world looks for our leadership. And that's the way it's going to be.

So we're in this for the long pull, and America understands that. I can't tell you how grateful I am to be the President of a nation that is so united and so resolved and so strong and so willing to defend that which we hold dear to our hearts, our freedom.

You know, history has called our Nation into action. It's a unique moment. And we've responded mightily, and we will continue to respond, much to the chagrin of the enemy. If America goes to sleep, the rest of the world is in trouble. If we blink, the rest of the world will close their eyes. So we're not blinking, and we're not going to sleep.

This war against terror is bigger than one person or one organization. You've heard me talk about nations which harbor weapons of mass destruction. Let me repeat again: We owe it to our children and our children's—and our children's children to make sure that some of the worst nations in the world are never able to blackmail America and our friends and our allies with the worst kind of weapons.

It is essential that we remain strong. It's essential that we defend freedom. And as we do, out of this incredible evil done to America can come some really good things.

I truly believe that if we lead in a strong and resolute way, we can achieve peace in the world. My dream is for the world to be peaceful in parts—in regions where people have lost hope for peace. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace between India and Pakistan. I believe, by being constant and vigilant and tough against terror, we will achieve peace. And therefore, out of the evil done to us on September the 11th will come incredible good for the world.

And here at home, we have a chance to show the world what we're made out of. I mean, we're more than just a military. We're more than just an economic engine. We're a nation of incredibly compassionate and decent people. We are one nation, under God. We're a nation that believes no matter where you're raised or where you're from, no matter what your religion may be, you can succeed in America. And that's an important message for people around the world to continue to hear.

But we can do more than that. If you're interested in fighting evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested in standing strong against those who attacked us, mentor a child. Go to your church or synagogue or mosque and rally good people to feed the homeless. There are pockets of despair in America, and we must deal with those pockets not only with money but with compassion and decency and love. The Boys and Girls Clubs or the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or Big Brothers and Big Sisters are all part of this great fabric of America which shows our true compassion and kindness and decency.

Today I had the honor of going to south central Los Angeles, and I was in a room full of people from different religions and different races. But I was so proud to be in a room bound by one common dream, and that is to extend the hope of America through every neighborhood, not only in Los Angeles but all across America. No, out of this evil done to us is going to come some great good, because we're a great nation.

You know, I also believe that what happened to us on September the 11th is beginning to change our culture in America. The culture for years has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I see a different culture emerging. It's one that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. Each of us are responsible for loving our children with all our heart and all our soul. There's a responsibility era. It says that if you're a citizen in America, you have a responsibility to help a neighbor in need. If you're running a corporation, you have a responsibility to be honest with your employees and your shareholders.

There's a new culture emerging. And perhaps it was best defined by what took place on Flight 93. On September the 11th, people were flying from one city to the next. They were told on the telephones that somebody was attacking America. They realized their plane had become a weapon. They told their loved ones on the phone that they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they made the ultimate sacrifice. They drove the plane in the ground to save other people's lives. It's the ultimate act of personal responsibility.

In this country, people are beginning to realize that serving something greater than yourself in life is important. It's an important part of our society. And it's an important part of being a whole person. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good. And the reason why is because we are such a good nation.

People say they pray for me and my family, and for those of you who do, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I want to tell you that it is an unimaginable honor to be the President of this great land. It is amazing feeling, to be able to represent the greatest people on the face of the Earth. I want to thank you for that honor. I want to thank you for supporting a good man to become the next Governor of the State of California.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. in the Los Angeles Ballroom at the Westin Century Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas; and Gov. Gray Davis of California.

Remarks on Compassionate Conservatism in San Jose, California

April 30, 2002

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. I am so grateful for the Commonwealth Club and the Churchill Club for inviting me here. I appreciate you all coming, and I appreciate your hospitality. I want to thank Dr. Gloria Duffy for her generous introduction and for her invitation. I want to thank Silvia Fernandez, who's the president of the

Churchill Club, for joining the Commonwealth Club to host this event. I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. I want to thank my fellow citizens for coming.

Whenever I visit California, I'm impressed by the beauty of this State and by the spirit of the people. Because of its size, the health of the California economy influences every American. And California has got a culture of optimism and energy that touches all of us as well. This is a vital and a vibrant place, and I'm glad to be back.

The last time I visited San Jose, the Silicon Valley was still in an economic boom, and America was at peace. For many in this valley and across our country, those times are a world away. After a recession made worse by a national emergency, we have seen some good news. Our economy is beginning to grow. Just last week, we had the good news about strong growth in the first quarter. Yet, this vital region reminds us that a lot of work remains to be done.

Business investment and job creation are not what they should be. We cannot be content with one quarter's news. We cannot be complacent. My attitude is that we'll let the statisticians talk about the numbers, but so long as somebody who wants to work can't find work, that's a problem for America. We have a great task ahead of us. We must turn our short-term recovery into long-lasting expansion that reaches every part of our country.

Our economy grows when trade barriers fall. I ask the Senate to join the United States House of Representatives in giving me what's called trade promotion authority. It's important to be a confident country, and I'm confident in the ability of American entrepreneurs and producers to compete in the world. I'm confident that our farmers and ranchers can compete in the world. And I know American technology companies are the best in the world. And we must open new markets so they can sell to the world.

Our economy grows when the tax burden goes down and stays down. Much of the growth we have seen this quarter is the result of consumer spending, fueled by well-timed tax deductions. To encourage growth in job creation, we must protect the lower tax rates we've enacted, and we must make them per-

manent. And to make sure there is economic vitality around our country, our Government must control its appetite for excessive spending.

Our economy grows when entrepreneurs are rewarded for their success, not hounded by regulations and needless litigation. We must enact reforms that free entrepreneurs from pointless regulation and endless litigation. And to restore trust in our economy, corporate leaders must be held to the highest ethical standards.

And as your State knows, our economy grows when we have steady, stable, and affordable sources of energy. In Washington, we must adopt—finally adopt—a comprehensive strategy to conserve more, to produce more, and to deliver the energy that keeps our economy running. Both Houses have passed a energy—passed energy legislation. I expect them to get a bill to my desk soon, for the good of American economy and American jobs. By acting in the above way, we confirm that the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create the conditions for economic growth.

Since I was last here, America has also accepted a great challenge in the world: to wage a relentless and systematic campaign against global terror. The security of the American people is the central commitment of the American Government. We are in for a long and difficult war. It will be conducted on many fronts, but as long as it takes, we will prevail.

In the first phase of our military operation, American and coalition forces have liberated—have liberated—the people of Afghanistan from a barbaric regime. Our Armed Forces performed with skill and success and honor. A regime has fallen, terrorists in that country are now scattered, and the children of Afghanistan have returned to school, boys and girls. Our work in that country is not over. We are helping the Afghan people to rebuild their nation. And in every cave, in every dark corner of that country, we will hunt down the killers and bring them to justice.

We have entered the next phase of the war with a sustained international effort to rout out terrorists in other countries and deny Al

Qaida the chance to regroup in other places. Across the world, governments have heard this message: You're either with us, or you're with the terrorists.

And for the long-term security of America and civilization itself, we must confront the great threat of biological and chemical and nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists or hostile regimes. We will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten America or our friends and allies with the world's most destructive weapons.

History has called us to these responsibilities, and we accept them. America has always had a special mission to defend justice and advance freedom around the world. Whatever the difficulties ahead, we are confident about the outcome of this struggle. Tyranny and terror and lawless violence will not decide the world's future. As Ronald Reagan said and as every generation of Americans has believed, "the future belongs to the free."

In a time of war, we reassert the essential values and beliefs of our country. In the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln pointed toward a new birth of freedom. Leading America in a global war, Franklin D. Roosevelt defined the four freedoms: freedom of speech and religion, freedom from fear and want. Whenever America fights for the security of our country, we also fight for the values of our country. In our time, we will defend the land we love, and we will act on the ideals that gave it birth.

In America, we've not always lived up to our ideals, yet we always reach for them. We believe that everyone deserves a chance, that everyone has value, that no insignificant person was ever born. We believe that all are diminished when any are hopeless. We are one people, committed to building a single nation of justice and opportunity.

America rejects bigotry. America rejects—[applause]—we reject every act of hatred against people of Arab background or Muslim faith. We reject the ancient evil of anti-Semitism, whether it is practiced by the killers of Daniel Pearl or by those who burn synagogues in France. America values and welcomes peaceful people of all faiths, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and many others. Every faith is practiced and protected

here, because we are one country. Every immigrant can be fully and equally American, because we're one country. Race and color should not divide us, because America is one country.

These American ideals of opportunity and equality come to us across the generations, and they have attracted millions from across the world. Yet, there are young Americans growing up here, under this flag, who doubt the promise and justice of our country. They live in neighborhoods occupied by gangs and ruled by fear. They are entitled by law to an education, yet do not receive an education. They hear talk of opportunity and see little evidence of opportunity around them.

Every American must believe in the promise of America, and to reach this noble, necessary goal, there is a role for Government. America doesn't need more big Government, and we've learned that more money is not always the answer. If a program is failing to serve people, it makes little difference if we spend twice as much or half as much. The measure of true compassion is results.

Yet we cannot have an indifferent Government, either. We are a generous and caring people. We don't believe in a sink-or-swim society. The policies of our Government must heed the universal call of all faiths to love a neighbor as we would want to be loved ourselves. We need a different approach than either big Government or indifferent Government. We need a Government that is focused, effective, and close to the people, a Government that does a few things and does them well.

Government cannot solve every problem, but it can encourage people and communities to help themselves and to help one another. Often the truest kind of compassion is to help citizens build lives of their own. I call my philosophy and approach compassionate conservatism. It is compassionate to actively help our fellow citizens in need. It is conservative to insist on responsibility and on results. And with this hopeful approach, we can make a real difference in people's lives.

Compassionate conservatism places great hope and confidence in public education. Our economy depends on higher and higher skills, requiring every American to have the

basic tools of learning. Every public school should be the path of upward mobility.

Yet, sadly enough, many are the dead end of dreams. Public schools are some of the most important institutions of democracy. They take children of every background, from every part of the world, and prepare them for the obligations and opportunities of a free society. Public schools are Americans' great hope, and making them work for every child is America's great duty.

The new education reforms we have passed in Washington give the Federal Government a new role in public education. Schools must meet new and high standards of performance in reading and math that will be proven on tests and posted on the Internet for parents and everyone to see. And we're giving local schools and teachers unprecedented freedom and resources and training to meet these goals.

It is conservative to let local communities chart their own path to excellence. It is compassionate to insist that every child learns, so that no child is left behind. By insisting on results and challenging failure where we find it, we'll make an incredible difference in the lives of every child in America.

Compassionate conservatism offers a new vision for fighting poverty in America. For decades, our Nation has devoted enormous resources to helping the poor, with some great successes to show for it: basic medical care for those in need; a better life for elderly Americans. However, for millions of younger Americans, welfare became a static and destructive way of life.

In 1996, we began transforming welfare with time limits and job training and work requirements. And the Nation's welfare rolls have been cut by more than half. But even more importantly, many lives have been dramatically improved.

One former welfare recipient here in California—happened to be a mother of a chronically ill child and the victim of domestic violence—describes her experience upon leaving welfare. She said, "I feel like an adult again. I have my dignity back."

We need to continue to fully transform welfare in America. As Congress takes up welfare reform again in the coming weeks, we must strengthen the work requirements

that prevent dependency and despair. Millions of Americans once on welfare are finding that a job is more than a source of income; it is a source of dignity. And by helping people find work, by helping them prepare for work, we practice compassion.

Welfare reform must also, wherever possible, encourage the commitments of family. Not every child has two devoted parents at home—I understand that. And not every marriage can or should be saved, but the evidence shows that strong marriages are good for children. When a couple on welfare wants to break bad patterns and start or strengthen a marriage, we should help local groups give them counseling that teaches commitment and respect. By encouraging family, we practice compassion.

In overcoming poverty and dependence, we must also promote the work of charities and community groups and faith-based institutions. These organizations, such as shelters for battered women or mentoring programs for fatherless children or drug treatment centers, inspire hope in a way that Government never can. Often, they inspire life-changing faith in a way that Government never should.

Our Government should view the good Americans who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals. We must provide new incentives for charitable giving, and when it comes to providing Federal resources to effective programs, we should not discriminate against private and religious groups.

I urge the Senate to pass the Faith-Based Initiative for the good of America. It is compassionate to aggressively fight poverty in America. It is conservative to encourage work and community spirit and responsibility and the values that often come from faith. And with this approach, we can change lives one soul at a time and make a real difference in the lives of our citizens.

The same principles of compassion and responsibility apply when America offers assistance to other nations. Nearly half of the world's people still live on less than \$2 a day. When we help them, we show our values, our belief in universal human dignity; we serve our interests and gain economic partners. And by helping the developing nations of the world, we offer an alternative to resentment and conflict and terror.

Yet, the old way of pouring vast amounts of money into development aid without any concern for results has failed, often leaving behind misery and poverty and corruption. America's offering a new compact for global development. Greater aid contributions from America must be and will be linked to greater responsibility from developing nations.

I have proposed a 50-percent increase in our core development assistance over the next 3 budget years, money that will be placed in a new Millennium Challenge Account. At the end of this 3-year period, the level of our annual development assistance will be \$5 billion higher than current levels.

This is a record amount of spending. And in return for these funds, we expect nations to rout out corruption, to open their markets, to respect human rights, and to adhere to the rule of law. And these are the keys to progress in any nation, and they will be the conditions for any new American aid.

It is compassionate to increase our international aid. It is conservative to require the hard reforms that lead to prosperity and independence. And with this approach, we'll make a real difference in the lives of people around the world.

Compassionate conservatism guides my administration in many other areas. Our health care policies must help low-income Americans to buy health insurance they choose, they own, and they control. Our environmental policy set high standards for stewardship while allowing local cooperation and innovation to meet those standards. Our housing programs moved beyond rental assistance to the pride and stability of homeownership. Our reforms in Social Security must allow and encourage and help working Americans to build up their own asset base and achieve independence for their retirement years.

All of these policies and all of these areas serve the same vision. We are using an active Government to promote self-government. We're encouraging individuals and communities and families to take more and more responsibility for themselves, for their neighbors, for our Nation. The aim of these poli-

cies is not to spend more money or spend less money; it is to spend on what works.

The measure of compassion is more than good intentions; it is good results. Sympathy is not enough. We need solutions in America, and we know where solutions are found. When schools are teaching, when families are strong, when neighbors look after their neighbors, when our people have the tools and the skills and the resources they need to improve their lives, there is no problem that cannot be solved in America.

By being involved and by taking responsibility upon ourselves, we gain something else as well: We contribute to the life of our country. We become more than taxpayers and occasional voters; we become citizens—citizens, not spectators; citizens who hear the call of duty, who stand up for their beliefs, who care for their families, who control their lives, and who treat their neighbors with respect and compassion. We discover a satisfaction that is only found in service, and we show our gratitude to America and to those who came before us.

In the last 7 months, we've been tested, and the struggle of our time has revealed the spirit of our people. Since September the 11th, we have been the kind of nation our Founders had in mind, a nation of strong and confident and self-governing people. And we've been the kind of nation our fathers and mothers defended in World War II: a great and diverse country, united by common dangers and by common resolve.

We, in our time, will defend our Nation, and we will deliver our Nation's promise to all who seek it. In our war on terror, we are showing the world the strength of our country, and by our unity and tolerance and compassion, we will show the world the soul of our country.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. at Parkside Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gloria Duffy, chief executive officer, Commonwealth Club; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan, and later killed by his captors.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon
in Santa Clara, California**

April 30, 2002

Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for that warm California welcome. It's great to be back in this majestic State, and it's great to see so many friends. I want to thank you all for coming. We're here for the same reason: It is important for California to have a new Governor, and Bill Simon is that man.

I'm honored to have been invited here to campaign, and I really appreciate the chance to get to know Bill a little better. He flew on Air Force One from Albuquerque over to Los Angeles yesterday, and one of the best parts of the flight is, I got to meet the future first lady of the State of California. We both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]*

Many of you have gotten to know Laura. What you didn't know is that when I asked her to marry me, she was a—didn't care for politics, didn't care for politicians. And here she is as the First Lady of the United States—thank goodness. She's doing a fabulous job. I'm really proud of her, and I love her dearly. Today she couldn't be with me here in California because she's in Arkansas, talking about the need to make sure that we have early childhood education in every neighborhood, in every State, all across the country.

I want to thank Richard Pombo, who's here. He's a Member of the United States House of Representatives from the great State of California. Richard, thank you for coming. I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here. I want to thank all of you all for helping this good man.

There are some people in this audience who are the grassroots activists here in California. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you for dialing phones. I want to thank you for stuffing envelopes. I want to thank you for being foot soldiers so people like me and Bill can run and win and do our jobs.

In our audience today, we've got a brave soul named Dorothy Garcia. Her husband was on Flight 93. His name was Andy. The reason I bring that up is that Flight 93 really, in many ways, epitomized the best of Amer-

ica: Average citizens just doing their job, who heard that America was under attack; they told their loved ones goodbye; they said a prayer; and they made the ultimate sacrifice so others could live. And for that, our Nation is incredibly grateful—grateful for the sacrifice and grateful for the example that Andy and others set for future generations. Dorothy, I'm so honored you're here, and thank you for coming.

I appreciate so very much Bill and Cindy's values. They love their family, and that's good. They love their State, and they love their country.

I've been somewhat amazed about—reading some of the clips on the way out here about what Bill's—the supporters of Bill's opponent are saying. It kind of runs this way: He's never held elective office—*[laughter]*—he's only been a successful businessman; how could he possibly be the Governor of a big and diverse State? It sounds like to me that Governor Davis is getting his advice from Ann Richards. *[Laughter]* In '94, I showed up, and I laid out a positive vision of where I wanted to lead my State. I rejected the old-style politics, and that's exactly what Bill Simon is going to do here in California.

I am proud to support this new face in American politics. I'm proud to support somebody who doesn't need to take a poll or to have a focus group to tell him what he believes. And I want to thank you all for joining us to effect a positive change, not just for Republicans but for everybody who lives in the State of California.

I appreciate so very much Bill's emphasis on issues that matter to everybody, starting with education. I gave a speech a little earlier here in the Silicon Valley, and I talked about the hope and promise of public education. It is so important that we get our public education right in America. The public education system in America is one of the most important foundations of our democracy. After all, it is where children from all over America learn to be responsible citizens and learn to have the skills necessary to take advantage of our fantastic, opportunistic society. And yet, we have failed in our public school system for too many children.

As Bill mentioned, I had the honor of signing historic education reform that set high

standards for every child in America, not just a few, not just people from suburban California or suburban Texas, but every single child. We believe every child can learn in America. And in that bill we incorporate a uniquely Republican principle that says, we trust the local people to chart the path for excellence for the citizens and children of California. I understand and Bill understands, all wisdom does not reside in Washington, DC, that if you're interested in achieving educational excellence, we've got to trust the people of California to chart the path for educational excellence. That's why it's important this man become your Governor.

But in this bill as well—and what makes it different from the past is, we're now saying, if you receive any Federal help—and there's Federal help, particularly for Title I students—you'd better teach them. In return for help, you show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. You administer tests to show us, and you put the tests on the Internet for everybody to see. And when we find success, we will praise success. But when we find failure, we need to challenge failure. When we find children in schools that will not teach and will not change, you better have you a Governor that is willing to challenge the status quo. It is essential that we educate every child in America and that not one child be left behind.

I appreciate Bill's commonsense view of energy. This Nation needs an energy policy. We haven't had an energy policy for a long period of time. Finally, they got one bill passed out of the House, and they've got one coming out of the Senate. Now they need to get together and get the bill to my desk. And here's what it basically says. It says, we can use technology to develop renewable sources of energy, which we will. It says, we must do a better job of conserving energy, which we must. But it also says, in an environmentally friendly way, we can find more energy in our country. And that's important. It's important not only for the economic security of people looking for work; it is important for the national security of the United States of America. We import over 50 percent of our oil from overseas, and a lot of

those countries don't particularly care for us. And you need to have a Governor who's got a vision about energy, if you expect this State to grow and if people want to find work.

And I appreciate Bill's view of taxing and—the taxes and budget. I remember campaigning in the Silicon Valley, and I said, "If you give me a chance, I'm going to cut the—work to cut the taxes." And thankfully, we did. And we did so right at the right time.

There's a difference of opinion in our political system, and that's good. It basically boils down to an understanding of whose money we're talking about when we talk about budgeting and spending money. See Bill and I understand, when we're talking about taxpayers' money, it's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. When you let people keep more of their own money, it is not only good for our economy; it is good to help people realize their dreams.

There are so many fantastic stories of the entrepreneurial spirit here in California. I've been impressed by some amazing statistics, like the number of Hispanic-owned small businesses. When you cut the taxes, when you reduce the tax burden, you encourage the growth of small businesses. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. They pay taxes on the individual—through the individual system, and by cutting tax rates, we encourage entrepreneurial growth and ownership in California and in America.

And we need to hold the line on spending. Bill understands that in California, and we need to hold the line on spending in Washington, DC. We've got a temporary deficit, and there's a reason. We had a recession and a national emergency. But the best way to make sure the deficit is small and temporary is for the United States Congress not to spend excessively. That's why the President has been given a veto.

I remember in Chicago they said to me, "Would you ever have deficit spending?" I said, "Only if there was a war or a national emergency or a recession." Never did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But this country is ready to handle—we're ready to handle the slowdown in the economy. And I understand people are hurting here in the Silicon Valley. I've seen the statistics that the

economy grew at over 5 percent in the first quarter. That's fine. We'll let the number crunchers talk about numbers like that. So long as people can't find work, I'm worried. So long as somebody who wants to work can't find a job, it's got my attention. And so the best way to make sure our economy grows is to make our tax cuts permanent, so there's certainty in the Tax Code; is to promote free and fair trade all around the world; and is to have an energy plan that makes sense for America. And we're making progress on the economy, and we're making progress on making sure our homeland is more secure.

Cindy asked me to tell this story, which I told last night, so I will. It is—well, first of all, it's an unimaginable honor to be able to go to work in the Oval Office. It is a beautiful place. It is a powerful reminder of the greatness of our country. I treat it like a shrine.

My job is to take the dogs downstairs first thing in the morning. We've got kind of an early morning White House. I try to show up right before 7 o'clock every morning. And so Spot, who is—not a very imaginative name, I admit it, but nevertheless—[*laughter*—was born in the White House, by the way. She's 13 years old. She's quite familiar with the grounds. She walks out, as does Barney. Barney's the 1½-year-old terrier. Now Barney, he doesn't get to go in the Oval Office first thing in the morning, because the rug is new. [*Laughter*] But Spot and I walk in. Barney goes off with the gardeners, chasing squirrels or something.

And I sit there at this fantastic desk, called the H.M.S. *Resolute*. Perhaps you remember the picture of John-John Kennedy putting his head out of the door of that desk with his dad. I think his dad was making a phone call or gazing out to the beautiful South Grounds. I remember Edmund Morris, who wrote "Theodore Rex," walked in to give me a copy of his book. And he said, "Teddy Roosevelt used that desk." The door that John-John Kennedy put his head out of the desk is there because Franklin Roosevelt had put that door on his desk to cover his infirmities. It's been used by a lot of Presidents.

And I sit at this majestic piece of furniture and read a threat assessment every morning, that the killers still want to hurt America.

It's a daily reminder that my most important job is to protect the American people. We're still vulnerable, because we're a huge nation, big borders. But we're less vulnerable.

You need to know that we share information like never before. Anytime we get any kind of hint, any evidence whatsoever that somebody may try to do something to America, we're reacting. We're following every single lead. We've got better coordination with our intelligence gathering and the FBI and law enforcement at home. We're buttoning up America the way you'd want us to, within the confines of the United States Constitution. We're doing a better job of coordinating efforts with our brave police and firefighters and EMS; they're called first-responders. We're going to do a better job of reforming the INS so that we've got better border security in the United States. We've got an initiative and a strategy to deal with bioterrorism, should it come. We're working hard, and a lot of good folks are working endless hours to protect the American citizens. But the surest way to protect America is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that is what we're going to do.

I have submitted a budget that makes our defense a priority, and I expect the United States Congress to pass the defense appropriations bill early, rather than late, and not play politics with defense appropriations. It is a big increase, because anytime we put our soldiers in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible.

And it's also a big increase because it is indicative of the fact that we're in this for the long pull. There is no calendar on my desk that says, "By such-and-such a date, you will quit." There is no timeframe, artificial timeframe. When it comes to defending the freedom of the United States, America, we will do whatever it takes, no matter how long it takes. Others may grow tired, but I'm not.

I am so honored by our hard work of our Secretary of State and my national security team—by the way, one of whom is doing great, named Condoleezza Rice, came right out of this part of the world. Thank goodness she's there and not at Stanford. [*Laughter*] Nothing wrong with Stanford, but America

is better off with her leading our National Security Council.

We've got this coalition together because we said loud and clear, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists." And I meant it. I meant that. I also said that if you harbor a terrorist and feed one, you're just as guilty as the killers. And the Taliban found out exactly what the United States of America meant.

As we talk about this war, it's really important to remind young Americans—and all Americans, for that matter—that this country does not seek revenge; we seek justice; and that we've got to be proud not only of the fact that we're defending our freedoms, but we went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. And for the first time, many young girls were able to go to school, thanks to the United States of America.

You just need to know, it's still a dangerous period in Afghanistan. There's still a lot of killers roaming around, and they hate America. Listen, they hate us because we're free. They cannot stand the thought that we have freedom of religion in America, that we respect each other based upon our personal religious beliefs. They cannot stand the thought that there's honest political discourse. There's free press—I'm confident they hate that. They hate us. And so, wherever they try to hide, we're going to get them. There's no cave dark enough or deep enough from the United States of America. We are a patient country; we are a united country; we're plenty tough when we have to be tough. You know, I can't imagine what went through their minds. They must have thought—they must have fallen prey to this notion that America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so selfish, so essentially weak, that all we were going to do when they attacked was file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* They found out we think differently.

Not only are we going to make sure we help secure Afghanistan; we will help rebuild Afghanistan. We not only want the world to be more secure; we want the world to be better. The second phase of the war is to deny sanctuary and training grounds to any Al Qaida organization, and we're doing a pretty good job of that. Yemen, for example, is a country with which we work to make

sure that they don't get to bunch up in Yemen and start over. In other words, by denying sanctuary, we're treating them as they need to be treated, as international criminals, as coldblooded killers.

But this war is more than just one person; it's more than about one organization. You see, there are regimes that—governments, not just organizations, that can't stand what we believe in, who develop and harbor and hold some of the worst weapons in the world. And for the sake of our children and for the sake of our children's children and for the sake of our friends and allies, we must—and we will—not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to possess and threaten us and blackmail us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I'm proud of our military. I'm proud of our country. We send such a strong signal to the world when we're united and resolved and determined. See, if we blink, everybody else goes to sleep. History has called us into action. History has laid the mantle of responsibility for peace squarely on our shoulders. I accept that responsibility, and so does the American people.

I'm an optimistic person. I truly believe that out of this evil will come some incredible good. I believe by being firm and tough and routing out terror, the world will be more peaceful. I long for peace. I want our children to grow up in a peaceful world. I want there to be hope where hope has been diminished around the world, and we must not, and we will not, let terrorism rule the world. No, by being tough and strong and diligent, this world, thanks to the leadership of the United States of America, is going to be a more peaceful place, and I think at home, we can be a more compassionate place as well.

People say to me, "You know, Mr. President, what can I do in the war against terror?" My answer is, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you want to fight evil, do some good. It doesn't take much. I talked about the ultimate sacrifice of serving something greater than yourself. But you can serve something greater than yourself by mentoring a child. You can serve something greater than yourself by

feeding the homeless. You can serve something greater than yourself by just walking across the street to a shut-in and saying, "I love you. Is there anything I can do to make your day better?" If you want to fight evil, do some good.

And there's all kinds of opportunities. We've got the USA Freedom Corps for old and young alike who want to volunteer. We've got a Peace Corps that we're going to expand and send around—double the size of the Peace Corps. There's all kinds of opportunities. In my State—in my State—my speech in front of the Congress, I said, "Why don't—if you want to help, dedicate 4,000 hours of your life from this point forward to help a neighbor in need." And it's happening.

I truly believe out of the evil will come a new culture of personal responsibility, one that says—that stands in contrast, by the way, to a period of time that said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." There's a new culture that's coming around that says, "I'm responsible for the decisions I make in life. I'm responsible for loving my family. I'm responsible for loving my neighbor." And to make that responsibility era full, if you're running a company in America, you have responsibility to be honest and open with your shareholders and your employees as well. It's happening, and it's happening in this country because the strength of America is not in the halls of our governments; the strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of incredibly decent and kind and compassionate Americans.

No, out of evil will come incredible good. The world will not only be more peaceful, but this world will show the true face—this country will show the world the true face of America, a welcoming society, a society that says that the American Dream belongs to all, a society that's willing to tackle the pockets of despair and hopelessness with love and compassion and decency. Out of the evil done on September the 11th, we will show the world the true nature of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you all for coming to support this good man, and thank you for giving me the honor of being the President of the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of gubernatorial candidate William "Bill" Simon; Gov. Gray Davis of California; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

Proclamation 7548—Law Day, U.S.A., 2002

April 30, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

One of our Nation's greatest strengths is its commitment to a just, fair legal system and the protection it affords to the rights and freedoms we cherish. On May 1, we observe Law Day to draw attention to the principles of justice and the practice of law. The theme of this year's Law Day, "Celebrate Your Freedom: Assuring Equal Justice for All," acknowledges the essential task of protecting the rights of every American.

When disputes or conflicts arise, or when persons are charged with violating the law, resolution often occurs within the legal system. Consultation with an attorney is a common first step in this process. Attorneys advise clients of their rights and obligations, suggest possible courses of action, and help their clients to understand legal procedures. Attorneys are zealous advocates on behalf of their clients, helping to ensure that each one receives full and fair representation before the courts. Bar associations and other attorney groups play an important role in maintaining the integrity of our legal system by overseeing admission to the bar and setting standards of discipline for those who practice law.

Our Founding Fathers believed that a strong and independent judiciary was a cornerstone of democracy. Judges must be men and women of skill, discernment, experience, and character who meet the highest standards of training, temperament, and impartiality. They must understand and honor the powers granted to them under the Constitution, as well as the limits on those powers. In criminal matters, judges help to ensure that the innocent remain free and the guilty

are appropriately punished. In civil disputes, judges' decisions help to safeguard the stability of the commercial marketplace and address the grievances of wronged parties. Judges are called upon daily to render decisions that are based upon the law and facts of each case, without regard for popular opinion or political or other extraneous pressures.

Our forefathers imagined a well-qualified judiciary put in place through a dynamic and constructive interaction between the executive and legislative branches of Government. Under our Constitution, the President selects individuals for nomination to the Federal judiciary and the Senate provides its advice and consent. In all cases, both branches of Government strive to make certain that only men and women of the highest intellect, character, integrity, judgment, and experience are appointed to serve our Nation and its citizens in these critical positions.

This Law Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the vital work performed by our Federal judiciary in upholding the rule of law and on the importance of a robust and independent judiciary in our system of Government.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2002, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:31 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

**Remarks on Presenting the
Congressional Medal of Honor
Posthumously to Captain Ben L.
Salomon and Captain Jon E. Swanson
May 1, 2002**

Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House, and welcome to our beautiful Rose Garden. We gather in tribute to two young men who died long ago in the service to America. In awarding the Medal of Honor to Captain Ben Salomon and Captain Jon Swanson, the United States acknowledges a debt that time has not diminished.

It's my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi; Secretary Tom White of the Army; General Eric Shinseki; General John Jumper; Brigadier General David Hicks, the chaplain—thank you, General Hicks for your prayer; Congressman Brad Sherman; Congressman Charlie Norwood; Congressman Mark Udall; World War II veterans; Vietnam veterans; fellow Americans.

Joining us in this ceremony are four men who themselves earned the Medal of Honor: Barney Barnum, Al Rascon, Ryan Thacker, and Nicky Bacon. Thank you all for coming. President Harry S. Truman said he would rather have earned the Medal of Honor than be the Commander in Chief. When you meet a veteran who wears that medal, remember the moment, because you are looking at one of the bravest ever to wear our country's uniform. We're honored to welcome these gentlemen.

I'm also pleased to welcome the family of Captain Swanson: Sandee Swanson and their daughters, Holly and Brigid. We're so glad you all are here. I know how proud you must be of the man you have loved and missed for so many years. And seeing you here today, I know that Jon would be extremely proud.

For Captain Ben Salomon, no living relatives remain to witness this moment. And even though they never met, Captain Salomon is represented today by a true friend, Dr. Robert West. Welcome, sir.

Five years ago, Dr. West was reading about his fellow alumni of the University of Southern California's dental school. He came upon the story of Ben Salomon of the class of 1937, who was a surgeon in World War

II and was posthumously nominated for the Medal of Honor. The medal was denied on a technicality. Looking into the matter, Dr. West found that an honest error had occurred and that Captain Salomon was indeed eligible to receive the Medal of Honor.

He earned it on the day he died, July the 7th, 1944. Captain Salomon was serving in the Marianas Islands as a surgeon in the 27th Infantry Division, when his battalion came under ferocious attack by thousands of Japanese soldiers. The American units sustained massive casualties, and the advancing enemy soon descended on Captain Salomon's aid station. To defend the wounded men in his care, Captain Salomon killed several enemy soldiers who had entered the aid station. As the advance continued, he ordered comrades to evacuate the tent and carry away the wounded. He went out to face the enemy alone and was last heard shouting, "I'll hold them off until you get them to safety. See you later."

In the moments that followed, Captain Salomon singlehandedly killed 98 enemy soldiers, saving many American lives but sacrificing his own. As best the Army could tell, he was shot 24 times before he fell, more than 50 times after that. And when they found his body, he was still at his gun.

No one who knew him is with us this afternoon. Yet, America will always know Benjamin Louis Salomon by the citation to be read shortly. It tells of one young man who was the match for 100, a person of true valor who now receives the honor due him from a grateful country.

The Medal of Honor recognizes acts of bravery that no superior could rightly order a soldier to perform. The courage it signifies—gallant, intrepid service at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty—is written forever in the service record of Army Captain Jon Swanson.

A helicopter pilot in the Vietnam war, Captain Swanson flew his last mission on his second tour of duty, on February 26th, 1971, over Cambodia. As allied forces on the ground came under heavy enemy fire, Cap-

tain Swanson was called in to provide close air support. Flying at treetop level, he found and engaged the enemy, exposing himself to intense fire from the ground. He ran out of heavy ordnance, yet continued to drop smoke grenades to mark other targets for nearby gunships.

Captain Swanson made it back to safety, his ammunition nearly gone and his Scout helicopter heavily damaged. Had he stayed on the ground, no one would have faulted him. But he had seen more—he had seen that more targets needed marking to eliminate the danger to the troops on the ground. He volunteered to do the job himself, flying directly into enemy fire, until his helicopter exploded in flight.

Captain Swanson's actions, said one fellow officer, "were the highest degree of personal bravery and self-sacrifice I have ever witnessed." Others agreed, and the Medal of Honor was recommended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and by the late Admiral John McCain. However, only the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded, until a recent review of the case made clear that the Nation's highest military honor was in order. And so today, on what would have been his 60th birthday, the Medal of Honor is presented to the family of Jon Edward Swanson.

The two events we recognize today took place a generation apart, but they represent the same tradition. That tradition of military valor and sacrifice has preserved our country and continues to this day. Captain Salomon and Captain Swanson never lived to wear this medal, but they will be honored forever in the memory of our country.

And now, Commander Reynolds, will you please read the citations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army. Following the President's remarks, Lt. Comdr. Steve Reynolds, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.

**Memorandum on Emergency
Military Assistance to Afghanistan**

April 27, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-18

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Determination to (1) Waive Section 512 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-115) and Section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended to Provide Assistance to Afghanistan and (2) Authorize a Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, to Provide Emergency Military Assistance to Afghanistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 512 of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-115)(FOAA) and sections 506(a)(1) and 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1) (FAA), I hereby determine that:

- (1) assistance to Afghanistan is in the national interest of the United States; and
- (2) an unforeseen emergency exists that requires immediate military assistance to the Government of Afghanistan for purposes of training and equipping the Afghan national armed forces; and the emergency requirement cannot be met under the authority of the Arms Export Control Act or any other law except section 506(a)(1) of the FAA.

Accordingly, I hereby waive section 512 of the FOAA and section 620(q) of the FAA with respect to assistance to Afghanistan. Further, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to \$2 million of defense articles, services, and training from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for military assistance for Afghanistan.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the

Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Proclamation 7549—Loyalty Day,
2002**

April 30, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Ours is a Nation of people who demonstrate their patriotic loyalty through service to our country. Whether born on American soil or abroad, Americans appreciate patriotism and loyalty to our country. President Woodrow Wilson said, “Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice.” Americans affirmed this sense of loyalty for their homeland during and following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Brave rescuers died while saving others. Passengers on a hijacked airplane gave their lives to prevent the deaths of fellow Americans. Americans pledged to fight terrorism, both here and across the globe.

Since that tragic day, citizens across our country overwhelmingly gave their time and resources to help those in need. These countless expressions of patriotism reflect an inspiring devotion to our fellow citizens and our Nation.

For our military personnel, loyalty and dedication is a way of life. The men and women of our Armed Forces embody loyalty as they work to protect our ideals. Throughout our history, America’s military has heroically defended our country and its founding principles of freedom and democracy. Today, our military is again responding to the call of duty with courage and pride. These brave individuals who risk their lives fighting terror honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the American people.

Our Constitution speaks of forming “a more perfect Union,” and Americans have

always responded to this call with commitment and character. Brave citizens have fought to abolish slavery, to extend voting rights to all our citizens, and to uphold civil rights. The struggle to improve our Nation also takes place on an individual level, one person at a time. Men and women of all ages and from all over the country work every day to help others in need. Through families, community groups, and places of worship, Americans give of themselves to help others realize a brighter future.

Our loyalty to American democracy and freedom is born of pride, appreciation, and understanding of our country. We are loyal to America, our fellow citizens, and these ideals. Loyalty Day provides an opportunity to recognize those who demonstrate their commitment to our country through service and sacrifice. These individuals serve as a model for all Americans.

The Congress, by Public Law 85-529, as amended, has designated May 1 of each year as "Loyalty Day." On this special occasion, I encourage all Americans to join me in reaffirming our allegiance to our blessed Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2002, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all Americans to take part in celebrating this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:32 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Proclamation 7550—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2002

May 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation's rich cultural diversity reflects our Constitution's core vision of freedom and justice for all. Throughout our history, Asian/Pacific Americans have made great contributions to America's heritage and prosperity. During this month, we proudly celebrate Asian/Pacific Americans, one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, for their remarkable role in our Nation's development.

Through the years, Asian immigrants and Pacific Islanders have enriched the American way of life. Nobel Prize winner Dr. Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar's groundbreaking theories on the evolution of stars helped lay the foundation for modern astrophysics. Actress Anna May Wong was one of the first Asian Americans to achieve great fame in American film. And the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed primarily of Asian/Pacific Americans, valiantly served our Nation during World War II. These units are remembered as some of the most highly decorated in U.S. military history.

During the observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among the more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific found here in the United States. We also recognize millions of Asian/Pacific Americans whose love of family, hard work, and community has helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed so much to our national heritage and culture.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

Proclamation 7551—Older Americans Month, 2002

May 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's strength and vitality reside in our citizens. Each year in May, we honor and recognize older Americans for their important sacrifices and contributions to our society. Our seniors have cared for their families and communities, enhanced our economic prosperity, defended our Nation, and preserved and protected the Founders' vision. Their commitment to our future sets an inspiring example for all. And their resilience, fortitude, and experience provide us with important perspectives and insights as we face the challenges of a new era.

The theme of this year's observance, "America: A Community for All Ages," reminds us that all citizens, regardless of age, are essential to successful and safe communities. The celebration also recognizes the extended role seniors play in our families, communities, and workplaces, as they live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Drawing on their considerable knowledge and experience, older Americans mentor at-risk

children, deliver meals to homebound seniors, and care for frail or chronically ill family members. Others embark on exciting new careers or engage in challenging themselves in athletic competitions. In addition, many seniors have answered my call to service by becoming involved in the Senior Corps domestic service program, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

As we celebrate the lives of older Americans, we also renew our dedication to their well-being. My Administration strongly supports measures that protect the promise of retirement and healthcare security for seniors. We must modernize our Medicare and Medicaid programs so that seniors can access the best medicines and treatments. We must secure a good prescription drug benefit program for all our seniors. We must also continue to support medical research that is specifically targeted to the health problems of older Americans. By supporting flexible and innovative forms of long-term care, we can reduce the demands of caring for an elderly or disabled loved one. And we must strengthen financial security by protecting Social Security for today's retirees by encouraging private saving among all Americans, giving individuals more control over their investments.

This year's observance of Older Americans Month also marks the 30th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, one of our most vital, community-based programs for seniors. Managed by the Administration on Aging and supported by the private sector and countless nonprofit organizations, the program has provided nearly 6 billion meals to senior centers and other group settings and to those who are homebound. It has also provided nutrition counseling and opportunities for health screening. For many elderly, this program has made a tremendous impact on their quality of life.

By maintaining and improving programs that assist older Americans, we help these important citizens enjoy longer, healthier, and more productive lives. During this month, I join all Americans in paying tribute to the achievements and contributions of our greatest generation and reaffirming our commitment to their well-being.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Older Americans Month. I commend the national aging network of State, local, and tribal organizations, service and healthcare providers, caregivers, and millions of dedicated volunteers for your daily efforts on behalf of our senior citizens. I encourage all Americans to honor their elders, to seek opportunities to address their needs, and to work together to reinforce the bonds that unite families and communities. I also call upon all our citizens to publicly reaffirm our Nation's commitment to older Americans this month and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders

May 2, 2002

President Bush It is a pleasure to welcome President Aznar and President Prodi to Washington, DC, for this summit. We had a good discussion on the common challenges facing the United States and the European Union, including the urgent need to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

Just one month ago I called on all the parties in the Middle East to step up to their responsibilities to end terror, to make progress toward peace, and to build better lives for all the people of the region. In recent days, we're beginning to see some signs of progress. The situation in Ramallah has been resolved nonviolently. We're working for peace in Bethlehem. I'm encouraged by my meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah and

the steps he has taken to advance his vision of peace. Next week I will meet with Prime Minister Sharon and King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss next steps on the road ahead.

The United States and the EU share a common vision of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security. This vision offers the Palestinian people a new opportunity to choose how they live. We should take this opportunity to help build institutions that will serve the Palestinian people, a Palestinian state, and its neighbors as well.

A Palestinian state must be achieved by negotiating an end to occupation, but such a state cannot be based on a foundation of terror or corruption. A Palestinian state must be based on the principles that are critical to freedom and prosperity: democracy and open markets, the rule of law, transparent and accountable administration, and respect for individual liberties and civil society.

We want to work with the Palestinian people, our regional partners, and the international community to build a Palestinian state that both lives at peace with Israel and lives up to the best hopes of its people.

The EU, as well, and the United States, has an important role to play. When the EU and the United States work together, we multiply our effectiveness. Today we discussed our desires to continue working together. We see this in the fight against global terror, where we've been cooperating closely. We see this in the Balkans, where together we have solidified the peace, prevented civil war in Macedonia, and helped the region become more fully part of the European community. And we're working together to bring reconstruction and hope to Afghanistan, so that it never again serves as a haven for terror.

We must bring the same spirit of cooperation to our common economic agenda. Today I informed President Aznar and President Prodi that I will work with our Congress to fully comply with the WTO decision on our tax rules for international corporations. This will require both time, and it will require legislation. I hope and expect that we can all act in the same spirit of understanding as we work through other problems.

This is a time for hope for the United States and for Europe, a time when our co-operation could lead to a safer and to a better world. I look forward to traveling to Europe later this month to strengthen our close ties and to advance our common goals.

Ahora el placer es mio para welcome my friend, el Presidente de Espana, Jose Maria Aznar. Senor Presidente.

President Aznar. Good afternoon, everyone. First of all, I'd like to thank President Bush for his hospitality at this meeting between the European Union and the United States. And besides his hospitality, I'd like to thank him for the hard work and dedication that he and his entire staff have put into ensuring the success of this meeting.

The first thing is that I hope not to disappoint people in terms of their expectations about hearing about strong controversies between Europe and the United States, because that has not happened. In fact, we are here to send out a very positive message concerning the strength of the relationship between the European Union and the United States, and especially our determination that that strong relationship be further strengthened in the extraordinary circumstances we are currently experiencing politically, economically, and in terms of security that we must face together.

So the message is that we have strengthened the ties between the EU and the United States, thanks to this meeting. And this is no doubt a very positive factor. I'd like to briefly touch on four issues, because President Bush has made a very accurate summary of our meeting.

Number one, the fight against terrorism: The work carried out jointly between the U.S. and the EU is increasingly being enhanced, becoming broader. You know that the EU has adopted an action plan against terrorism. We've reviewed the legislation in all of our countries to step up the fight against terrorism, to combat financing of terrorism and comply with U.N. resolutions and join all other countries in this fight.

Secondly, we have a mandate from all EU countries to negotiate an agreement for judicial assistance and cooperation on criminal matters. And we hope that negotiations for that will proceed as quickly as possible, so

that this doesn't just pertain to security issues but will also spread to judicial matters. It would be a bit absurd not to be aware of the fact that terrorists move internationally, and we have to approach that from a common judicial area, to the extent possible.

Between us, we've broadened—or lengthened—the list of terrorist organizations, and we hope that there will be an increased rapprochement between the lists approved by both the U.S. and the EU. And as far as that goes, we are firmly resolved to combat terrorism wherever it takes place, with all that that entails, and with the ultimate objective of eradicating terrorism so as to enjoy a safer, more stable world for all.

The second issue I'd like to refer to has to do with more general topics. You heard from President Bush about the Middle East, and in just a few moments, the quad will be meeting again—that is, the U.S., the EU, Russia, and U.N. Secretary-General. That agreement is extremely important. We attach the utmost importance to the work that we can do jointly in the Middle East in the quest for the essential features: security for all; an immediate cease-fire; and a political perspective which would lead to a democratic, independent Palestinian state and a state of Israel that is entitled to live in security, calm, and free from any kind of violent or terrorist aggression on its territory. So that is the perspective. These are the initiatives. And this is what we're working on, along with economic issues.

I also wanted to refer to the very positive joint work we're carrying out in the Balkans and in Afghanistan and the exchange of opinions we've had concerning Russia. President Bush and the European Union and I, myself, have worked on providing support for President Putin, considering their new strategic approach. President Bush's trip, the NATO meeting in Rome, and the EU-Russia meeting, all upcoming, point to a particularly important turning point in terms of defining new strategic positions for Russia in the world that require our understanding and support.

The final point is that U.S. and Europe account for 40 percent of world trade. Between us, approximately 96, 97 percent of the economic issues work satisfactorily, with

no problems. And we have agreed to work very hard on a positive agenda to further enhance the commercial ties and ties in terms of trade between the EU and the U.S. And in terms of certain specific differences—President Bush has referred to a few of them—it is our expectation and hope and this is what we're going to work on, that in the coming months there will be negotiations underway which will naturally safeguard the fundamental interests of both sides and, in compliance with the WTO, that will enable us to lead to positive results and conclusions.

We have worked on all of this; we have made progress on all of this; so I would like to say that from the point of view of the European Council and the EU, this summit has fulfilled the goal of strengthening our ties and relations and will ensure the success of these relations between the U.S. and the EU.

President Prodi. [*Inaudible*—but to what has been told by President Bush and President Aznar. It was clear today that the world is going better when U.S. and Europe get together. We have seen it recently in Doha, in Monterrey; we have seen it in the Balkans and in Afghanistan. We have sometimes disagreement, but we really share the same deep values and the same common strategy.

We tackled also some case in which we have difference—steel, for example, on the legitimacies of U.S. safeguards, which we believe are certainly harming us, on the possibility of short-term rebalancing. But we have agreed that discussions should continue, without any prejudice to our respective rights under WTO. We both intend to play it by the WTO rules. And so I think that even in this field, we shall demonstrate friendly way of working.

I want to praise the President of the United States for the leadership he's showing on a problem that is certainly difficult—you know, the export—on the export subsidies and on the problems that are linked to that.

And you know, I want to end just with one reflection. I think that everybody in America should consider what we are doing now in Europe. What we are trying to do in this great 2002 Europe is now the currency of 12 nations. We will soon enlarge European Union to embrace until, I hope, 10 new

countries before the end of the year. And we are also working on the convention to reform our institutions. The democratic unification of our Continent is happening, and it is an enormous effort. And this is really the end of the end of the end of the cold war. And I hope that what we are doing is appreciated for the dimension of the problem, if you consider the difference of income, the different tradition, the different habits of the 25 countries that now we shall have together inside the European Union.

So what we present here is really a new Europe.

President Bush. Thank you, President.

I think we've got time for three questions. It makes sense that an American asks a question, and then Jose Maria will call on somebody, and President Prodi will call on somebody, and then we've all got to go on our respective ways.

So I'll start with Mr. Fournier, AP [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. Yes.

Q. Thank you, sir.

President Bush. You're welcome.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Despite the existence of what you called some signs of progress in the Middle East in the long month since your Rose Garden statement, neither side has fully complied. Just yesterday, Ariel Sharon scuttled your push for a U.N. peace mission to Jenin. And Yasser Arafat—Arafat called the Israelis terrorists, Nazis, and racists. And yet, there have been no consequences for defying you. Are you open to cutting off U.S. aid to either Israel or the Palestinians, and are there any consequences for those who thumb their nose at the President of the United States?

President Bush. In this world, there are people who think the glass is half empty or half full. I tend to look at it as half full. I'm optimistic we're making good progress. After all, a week ago there were—Yasser Arafat was boarded up in his building in Ramallah, a building full of, evidently, German peace protestors and all kinds of people. They're now out; he's now free to show leadership, to lead the world. We're making good progress.

There's a lot to be done. We're dealing with centuries and years of hatred, and I understand that. But I am pleased that the Arab world is responding. I had great visits with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. They're—according to some American newspapers, they're, you know, very much engaged, and I appreciate that. I'm pleased with that. I think that's a positive development.

I am absolutely convinced it's going to require the efforts of the Saudis and the Jordanians and the Egyptians to help cement a lasting peace. And the Crown Prince is following up on his initiative, and I think that's a positive development.

I think it's very important for Chairman Arafat to show the world that he's capable of leading. As I said in my remarks in the Rose Garden about a month ago—which, by the way, in the terms of the Middle East isn't all that long a period of time, in my judgment—that he has just been disappointing. He has disappointed. He's had some chance to grab the peace and hasn't done so in the past, and therefore he's let down the Palestinian people. Now's the chance to show he can lead.

And of course, I placed responsibilities on Israel as well, and I look forward to continuing my discussions with world leaders. Part of the importance of meeting with Jose and Roman was to talk about a way forward. And as Jose Maria mentioned, the Secretary of State is going to be talking with the ministers of the quad about a way forward. I'll be doing the same thing with King Abdullah and Prime Minister Sharon, as we come up with a way to cement a vision of peace in place.

But it starts with people assuming responsibilities, and people are beginning to assume responsibilities. And that's why I'm optimistic progress is being made.

Jose.

Q. No threat of losing their aid, sir?

President Bush. Jose.

Terrorism

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—the American press and the public opinion in America is still referring to ETA just like a band who is fighting for its independence in Spain. I wonder if the United States has same commit to fight ter-*

rorists in Spain as much as is about fighting terrorists in other parts of the world, and what can you do to help Spain in this fight? And I'd like to know also your opinion about the way this topic is treated in America.

President Bush. Yes, let me start with that, and then you can finish.

President Aznar. No, no, no. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. It's your country. [*Laughter*]

When I was last in Spain, I talked about this very subject, and I spoke—this was before September the 11th. And I spoke very clearly about my friend's efforts to fight terrorist activity within the country of Spain. I just want to remind you of the timing, that I made a public statement about terrorist activities in the country of Spain prior to my country being attacked. So terrorist activities within the borders of Spain has been on my mind.

It is—we stand ready to help the President. If the President asks for help, the United States of America is more than willing to provide that help. We're doing—we've got great cooperations—cooperation with our friends in Spain. We share intelligence; we talk about arrests that we've made. I mean, we are close friends and allies. And Jose Maria knows this very well: I'm a phone call away, and terror is terror, and we must fight it wherever it exists.

President Aznar. President Bush was very right in saying that when he was in Madrid, during his visit to Spain before 9/11, in May/June last year, he explicitly expressed his support for Spain's fight against terrorism.

But what I would like to say once again is that we can establish no differences among terrorists. They're all the same. They're all seeking to destroy our harmonious coexistence, to destroy civilization. They're seeking to destroy our democracy and freedoms. A terrorist attacking the Twin Towers in New York or the Pentagon in Washington is tantamount to the same kind of criminal who places a car bomb in Madrid or on the streets of any other Spanish city. President Bush and I know that there are no differences as far as that go. And that's how we approach the issue, and we will continue to do so.

The cooperation between Spain and the U.S. on counterterrorism is maximum; the

cooperation between intelligence and security services, also—because we both hold the conviction that moral values underpin our struggle and our fight against terrorism. And the moral value of what it means to uphold the principles of democracy and freedom and the principles of our countries in the face of terrorism is basic.

And the memory of the victims is the very finest thing. We must remember. We must never forget the victims. That's the best reason to combat terrorism.

And there is never any reason whatsoever to establish dialog with terrorists—ever. To initiate dialog with terrorists is tantamount to problems for democracy. Terrorists cannot have, must not have, and certainly for our part will never have any other fate than that of being permanently defeated in Spain or anywhere else. And when I say “anywhere else,” what I mean is that cooperation with United States and most especially with President Bush in the international fight against terrorism is and will continue to be to the maximum.

President Bush. Pick one, Roman.

NATO/EU Defense Policy

Q. Yes, this is a question for all of the Presidents. I have to—I want to ask a question about the future of NATO and the cooperation with the European Union. For many months now, there is a problem with the future of ESDP, because of Greece's position—opposition not to accept the Ankara agreement that Great Britain, with the participation of the U.S. and EU, broke with Turkey, a non-EU member of NATO. Do you have anything on this issue, and did you discuss this issue with the President?

President Prodi. No, we didn't discuss this issue today, but of course this is part of our vision for the future strategy because we want to make the progress of this type of cooperation—that is, shared progress.

We mentioned before an enlargement, you know, and of course, that we are—our goal, our strategy is to have also Cyprus among the countries of enlargement. We hope that will be one of the 10 countries in December. So we think that a cooperative spirit can permit this goal, because Europe must have also in the Mediterranean area its role, its influ-

ence. And it's positive influence in these difficult days in the area.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:14 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. President Bush met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, in his capacity as President of the European Council, and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. President Aznar referred to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Reporters referred to ETA, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty separatist group operating primarily in the Basque region of Spain; and ESDP, the European Security and Defense Policy. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a National Day of Prayer Reception

May 2, 2002

Welcome to the White House. One of the best things about my job is, sometimes I get introduced by my wife—[laughter]—who I love dearly.

Today we continue a tradition that is as old as our Nation itself, setting aside a day in which Americans are encouraged to pray, pray for their neighbors, and pray for our Nation. The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our national heritage, because prayer is a vital part of our national life.

I'm grateful to all of you who remind us that a great people must spend time on bended knee, in humility, searching for wisdom in the presence of the Almighty. I want to thank the Heritage Signature Chorale and Dr. Stanley Thurston for being here today. I want to thank Amy Burton, soloist of the New York City Opera, and we're sure glad you brought your son. I want to thank Shirley Dobson, who is the chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Thank you for your leadership, Shirley. I want to thank Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie and Dr. Daniel Coughlin for being here as well. I'm honored that you both

came. And Lloyd, thank you—and Shirley—for your beautiful comments. It really meant a lot.

When the first Continental Congress met at Carpenters Hall in Philadelphia, one of its first official acts was prayer. In 1779, the Day of Prayer Proclamation asked that “Almighty God would grant the blessings of peace to all contending nations, freedom to those who are in bondage, and comfort to the afflicted.”

During our Nation’s darkest hour, our Nation’s greatest President called America back to prayer. President Abraham Lincoln urged his fellow citizens to “look to the redeeming and preserving grace of God.” And Americans wisely accepted President Lincoln’s counsel.

America is a country of faith. And throughout our history, in times of crisis and in times of calm, Americans have always turned to prayer. And this year’s event has special meaning. Since the attacks of September the 11th, millions—millions—of Americans of every religious faith have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in a time of sorrow, for courage in a time of fear, and for understanding in a time of anger. They have prayed for wisdom in the midst of war and for strength on the journey ahead.

These prayers have been made in private homes and in houses of worship, alone and with others, in moments of doubt and in times of thanksgiving. These prayers have been heartfelt, and they have made a tremendous difference. Prayer for others is a generous act. It sweeps away bitterness and heals old wounds. Prayer leads to greater humility and a more grateful spirit. It strengthens our commitment to things that last and things that matter. It deepens our love for one another.

Prayer also deepens faith, reminding us of great truths: Evil and suffering are only for a time; love and hope endure. Even in the world’s most bitter conflicts, prayer reminds us of God’s love and grace, His mercy and faithfulness, the hope He provides, and the peace He promises.

Prayer is central to the lives of countless Americans, including Laura’s and mine. We have been blessed by the prayers of millions of Americans. We could ask for no greater gift from our countrymen.

I want to thank you all for coming here to the White House to celebrate this special day, for your devotion to prayer, and for your love of this country, and for the Lord who has blessed it for so long.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Stanley Thurston, director, Heritage Signature Chorale; Amy Burton, soloist, New York City Opera, and her son, Joshua; Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Senate Chaplain; and Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, House Chaplain.

Statement on Congressional Action on the “Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002”

May 2, 2002

I congratulate Chairman Combest and the other House and Senate conferees for a job well done in completing the “Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002.”

I am pleased that the compromise agreement on the farm bill resulted in better balanced commodity loan rates; spending that is no longer front-loaded; and the strongest conservation provisions of any farm bill ever passed by Congress. The final provisions of the farm bill are also consistent with America’s international trade obligations, which will strengthen our ability to open foreign markets for American farm products. While this compromise agreement did not satisfy all of my objectives, I am pleased that this farm bill provides a generous and reliable safety net for our Nation’s farmers and ranchers and is consistent with the principles I outlined.

I thank the conferees for their hard work and urge Congress to send the farm bill to my desk promptly for signature to help ensure the immediate and long-term vitality of our farm economy.

Proclamation 7552—National Charter Schools Week, 2002

May 2, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Over a decade ago in Minnesota, a handful of educators envisioned a new kind of educational institution that would provide an alternative for children trapped in under-performing public schools. Their philosophy for a “charter school” was straightforward and powerful: provide parents the option to send their children to innovative public schools that combine flexibility and autonomy with a guarantee to raise student achievement.

Today, we recognize the important successes of the charter school experiment. Nearly 2,400 charter schools now exist across our Nation. Thanks to bipartisan support at the local, State, and Federal level, more than a half-million children have attended these public schools and obtained a better education.

In reading, math, science, special education, early childhood education, and other areas, charter schools have implemented innovative programs that produce results. Charter school principals and teachers have the freedom to develop classroom techniques that meet their students’ unique needs, and parents appreciate the ability to have direct input into their children’s educational progress. Charter school administrators are accountable to students, parents, and community leaders, and they know that if their school fails to meet expectations, it must either improve or close.

The effects of charter schools extend beyond the schoolhouse walls. Wherever charter schools are clustered together, we see traditional schools reevaluate their methods and programs. At this basic level, charter schools help stimulate community debate and inspire educational excellence.

Accountability, flexibility, expanded choices, and a focus on methods that work are all important elements in the landmark, bipartisan, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which I signed into law in January. This legislation authorizes a new program, the

Charter School Facility Demonstration Project, which provides important seed funding for charter school infrastructure and construction needs. It also continues the Charter School Grants program that supports planning and development of new public charter schools. Together these programs provide valuable tools to American education. Now we must work together to implement this new legislation in all our communities so no child is left behind.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 28 through May 4, 2002, as National Charter Schools Week. I call on parents of charter school children to share their success stories with others so that all Americans may learn more about charter schools and their important work. I commend the States with charter schools.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 7.

Remarks on Senate Inaction on Nominations for the Federal Judiciary

May 3, 2002

Thank you all. Some of them were pretty good—and one of them was really good, right, Al? *[Laughter]*

I want to thank you all for coming, and I want to talk about an important subject, and that’s our judiciary. One of the true strengths of our democracy is a judiciary that is fair, impartial, and independent. Our courts depend on the dedicated service of men and women who are called to decide disputes. Yet today, there is a vacancy crisis on our Federal courts. Both the President

and the United States Senate have constitutional responsibilities to address vacancies on the Federal bench. I have nominated 100 outstanding jurists for these posts, but the Senate thus far has not done its part to ensure that our Federal courts operate at full strength. Justice is at risk in America, and the Senate must act for the good of the country.

I want to thank Al Gonzales; he's *mi abogado*. He's been my lawyer; he's been—served on the—as secretary of state in Texas; he's served on the U.S.—or the Texas Supreme Court; he and his able staff work long hours to really find the best possible nominees for the bench. And I want to—I appreciate Al's leadership, and I appreciate those who work with Al, on behalf of the White House, for their long hours.

I want to thank you all for coming. Thanks so very much for your interest in this important subject. And it's an important subject. I mean we're talking about an incredibly important part of our country. And I want you all to help spread the word about how serious the vacancy crisis is. You pay attention to this issue, and you can help advocate what I'm about to call the Senate to do.

This is Law Week—or Law Day, and it's a day we celebrate the legal profession in our democracy and a day set aside to recall the role of law in our society. This year's Law Day theme is "Assuring Equal Justice for All." And that's a noble theme, and it's a noble calling. We're all proud of our judiciary. We know that justice and security and prosperity can flourish only in a society governed by law.

We're grateful to our Federal courts; we're grateful for the vital work that they play in our American system. Federal judges are key to make sure America functions well. Every day, they uphold the rights of an individual, protect the innocent; they punish the guilty. Their rulings are essential to the rule of law in our Nation. To discharge their responsibilities effectively, the Federal courts must have judges. Yet today, more than 10 percent of all Federal judgeships are vacant.

The Chief Justice of the United States recently warned that the number of vacancies is, in his words, alarming. The crisis is especially severe—especially severe—in our 12

regional Circuit Courts of Appeals, where more than 1 in 6 judgeships is vacant. The Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, for example, handles some of our Nation's highest profile cases, including an important class of cases involving terrorists. But 4 out of 12 judgeships are not filled.

The Sixth Court of Appeals, which covers Ohio and Kentucky and Michigan and Tennessee, is even worse off. Back in March of 2000, when it had only four vacancies, its chief judge said it was hurting badly and would not be able to keep up with its workload. Today, 8 of the Sixth Circuit's 16 judgeships are vacant, despite the fact that I sent up 7 nominations many months ago.

All across America, the wait for justice is growing longer. The burden on Federal judges is growing heavier. And the frustration level of ordinary Americans seeking justice is growing greater.

To address this vacancy crisis, I have submitted the names of 100 Federal court nominees to the United States Senate. These 100 nominees are notable for their distinction and their accomplishments. They are exceptional for their humanity and their integrity. They are in the solid mainstream of American legal opinion, and they share a principled commitment to follow and apply the law, not to make law from the bench.

But the Senate has confirmed only one-half of my nominees. It has confirmed only 9 of my 30 nominees to the Circuit Courts of Appeals—only 9 out of 30. Every one of these 30 nominees rated so far have been judged either well-qualified or qualified by the American Bar Association, which has been hailed as the gold standard by Senate Democrats.

On May 9th, 2001, nearly a year ago, I submitted—I introduced my first 11 nominees to the Courts of Appeal. Yet the Senate Judiciary Committee has held hearings for only 3 of these nominees. All the others are still awaiting confirmation hearings—an entire year later. The eight still waiting a hearing include some of the leading appellate lawyers in the Nation, some of the most well respected sitting judges, and one of the country's finest law professors. Collectively, this group of 8 nominees has argued more than 60 cases in the Supreme Court of the United

States. Yet all, every one of them, still wait for the Senate to take even the first step down the road toward confirmation.

The Senate can do much more and must do much more to address the current vacancy crisis. A year ago I urged Senators from both parties to rise above the bitterness of the past and provide a fair hearing and prompt vote for every nominee. And my call for a prompt vote—it doesn't matter to me who's in the White House or who controls the Senate. What matters to me is that we have a—that we address the vacancy crisis, that we solve the problem our Nation faces. That's what matters.

Let me tell you what the Chief Justice said recently. And I want you to know he was speaking expressly on behalf of the Federal judiciary. He asked the Senate to grant prompt hearings and up or down votes on all nominees. But the Senate has not acted, and by its inaction, the Senate is endangering the administration of justice in America.

All judicial nominees deserve a timely hearing, and they deserve a vote. As everyone here today understands, Americans need and deserve a judicial system at full strength. As we celebrate the role of law in our democracy, I call on Senate Democrats to end the vacancy crisis in our Federal courts by restoring fairness to the judicial confirmation process.

I want to thank you all for your interest in this incredibly important subject. I thank you for standing for justice and fairness, the American way.

One of the things that I talk about to—when I go to these conferences to try to help developing nations, or I talk about when leaders come in the Oval Office—I always talk about the need for there to be rule of law, that in order for people to be able to realize their dreams, society must be a society of law, and there ought to be rule of law. And our country is a shining example of that. But in order to make sure we continue to shine, we've got to address problems in a timely way when we find them. And that's what I'm here to discuss, and I want to thank you for your interest.

And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Reception

May 3, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please, *sientanse*. [Laughter] *Bienvenidos*. Welcome to the White House. This is the *casa para todos*. I'm honored you all have come to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It's a pleasure to have you here. The victory we commemorate today is a source of tremendous pride to the people of Mexico and a source of inspiration to the people of America.

I want to thank *mi esposa*, Laura, for her—[laughter]—*mi amor*. I want to thank Sara for her passion for the education of Latino children. She is a—well, she's unique. She's smart; she's capable. After all, she's a *tejana*. [Laughter] But I really do appreciate her focus, her willingness to work hard to make sure that every child has got the opportunity to realize his or her dreams in America.

I want to thank *el Embajador de Mexico*, *mi amigo* Juan Jose Bremer, *tambien, esposa*. Thank you all for coming. And I appreciate all the *Mexicanos* who are here today. I'm glad you're here to celebrate a special day in your country, here in the White House. It's an indication of our friendship.

I want to thank members of my administration who are here, too many to name. I will name the Cabinet Secretary, Mel Martinez. I appreciate Mel's service. I see the Treasurer; *mi abogado*, Gonzales; the new Surgeon General nominee, Rick Carmona. Thank you, Rick; I appreciate you being here. I better stop now, before I forget somebody.

I want to thank Ed Pastor, the Congressman from the State of Arizona. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Ana Maria for your being here. I really appreciate you coming. You did a great job as the emcee. And I know a lot of Americans watch your TV show, and we're honored you're here. I really want to thank Pedro Fernandez. Pedro, you're awesome. I'm not sure how you say that in Spanish—

[laughter]—or *Mexicano, brillante*. [Laughter] But I want to thank you and your *tres hombres* for being here. [Laughter]

Al, thank you for leading the Pledge. Al is the Director of the Selective Service. He wears the Medal of Honor. And again, thank you all for coming. We're so honored to have you.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates a great victory in the battle of Puebla. I remember when I went down, Jose, to—the guest of the previous President, President Zedillo, to see a reenactment of the battle in Puebla. It was exciting, and it was able to see firsthand the great courage and the victory in the battle for freedom that was fought against overwhelming odds.

That victory continues to inspire liberty-loving people all across the globe. It reminds us that the cost of freedom is always high, but it is never too high. Brave and determined people, committed to a great cause, can do great good. That was true 140 years ago, and it certainly remains true today.

Just before September the 11th, I welcomed my good friend President Vicente Fox *aqui*, in Washington, DC, as the guest of honor at the very first state dinner I hosted as the President. When he arrived, I said this—at the beautiful arrival ceremony we have on the South Lawn—I said, “The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico.” I meant it then; I mean it now.

In the past 8 months, our relationship has grown even stronger. The people of Mexico stand with the American people in the war on terror. This is a decisive decade in the history of liberty, a decisive moment in our history, and the United States is grateful we can count on the strong support of Mexico.

America's strong relationship with Mexico is built on common values and shared culture. We both value families; we both value communities—the places where character is formed and traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Americans appreciate the strong faith of the Mexican people, a faith that provides hope and inspiration and unity, even in the darkest of times. People on both sides of the Rio Grande value independence and value freedom and opportunity. People on *dos lados del Rio Bravo* appreciate the

ability to work hard to achieve dreams and to become successful as a result of hard work. By their strong values and their determination to create a better life for themselves and their children, immigrants from Mexico enrich American life.

My relationship with President Fox is similar to the relationship between our nations. It is built on the solid ground of respect and trust and friendship. President Fox is a great Mexican patriot, a man who—a man of honest talk and convictions who is passionately concerned for his people's welfare. I know firsthand; I've heard him speak clearly about the welfare of the people of Mexico.

We're both deeply committed to helping the entire American *familia* achieve prosperity and, as importantly, to live in peace. Mexico and America share a continent, and we are dedicated to common goals.

We are working together to create a smart border, one that will speed the safe flow of people and commerce but protect our two nations from terrorism and crime.

We are working together on a partnership for prosperity, to better focus the creativity and resources of the private sector on the critical task of development.

We're working together to address the important issue and challenging issue of immigration. I've asked our Congress to pass an extension of section 245(i) of our immigration law to allow families to stay together while they become permanent residents. There is no reason why this law should not be passed.

We're working together to improve conditions for people living along the border. It's really important that we do so.

We're working together to create an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom. And I appreciate President Fox's leadership in our hemisphere. I rely upon his advice and good counsel; I appreciate his vision.

Our two nations will succeed together—we will succeed together—because our futures are bound to each other. Geography made us neighbors, but our shared values and rich cultures have made us the closest of friends.

The great Mexican leader Benito Juarez had a strong bond with President Abraham

Lincoln. Juarez said, "Between individuals, as between nations, *'el respecto al derecho ajeno es la paz'*—respect for the rights of others is peace." The United States and Mexico have a relationship of respect. It is the foundation of our enduring peace and lasting friendship.

I want to thank you all again for coming to the White House to celebrate Mexico's strong and vibrant culture, its extraordinary history, our common future. May God bless the people of Mexico, and may God continue to bless the people of the United States.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sara Martinez Tucker, president and chief executive officer, Hispanic Scholarship Fund; Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Juan Jose Bremer and his wife, Marcela S. Bremer; Rosario Marin, U.S. Treasurer; Alberto R. Gonzales, Counsel to the President; Ana Maria Canseco, reporter, Univision; Pedro Fernandez, singer; Alfred Rascon, Director, Selective Service System; and former President Ernesto Zedillo and President Vicente Fox of Mexico. In his remarks, he referred to section 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act which expired April 30, 2001. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 27

During the day, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Houston, TX, where they attended the wedding of former Presidential Aide Logan Walters. In the evening, they returned to Crawford.

April 28

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia concerning the situation in the Middle East.

April 29

In the morning, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM. In the afternoon, he traveled to Los Angeles, CA.

April 30

In the morning, the President traveled to San Jose, CA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Santa Clara, CA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal at the White House on May 7 to discuss key bilateral issues and Nepal's fight against Maoist terrorists.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia to the White House on May 17.

The White House announced that the President will attend the NATO-Russia Summit in Italy on May 28.

The President announced his intention to nominate David McQueen Laney to be a member of the Amtrak Reform Board.

May 1

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later in the morning, he met with Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore to discuss cooperation against terrorism and other regional issues. He then met with Republican House and Senate leaders to discuss the pending congressional agenda.

In the afternoon, the President met with Vice President Hu Jintao of China. Also in the afternoon, he met with House Appropriations Committee Chairman C.W. Bill Young.

The President announced his designation of Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN (Ret.), as

the Presidential Representative for Australian-American Friendship Week, May 3–11.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Abdullah II of Jordan at the White House on May 8 to discuss developments in the Middle East and key bilateral issues.

The President declared a major disaster in Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a tornado on April 28.

May 2

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan to discuss U.S. assistance to Afghanistan. He also had a telephone conversation with President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia to express his condolences concerning the recent earthquake in Georgia, cooperation against terrorism, and issues in the Caucasus region. He then had CIA and FBI briefings.

May 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia to discuss arms reduction, trade issues, and issues related to NATO.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD, where, in the evening, they welcomed President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and his wife, Ana Botella.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel at the White House on May 7 to discuss developments in the Middle East and key bilateral issues.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 29

Alberto Faustino Trevino, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Susan M. Wachter, resigned.

Elias Adam Zerhouni, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, vice Harold Varmus, resigned.

Submitted May 1

Susan G. Braden, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Roger B. Andewelt, deceased.

Kyle E. McSarrow, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, vice Francis S. Blake, resigned.

Reena Raggi, of New York, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, vice Amalya L. Kearsse, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 28

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the situation in the Middle East

Released April 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on terrorism and foreign policy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies

Announcement of appointment to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

Fact sheet: Improving Access to Quality Mental Health Care

Advance text of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge's remarks at the Associated Press annual luncheon

Released April 30

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreement to begin talks with the United States

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Nepalese Prime Minister Deuba

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend NATO-Russia Summit in Italy

Fact sheet: Compassionate Conservatism

Released May 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by King Abdullah of Jordan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maryland

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Brief Members of the Senate Regarding Border Security Issues

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit and U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge

Released May 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Transatlantic Dialogues

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: The European Union

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Counterterrorism Cooperation

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Economics and Trade

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Afghanistan Security and Reconstruction

Released May 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Sharon of Israel

Statement by the Press Secretary: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls on the Senate To Address the Vacancy Crisis in the Federal Courts

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 1

S. 2248 / Public Law 107-168
To extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until May 31, 2002

Week Ending Friday, May 10, 2002

**Proclamation 7553—To Restore
Nondiscriminatory Trade Treatment
(Normal Trade Relations Treatment)
to the Products of Afghanistan**

May 3, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Section 118(a)(1) of Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, authorized the President to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the rate of duty in column 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

2. Presidential Proclamation 5437 of January 31, 1986, modified the HTS so as to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan.

3. Restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy.

4. Pursuant to section 118(c)(1) of Public Law 99–190, I have determined that it is appropriate to restore nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the applicable rate of duty in column 1 of the HTS.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 118 of Public Law 99–190, and section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory trade treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be restored to the products of Afghanistan;

(2) General note 3(b) of the HTS is modified to exclude Afghanistan; and

(3) The restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment and the modification to general note 3(b) of the HTS shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the thirtieth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Message to the Congress on the
Restoration of Normal Trade
Relations Treatment to the Products
of Afghanistan**

May 3, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, which took effect on December 19, 1985, authorized the President to deny normal trade relations (NTR) tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. On January 31, 1986, President Reagan issued a proclamation denying NTR treatment to Afghanistan.

I have determined that it is appropriate to restore NTR treatment to the products of Afghanistan. Restoration of NTR treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy. Therefore, in accordance with section 118 of

Public Law 99-190, I hereby provide notice that I have issued the attached proclamation restoring NTR tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. The Proclamation shall take effect 30 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 3, 2002.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

May 3, 2002

President Bush. Laura and I are honored to welcome our friend the President and First Lady of *España* to Camp David. It's an opportunity for us to share some private time together, to talk about issues of concern between our countries as well as opportunities we can have to work together for world peace. We've got great relations with Spain; Spain is a very close friend. And I've got good—very strong personal relations with Jose Maria.

So it's such an honor to welcome you here, *Señor Presidente*. And it's great to see the First Lady as well.

Quiere habla?

[At this point, President Aznar made brief remarks in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. A couple of questions.

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Arms Agreement

Q. Mr. President, the Russian Foreign Minister today, after he left the meeting with you today, said there's a very high probability for a U.S.-Russian nuclear deal in time for your trip. Do you think prospects are that good for an agreement?

President Bush. *Espero que sí.* I hope so. We've been spending a lot of time with Russia to reach an agreement that will codify that which I've told our country and told Mr. Putin—that we're going to substantially re-

duce our offensive nuclear weapons. I hope so. It's—the Secretary of State is optimistic. There's some work that remains to be done. I'm looking forward to my trip. I look forward to getting—to continue working closely with President Putin. Jose Maria has got the same intentions. And what's interesting is, right after I leave, *el va a* Russia to visit with Mr. Putin as well.

Upcoming Meetings With Middle East Leaders

Q. Mr. President, on Tuesday you will meet with Prime Minister Sharon. It will be the fifth meeting. You've talked to him a number of times on the phone. And people might say this weekend showed what a difference that makes. But you haven't really interacted with Chairman Arafat as much, and I wondered about that. Do you feel as though it really wouldn't make that big a difference? Or is there a strategic reason for not engaging him?

President Bush. I'm looking forward to my meeting with Prime Minister Sharon. I'm looking forward to my meeting with King Abdullah. We have got, obviously, a lot of activity, a lot of discussions, a lot of interface with the different people in the region, the different interested parties. And there's going to be a lot more discussion going on.

As you know, Secretary of State Powell talked about a ministerial meeting. It's just a series of ongoing discussions to help solidify the visions that have been expressed by not only the United States but the Europeans—but, more importantly, the visions expressed by Israel, the Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. And so there's going to be a lot of discussions and a lot of meetings. And I've had a lot already, and I'm going to have more.

Unemployment Rate

Q. The unemployment rate today, 6 percent—is that just a bump in the road, or is that a sign of some reversal?

President Bush. No, that's—listen, I've been saying all along that the growth number of the first quarter of this year was very positive, but I said—listen, I'm not confident;

we've got more work to do. So long as anybody is looking for work, we've got a problem, as far as I'm concerned. And that number shows that—backs me up.

We need long-term growth, and that's why we need a trade bill, and that's why we need terrorism insurance that doesn't provide a vehicle to enrich personal injury trial lawyers. And that's why we've got to make sure that Congress doesn't overspend.

So we've had mixed news. One week we had positive growth in the first quarter, although a lot of that, of course, was attributable to inventory build-back, as you and I discussed, and based upon consumer demands. I'm concerned that there's not enough business investment. But we'll see how it goes. But Congress must get us some legislation.

President Aznar's Visit to Camp David

[A reporter began a question in Spanish, and no translation was provided. He then concluded his question in English.]

Q. What do you think of this invitation, and what do you expect—trip to Camp David?

[President Aznar answered in Spanish, and no translation was provided. A reporter began a question in Spanish, and no translation was provided. He then concluded his question in English.]

Q. What are you especially interested in stressing during your conversations with the President?

President Aznar. I'm sure that as soon as you allow us to do so, we will make maximum use of our time. Because what we intend to do here is be able to continue our discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, because there's a lot of work to be done, and we intend to get down to work and do it. And we appreciate the invitation.

President Bush. *Gracias.*

President's Dog

Q. Where is Barney?

The First Lady. Barney is back at the house.

President Bush. He's at the cabin. We were afraid Barney would disrupt the press conference.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:11 p.m. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Aznar's wife, Ana Botella; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and King Abdullah II of Jordan. A reporter referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 4, 2002

Good morning. Sunday is Cinco de Mayo, a day that commemorates the Mexican people's great victory at the Battle of Puebla, a battle for freedom fought against overwhelming odds. That victory continues to inspire liberty-loving people across the globe. It reminds us that the cost of freedom is always high, but it is never too high. Brave and determined people, committed to a great cause, can do great good. That was true 140 years ago, and it remains true today.

Just before September the 11th, I welcomed my good friend President Vicente Fox to the White House as the guest of honor at my first state dinner. When he arrived I said this: The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico. In the past 8 months, our relationship has grown even stronger. The people of Mexico stand with the American people in the war on terror. This is a decisive decade in the history of liberty, and the United States is grateful we can count on Mexico's strong support.

America's relationship with Mexico is built on common values and shared culture. We both value families and communities—the places where character is formed and traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Americans appreciate the strong faith of the Mexican people, a faith that provides hope and inspiration and unity even in the darkest times.

People on both sides of the Rio Grande value independence and freedom and opportunity, the ability to work hard to achieve

your dreams and become successful as a result. By their strong values and their determination to create a better life for themselves and their children, immigrants from Mexico enrich American life.

My close relationship with President Fox reflects the close relationship between our nations. It is built on the solid ground of respect and trust and friendship. President Fox is a great Mexican patriot, a man of honest talk and convictions who is passionately concerned for his people's welfare. We are both deeply committed to helping the entire American *familia* achieve prosperity and live in peace.

Mexico and America share a continent, and we are dedicated to common goals. We are working together to create a "smart border," one that will speed the safe flow of people and commerce but protect our two nations from terrorism and crime. We are working together on a Partnership for Prosperity, to better focus the creativity and resources of the private sector on the critical task of development. We are working together to address the important and challenging immigration issues between our countries. And I've asked our Congress to pass an extension of section 245(i) of our immigration law to let families stay together while they become permanent residents. We're working together to improve conditions for people living along the border. And we're working together to create an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom.

Our two nations will succeed together because our futures are bound to each other. Geography made us neighbors, but our shared values and rich cultures have made us the closest of friends.

May God bless the people of Mexico, and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:20 a.m. on May 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The President also recorded and the Office of the Press Secretary released a Spanish language version of this address.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner May 4, 2002

The President. Thank you very much, Steve. Mr. Vice President, members of the White House Correspondents' Association, ladies and gentlemen, Laura and I are honored to be here tonight. Thanks for the invitation.

What a fantastic audience we have tonight: Washington power brokers, celebrities, Hollywood stars, Ozzy Osbourne. [Laughter]

[Mr. Osbourne bowed and blew kisses to the crowd.]

The President. Okay, Ozzy. [Laughter] Might have been a mistake. [Laughter]

The thing about Ozzy is he's made a lot of big hit recordings: "Party With the Animals"; "Sabbath, Bloody Sabbath"; "Face in Hell"; "Black Skies and Bloodbath in Paradise." Ozzy, Mom loves your stuff. [Laughter]

And Drew Carey is our entertainment tonight. Drew has a fun TV show called "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" which is totally improvised. Drew, got any interest in the Middle East? [Laughter]

Last year at this dinner, I showed some photos straight out of the Bush family photo album. Tonight I'm going to show you some actual, never-seen-before photos taken by the White House photographers over the past 15 months. We've created, just for you, this little slide show of what life is really like inside the Bush White House.

So Karen, if everyone's in the seats you've assigned them—[laughter]—hit the projector.

[First slide.]

When I look back over the last year, I think I've grown in office. I'm much more focused. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

I feel relaxed. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

I mean, occasionally there are moments where I feel a little stress. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

I may have aged a bit. [Laughter]
[Slide change.]

One of the great things about being in the White House is having Laura close by. Whenever she drops by my office, my day is brighter.

[Slide change.]

She helps me in a million ways. Here she is helping me pronounce “Azerbaijanis.” [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

We have two dogs. This is our dog Barney. I tell him with eyebrows like that, he ought to be a Senator. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

You can tell Barney’s in some trouble here. This is the day he chewed up the list of undisclosed locations, and we couldn’t find Dick. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

The little guy keeps a lookout like this hour after hour. [Laughter] I kind of wish Tom Ridge had never had that talk with him about homeland security. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

Now, this is our dog Spot. People often ask me how I came up with that name. [Laughter] I don’t know; I’m just kind of a creative guy. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

The thing about Spot is that she is—she actually thinks she’s the President. [Laughter] Here she is coming back from a fundraiser for the American Kennel Club. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

But she is truly a great canine American, and I value her counsel—[laughter]—just as I value the counsel of others on the staff. [Laughter]

We have a very experienced, mature team of professionals down at the White House. [Slide change.]

This is Josh Bolten. [Laughter] He’s the White House Deputy Chief of Staff. America

should sleep better at night knowing that this calm, level-headed man—[laughter]—is helping to guide our Nation.

[Slide change.]

This is Nick Calio, the head of our Office of Legislative Affairs. I had just said to him, “So, Nick, what are the chances of the Senate passing ANWR?” [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

Nick really prepares me well when congressional leaders come down for meetings. Here he is testing out a whoopee cushion that we’re going to use on Senator Byrd. [Laughter]

But we really have a highly motivated group down at the White House. No matter what the task at hand, each of us gives 110 percent.

[Two slide changes.] [Laughter]

The truth is, the door to the Oval Office has a little peephole. This is Karen Hughes peeping in on me. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

This is Karl Rove peeping in on me. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

This is Condi Rice peeping in on me. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

Spot has her own peephole. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

This is Andy Card peeping in on me. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

And ladies and gentlemen—[laughter]—this is the Vice President of the United States, looking through a peephole. And Dick, I hope you’re not doing what it looks like you’re doing. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

This photo actually has nothing to do with anything. [Laughter] I thought I’d show it to you, however, because it’s the only known photo in existence of Alan Greenspan smiling. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

This is Ari Fleischer, of course. I was chewing him out here. [Laughter] I'm saying, "Ari, I am sick and tired of you not fully answering all the wonderful questions asked by our hardworking White House press corps. Are you sure, Ari, we're not leaking enough?" [Laughter] "Are you sure that we've given them enough access to me? I've got an idea, I'll do more interviews—with 'Baseball Tonight.'" [Laughter]

Now, part of the job of a President is to meet with representatives of special interest groups.

[Slide change.] [Laughter]

Here I am meeting with representatives from the American Cloning Council. [Laughter]

[Slide change.]

I try to work with Republicans and Democrats alike. For political reasons, some Democrats prefer that it not be known they are working with a Republican President, so they slip in the back door—like Hillary Clinton here.

[Slide change.] [Laughter]

It's not all work, of course. One day, I decided to show some of the staff the White House bowling alley. Boys and girls, there is a reason you wear those special bowling shoes.

[Three slide changes.] [Laughter]

Of course, another job of the President is dealing with the White House press corps. You ask some pretty tough questions, but to tell you the truth, I don't think you've laid a glove on me.

Here I am after our last press conference.

[Slide change.] [Laughter]

In closing tonight, I thought about turning serious and talking about all we've been through since I was here last year. But then I decided this wasn't the time or the place. You came to have a good time; we've got Drew Carey waiting to entertain us.

So instead, I'm going to leave you with one last thought and one last photo of our dog Spot.

[Slide change.]

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, is this a great country or what? [Laughter]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Holland, outgoing president, White House Correspondents' Association, who introduced the President. He also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks at Opening Day of 2002 White House Tee-Ball

May 5, 2002

Well, Shalim, thank you very much for singing the national anthem. Welcome to baseball at the White House. We're glad you all are here.

I want to thank the commissioner of tee-ball at the White House this year, one of the alltime great baseball players, one of the alltime great men, Mr. Cal Ripken.

I want to—I want to welcome the teams that are going to play today on the opening day of the 2002 season. The Uniondale Little League Sluggers and all their moms and dads and the coaches—thank you all very much. And as well, we want to thank the 6 and 11 Little League Sluggers from Trenton, New Jersey. And I want to thank your moms and dads for coming too. Welcome.

We've also got some really fine former baseball players with us—Tony Perez, Mr. Hall of Fame. As well, we've got "Cha Cha" Orlando Cepeda.

I want to thank the other coach on the field, a member of my Cabinet, *Señor* Mel Martinez.

Erubiel Durazo, from the world champion Arizona Diamondbacks, is with us today as well. Erubiel, *mucho gusto*.

As well, there's a great new movie out called "The Rookie." He is—this guy's a Texan. He's a great story. I hope you go see the movie. But the man who Dennis Quaid plays in the movie is with us today, the actual baseball player, Jim Morris. Thank you for coming, Jim.

As well, a former Texas Ranger, Billy Ripken—where are you, Billy? Hi, Billy.

I do want to thank our announcers, Ron Eisen and Alvaro Martin, for being here with us. Thank you guys very much for coming.

This guy doesn't play baseball, but he is a Washington Redskins star, "Big Daddy" Wilkinson. Thank you for coming. Welcome.

And now, before we begin, I'd like for the players to join me in reciting the Little League pledge. Are you ready?

"I trust in God. I love my country and will respect its laws. I will play fair and strive to win. But win or lose, I will always do my best."

Are you ready?

And now, it is my honor to put the first ball on the tee to kick off tee-ball at the White House.

[The President placed the ball on the tee.]

Play ball!

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Shalim; ESPN announcers Rich Eisen and Alvaro Martin; and Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson, defensive tackle, Washington Redskins.

Proclamation 7555—Small Business Week, 2002

May 3, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The strength of our economy is built on the creativity and entrepreneurship of our people. Those who own and operate our Nation's 25 million small businesses make a vital contribution to our prosperity through their ongoing work to create new technologies, products, and services. These hardworking men and women and their employees define the American spirit through their innovation, dedication, and determination.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, greatly affected our Nation and our economy; but our economy is recovering and remains fundamentally sound. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the business community rose to this challenge by volunteering their time and services to help with the relief and

rebuilding efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C. This compassionate spirit demonstrated America's true character.

To help businesses recover from September 11, my Administration has made more than \$520 million in disaster loans available to business owners nationwide. I also remain committed to a domestic policy that stimulates economic growth, boosts consumer purchasing power, and creates a level playing field. Our efforts to lower taxes, enact reasonable regulations, and reduce tariffs and other barriers to free trade will increase the competitive position of our small businesses. To further encourage economic growth, I recently signed into law the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002. The Act helps to create more jobs across our country by providing tax incentives for companies to expand and create jobs by investing in facilities and equipment. This action will lead to more opportunities in manufacturing, high-tech sectors, and our small businesses. I am also committed to achieve a permanent repeal of the death tax and the permanent extension of tax relief to help ensure the strength and survival of small businesses.

America's small business owners represent more than 99 percent of all employers and their businesses employ more than half of the private work force. These entrepreneurs who create more than 66 percent of the new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product growth are critical to our country's prosperity and the well-being of our communities. We salute these employers by celebrating Small Business Week and recognizing their contributions to all Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5 through May 11, 2002, as Small Business Week. I call on all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage and foster the development of new enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Exchange With Reporters in Southfield, Michigan

May 6, 2002

Upcoming Meeting With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—*that he absolutely has to talk to Yasser Arafat in order to get to peace negotiations?

The President. You know, I'm going to have a private conversation with Ariel Sharon and would rather that my conversation—what I'm going to tell him and discuss with him be done, and he be the first to know about it—

Q. Has he talked with you about the documents he has?

The President. I talk to him all the time. But if you're asking about Chairman Arafat, I have been asked—if I have been asked once, I've been asked 20 times about him. He has disappointed me. He must lead. He must show the world that he believes in peace. And we have laid out conditions for all parties in order to achieve peace. All parties—Arab nations, Israel, Chairman Arafat, and the Palestinian party—must assume their responsibilities and lead.

This is a series of discussions we're having with—not only with Prime Minister Sharon; as you know, King Abdullah is coming as well. It follows up on meetings I've had with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia as well as the King of Morocco. I will continue to have further meetings as we begin to bring—coalesce the world around a vision for peace.

Q. But are the Israelis making it any more difficult by seeming to say that Arafat is not someone they can deal with at all?

The President. Oh, I think they express disappointment in his ability to lead. I mean, after all, right before we had our security

agreement done, a shipload of ammunition shows up and could probably be aimed at the Israeli citizens. So there's a high level of disappointment.

But I haven't had a chance to talk with Prime Minister Sharon in recent days. I look forward to hearing what he has to say. Part of the goal of the United States is to lay out a vision for peace, which I have done, and then encourage people to assume their responsibility necessary to achieve the peace. And that's why it's so important, for example, that the Arab world be very much involved in a peace process, in discussions for—toward peace. And we are—I think we're making some progress, and I appreciate that.

Burma's Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction to Myanmar's release of Aung San Suu Kyi?

The President. Oh, I thought that was very positive, a good development.

Education

Q. Mr. President, this week you're talking about domestic issues. Are you afraid that people are losing their attention to those during the war?

The President. No, Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post], I think that people around America know how important public education is, particularly moms and dads and principals and teachers. Public education is on the minds of our citizens every day, because our citizens see public schools in their neighborhoods, and our citizens know how important public education is for the future.

So I will spend as much time as necessary to herald success in our public schools and to remind people of the implementation plan that the Secretary of Education is selling, promoting around the country. We've got to get public schools right. We've got to make sure every child is educated. A lot of schools are making really good progress; some aren't. Those schools that aren't making good progress need to change.

Yes, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek], last question.

First Lady's Contributions to Education

Q. Secretary Paige, as well as your wife, has been traveling around talking about education. I'm wondering if you could mention what you think her greatest contribution has been to your education policy?

The President. You know, Laura's a former teacher—I guess you're never a former teacher; you're always a teacher. [Laughter] She's not in the classroom—and she understands the importance of teaching, teacher training, teacher recruitment. And one of the most significant contributions she has made and will continue to make is to remind young Americans—and old Americans, for that matter—that their talents and passion are needed in our classrooms. You know, she pushed the Troops for Teacher Initiative, and she's got a way about her that's pretty convincing. And I know she's going to convince a lot of Americans about the importance of being a teacher.

Some school districts are short of teachers, and you've got to remind people—you know, one of my hopes is that as a result of the Nation taking an assessment of that which is important, that the idea of serving your community by being a teacher becomes more paramount in students' minds, and Laura certainly is going to herald that.

The other thing, of course, is reading. There's nothing more fundamental to a good education system than making sure every child learns to read and that our schools use a curriculum that works. She's pretty good about that too. She's a great leader and a great advocate for literacy.

Listen, thank you all. You're watching democracy—one of the core values of democracy is a free press. [Laughter]

Q. Yes, and don't forget it.

Q. How free are we?

The President. You're very free—for how much we have to pay on a daily basis to buy your newspapers. [Laughter]

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:23 a.m. during a tour of Vandenberg Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Mohamed VI of Morocco; and Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient who was released from house arrest on May

6. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at Vandenberg Elementary School in Southfield

May 6, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I'm delighted to be here. Secretary Paige said that he's moving around the country to 25 different cities and school districts to make sure that the No Child Left Behind Initiative is put in place and implemented, and I just wanted to check up on him a little bit. [Laughter] And I'm glad I'm doing so here in Michigan.

I picked Rod to be the Secretary of Education. One, I was comfortable with him as a person. We're both Texans. I saw him in action in Texas. I know how deeply he cares for the children all across our country. But I also wanted somebody that actually knew how to get things done. In Washington, we find all kinds of great theorists, people who talk about theory and philosophy. I was interested in somebody who actually had run a school district, who knows what it means to meet a budget, who knows how to deal with teachers, who insists upon high standards for every child. And Rod did that, and he's a great Secretary of Education. I'm so glad that he's here.

I want to thank Sharalene as well. You know, one of the things you find out when you pay close attention to public education and you try to figure out what works, the good schools are those who have got good principals. Good schools are—[applause]. So I want to thank Sharalene for her hospitality. I know it's not easy to welcome the President. [Laughter] He's got kind of a small entourage—[laughter]—of 25 vehicles. [Laughter] But you all and your staff have done a great job. And I want to thank all who are responsible for helping put this event on for your hospitality.

I want to thank your teachers as well. I'm real proud to be in the midst of teachers who are doing a great job.

I made a wise choice when I asked a public school teacher to marry me. [Laughter] A lot of people are wondering how wise a choice

she made when she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I'm sorry she's not here with me today. She cares deeply about the teaching profession, and one of her responsibilities that she's assumed is to help recruit young and old alike to become teachers in classrooms.

I want to thank Cecil Rice, who's the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools. You and big Rod speak the same language. Good to have you here. I want to thank Congressman Joe Knollenberg; this is his district. Thank you for being here, Congressman; appreciate your time. I want to thank my friend, the Governor of Michigan, John Engler, for being here as well. Thank you, Governor. We've got Tom Watkins, who's the superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan. Tom, thanks for coming. We've got the mayor. Thank you, Madam Mayor, for being here; appreciate you coming.

We've got a young lady named Asya Obad here. Now, I want to tell you about Asya. Please stand up for a minute, Asya. [*Applause*] One of the things I try to do as I travel around the country is to remind people that if you live in America, you have a responsibility to your country and the community in which you live; that out of this evil that had been done to us, I believe can come some incredible good. And part of that good is neighbor caring for neighbor and people listening to the universal admonition to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And this young lady, who is a University of Michigan student, has done just that. She's a—one-time AmeriCorps volunteer?—two-time AmeriCorps volunteer. She works with a program called ACCESS, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, to help new students, new immigrant students to learn to read and write. In other words, she's a child who is getting her own education and, at the same time, working hard to make sure our community is strong. You see, America changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And while one person can't do everything, one person can make a significant difference in people's lives.

I want to thank you for being here, and I want to thank you for the example you've set for people your age and for older people too.

I want to thank the parents who are involved in their children's education. I got to tell you, I was impressed. It just reminded me how great America is when I came—went through the classrooms here. A young girl, just came from Iraq, reads—talks about core democratic values and why they're important. I mean, this is a great country, and it's a great—public schools are so important that we get it right. In order for the future of this country to be bright and hopeful, we've got to make sure every child gets educated, no matter where they're from or their background.

You know, this little girl came, and she spoke—knew the alphabet, but that was it. And she was able, in front of the President of the United States and a press corps, to read about values that matter. But it's the same values that mattered to my little girls. I mean, it's the greatness of our country to share values and to be diverse and to welcome people from all backgrounds into America.

And one of the unifying things about our country is the education system. It's an education system that can be incredibly hopeful. And it's one where, as a result of schools making right decisions, people from all backgrounds do get educated.

The reason I'm here is because this is a successful school. It's a successful school because teachers care and work hard. It's a successful school because there is a mindset that says, every child can learn. It is a school that obviously welcomes people from all backgrounds, but it is also a school that doesn't kind of say, "Well, certain kids are going to be too hard to educate. Let's just kind of move them somewhere else, kind of put them on the sidecar to nowhere," which happens. This is a school that welcomes the young child from Iraq, puts her in a classroom, provides a little special nudge when it comes to an interpreter, but gets her moving.

This is a school that is not afraid to measure, a school that says, "We want to know." You see, there are a lot of people in America who reject the notion of accountability in public education. I'm not one. See, I want to know. I want to know whether a child is

learning to read and write or add and subtract, and I want to know early. It seems like, to me, that if we are concerned about every child and we have high standards that believes every child can learn, that in order to verify that, we ought to measure and not be afraid of accountability. This school is not afraid of accountability and, as a result, is excelling.

There are people who are afraid of accountability systems, and therefore, I become suspicious. Because if you don't want to measure, it kind of makes me worry that maybe you're a little—you're not confident about either your teacher quality or your curriculum. If you're afraid to be held accountable, something must be going wrong. That's how I view it.

What I don't like is a system that quits on kids, and neither should you. This school doesn't quit on kids, and that's why it's heralded for its excellence. You see, there can be a mindset in American schools that say, "Well, there are certain kids that can't learn, and therefore, let's just move them through." The easiest thing to do is to shuffle them through, and one way to make sure that happens is to have no accountability. One way to make sure that it's—you take the easy path, which is give it your best shot and hope you get it right, is not to measure.

And that's happened for too long in America. I'm going to be honest about it. When you've got so many fourth-graders who can't read at grade level, something has gone wrong. And by the way, if they can't read at grade level at fourth grade, you're not going to be reading at grade level at eighth grade, and you're not going to be reading grade level at high school. And all of a sudden, the great American hopes and dreams may not be extended in every neighborhood.

And so one of the reasons I'm so insistent upon accountability—and Sharalene is as well, and Rod is—is because we need to know whether or not children are able to read early and, if they're not, use the accountability system as a way to correct problems. Sharalene was telling me that when this school begins to get a sense that a child is beginning to fall behind, the accountability system steps up; it doesn't decrease. There is a constant attention being paid to a child

and whether or not that child is getting the right instruction.

And I think that's not only healthy; I think it's great for the children. If the goal for America is no child left behind, let's make sure we view each child as an individual; test him or her as to whether or not she can read, write, add, or subtract; and correct his or her problems early, before it's too late. And you mark my word, what's going to happen: High standards, accountability, and local control of schools will mean that the public school system is going to be the greatest it can possibly be.

We have responsibilities throughout our society. We have responsibilities. The Federal Government has responsibilities. Generally, that responsibility is to write a healthy check, and we did so in the 2002 budget: \$22 billion for secondary and elementary schools. It's an increase of 25 percent. We've increased money by 35 percent for teacher recruitment, teacher retention, teacher pay.

But in—my attitude is, if you spend something, you ought to get results for it. We ought to know. And that's why we insist—and this is what Rod is doing by traveling around the country saying, "In return for Federal help, you've got to measure." The State of Michigan, the State of Texas, the State of anywhere else has got to develop an accountability system that measures grades 3 through 8, to show not only the taxpayers but mothers and dads whether or not expectations are being met.

Local districts have a responsibility. Local districts have a responsibility to support the teachers. They have a responsibility to develop the accountability systems. They have a responsibility to reject curriculum that do not work. They have a responsibility to challenge the status quo. They have a responsibility to provide an education system that is not only good for teachers and principals but an education system in which parents are involved.

Parents have a responsibility in the public education system of America. You have a responsibility to make sure your child comes to school with the understanding that they're going to be polite when they get in the classroom, with the understanding that they'll

treat their teacher with respect, with the understanding there are certain manners that are important. If you expect your child to be well-educated, you have the responsibility of making sure your child gets educated starting at home, with some basic fundamentals.

One of the things I like to try to remind parents, that it'd be helpful if you insisted that your child read more than they watch TV. As a veteran of teenage years, that's easier said than done; I understand that. [*Laughter*]

But it's—all of us must assume responsibilities if we expect the best for every single child. The Federal Government has got responsibilities; the State Government has got responsibilities; the local districts have responsibilities; mothers and dads have responsibilities; the business community has responsibilities.

The Michigan business community has got responsibilities to be involved with the public education system in Michigan. I mean, after all, we're educating potential heads of businesses and employees. And business Michigan must support education, must support the accountability systems, must support the infrastructure necessary to make sure that the school systems in Michigan work.

Tomorrow I'm meeting with executives from around the country. I'm going to remind them that they have a responsibility, as good corporate citizens, not only to make sure that we understand all their assets and liabilities on their balance sheets; that when it comes time to treating their shareholders and employees with integrity, they must do so; that we expect there to be honesty in reporting; but business communities have the responsibility as well to support public education in America.

So I believe firmly we're on the right track. First of all, we herald the importance of public education in America. Being on the right track means you understand the importance of public schools in our country. Anybody who doubts the importance of public education need to come to this school and go see the classrooms that I saw, its diversity. I believe one of the strengths of America is our diversity. I know one of the strengths is the common values that we all share. And

I saw that living example in the classrooms I visited.

Secondly, we have the right mindset in America, and that says, every child can learn. You've got to start thinking that. If you don't believe every child can learn, then the ones you don't believe will learn, won't learn. Every child can learn. Notice I didn't say every group can learn. I said, every single child can learn. It's a belief that we've got to focus our attentions on each child.

It says that we trust the local people. Listen, we don't want Washington, DC, managing public education. Trust me, one size isn't going to fit all. It's just not. I know that some will say that's a trite slogan. It's true. It's true. You've got different issues here in Michigan than we have in Texas, and there's different issues here than they have in California. And that's why we want to have flexibility at the local level. We've got to trust teachers and principals to design what works. There needs to be flexibility.

But we must be wise enough to measure. See, we must incorporate accountability and then be quick enough to change when we find failure. And mark my words, what's going to happen: We're going to start seeing great progress.

This school is living example of great progress: Kind of at the bottom of the measurement standards, if I'm not mistaken, 5 years ago, and now you're soaring off the chart. It shows what's possible. We want every school soaring off the chart. We don't want schools languishing in mediocrity and excuse-making. We want the best for every child. That's what America's future is all about. It's about making sure that every single child gets educated.

I love to ask the question when I go into a classroom, "Are you going to college?" It makes me feel so great to see every hand pop up—every hand. And that starts with making sure that every child gets a good education. And you're doing so at this school, and I'm proud you've invited me to come. And on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for doing your job and doing it with excellence.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the school's multipurpose room. In his remarks, he referred to Sharalene Charns, principal, Vandenberg Elementary School; and Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence of Southfield.

Statement on Burma's Release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

May 6, 2002

The United States welcomes the release from house arrest of Burma's Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won an overwhelming victory in elections in 1990 but was never allowed to assume power. We hope her release will be "a new dawn" for Burma, as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told her supporters earlier today, and lead to national reconciliation and a restoration of democracy. All parties should seize this opportunity to press ahead with the urgent work of restoring the rule of law and basic political and civil rights for all Burmese. Only a return to democracy and reintegration with the international community can bring the freedom and prosperity which the people of Burma both long for and deserve.

The United States will closely monitor the situation within Burma as this process unfolds. We will also consult with ASEAN, Japan, the European Union, and other partners on how the international community can most effectively encourage further progress toward restoration of democracy. I compliment U.N. Special Envoy Razali Ismail for his tireless efforts to promote reconciliation within Burma and for helping to facilitate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release.

Proclamation 7556—National Tourism Week, 2002

May 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For hundreds of years, people across our Nation and around the world have enjoyed traveling across America to visit our magnificent cities, parks, museums, and countless other natural, historic, and cultural sites. Our

land provides endless opportunities to learn as well as to enjoy our Nation's immense variety of attractions.

The travel and tourism industry represents a vital part of the American economy. The Department of Commerce estimates that in 2001 the travel and tourism industry generated more than \$90 billion in export revenue and provided a \$7.7 billion balance of trade surplus. Preliminary numbers show that last year, the industry created approximately \$545 billion in total travel expenditures and provided \$94 billion in tax revenue to local, State, and Federal governments. As one of our Nation's largest employers, travel and tourism supports more than 7 million jobs.

During National Tourism Week 2002, we recognize the significance of this important industry to our economy and for the lives of all Americans. In the aftermath of the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, the travel and tourism industry contributed to our country's efforts to persevere through this challenging time. As we have encouraged people to resume the regular course of their lives, Americans and visitors from around the world have responded by traveling to and enjoying the beauty of our Nation.

During this observance, I urge all Americans and people around the globe to travel to and within our country to experience the hospitality and quality of our Nation's great destinations.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5–11, 2002, as National Tourism Week. In recognition of the significance of the travel and tourism industry in the lives of citizens of our Nation and to visitors from abroad, I call upon all Americans to mark this observance with activities that highlight this important industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Lithuania-United States
Extradition Treaty**

May 6, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, signed at Vilnius on October 23, 2001.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of modern extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States and will replace the Extradition Treaty of April 9, 1924, between the two countries and the Supplementary Extradition Treaty of May 17, 1934. In conjunction with the new U.S.-Lithuania Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that took effect in 1999, the Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of the two countries. It will thereby make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts against serious offenses, including terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking offenses.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

May 6, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, with Annexes, done at Stockholm, May 22–23, 2001. The report of the Secretary of State is also enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The Convention, which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program with the leadership and active participation of the United States, commits Parties to take significant steps, similar to those already taken by the United States, to eliminate or restrict the production, use, and/or release of 12 specified persistent organic pollutants (POPs). When I announced that the United States would sign the Convention, I noted that POPs chemicals, even when released abroad, can harm human health and the environment in the United States. The Convention obligates Parties to take measures to eliminate or restrict the production, use, and trade of intentionally produced POPs, to develop action plans to address the release of unintentionally produced POPs, and to use best available techniques to reduce emissions from certain new sources of unintentionally produced POPs. It also includes obligations on the treatment of POPs stockpiles and wastes, as well as a science-based procedure to add new chemicals that meet defined criteria.

The United States, with the assistance and cooperation of nongovernmental organizations and industry, plays an important international leadership role in the safe management of hazardous chemicals and pesticides. This Convention, which will bring over time, an end to the production and use of certain of these toxic chemicals beyond our borders, will positively affect the U.S. environment and public health. All relevant Federal agencies support early ratification of the Convention for these reasons, and we understand that affected industries and interest groups share this view.

I recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State, at the earliest possible date.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7.

**Remarks at the Dedication
Ceremony To Rename the Dwight D.
Eisenhower Executive Office
Building**
May 7, 2002

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Well, thank you all very much. And thank you, Susan, for those kind words, and welcome.

On behalf of all Americans, I am proud to dedicate this historic building to the lasting memory of a great man, Dwight David Eisenhower.

I want to thank Secretary Powell and Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz, Administrator Perry, General Hicks, for their kind words. I'm also pleased to have so many special guests who are here. I don't see—I do see Senator Stevens. I'm so honored that Senator Ted Stevens, who actually worked in the Eisenhower administration, is here. And I want to welcome all the others who worked in this—in the Eisenhower administration to this dedication ceremony. Welcome.

I also want to welcome General Andrew Goodpaster, Senator Bob Dole, and all the other veterans of World War II. We're pleased to have you here. It's a pleasure to welcome back former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. I want to thank Members of the United States Congress, Senator Inouye, Congressman Amo Houghton, Jerry Moran, Jim Ryun, Congressman Steve Horn.

And I too want to say how much we appreciate the work of former Senator John Chafee, who introduced the legislation nec-

essary to rename this bill—this building in honor of Dwight Eisenhower.

And above all, we welcome the Eisenhower family and send our good wishes to John Eisenhower, who could not be with us today. As the son of a President, myself, I know how proud John must feel, knowing that our country's respect for his father has only increased with the years.

The city of Washington is accustomed to change, but this neighborhood looks much as it did in 1929. If you'd walked down Pennsylvania Avenue 73 years ago, you would have seen the Renwick Building on the corner of 17th Street, looking just as it does now. A few doors down were the Blair and Lee Houses, with gas lamps still out front.

In 1929, Lafayette Square was dominated by a great bronze horse, as it is today, proudly carrying Andrew Jackson. And standing outside this building on a spring morning 73 years ago, you might have seen Dwight Eisenhower pull up in a 1927 Buick and walk up the stairs to his office.

The twenties and thirties were quiet times for our Army and Navy, quiet times when he worked here. But it was in this building that Dwight Eisenhower's reputation began to grow. His immediate supervisor said of him this—said this of him: "This is the best officer in the Army. When the next war comes, he should go right to the top." These words carried a lot of weight; after all, the man who said them was Douglas MacArthur.

He also worked here for many years in room 252. There was a time when a visitor to this building might pass in the hallway not only Eisenhower and MacArthur but the first man commissioned General of the Armies of the United States, John J. Pershing. General Pershing occupied room 274, a space now used by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Two doors down is an office that Theodore Roosevelt would still recognize as his own from his time as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. So would Franklin Roosevelt, who, a generation later, occupied the same office and walked these very same halls. And in between, from 1904 to 1908, William Howard Taft reported to work here as the Secretary of the War. In all, as has been mentioned, seven future Presidents have worked in this building; 25 Presidents have known it.

Harry S. Truman held press conferences in an ornate room two stories high called the Indian Treaty Room—although no Indian treaty has ever been signed there. And it was Truman, himself, who paid a distinctive tribute to this building when a committee suggested it be torn down. He believed we ought to leave it right here. He said, “It’s the greatest monstrosity in America.”

But it was Eisenhower who decided its fate. He said he rather liked it. And over time, a lot of us have come to like it. The architectural grace of this building will remain a matter of opinion, but its place in history and its place on the skyline of Washington is as safe as can be.

It seems odd that with all the history it contains, this great building went more than a century without a name befitting its dignity. We’ve solved that problem today, and we’ve solved it once and for all. This building now bears the name of Dwight D. Eisenhower, not because it was spared from the wrecking ball in his time, not even because he was the first President born in Texas. [*Laughter*] His name fits this building because, as a great soldier, a great President, and a good man, Dwight D. Eisenhower served his country with distinction.

People over a certain age will always associate Dwight Eisenhower with a time of strength and a time of stability in America. We think of the fifties and in the mind’s eye we see the President and his fine wife, Mamie. They had lived a military life, moving more than 30 times. And just as GIs in the fifties across America were settling back home, so were the Eisenhowers. As a matter of fact, they would live longer in the White House here than at any other address.

We don’t need to idolize the era they represented to see all the good things that were there: millions of growing families and industries and new cities and the beginnings of the life that we know today.

Had he never become President, Eisenhower would still be known to all as the leader of the forces that liberated a continent from a terrible evil. The turning point of the war was the decision to invade the coast of France. The decision was made by Roosevelt and Churchill; the day and hour were left to General Eisenhower. And a lot of people

felt a lot better knowing that it was his call to make.

General Eisenhower understood exactly what risks lay ahead. Had his troops failed to take the beaches, he was going to point a finger straight at himself. Here’s what he wrote, in advance: “If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone.” Fifty-seven years ago this very day, General Eisenhower reported that the mission of the Allied force was fulfilled, and the war in Europe was over.

In victory, he was the first to share credit. It was not within his character to do otherwise. His Vice President, Richard Nixon, said this about General Eisenhower—President Eisenhower: “He always retained a saving humility.” “It was the humility,” Nixon said, “not of fear but of confidence. He walked with the great of the world, and he knew that the great are human. His was the humility of man before God and before the truth. His was the humility of a man too proud to be arrogant.”

In his career, Dwight Eisenhower faced two great crises of the 20th century: a world war that came upon America with a sudden attack, requiring a global response, and a cold war that tested our patience and resolve to wage a struggle of decades.

In our time, we face elements of both, an enemy that strikes suddenly and must be pursued across the years. And in this struggle, we know how victory will be gained, because President Eisenhower—and General Eisenhower—showed us the way. We will be calm and confident and relentless. With the best of America’s character, we will defeat America’s enemies.

We are proceeding with patience and resolve to overcome this growing danger to the civilized world. NATO, the grand alliance first commanded by General Eisenhower, is part of a new coalition that is making steady progress on every front. Our mission in Afghanistan continues even after we have liberated that country from a brutal regime. We continue to fight Al Qaida terrorists, and we will prevent them from regrouping elsewhere.

We’ll deny terrorists the safe havens they need to operate and choke off their sources

of money and supplies. We'll confront dangerous regimes that seek weapons of mass destruction. In this war we will depend on the alertness of our law enforcement, the diligence of our intelligence operations, and on the skill and valor of the American Armed Forces.

Our military has performed with great daring and courage, and more will be asked of them. I have full confidence, complete confidence, in the men and women who wear our uniform. They've responded in the finest traditions of the American military. Their sense of honor, their devotion to duty, their loyal service to America would all be recognized by the five-star general and President we remember today. The skill and determination and optimism of Dwight Eisenhower are alive in the American Armed Forces, and that spirit will bring us to victory.

The General was one of six sons raised by Ida and David Eisenhower in the prairie town of Abilene, Kansas. They raised good men, but destiny chose this one. His whole life shows the power of one man's goodness and integrity to shape great events. He brought permanent honor to his family name, and that name now brings honor to this grand building. It's one more mark of this country's respect, and we offer it today with great affection and lasting gratitude.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, formerly the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower; Chaplain Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains; Brig. Gen. A.J. Goodpaster, USA (Ret.), Staff Secretary to President Eisenhower; and former Senator Bob Dole.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

May 7, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome Prime Minister Ariel Sharon back to the Oval Office. We've just had a really good conversation about how to get on the path to peace.

I want peace; our Government wants peace; the Prime Minister is interested in peace, of course. And we had a good discussion about how to move forward.

One of the things that I think is important—the Prime Minister has discussed this as well—is for us to immediately begin to help rebuild a security force in Palestine that will fight terror, that will bring some stability to the region. I think it's very important that there be a unified security force. But at the same time, we need to work for other institutions—a constitution, for example, a framework for development of a state that can help bring security and hope to the Palestinian people and the Israelis. And one of the things we've got to make sure that we do is—anything, any vision understands that there are people in Israel who long for security and peace, people in the Palestinian world who long for security, peace, and economic hope.

To this end, I've told the Prime Minister that George Tenet will be going back to the region to help construct the—design the construction of a security force, a unified security force, that will be transparent and held accountable.

And so I really am pleased with our conversation. As I've said, there are responsibilities to be had by all the parties. We discussed those responsibilities. I told the Prime Minister there's nothing more that I want than to be peace in the region and that I look forward to working with him and his government to achieve that peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. I'm glad you're here.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thanks so much. I'm very glad to have this opportunity to come again here to visit you, Mr. President. I would like to thank you for all your efforts. And we need to act against terror worldwide. We appreciated that. And we appreciate your leadership and courageous decisions. And of course, I would like to thank you for your friendship.

Israel is a peace-seeking country, and we are—after many, many years being involved in many wars, heavy battles, and now after the last operation that we carried out against the infrastructure of terror in Samaria and Judea—or as you call it, the West Bank—

I believe that there is a chance now to start and move forward.

We discussed these issues, how to move forward. We emphasized about the need for reform in the Palestinian Authority, and I think that's very important. And we discussed the original peace conference that I advocated, and I believe it's very important. We hope that it will take place.

All together, all of us understand the importance of peace, the need for peace. And I think that we are committed to take every effort and every step to make peace.

And I would like to thank you again for everything and for your friendship.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Fournier, AP [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. If you could, first of all, further define what you mean by "unified"—

President Bush. Pardon me?

Q. If you could, first of all, identify what you mean by "unified structure." And secondly, more broadly to both of you: Your administration is on record as supporting accelerated peace talks, dealing with Yasser Arafat, and making Saudi Arabia a key partner. Prime Minister Sharon favors incremental steps, taking Arafat out of the process, and he's provided you evidence suggesting that the Saudis encouraged Palestinian attacks. Have you bridged any of those gaps, the two of you?

President Bush. Well, "unified" means that, as opposed to six, seven, or eight different security forces under six, seven, or eight different commands, there's one command structure. That's what that means.

Q. Palestinian?

President Bush. Yes, Palestinian, exactly.

In terms of the other issues, we discussed a wide range of issues. One of the things that should be coming apparent to people is that we're in consultation with not only the Israelis but other governments—I talked to Crown Prince Abdullah today, as well as President Mubarak—about how best to proceed toward a common vision. You just heard the Prime Minister talk about the desire for peace. We had the Saudi Crown Prince stand up and talk about peace and the need for

a peaceful solution. And it's very important for us to seize this moment, as the Prime Minister mentioned, and lead and get on that path. And that's exactly what we've talked about.

And I want to reiterate what I've said and will continue to say: There are responsibilities. If people truly want there to be peace, people have to assume their responsibilities for peace. And the Saudis must do that, and they're willing to do that. The Crown Prince, again, and I talked, and I made it clear to him that we've got to fight terror in the region for there to be peace and that he and the other leaders must work and must convince the Palestinian Authority that they have got to do everything in their power to lead toward a solution.

At the same time, I emphasized what Ariel has just mentioned, that we must provide a framework for growth of a potential Palestinian state. There's got to be the framework for education and health and economic development, as well as security. And all parties have got responsibilities in the region to see—to do their part.

Q. [Inaudible]—Radio One.

Q. Mr. President?

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Sorry.

President Bush. I can't see you. Trudy [Trudy Feldman, Trans Features], you're blocking her vision.

Response to Terrorism

Q. You've said many times that one should not compromise with terrorism. You said many times that you are disappointed from Yasser Arafat on the issue of terrorism. Do you think that Israel should compromise and negotiate with Chairman Arafat?

President Bush. I'm never going to tell my friend the Prime Minister what to do on how to handle his business. That's his choice to make. He's a democratically elected official.

And I'll reiterate: I have been disappointed in Chairman Arafat. I think he's let the Palestinian people down. I think he's had an opportunity to lead to peace, and he hasn't done so. And that's why it's important for all of us to work out a way to develop the institutions necessary for there to be a Palestinian

Authority that's got the capacity to keep security, but as well as a Palestinian Authority that's got the ability to help promote hope for the future of her people—that there's an education system that works, a health system that's vibrant.

And by the way, there's plenty of nations that are willing to participate, so long as those—the framework for a stable part of the world is in place. And those are the reforms that the Prime Minister has talked about, and those are the reforms that we must press.

I will give you one example. The Palestinians need to develop a constitution, rule of law, transparency. They've got to have a treasury that is able to battle corruption, so that not only does the—do the Israeli people have confidence in the Authority but so do the Palestinian people have confidence in the Authority. And those are the reforms we've discussed.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. We've got the Prime Minister here. This guy can answer questions. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Sharon. I'm happy to wait. [Laughter]

Palestinian State

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, the last time—

President Bush. Thank you, Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters]. [Laughter]

Q. The last time you met President Bush, you accepted the idea of a Palestinian state at the end of the peace process. Do you still support the establishment of a state?

And Mr. President, do you believe that a state should be a stated goal of a peace process?

President Bush. Yes. I haven't changed my position.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you. I think that it's still premature to discuss this issue. I think that what we have to concentrate now is making every effort that real reform will take place. And we discussed, I would say, how really to reach these reform, what should be there. And we discussed some other developments, like the original peace conference and other issues.

Q. Do you believe reforms must take place before you would consider a Palestinian state?

Prime Minister Sharon. I think that it's, as I said, it's premature now. I think, first of all, steps should be taken in order to establish—or to have real reform in the Palestinian Authority.

Q. [Inaudible]—Radio Number One.

President Bush. How many Radio Number Ones are there? [Laughter]

Q. Every one of them is number one. [Laughter]

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you could tell us—you've probably been studying these ideas of reforms in the Palestinian society. How long do you think, how long do you estimate it will take the Palestinians to carry out these reforms? And do you have any reason to believe or any information that Mr. Arafat will agree to such reforms? And will Arafat agree actually to lose his power and give it to somebody else in the Palestinian leadership?

President Bush. Well, you know, it's interesting. I think the operative question is, how soon will you start working on reforms? That's the—if I could put a question in your own mouth. The answer is, as soon as possible. That's what we discussed about—how quickly can we begin the reform process? That's also—is what we'll discuss with the Arab leaders who have got an interest in the area, about how to get reforms going.

And I think it's going to be—and the answer as to whether or not people will accept the reforms—look, our job is to convince the Saudis, the Jordanians, the Egyptians that these reforms are absolutely necessary. And when I say people have got responsibilities, I'm not just saying the Israelis and the Palestinians have responsibilities; I'm saying these leaders. And these were—this is a subject I discussed with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. He's the man who laid out the vision for peace. He's also a man who understands that by reforming the Palestinians, we have a chance to achieve peace.

And so I would hope that all the responsible Palestinian leaders understand that reform is in their interest. It's in the people's interest. Listen, I deeply hurt when there is

a lack of hope for moms and dads of anybody—Palestinian moms and dads—it bothers me. It bothers me to think there are some whose children are so hopeless they're willing to commit suicide. And so one of the things we've got to work for and one of the things our Nation will work for is reforms coupled with humanitarian help, reforms with the chance for there to be economic development, so people can realize a normal life.

And as to who's going to accept what, we'll find out. But one of the things that's going to be clear is that the world is rallying toward these reforms. And that's what our job is to do, is to lead them to those reforms. It makes a lot of sense. And this is a good first step toward the path to peace.

Listen, thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Implementation of the Inter- American Convention Against Corruption

May 7, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption adopted by the Senate on July 27, 2000, the President must submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations an annual implementation report each year for a 5-year period, beginning after the initial report was filed in April 2001.

This second report to the Congress, prepared by my Administration, indicates that 28 of the 34 members of the Organization of American States have signed the Convention (Barbados and Belize signed in the past year), and 25 members deposited their instruments of ratification with the Organization of American States.

Since the last report, the realization that corruption threatens political and economic stability, undermines democracy, and can create conditions ripe for terrorism has focused governments on the need to actively combat this international scourge. The Inter-American Convention contributes to this fight in the Americas and serves as a model to other regions. With the development of an effective evaluation mechanism, the Convention will help establish a new level of transparency and accountability. This report also outlines the steps taken to establish an evaluation mechanism, known as the Committee of Experts, to oversee implementation of the Convention.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to combat corruption in our hemisphere and across the globe.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 8.

Remarks at Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm—it is an honor for me to be here. I want to thank you for the invitation. As you can tell, I'm going to spend a little time talking about education, and a good place to talk about education and educational excellence is in centers of excellence. Rufus King International High is a center of excellence. So is Clarke Street Elementary, and I appreciate the invitation.

As my friend the Secretary of Education said, he is traveling around the country to spread the word that we passed new legislation in Washington, DC, new education reform. I'm honored to join him here in the great State of Wisconsin as part of his tour. His job is to implement the law as quickly as possible so that no child is left behind, and I want to thank Rod for his hard work.

You know, I picked him because he was a superintendent of schools in Houston, Texas, a tough school district. But he believed every child could learn; he believed in setting high standards. He worked hard; he made a huge difference on the frontlines of education. So, instead of picking somebody who knows the theory of education or somebody who talks the philosophy of education, I actually picked somebody who did the work of education. And he's doing a great job.

I want to thank your Governor for traveling with me today—it's an honor to be in the presence—who has made public education his top priority. I want to thank Scott Walker, the executive-elect of Milwaukee. I appreciate Dr. Spence Korte, who is the superintendent here in Milwaukee Public Schools. I want to thank Jeff Spence, president of School Board District Two, for being here. Jeff, thanks for coming. Of course, I want to thank your fine principal for inviting me here, Andy Meuler. I want to thank Keith Posley as well, who is the principal at Clarke Street. I'm fixing to go over to Clarke Street with Keith. I'm looking forward to it. I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank the students for inviting me. I appreciate you giving me the chance to be here. I guess some of you all are about to graduate. *[Applause]* Don't get carried away. It hasn't happened yet. *[Laughter]* I noticed the fine teachers at this school were clapping when I said that. They want you paying attention.

And by the way, I do want to thank the teachers—I'm going to spend a little more time on the teachers later—but you know, you can't have a high school as good as this unless you've got great teachers. And I want to thank the great teachers who are here.

The reason I mentioned the class getting ready to graduate is because you're the first high school class to have graduated in a long time in a time of war. You're the first high school class to have graduated with America under attack. And I want to talk a little bit about that today.

You need to know, as citizens—all of us need to know that we're in for a long struggle. We're in for a struggle to defend our freedom and to defend our values. These

aren't political values; these aren't the values of one political party or another. These are the values of all Americans, the values that believe that freedom is important and essential: Freedom to worship the way we want to worship, the freedom to speak your mind, except when the President is speaking—*[laughter]*—the freedom of the press—freedom. And our freedoms are under attack by people who hate America because of our freedoms. And we're not going to let them hurt America again. We will do everything in our power.

This isn't the kind of war that you're used to studying in the textbooks. This is a kind of war we've never seen before. We face a group of international killers—and that's what they are—who are kind of a—hide in caves, and they're not necessarily an organized government. And they're on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

It's just important for you to know—it's important for you to know that this nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. We seek justice. It's going to take a while, and you need to know that as well. But the good news for America—and the bad news for the enemy—is that I'm patient, and America's patient. I'm determined, and America's determined. We're a united country, particularly when it comes to defending that which we value, that which we hold dearly.

It's important for you all to understand that when our country speaks, that we mean it, and we do what we say. I said, either you're with us, or you're against us. I meant that. The good news is, there's a lot of nations with us; a lot of governments understand what is at stake. Civilization is at stake. We cannot allow terrorists to determine the fate of our respective nations.

I also made it clear that we were going to do everything possible to deny sanctuary—that means places to train, places to recruit, places to—places from which to fight—deny sanctuary to the terrorists. And we did that. Thanks to a mighty United States military and our coalition, we threw out a barbaric regime.

See, this is a regime called the Taliban, that said, "If you're a young girl, you don't get to go to school." Think about that. Think about growing up in a country that says, if

you happen to be a female, education isn't available to you. And if you expressed yourself, if you said, "Oh, I don't like the way they think; I don't appreciate that piece of public policy," then you go to jail. See, we were dealing with a barbaric regime. You need to know your Government and our allies and our friends went into Afghanistan to free a country. We didn't go to conquer a country; we went in to free a country, because we believe in freedom for every individual, no matter where they live in the world.

America is still not safe from attack, because they still want to get us, they still want to harm America. But we're doing everything in our power to prevent that. You need to know that. You need to know our law enforcement officials are talking at the Federal, State, and local level. We're sharing information. We're running down every lead. We've got a homeland security initiative that works with our brave police and fire and EMS teams all across the country.

No, we're doing everything in our power. But the best way to make sure that we protect innocent lives, the best way to make sure that Americans can go about their life is for you to know that this Government is going to chase down the enemy one by one, no matter how long it takes, and bring them to justice.

Our job is not only to make America safer, but it's to make America better, a better place. Our job is not only to make the world safer, but it's to make the world a better place. That's why if we're tough and strong and diligent when it comes to fighting terror, we have a chance to bring peace in places in the world. I think out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good around the world. I truly believe that. Out of evil can come good. And at home, out of evil can come good as well. And it starts with making sure that every child gets a good education.

And what does that mean? What are the principles of a good education? Well, it starts with having high standards, high expectations. It starts with having people who believe that every single child can learn, that certain children—there's some attitude amongst some that says, "Well, if you're

raised this way or if English isn't your first language, you can't learn." That's not the way people think here. That's not the way Andy thinks. That's not the way the teachers think. They believe in high standards and excellence. They know this: They know that if you lower expectations, if you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, guess what's going to happen? Certain children won't learn. And that's not satisfactory, as far as I'm concerned.

And by the way, if you believe in high standards and if you believe in high expectations, if you believe if you challenge the students that they can achieve, then you also welcome accountability. You say, "We're willing to see whether or not expectations are being met." In other words, if you have high—now, look, I know you don't like to take tests. When I went to high school, I didn't like to take tests. I didn't appreciate it one bit. [*Laughter*] But—don't get carried away. But I've grown. I understand that how can you possibly tell whether standards are being met or whether expectations are being met if you don't test, if you don't hold people accountable?

And so a competent principal like Andy, he welcomes accountability, because he believes every child can learn. The State of Wisconsin must welcome accountability in grades three through eight as well in order to achieve educational excellence.

We've got to trust the local people. We've got to trust the Andys, the teachers here. We've got to trust the Keiths, the principals all across—the parents. Listen, one size doesn't fit all. We don't want all power on how to run the schools in Washington, DC. It would be a classic mistake; it would be a huge mistake. All wisdom isn't in Washington. As a matter of fact, the best wisdom for educating the children of Wisconsin is right here in Wisconsin.

And so the new bill we passed says we trust local people. We want to empower the people of Wisconsin to make the right decisions. We want to empower the principals and provide as much flexibility at the local level as possible. One size doesn't fit all. You've got to trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence for every single child.

As well, in order to make sure that we meet our goals, to meet high expectations, we've got to make sure our teachers are well-prepared, well-trained, they've got power in their classrooms. And that's one of the things about this bill that I want to spend some time talking about.

First, I'm proud to be in the presence of Alexis Ludewig, the Teacher of the Year for the State of Wisconsin. I want to thank you for being here, Alexis—St. Germaine Elementary. It was my honor to welcome Alexis and Teachers of the Year from every State in the Union to the White House the other day. It was a special moment for me, and it was an exciting time to really be able to thank teachers.

Teaching is such a noble profession. It's an important part of making sure that no child is left behind. So, for those of you who are interested in how to—if you're thinking about a career, about how to best serve your community and serve yourself by helping other people, think about becoming a teacher. I was told that over 85 percent of you are going to go to college; that's a lot. That is fantastic news. Think about becoming a teacher.

I'm going over to Clarke; I'm going to see, I hope, Sherrion Perkins, who had received Milwaukee's Excellence in Education Award in December. She's a reading teacher. You know what makes her special—is that, one, she wants to use curriculum that works. She doesn't want—she wants to discard—[*applause*]
—she understands the science of reading. She also believes every child can learn. That's her attitude. That's what makes her a fine teacher.

And then, here, of course, you've got Donna Cassillo, who teaches—where's Donna? *Adonde está*, Donna? *Adonde*? Oh yes, right, good to see you, Donna. Thank you very much. *La doctor, la doctor*, thank you very much. I appreciate you both. I appreciate—okay—[*laughter*]
—*silencio*.
[*Laughter*]

So here's the deal. How do we make sure that teachers are well-trained, well-equipped, well-prepared? That's the question we've got to ask. And so we spent—hold on. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Not a bad answer. "More money," he said. It's exactly what we did in the 2002 budget. We spent 3 billion more dollars on teacher recruitment, teacher training, teacher preparedness. And that's important.

The way you recruit teachers is for people in our communities to remind would-be teachers the importance of the profession. That's what teachers can be doing now in their classrooms. I know you're doing that by being great role models.

Laura, the First Lady, my wife, who I love dearly, is going to spend a lot of time recruiting—[*applause*]. I admit it, proudly so; I do love her a lot. She's a fabulous, fabulous First Lady who is going to spend time reminding people that classroom teachers, people in the classroom, are incredibly important for America.

We've got to make sure that teachers are properly trained, and we've got to admit that sometimes our teacher colleges don't train teachers well enough. And therefore, we have to retrain teachers, retrain teachers on curriculum that works, make sure teachers are able to match their hearts with skill in the classrooms. We want to make sure that new teachers are prepared to teach, and therefore, they need to pass an exam in their course—new teachers, upon graduation, must be able to show—pass an exam in their specialty. I think that's important. Particularly for teachers who are now in the classroom, who view their profession—rightly so—as professionals, you want to make sure that others joining your ranks, upon certification, are able to pass an exam in the course in which they're supposed to be teaching. They're supposed to have subject matter—supposed to understand the subject matter.

One of the things in the new bill that's important for teachers to know is that there's what's called the Teacher Protection Act. It says that teachers and principals and school board members can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without the fear of being sued. And that's good law, and that's important law. The teacher must be able to control his or her classroom in order to be able to impart knowledge. I don't like it when frivolous lawsuits disrupt quality education, and I'm

proud of this part of the bill. I worked on it, campaigned on it, and I really think it's going to make a big difference for the professionals who are in the classroom.

I also—if you're someone who has borrowed money to go to college and you want to teach math or science or special education in what they call a low-income area, you should be allowed to forgive up to \$17,500 of your college debt. In other words, we're going to use the ability to forgive debt to encourage teaching.

But the key thing for teachers with this pot of money out there is for States to have the flexibility to meet the needs of the teachers and the teaching profession, whether it be to recruit or pay or retention bonuses or teacher development. It's not up to the Federal Government; it's up to the States and local school boards to make that decision.

So we've got the ingredients for success in education. I truly believe it. As Rod mentioned, this is a bipartisan bill. That means that both Republicans and Democrats worked on it. It's not a party bill; it's not a bill—it's a bill that's good for America. It's a bill that sets a framework for change and excellence. It's a bill that says success is the only thing that we expect in America. And where we find failure, we must challenge failure. It's unacceptable—just unacceptable—to have children trapped in schools that are mediocre, that won't change, that won't teach, because we have high expectations in America and high hopes.

No, we're fighting evil around the world. And one way to fight it here at home is to make sure every child gets a good education. And another way to fight it, and I want you all to listen carefully, for those of you who are wondering about America and what—our worth and what this country is all about: If you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, if you want to fight evil, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. The great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

We have this kind of materialistic world—it must have seemed that way to the enemy. When they hit us, they must have said, "This country is so self-absorbed, so selfish, so materialistic, so self-centered that it would never respond—maybe file a lawsuit or two,

but never respond." And they were mistaken, because that's not what we're made out of. On the one hand, we're tough. On the other hand, we're compassionate. On the one hand, we will do what it takes to defend liberty, as I mentioned. But on the other hand, we can show the world what we're made out of by loving a neighbor.

If you're interested in serving your country, go to your church or synagogue or mosque; start a program that loves a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Why don't you go to the Boys and Girls Club and help mentor a child after school? Why don't you walk across the street and tell a neighbor who may be a shut-in that you love them and ask them what you can do to help them? It's these acts of kindness that help define the soul of America.

I met a young lady today at the airport named Tammy Krohn—where are you, Tammy? There she is, Tammy Krohn. Tammy Krohn is an AmeriCorps volunteer. Tammy Krohn has said, "What can I do to help my country? What can I possibly do to make a difference in the lives of my fellow citizens?" She is a resident elementary school teacher for children with special needs. She trained a golden retriever that will serve someone with physical disabilities. Oh, some say, "Well, you know, that's not that big a deal." It's a big deal to the person she's helping. You see, America changes, America becomes a better place one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And what Tammy knows is that one person can't do everything, but one person can make an enormous difference in the lives of somebody who needs help.

And that's my call today. To those of you who live—are going to college—you got a great education here, you're going to go to college, I just want you to remember that if you're interested in fighting evil, if you're interested in making this Nation as strong as it possibly can be, help somebody in need. Take time out of your day, take time out of your life to be a part of the vast army of compassion which exists all across this great land.

I want you to know you live in the greatest country—the greatest country—on the face of the Earth, and I am proud to be your

President. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin.

Remarks at Clarke Street Elementary School in Milwaukee May 8, 2002

The President. I'd like to thank my friend Rod Paige, who is the Secretary of Education. Scott McCallum, your Governor—welcome to your Governor. I want to thank the teachers who are here. Thank you all for teaching.

I'm here because this is a great school that believes every child can learn. It starts with a mindset that says every child can learn. That means there's high expectations, and there's a willingness to make sure every child is learning. I appreciate the curriculum you're using. We went—a reading program that we're quite familiar with in Texas—Rod and I are from Texas—and it's a program that works. You're using a curriculum that has been proven to work, and that's important. I want to thank the parents who are here. You've got a responsibility to make sure your children come to school polite, prepared, ready to learn. Make sure you encourage them to read more than they watch TV. I know that's a monumental task, but it's important. It's important to make sure every child learns to read. And parents have got a lot of responsibility to make sure their children learn to read.

I want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs that are involved here as well. I appreciate that. We're going to change America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. And the Boys and Girls Clubs are an integral part of providing help, particularly in after-school programs. And I want to thank you for being here.

Okay, I've got some questions for you. Ready? How many of you are going to college?

[*The students raised their hands.*]

The President. That's good news. See, that means you've set a goal. In order to meet

that goal, you've got to really be good readers, and you've got to study and listen to your teachers.

How many of you read more than you watch TV? [*Laughter*] With all due respect to the cameras, I hope you read more than you watch TV. You learn a lot more. It will help you get ready. See, if you raised your hand and said you wanted to go to college, in order to make sure you help achieve that goal, practice your reading. A good way to do it is to turn your TV sets off and practice.

And finally, in order to go to college, to meet the goal you've set, make sure you make right choices. Tell them, "no," when somebody tries to say drugs are cool or alcohol is good. Make the right choices. You'll be in college, and that's what we want.

I'm so glad that we could come by to see you all. God bless you all, and thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Logan High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you. Okay, here we go. Thank you all very much. It's—

Audience member. We all love you!

The President. Your mother may be watching; behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here. I want to thank the citizens of La Crosse, Wisconsin, for such a warm welcome. I'm—great to be here in Logan High School. It's a great place.

So I was being briefed about Logan High School. I'll tell you what impressed me the most. I was impressed by the fact you've got a great baseball team. I was impressed you've got a great girls basketball team. But I was most impressed when I saw that the school raised a banner for the academic superstars. I'm at this school, of course, to talk education, but I'm also here to herald excellence. And we have found excellence at Logan High School, and thanks for giving me a chance to come by.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education traveling with me today. You know, we've got

a lot of people who like to theorize in Washington, DC—kind of philosopher types. I'm kind of a roll-up-your-sleeve-and-get-it-done type guy. And that's what I want the people—and I picked that kind of man as our Secretary of Education as well. This is a fellow who's been on the frontlines of education. I had the honor of meeting your superintendent here in La Crosse. They were able to talk superintendent talk. [Laughter] They know how to get things done. And so I've got a really good man who's joined me in my administration to help make sure that no child in America—and we mean no child—is left behind when it comes to education.

I want to thank Logan High grad, class of '81, Congressman Ron Kind for joining us today. Thank you, Ron. I really appreciate you coming today. I'm honored you're here. I also want to thank your Governor, Scott McCallum, for traveling with me today as well. I want to thank Michael McArdle, who is the president of the La Crosse School Board, for being here. I want to thank all the school board members. I appreciate Thomas Downs, who's your superintendent. Interestingly enough, he showed me a picture of he and my dad when he was—I think, a teacher, he said, in Iowa. I really want to thank Scott and the staff and the teachers for making this visit possible. You know, one of the things I've learned, as Governor and now President, is that when you find a good school, you also find a good principal.

There's going to be some folks here graduating, I understand, pretty soon.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't take it for granted. [Laughter] But you'll be the first high school class that has graduated with America under attack. We got under attack in September, and you're graduating in a time of war. And I want to talk to you a little bit about what that means for America, what it means for our country, what it means for a nation to fight for what it believes in.

I can't imagine what went through the minds of our enemy when they attacked us on September the 11th. You know, they must have thought America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so selfish that we would cower in the face of a challenge; well, we

might file a few lawsuits or two, but that would be all we would do. But that's not the America I know, and that's not the America you're a part of. This is a country that when it comes to defending that which we believe in, when it comes to defending our freedoms, we are patient; we're deliberate; and we are plenty tough.

You're graduating in a time of war, right here in America, but a war that your textbooks really haven't been able to describe before. It's a new kind of threat to our country. Now, you need to know right off the bat that our enemy are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. And they hate America because of our freedoms. They cannot stand the thought that we worship freely, that we've got freedom of the press, that we debate freely. They can't stand that. It bothers them. And therefore, they're out to hurt us again.

Now, you need to also know that we're doing everything we can to protect the American people. My most important job is the security of the American people. I learn that every day when I walk into the grand Oval Office. In the morning, I walk in there, and first thing I do, of course, is—after I bring the First Lady a little coffee—[laughter]—is take Spot and Barney down, let them work the South Lawn for a while. [Laughter] Spot was born in the White House. She's 13 years old. She understands the decorum of the Oval, so she gets to go in. But Barney is only a year and a half and we got a new rug, so he doesn't. [Laughter]

Every morning I read about threats to America. I read about the enemy wanting to inflict some more harm on us. And every morning it reminds me that I will do everything in my power to protect the American people.

Our law enforcement officials are talking better amongst each other; we're sharing information a lot better way now. The Federal Government is in better communications with State and local governments. And anytime we get a hint or anytime we get kind of a sniff that something might be fixing to happen, you need to know we're acting. We're acting within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we're acting,

But the best way—and I want the students to understand this—the best way for me and our Government to protect the homeland is to chase these killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that’s what we’re going to do. And it’s going to take a lot longer than people want; it’s just going to take a lot longer than people want. We’re not dealing with an organized government with the Al Qaida network. We’re dealing with people who, on the one hand, send youngsters off to kill themselves, and they themselves try to hide in caves. That’s the way they are.

It’s important for you to know as well that when your country speaks, we’re going to do what we say. And we told the Taliban, “Since you’re harboring those terrorists, you’re just as guilty,” and we ran them out of business. Thanks to the United States military and a mighty coalition, we ran them out of business.

Our country doesn’t seek revenge. I want the high school kids here to understand: We don’t seek revenge; we seek justice; that’s what we seek. And when we went into Afghanistan, I want you to remember—and history will record—that this Nation, this decent, kind Nation liberated a group of people from the clutches of barbaric people who would not even educate young girls. We went in not as conquerors but as liberators. And I’m proud of our Nation, and I’m proud of our heart.

Now, it’s going to take a while—it’s going to take a while. But much to the chagrin—I guess to the chagrin—I haven’t spent a lot of time talking with the enemy, but I got the feeling they’re going to be disappointed to hear that we’re going to remain united as a country and that we’re resolved and we’re patient and we’re plenty tough; that they think they can hide, but they can’t. Our strategy has been not only to disrupt the government that harbored these people; we’re destroying their training camps; we’re disrupting their finances. We’re chasing them down. We’re denying them sanctuary in other parts of the world. Listen, these are the kind of people that if they can find a soft spot, they’ll light. If they can find somewhere where there may be a weak government, they’ll try to move in. And that’s why, when I look at some of these leaders and

send a message, “Either you’re with us, or you’re with them,” they understand that we mean what we say. And we’re beginning to deny sanctuary.

No, it’s going to take a while. But the people in this high school, the kids in this high school have got to understand, it is worth it. I will not let—your Government’s not going to let people destroy the freedoms that we love in America. We fight for civilization, and they’re going to find out what this country is made out of. This country is going to defend our values to the core, and we’re going to win.

But not only do we work to make our country and the world safer; we also got to work to make it better, a better place. And it starts with making sure every child in America gets educated. I—there’s been a lot of talk about this bill I was able to sign—by the way, worked on by both Republicans and Democrats. It was a—it was a refreshing change of what sometimes takes place in Washington, or a lot of times, where people are in there just trying to promote their own political party without worry about the Nation. This is a piece of legislation where we worried about the Nation and not our political parties, and the Nation is better off for it. I want to thank Ron for his vote on this piece of legislation, by the way.

But here’s what—here’s what—let me tell you the philosophy in the bill. It first starts off by saying, in order to achieve educational excellence around the Nation, we must have high expectations and high standards. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. If you have low expectations—in other words, some can’t learn—you’re going to get bad results. It starts with a mindset. See, I believe every child can learn, and I expect every child to learn. We have raised the bar of expectations.

And in order to make sure that’s happening, we’re insisting that people show us it’s happening. See, if you believe it can happen, then you want to know if it’s happening. If you don’t believe it can happen, you don’t care. If you have low expectations for students, if you have low standards, you don’t care whether they’re learning, because you

don't think they can. If you have high expectations, you care, and therefore, you want to see.

And we want to know. We want to know through an accountability system, designed not by the Federal Government but by the good people of Wisconsin. That's who's going to design it. We want to know. We want to know. We want to see the scores. We want to post it for everybody to see, because we believe every child can learn. I know you don't like to take tests. Too bad. *[Laughter]* It is important. It's important. So what we're saying, that after a period of time, the State of Wisconsin must develop accountability, grades three through eight. If we spend Federal money, we're going to see some results. And so we want to know.

And by the way, an accountability system is not meant to punish anybody; it's meant to be used as an information tool. And if things are going well, we ought to use the accountability system as a way to praise the teachers and principals for success. However, if we find out children aren't learning, there's a reason, and we need to know the reason. And we need to solve the problems early, before it's too late. This business about just shuffling kids through the system has got to end. This business about kind of promoting them out—*[applause]*.

But part of making sure that we also succeed is the understanding that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to public education. I mean, look, we don't want Federal—Washington, DC, telling you all how to run your schools. You've got plenty of good people here in Wisconsin. As a matter of fact, the people who love the children in Wisconsin are the people of Wisconsin. And therefore, we have passed a lot of power and authority out of DC to align responsibility and authority where it belongs, at the local level.

Also, an incredibly important part of a successful school system, the thing that matters a lot, of course, is the teachers. And I want to thank the teachers here at Logan High School for doing what you do. It's an incredibly noble profession. It's an important profession. And it's one that I hope—I assume that you get a lot out of it by making sure that our children learn.

The teaching profession needs to be heralded. And we've got a great person in my administration who's willing to do just that, a former teacher, my wife, Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics or politicians, for that matter. *[Laughter]* Thank goodness she said yes when I asked her to marry me. A lot of people now know why I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering out loud why she said yes. *[Laughter]* But she's great. And she's going to go around the country reminding people that if you want to serve your community—reminding young and old—if you want to serve your community, teach. Become a teacher. We've got a Troops for Teachers program for retired military to go in the classroom. We've got Teach for America programs. We've got all kinds of opportunities. When you go to college and you're looking for something to do and you're wondering about your career, think about becoming a teacher, to make a difference in the lives of our children.

The bill we passed has got \$3 billion additional dollars in there for teacher training, teacher recruitment, teacher retention programs. And that's good. But it's going to be up to the local districts, the States and local districts, to figure out how to spend that money to make it work for the teachers.

But I'll tell you another piece of reform that's really important in this bill. One of the things that's important is for teachers to be able to control her classroom or his classroom. It's essential that that be the case. And for the first time, the Federal Government has limited liability for teachers and principals and school board members and superintendents when they enforce reasonable standards of conduct in classrooms.

Let me see if I can put that a little more plainly. If you think you can disrupt your class, you're going to get booted out, and the teacher's not going to get sued. So don't disrupt the class. *[Laughter]*

Parents have got a lot to do with whether or not schools in our communities succeed. The parents have got to make sure that young children read more than they watch TV. That's a hard thing to do. Oh, I know it's hard to turn off the TV and read to your

child. But it's really important for a mom or a dad—if a mom or a dad wants their child to learn, get reading to them early and stay on it and click off the tube. Your children are going to learn a heck of a lot more.

It's important for parents to come to the PTAs and to be interested. It's important for a parent to make sure that a child understands respect for teachers when they get in that classroom, that they have got a responsibility to be respectful. And one way to make sure parents are involved is to use the accountability system. A lot of parents in America feel like their school is doing just fine, until they see the results of the children's tests, until it's a comparative system like you do here in La Crosse.

This man right here, he's not worried about comparing. He's a confident principal. He's confident in the teachers. He doesn't care if there's a comparison, because he knows he's going to do well. He's focused. He likes that idea of a good, healthy comparison.

But in order to enhance parental involvement, parents need to know. It's amazing how many parents say, "Everything is going just fine in my child's school," until they see the results. And if you want to enhance teacher—parental involvement, let them see whether or not their children are learning relative to the school across town. Just make sure that the scorecard is honest and open and transparent, and you'll get parental involvement and even more.

This State has enacted public school choice, which basically says, if your child is trapped in a failed school, we're not going to tolerate that anymore. And if you're tired of it, you can move to another public school. I think that's a good, healthy reform. Our bill does just that. And not only that, if a child is trapped in a school that won't change, after 3 years there are what's called supplemental services. That means money, Title I money follows the child—a Title I-eligible child to tutoring services, summer school, after-school services. If you're interested in making sure no child is left behind and you find children trapped in schools that will not change and will not teach, we've got to make sure that they get extra help, and give parents additional choices.

And that's exactly what this bill does. Parental involvement not only happens when there's care and love—I told people earlier today at our seminar, I can't make people love one another; that's not the role of Government. But we can provide the tools necessary for loving parents to become more involved. And one way to do so is for the results to be open and for parents to have different options.

Now, we've got a good plan, but it's up to you to make it work. The Federal Government is not going to—the Federal Government is going to spend money, which we have; the Federal Government is going to provide a strategy. But it's up for the local folks, and that's why we've come to this school. This is a school in which the community takes great pride. Mothers and dads take great interest. The teachers take great time to make sure that every child gets educated. A better America is going to be an America that educates every child.

I keep saying "every child." The truth of the matter is, we're not educating every child right now. We're letting a lot of them just go on through, the tough-to-educate. "If you don't speak English or the mothers or dad-dies don't speak English as a first language, let's just move them through"—that's going to quit, as far as I'm concerned. That's not the America I know.

The public school system is a vital part of our democracy. It is absolutely essential that we have educational excellence if we want our democracy and our freedom and our system to flourish and thrive. And that's the kind of public school system I envision, and I know it's the kind you envision as well.

I believe that out of the evil of September the 11th will come incredible good. I believe that we can achieve peace. That's my dream. Oh, it's going to be tough to get there; there's going to be some hills to climb. But out of this, by being firm and resolved, we'll achieve peace, and that's important for America. It's important for our children. It's important for our children's children.

I also believe out of this evil will come some good, because Americans are such a compassionate and kind people. People ask me, "What can I do to join the war on terror?" And my answer is, love a neighbor like

you'd like to be loved yourself—that if you want to fight evil, do some good; that if you want to confront the evildoers that struck America, walk across the street and tell a shut-in that you love them. Mentor a child. Teach a child. Go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and rally the compassion within the—within the halls there to feed the hungry. There are pockets of despair in America. There are pockets of hopelessness right here in La Crosse, Wisconsin. And if you want to fight evil, tackle those pockets of despair with love and decency.

I met Dorothy Wetterlin today. Where's Dorothy? She's somewhere. Hey, Dorothy, stand up, will you? No? You don't want to stand up? Okay, don't stand up. Dorothy kindly came out to the airport to greet me. The reason why is because Dorothy is a soldier in the army of compassion here in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She is—helps victims of domestic abuse and violence. She started puppet shows for young kids in elementary schools to teach them how to make the right choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol. She's a person making a difference. She's a person who understands that one person can't do everything but one person can darned sure do something to help somebody in need.

America is full of Dorothys. You've got them all across this country. And I want the young to understand that I believe you have an obligation as an American to help make this country a compassionate and decent place. I believe that it's important for you—I know it's important you go to college or whatever you're going to do after high school, go to work. But remember, if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. Lend your heart; lend your talent to help somebody in need.

And America is doing this. I am so optimistic about the future of our country, not only because we are strong and tough and resolved. I am optimistic about the future of America because we are decent and honorable and good people.

I think the most telling event on September 11th, and one that I hope a lot of people remember, is what happened on Flight 93. Basically, what I'm saying is, it's important to serve something greater than

yourself in life. It's important to serve a call greater than yourself and a cause greater than yourself. Flight 93, we had average citizens flying across the country, and they realized their plane was fixing to be used as a weapon on the Nation's Capital. They called their loved ones on the phone. They said a prayer and told them they loved them, said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

That's the American spirit I know. That's that sense of sacrifice that makes this country so strong. And that's exactly what's happening. I want you to know when you get out of high school, you're going to college, and you're going to college in the greatest land, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it is my high honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Scott Mihalovic, principal, Logan High School. He also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Karachi, Pakistan

May 8, 2002

The United States deplors and condemns the terrorist murders carried out by a suicide bomber in Karachi, Pakistan, earlier today. Today's attack underscores the dangers all our citizens and societies continue to face from such attacks and strengthens our resolve to continue working together to fight terrorism at home and abroad.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the families of the victims and the people of Pakistan and France, whose citizens were killed in this attack.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Peru-United States Extradition Treaty

May 8, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Peru, signed at Lima on July 26, 2001.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of modern extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States and will replace the outdated extradition treaty in force between the two countries signed in 1899. The Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of the two countries. It will make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts against serious offenses, including terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 8, 2002.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

May 8, 2002

President Bush. It's an honor for me to welcome back His Majesty the King of Jordan. I always enjoy a visit with His Majesty. He's a man who cares deeply about the people of the region, a person who always emphasizes the humanitarian aspects of the people of his country. And he cares deeply about peace.

It's a series of ongoing discussions I'm having with leaders from the Middle East as to

how we can seize the moment, to bring peace to the region. Your Majesty, welcome back to the Oval Office. I'm thrilled to have you here.

King Abdullah. Thank you, Mr. President. Always a delight to see you again and to be here at this difficult time. And I hope that with our discussions today, we can somehow try and articulate a way to bring Palestinians and Israelis to peace and security. And I look forward to fruitful discussions with you this evening.

President Bush. Thank you. We—the Majesty has agreed to take a couple of questions, as have I. We'll start with Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you said, "Seize the moment." In many ways, this is a difficult moment. At this juncture, as you're trying to put in place a structure for progress towards peace, do you believe that Prime Minister Sharon should act with restraint in responding to yesterday's suicide bombing?

President Bush. Well, first I want to remind everybody, it seems like every week is a difficult week in the Middle East. And it's been difficult months in the Middle East, and it's been difficult years in the Middle East. There's been a lot of—there's been a lot of hard feelings and hatreds. And our jobs are to convince people, first and foremost, that they've got to believe in peace.

And Israel is a nation that—it's a sovereign nation. But whatever response Israel decides to take, my hope, of course, is that the Prime Minister keeps his vision of peace in mind. We've got to want peace in order to achieve peace, and that's what the United States is working toward.

Efforts To End the Current Impasse

Q. Your Majesty, what is the Jordanian vision that you're going to present to the U.S. administration regarding the U.S. proposed peace conference?

King Abdullah. Well, we're actually here at the moment to see if we can identify some logical steps over the next few weeks to articulate a vision that brings the Israelis and the Palestinians out of the impasse that we're facing at the moment. And we'll discuss the

views this evening and maybe see if we can find a roadmap to have America's support to bring Israelis and Palestinians the peace that they deserve.

President Bush. Jim [Jim Gerstenzang, Los Angeles Times].

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, do you see any role at all for Arafat in any kind of peace conference at this point, or does that have to wait until there's been a reform in the Palestinian Authority?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I was pleased to read the transcripts of his call against terror in Arabic. I didn't read the transcripts in Arabic; I read the English translation. But I was most pleased that he did that. I thought that was a incredibly positive sign.

As you know, I've been one who—he has disappointed in the past, and therefore, I hope that his actions now match his words. It's very important for us, and I'm going to explain this to His Majesty why I think us—all of us involved must work hard to put a—the infrastructure in place or the structures in place for a Palestinian Authority that respects rule of law, that has its own constitution, that is able to fight corruption, that is able to spend money properly when it gets it from foreign sources, so that there is hope, there is hope for the Palestinian people.

One of the things I'm deeply concerned about, and I know His Majesty is as well, is that there is a lot of people—Palestinians who don't believe there is any hope; there's no future. And we've got to make sure they have a better future by putting an economic plan in place. But that can't happen unless there is a Palestinian Authority that's backed by a true government; I mean a true sense of the ability to run itself. And that, in turn, will help Israel be more comfortable with her neighbor.

And so we're going to talk about the way forward. And the way forward is to—and step one is to make sure there's a unified Palestinian security force, a force that is responsible, a force that reports to a certain authority figure, a force that we can hold accountable, a force that's not fractured and fights each other. And to that end, as you know,

the other day I announced that George Tenet is going to go to the region to help this reform.

Upcoming Arab Summit

Q. Your Majesty, you are the fourth leader now that's met with President Bush in the last 2 or 3 weeks. Where do you see the Arab nations right now? One of the things that the President called for was that the Arab nations need to take responsibility, need to take a leadership role. What do you see the Arab nations as doing, and what is the message that you're bringing now from the Arab leaders that you have met before coming here?

King Abdullah. Well, one of the things that we will discuss with the President this evening is that after this meeting our Foreign Minister goes to Cairo, to be there at a summit that is going to be convened by President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah with a group of Arab countries, that will articulate the vision of Beirut—in other words, the olive branch towards Israel in practical terms—and at the same time, having to deal with the issues of security and terrorism.

And I hope that there is a lot of success in that meeting, that it allows the Arab countries to really step up to the plate and move forward with the responsibility that we need from them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. King Abdullah referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Muasher of Jordan; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the

Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13250 of December 28, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Health and Human Services, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, Centers for Disease Control; and
Secretary's Regional Representative, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13243 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

President, Government National Mortgage Association;
Regional Director, Southeast/Caribbean (Atlanta, Georgia);
Regional Director, Midwest (Chicago, Illinois);
Regional Director, Southwest (Fort Worth, Texas);
Regional Director, Rocky Mountains (Denver, Colorado);
Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania);

Regional Director, Pacific/Hawaii (San Francisco, California);
 Regional Director, New England (Boston, Massachusetts);
 Regional Director, New York/New Jersey (New York, New York);
 Regional Director, Great Plains (Kansas City, Missouri); and
 Regional Director, Northwest/Alaska (Seattle, Washington).

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of the Interior

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of the Interior

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13244 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of

the Department of the Interior, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, U.S. Geological Survey;
 Director of the National Park Service;
 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
 Commissioner of Reclamation;
 Director, Minerals Management Service;
 Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;
 Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and
 Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Justice

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Justice

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, and the officers designated by the Attorney General pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 508 to act as Attorney General, have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General, the following officers of the Department of Justice, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General, if they are eligible to act as Attorney General under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General:

- United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York;
- United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia;
- United States Attorney for the District of Utah; and
- United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Attorney General pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Attorney General.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Transportation

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Transportation

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and the officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 102(e) to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Transportation, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

- Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation;
- Under Secretary of Transportation for Security;
- Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;
- Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Southwest Region; and
- Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of the Treasury

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of the Treasury

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13246 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of the Treasury, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

- Fiscal Assistant Secretary;
- Chief of Staff;
- Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Internal Revenue Service;
- Commissioner of Customs, U.S. Customs Service;

- Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Glynco, Georgia);
- Commissioner, Wage & Investment Operating Division, Internal Revenue Service (Atlanta, Georgia); and
- Assistant Commissioner, Office of Securities Operations, Bureau of Public Debt (Parkersburg, West Virginia).

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13247 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and

duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Director, Veterans Health Administration;
VISN 7 Director, Veterans Health Administration;
VISN 19 Director, Veterans Health Administration; and
VISN 21 Director, Veterans Health Administration.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Administrator), the Deputy Administrator of

the Environmental Protection Agency, and the officers designated by Executive Order of today's date, entitled "Providing an Order of Succession in the Environmental Protection Agency and Amending Certain Orders on Succession," to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the Environmental Protection Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Regional Administrator, Region I; and
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region VIII.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the

Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

General Counsel;

Administrator of the United States Fire Administration;

Assistant Director, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate; and

Regional Director, Region IV.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the General Services Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Administrator of General Services

Subject: Designation of Officers of the General Services Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Administrator of General Services (Administrator) and the Deputy Administrator of General Services (Deputy Administrator) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the General Services Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Administrator or Deputy Administrator is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Chief of Staff; Commissioner, Public Buildings Service;

Chief Financial Officer; and

Assistant Regional Administrator, Public Buildings Service, Greater Southwest Region (Fort Worth, Texas).

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345

et seq., to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the National Archives and Records Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Archivist of the United States

Subject: Designation of Officers of the National Archives and Records Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Archivist of the United States (Archivist) and the Deputy Archivist of the United States (Deputy Archivist) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist, the following officers of the National Archives and Records Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist, if they are eligible to act as Archivist under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Archivist or Deputy Archivist is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist:

- Assistant Archivist for Administrative Services;
- Assistant Archivist for Human Resources and Information Services;
- Assistant Archivist for Records Services, Washington, D.C.;
- Assistant Archivist for Regional Records Services;
- Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries;
- Director, Office of the Federal Register;

Director, National Personnel Records Center; and

Director, Jimmy Carter Library.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Archivist pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Archivist.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Personnel Management, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Chief of Staff;
 General Counsel;
 Associate Director, Retirement and Insurance Service;
 Associate Director, Office of Merit Systems Oversight and Effectiveness;
 Associate Director, Workforce Compensation and Performance Service;
 Associate Director, Employment Service;
 Associate Director, Investigations Service;
 Director, Office of Executive and Management Development (Charlottesville, Virginia);
 Chief, Atlanta Oversight Division, Office of Merit Systems Oversight and Effectiveness; and
 Assistant Director for Operations, Investigations Service (Boyers, Pennsylvania).

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Commissioner of Social Security (Commissioner) and the Deputy Commissioner of Social Security (Deputy Commissioner) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner, the following officers of the Social Security Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner, if they are eligible to act as Commissioner under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner:

Chief of Staff;
 Deputy Commissioner for Operations; and
 Regional Commissioner, Philadelphia.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Commissioner pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Commissioner.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks in a Tribute to Milton Friedman

May 9, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. It's an honor for me to be here to pay tribute to a hero of freedom, Milton Friedman. He has used a brilliant mind to advance a moral vision: The vision of a society where men and women are free, free to choose, but where government is not as free to override their decisions.

That vision has changed America, and it is changing the world. All of us owe a tremendous debt to this man's towering intellect and his devotion to liberty. So it's my honor to

welcome you all to the White House. Thank you for coming. I'm looking forward to having lunch. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate Larry Lindsey, and I want to thank him for his leadership and his friendship. I, of course, want to welcome Rose Friedman as well. I'm so honored that the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld, has joined us as well as the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz. I want to thank the Chairman for being here. Chairman Greenspan is a steady influence on our country, and I appreciate your leadership. I want to welcome Dr. Gary Becker, professor at the University of Chicago, who mentored Milton Friedman—*[laughter]*—a Nobel Prize winner. And I want to thank Guity for coming as well. Welcome. And I appreciate Ed Meese being here as well. It's great to see you, General.

Milton Friedman has shown us that when government attempts to substitute its own judgments for the judgments of free people, the results are usually disastrous. In contrast to the free market's invisible hand, which improves the lives of people, the government's invisible foot tramples on people's hopes and destroys their dreams.

He has never claimed that free markets are perfect. Yet he has demonstrated that even an imperfect market produces better results than arrogant experts and grasping bureaucrats. But Milton Friedman does not object to government controls solely because they are ineffective. His deeper objectives flow from a moral framework. He has taught us that a free market system's main justification is its moral strength. Human freedom serves the cause of human dignity. Freedom rewards creativity and work, and you cannot reduce freedom in our economy without reducing freedom in our lives.

As Milton Friedman has written, "I know of no society that has been marked by a large measure of political freedom and that has not also used something comparable to a free market to organize the bulk of economic activity." This viewpoint was once controversial, as was Milton Friedman, himself.

When he began his work, the conventional wisdom held that capitalism's days were numbered. Free market systems were thought to be unsuited to modern problems.

Today, we recognize that free markets are the great engines of economic development. They are the source of wealth and the hope of a world weary of poverty and weary of oppression.

We have seen Milton Friedman's ideas at work in Chile, where a group of economists called the "Chicago Boys" brought inflation under control and laid the groundwork for economic success. We have seen them at work in Russia, where the Government recently adopted a 13 percent flat tax with impressive results. We have seen them at work in Sweden, which has adopted personal retirement accounts. We have seen them even at work in China, where the Government conceded long ago that Marxism was, in their words, "no longer suited" to China's problems. These are extraordinary developments. They demonstrate that the rest of the world is finally catching up with Milton Friedman. *[Laughter]*

Yet Milton Friedman has done more than defend freedom as an abstract ideal. He has creatively applied the power of freedom to the problems of our own country, and in the process he has become an influential social reformer.

Milton has shown us how freedom can enhance our national security. He is the intellectual godfather of our all-volunteer army. He argued that America could rely on the dedication of soldiers who serve in armed forces of their own free will, and he was right. We have recently seen the quality and idealism and skill of the all-volunteer army. Those who serve our country by choice are serving it with honor.

Milton Friedman has also shown us how freedom can foster educational reform. For many years, he has been a tireless advocate of school choice as a way of empowering parents and improving the performance of our schools. Educational reform advances when parents have the information and the authority to push for reform. And there is no greater authority than a good alternative. Poor children in America need better options when they're trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change.

In all of these issues and debates, Milton Friedman has argued with consistency and courage and trademark bluntness. His ideas

have influence around the world. And by his strength of conviction, he has served his country with distinction. And it has been recognized as such: After all, he received the 1976 Nobel Prize for Economics, and in 1988 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 1938, Milton Friedman married Rose Director, an outstanding economist in her own right, and the only person known to have ever won an argument with Milton. [*Laughter*] Half a century later, Milton and Rose Friedman published a joint memoir called “Two Lucky People.” There’s no doubt that Milton and Rose Friedman have been lucky, but not as lucky as America. We’re lucky that their parents chose to immigrate from Europe. We’re lucky they gave them the love and encouragement they needed to be bold and to succeed. We’re lucky that Milton Friedman flunked some of his qualifying exams to become an actuary—[*laughter*]—and became an economist, instead. [*Laughter*] We’re thankful for those tough exams—[*laughter*]—but not nearly as thankful as we are for the lives and talents and intellect of Milton and Rose Friedman.

May God bless them both, and welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Gary S. Becker, professor of economics and sociology at the University of Chicago, and his wife, Guity; and former Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

May 9, 2002

Nominations to the Federal Judiciary

The President. I want to thank the Senators for being here today; we’re talking about a—judges. We have a vacancy crisis in America. There are too many seats that aren’t filled with judges, and therefore, America hurts, America is not getting the justice it needs.

Ours is a system that relies upon an independent court system, and when there is vacancies, the American people suffer. And I

call upon the Senate to approve—at least give hearings to people we’ve sent up to the Senate. There are 30 circuit court vacancies in America, and they’ve approved 7. This is a bad record, and it’s a record that’s bad for the country.

Over a year ago I submitted the names of 11 qualified, well-qualified Americans, and the Senate has only dealt on 3 of them. These Senators here bring stories about circuit courts in their own States, in their own districts, that because of vacancies, good, honest Americans aren’t getting their hearings. And this isn’t right.

For the good of the country, the Senate needs to act and act expeditiously on the nominees I’ve sent up. It’s important that our judiciary be full.

I’ll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Arshad [Arshad Mohammed, Reuters].

Q. Mr. President—

The President. You’re second, Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Q. Mr. President, do you think this is just—do you think this is just raw politics on the part of the Democrats?

The President. Well, you can ask the Senators here. But yes, I do. I think it’s bad politics. These are well-qualified—you know, they’ve relied upon the American Bar Association in the past. These nominees have been given well-qualified or qualified ratings. Yes, I think it’s raw politics, and I think it’s bad for the country.

Sonya.

Afghan Warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

Q. Mr. President, the CIA—

The President. Is this going to have anything to do about judges?

Q. —launched a missile attack against an Afghan warlord. Is this now U.S. policy—

The President. What was that, again?

Q. Near Kabul, an Afghan warlord survived a missile attack, and this has been acknowledged today by Government officials. I’m trying to—what my question to you is, is whether this is now the policy to pursue with missiles anyone that’s—I mean, why are we firing at this man? Is he suspected to be Taliban or Al Qaida?

The President. I can assure you, when we go after individuals in the theater of war, it's because they intend to do some harm to America.

Federal Deficit

Q. Mr. President, last night your budget director said that he had, in his words, grave doubt whether the deficit can be erased by 2004, as your administration previously said that it would be. Does it give you any concern that you might be facing a reelection campaign at a time when the budget would still be in red ink?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm not thinking that far ahead about my election. I am thinking about how to win a war, how to get this country's economy growing, and how to deal with a national emergency. When I ran for office I said the only way we'd have a deficit, as far as I was concerned—if any of those three happened. All three happened.

And I firmly believe that we need to spend what it takes to protect our freedoms, and we're going to do that. We need to make sure our military has got the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible to win this war. And it's going to take a while to win the war. This isn't a war that's going to end tomorrow. It's a war that is going to require a steady, patient, united country going after people who still want to harm America. It's going to require money to make sure our national security, homeland security is intact.

And in terms of the economy, the economy is beginning to come back but certainly not as strong as I would like. And until the economy comes back as strong as it can, revenues aren't going to be as good as they should be.

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, Israeli officials told me yesterday that you weren't against the idea of moving Yasser Arafat out of a position of power in a reformed Palestinian Authority as long as he was neither hurt nor exiled. Is that an accurate reflection of your opinion?

The President. No, it's not. No, it's not an accurate reflection of what went on in the

Oval Office, as the Secretary of State has made clear—who was in the meeting as well.

What is an accurate reflection of my opinion is that Mr. Arafat has let the Palestinian people down. He hasn't led. And as a result, the Palestinians suffer, and my heart breaks for the Palestinian moms and dads who wonder whether or not their children are going to be able to get a good education and whether or not there's going to be a job available for their children.

And one of the things that we did talk about was how to put institutions in place so that a potential Palestinian state can be a peaceful neighbor with Israel—reforms such as making sure there is a single command security force that can be held accountable for arresting terrorists; reforms such as having a kind of economic system that would help promote rule of law and defeat corruption; reform so that if there is ever a rebuilding campaign—which we've expressed an interest in doing and the Europeans have—that the money is actually spent on the projects that we intend them to be spent on. And that's what we did discuss.

Palestinian Authority Arrest of Hamas Terrorists

Q. Do you have any confidence that the Hamas members arrested today, sir, will stay in jail?

The President. We'll have to see. But what I said was—I said I was pleased that Chairman Arafat spoke in Arabic against terrorism. That's good. That's a positive development. Now it's up to Chairman Arafat to perform, to keep them in jail—arrest them, and keep them in jail. In order for there to be peace, there must be—we must rout out terror. And the answer to your question, time will tell.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan

May 9, 2002

The United States is saddened and angered by the deaths earlier today in an explosion during Victory Day celebrations in the town of Kaspiysk in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan. Of particular concern is that this evil act of terrorism occurred on a holiday when Russia celebrates its World War II victory over fascism and at a time when our nations are allied once again in a war against global terror. Terrorism and the killing of innocents can never be condoned or justified.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the families of the innocent children, veterans, and others killed, and I wish a full and fast recovery for those wounded in the incident.

Proclamation 7557—Mother's Day, 2002

May 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Mothers are central to the success of the American family. Their love, dedication, and wisdom touch countless lives every day in every community throughout our land. And their love and guidance of children help to develop healthy and spiritually sound families.

President John Quincy Adams once said, "All that I am my mother made me." President Abraham Lincoln believed, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother. I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." These statements are just as true for the millions of Americans who credit their mothers for helping to successfully shape their lives.

Millions of American mothers are at work in communities across the United States, improving the lives of their families and their neighbors through countless acts of thought-

ful kindness. They energize, inspire, and effect change in homes, schools, governments, and businesses throughout our country. By their example, mothers teach their children that serving others is the greatest gift they can give.

Nearly 100 years ago, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia helped establish the first official Mother's Day observance. Her campaign to organize such a holiday began as a remembrance of her late mother, who, in the aftermath of the Civil War, had tried to establish "Mother's Friendship Days" as a way to bring unity and reconciliation to our Nation. In 1910, West Virginia became the first State officially to observe Mother's Day. The idea caught on quickly; for just over a year later, nearly every State in the Union had officially recognized the day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Mother's Day proclamation, stating that the observance serves as a "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

On this special day and throughout the year, our mothers deserve our greatest respect and deepest appreciation for their love and sacrifice. I especially commend foster mothers for answering my call to service, volunteering their time and their hearts to aid children in need of a mother's love. To honor mothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914, as amended (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day" and has requested the President to call for its appropriate observance, which, as the son of a fabulous mother, I am pleased and honored to do again this year.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2002, as Mother's Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and gratitude to mothers everywhere for their remarkable contributions to their children, families, communities, and our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Ted Stevens

May 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. I'm honored to be here with the Alaskan of the Century—just wondering which century. *[Laughter]* It's a high tribute to be called the Alaskan of the Century, and he's well on his way for laying the foundations to becoming the Alaskan of this century.

I really am honored to be here with Ted. I appreciate a lot about him. I appreciate he's a straightforward fellow. *[Laughter]* There's no question—*[laughter]*—you know where he stands, in the great Alaskan and, for that matter, the great Texan tradition. There's no—as we say down home, there's no bull about him. And that's good—and that's good. That's good for the Senate; that's good for the people of Alaska; and more importantly, it's good for the United States of America. It is essential that this man be reelected Senator from the State of Alaska. And if all goes well, he'll be the President pro tem of the United States Senate as well.

I want to thank his patient wife, Catherine. We both—the Senator and I both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]* I'm sorry Laura's not here. She's a fan of the Stevenses. She is in New York City—actually, she's in New Haven today helping one of our daughters move out of her dorm room. But she sends her best. Like Ted, I am really proud of my wife. She's done a fabulous job. She's been a great First Lady.

I appreciate Ted's love of his children. When I was in Alaska last, I had the honor of meeting some of Ted's offspring—the State senator I had a chance to meet. And tonight I had a chance to meet Beth as well, and it's great to see you. I'm glad you're here, Beth. Thank you for coming. *[Laughter]*

It's also great to be here with the Governor of the—or at least the next Governor of the State of Alaska, Frank Murkowski. I appreciate Frank's leadership, and I also really ap-

preciate Don Young. He, too, is a straightforward Alaskan who makes a big difference. It's about as fine a congressional delegation as there is. It's 100 percent good. *[Laughter]*

I know there are a lot of Senator Stevens' colleagues here, and I want to thank his fellow Senators for coming. I also appreciate George W. being here, the mayor of Anchorage, George Wuerch. *[Laughter]* Mr. Mayor, you're kind to come down, as are all the folks from Alaska who traveled a long way to be here. It's a great testimony to this good man.

I also want to thank Jimmy Hoffa for being here. It's a big deal for Jimmy to be here, and it shows what kind of leader Ted Stevens is. We were there in line; somebody said, well, you know this guy represent—Jimmy said he represents the greatest generation, and he does. Just this week I had the honor of renaming the Old Executive Office Building for Dwight David Eisenhower. I guess it shall be called the Ike. *[Laughter]* But in the front row was Ted Stevens. Not only had he served in the Eisenhower administration, he also served our Nation as a C-46 and C-47 pilot during that war. This is a man who has paid his dues to his country, a man who loves America, loves what America stands for, and a man who serves ably in the United States Senate.

During a time of threat to the United States, it gives me great comfort to know that up there on Capitol Hill is a person who understands that America must be ready and prepared, that we've got to give our troops the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay. And as the ranking member of the defense appropriations subcommittee, the United States military has got a great friend in Ted Stevens.

As well, I appreciate his understanding that the strategic threats to the United States are changing. And in order to protect our Nation and our friends from blackmail or from the attack by a nation that harbors weapons of mass destruction, this good country must develop a missile defense system. Ted Stevens understands that. It's important to have an advocate for the defenses of the United States and our alliance and what we stand for in the United States Senate. And Ted clearly can see the future, and for that

I'm grateful, and so will the Nation be grateful. Future generations of Americans will be grateful when we finally develop a missile defense system that will protect us and protect our friends from an accidental launch or, more significantly, blackmail at the hands of one of these rogue nations that harbors and develops weapons of mass destruction. So, Mr. Senator, thank you for that as well.

There's a lot of thought up here in Washington about national defense, as there should be. After all, we are at war. And one of my concerns and one of the Senator's concerns is the fact that our Nation relies upon too much energy from nations that sometimes don't like us, that we're dependent on foreign sources of energy. And we don't necessarily have to be that dependent, because we've got vast reserves in the great State of Alaska. And for the good of our national security and for the good of our economic security, we must develop those reserves in an environmentally friendly way, and this man understands that.

Now, there's going to be a lot of issues we're faced with, and one of the reasons I want to make sure that we reelect Ted and take control of the Senate is because I want the good people that I send up as judges to get a fair hearing and to get a timely vote. We have a vacancy crisis in America, and we need a Senate that is able and willing to respond to that vacancy crisis. I want my nominees to be given a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote quickly, for the sake of the United States of America and our judiciary.

I can talk a lot of issues, but there's nothing more important than the security of this country. It's an unimaginable honor to walk in that Oval Office every morning, as you can imagine. By the way, that's after I have gotten the First Lady her coffee—[*laughter*]*—*and after Spot and Barney and I take a stroll on the South Lawn. Spot was born in the White House during 41's era, and so she's quite familiar with the surroundings, and she's welcome into the Oval Office with me, about 6:50 in the morning. Barney, on the other hand, at the age of 1½, is not allowed on the new carpet. [*Laughter*]

But I walk in there, and I sit at this magnificent desk. Ted Stevens has seen it a lot; he's seen other Presidents use this desk as

well. It's a desk that was used by Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan; a lot of Presidents have used it. Kind of settle in there, and the first thing I look at is a threat assessment to the United States of America; the fact that these killers—and that's all they are, they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers—are interested in hurting America. It's a reminder that my main job—and the truth of the matter, the job of the United States Congress—is to come together, Republicans and Democrats, to unite to make sure that our country is as secure as it can possibly be.

We've got a good homeland defense strategy. We're working on ways to get money into the hands of the first-responders, the brave police, fire, and EMS crews around the country. We've got a bioterrorism initiative. I'm about to sign a new border security initiative that passed the House and the Senate; it's a good piece of legislation. Our law enforcement teams are talking like they've never talked before. You just need to know that any time we get any kind of hint or evidence that somebody may be thinking about doing something to America, we're reacting. We're reacting within the guidelines and confines of the United States Constitution, but we're reacting. We're chasing down every single hint.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to make sure our children can grow up in a safe America, the best way to protect civilization itself is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we're going to do.

I know Ted is just as proud as I am at how our United States military has responded. We sent them into a tough situation in Afghanistan, and they and our friends and allies responded brilliantly. Our military makes us proud. And for those of you who've got relatives in the military, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation. And you make sure you thank your relatives on behalf of Senator Stevens and myself for doing such a fabulous job to defend freedom.

The other thing I'm proud about our military is that not only did they accomplish the first stage in the war against terror, which was upholding the doctrine, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist.

And we threw out this barbaric regime. But our troops went into Afghanistan not as conquerors, but they went in as liberators. We have liberated people because, you see, this country values the worth of every single individual, regardless of where they live, regardless of their religion. I am so proud of the fact that young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives in Afghanistan, thanks to the mighty United States of America.

The thing I appreciate about Ted Stevens is, he understands that we're in for a long struggle, that—you know, that we don't have a calendar. I don't have a calendar on my desk and he doesn't have one on his desk that says, by such and such a moment we will quit, that we're just going to kind of bail out after a period of time. That's what the enemy wants. But much to their chagrin, that's not what they're going to get. You see, we're relentless, and we're patient. And I've traveled this country a lot, and I can report to you that we are united because this country values our freedom. We value freedom. And anytime anybody threatens that which we hold dear to our heart, freedom, we will respond. We will respond in a smart, deliberate, but plenty tough way.

You know, I cannot imagine—I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they were plotting the attacks of September the 11th. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so selfish and so weak that all we'd likely do is file a couple of lawsuits. [Laughter]

They found out differently, didn't they, Senator? We're not only staying on course there in Afghanistan; we're denying sanctuary anywhere they think they can light. Anytime they try to train, we'll disrupt. Anytime they try to establish a training camp, we'll destroy it. And we're going to hunt them down one by one. There is no cave deep enough to hide from the justice of the United States of America.

Ted Stevens understands that when a nation is called to defend freedom, that we must not blink. He knows that, and I appreciate that very much, because I feel the exact same way. And we've been called to defend freedom. This is our moment in history, and

we're not going to let freedom-loving people down.

Out of this evil, I truly believe, is going to come some great good. I believe by remaining tough and resolved, by being well prepared, that we'll achieve peace. And that's my goal. I unleashed our military to achieve peace, peace all around the world. And I believe it's possible; matter of fact, I know it's possible.

And out of the evil done to America is going to come another incredible good, and that is this country is going to rise up with great compassion to solve many of the problems we find all around our country, whether it be in Alaska or Texas or anywhere else. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. And that's not good enough for our country.

People often ask me how they can help in the war against terror. I'll tell you how you can help: You can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to join the war on terror, mentor a child. Find somebody who seems lost and put your arm around them and say, "I love you." If you want to join the war against terror, simple acts such as walking across the street and telling a shut-in that you love them—it's part of this collective effort to stand squarely in the face of evil.

You see, it's the common good, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define the true character of the face of America. And in turn, we'll say to the evil ones that attacked us, "You will not prevail." Out of this evil will come peace, and out of this evil will come a more compassionate, more decent, more hopeful America.

It is an honor for me to be here with a great man. I want to thank you for helping him get reelected. I'm proud to call him friend. You all are proud to call him Senator. And the Nation is better off for it.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. in the L. Welch Pogue Room at the offices of the Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue law firm. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Stevens' son, Alaska State Senator Ben Stevens, and daughter, Beth Stevens; and James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Protocol Additional to the
Agreement Between the United
States of America and the
International Atomic Energy Agency
for the Application of Safeguards in
the United States of America**

May 9, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I submit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Additional to the Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America, with annexes, signed at Vienna June 12, 1998 (the “Additional Protocol”). Adhering to the Additional Protocol will bolster U.S. efforts to strengthen nuclear safeguards and promote the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign and national security policy.

At the end of the Persian Gulf War, the world learned the extent of Iraq’s clandestine pursuit of an advanced program to develop nuclear weapons. In order to increase the capability of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the “Agency”) to detect such programs, the international community negotiated a Model Additional Protocol (the “Model Protocol”) to strengthen the Agency’s nuclear safeguards system. The Model Protocol is to be used to amend the existing bilateral safeguards agreements of states with the Agency.

The Model Protocol is a milestone in U.S. efforts to strengthen the safeguards system of the Agency and thereby to reduce the threat posed by clandestine efforts to develop a nuclear weapon capability. By accepting the Model Protocol, states assume new obligations that will provide far greater transparency for their nuclear activities. Specifically, the Model Protocol strengthens safeguards by requiring states to provide broader declarations to the Agency about their nuclear programs and nuclear-related activities and by expanding the access rights of the Agency.

The United States signed the Additional Protocol at Vienna on June 12, 1998. The

Additional Protocol is a bilateral treaty that would supplement and amend the Agency verification arrangements under the existing Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America of November 18, 1977 (the “Voluntary Offer”), which entered into force on December 9, 1980. The Additional Protocol will enter into force when the United States notifies the Agency that the U.S. statutory and constitutional requirements for entry into force have been met.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the “NPT”) requires non-nuclear-weapon states parties to accept Agency safeguards on their nuclear activities. The United States, as a nuclear-weapon state party to the NPT, is not obligated to accept Agency safeguards on its nuclear activities. Nonetheless, it has been the announced policy of the United States since 1967 to permit the application of Agency safeguards to its nuclear facilities—excluding only those of direct national security significance. The Additional Protocol similarly allows the United States to exclude its application in instances where the United States decides that its application would result in access by the Agency to activities with direct national security significance to the United States or access to locations or information associated with such activities. I am, therefore, confident that the Additional Protocol, given our right to invoke the national security exclusion and to manage access in accordance with established principles for implementing these provisions, can be implemented in a fashion that is fully consistent with U.S. national security.

By submitting itself to the same safeguards on all of its civil nuclear activities that non-nuclear-weapon states parties to the NPT are subject to, the United States intends to demonstrate that adherence to the Model Protocol does not place other countries at a commercial disadvantage. The U.S. signature of the Additional Protocol was an important factor in the decisions of many non-nuclear-weapon states to accept the Model Protocol and provided significant impetus toward their early acceptance. I am satisfied that the provisions of the Additional Protocol, given

our right to manage access in accordance with Article 7 and established implementation principles, will allow the United States to prevent the dissemination of proliferation-sensitive information and protect proprietary or commercially sensitive information.

I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning the Additional Protocol, including an article-by-article analysis, a subsidiary arrangement, and a letter the United States has sent to the Agency concerning the Additional Protocol. Additionally, the recommended legislation necessary to implement the Additional Protocol will be submitted separately to the Congress.

I believe that the Additional Protocol is in the best interests of the United States. Our acceptance of this agreement will sustain our longstanding record of voluntary acceptance of nuclear safeguards and greatly strengthen our ability to promote universal adoption of the Model Protocol, a central goal of my nuclear nonproliferation policy. Widespread acceptance of the Protocol will contribute significantly to our nonproliferation objectives as well as strengthen U.S., allied, and international security. I, therefore, urge the Senate to give early and favorable consideration to the Additional Protocol, and to give advice and consent to its ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 9, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 10. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus, Ohio

May 10, 2002

Thanks for that warm Columbus, Ohio, welcome. It's nice to be back home—well—[laughter]—I say “home” because my grandfather was raised here, Prescott S. Bush, raised right here in Columbus, Ohio.

I want to thank you all for coming. I'm here—I want to talk about welfare today. I want to talk about how we make sure that

we continue on the progress that we have made since 1996. Millions of Americans no longer are dependent upon Government, and that's incredibly positive not only for America but, more importantly, for each individual. It brings dignity to someone's life when they're on their own and successful.

The Congress is going to take up a reauthorization, they call it in Washington-speak, of this legislation. And I've got an idea how best to make it work, continue the reforms, and how to make it work better for Americans.

We're really here to talk about the dignity and worth of each individual American. And joining me today is a man who understands that, is my Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Tommy was the Governor of Wisconsin, who in 1996 helped lead the Nation in getting a welfare reform bill that helped people but also showed what is possible when you trust local officials, when you give them the flexibility necessary to design a program to meet the needs of the citizens of a community or a State. Tommy did a fabulous job as the Governor of Wisconsin in helping people, and he's doing a great job as the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I want to thank your Governor. He's a longtime friend of mine. He's a man who, when we look out of Washington—which we need to do a lot of, by the way—and look down at the States, it gives us great comfort to know that Governor Taft would be in a position to help implement and start and encourage the programs necessary to help people, whether it be in education or in helping people become less dependent upon Government. And I want to thank you, Bob, for your service and thank you for your leadership. I'm honored to call you friend, and the people of Ohio are honored to call you Governor.

I want to thank my friend, former Governor, a man with whom Tommy and I served as Governors, who is now the United States Senator from the State of Ohio, George Voinovich. George is traveling with us today. I'm honored that you're here, George.

Deborah Pryce, Pat Tiberi, Bob Ney, David Hobson, and Rob Portman, all members of a fantastic congressional delegation, are with us today as well. I want to thank you all for traveling here today and thank you for your friendship. I want to thank Michael Coleman, the mayor of Columbus, for joining us today. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here; appreciate you coming. I want to thank the executive director of St. Stephen's Community House for letting us come.

Today, when I landed at the airport, I was greeted by a fellow named Gabe Wilson, who is a high school senior here. He's a fellow that takes time out of his day to help educate younger kids about the dangers of drug use. The reason I welcome Gabe and introduce him is because he understands that America can be better off, one person at a time. I like to put it this way: One person can't do everything, but one person can do something to help. He's a member of the army of the soldiers—he's a soldier in the army of compassion. Where are you, Gabe? Gabe, thank you for coming. [*Applause*]

You know, we've got big challenges ahead of our Nation. Obviously, one of the great challenges is to make sure that we protect our homeland, is to prevent the killers from harming any American, to do everything we can to chase them down and bring them to justice. That's a key priority, obviously, for me and my administration. It's a key priority to make the world peaceful, to seek the peace.

It's probably going to have to be a little tough to get there—have to defend our values, stand up for what we believe, not let people harm us. But we seek the peace. We seek the peace. We work to make the world more secure. But as we do so, we need to make—work hard to make the world better, too, a better place.

The best place to start is here at home. The best place to start is to make sure every child gets educated in America—I mean every child. Got good legislation that we passed. Believe it or not, actually, Republicans and Democrats worked together to get it done. We put aside our political parties and focused on what was right for America. And that's important—that's important.

And we need to do the same thing on helping people who are on welfare. We need to set aside our political parties and focus on what is best for the American people. Let's do what works. Let's make sure that we help people.

So today I do want to talk about welfare reform. We've come to St. Stephen's Community House because it is a living example of flexibility in the welfare law, what it means. It is a living example of what we call a one-stop center, where people who need help are able to come and find help to help themselves. I understand that this is a—kind of a welcoming center for people who are transitioning, a place where people can find all-important job training or childcare or counseling—just the help they need.

I am impressed by the programs that are here in the building and equally impressed by the fact that the county has taken a strong and active role. The United Way has taken an active role. The Catholic Church plays an active role here at St. Stephen's, and so do other individuals and community groups. It's important for there to be a collaborative effort in helping people, and this center recognizes that. It welcomes all the social entrepreneurs who are willing to help.

As we reauthorize the welfare bill, it is essential that we always remember the importance of work in our society, that work helps people achieve the dignity in their lives. If you believe that every person has got value, like I believe, then we ought to help that person find work. It's the cornerstone of the last—one of the cornerstones of the last welfare reform bills that has worked, by the way—it is successful—and it ought to be the cornerstone of the reauthorization. If work made a huge difference in people's lives as a result of the '96 bill, it ought to be a significant part of the reauthorization.

And so Congress must understand the power of work, and we must continue with time limits and high goals and high expectations. Within 5 years, 70 percent of the welfare recipients must work. We're saying, from the time the bill is reauthorized until 5 years later, the goal is that 70 percent of those on welfare, those remaining on welfare, must find a job. Oh, I've heard them complain about that's too high a goal. It's not too high

a goal if it helps a person—that helps a person. If it brings dignity into someone's life, it is not too high a goal.

And we're going to help. That's what St. Stephen's is here for. That's why we've got to have flexibility. We want to help people find the work. Right, Dannetta? I need to let Dannetta get up here and talk. She knows what she's talking about. She said to us, in a meeting we had before, she said the most important thing in the success of the '96 bill was there to be time limits on people being able to stay on welfare, that there be a time certain, so that people get moving.

I not only believe there ought to be time limits; I believe there ought to be strict goals, too—high expectations. The higher the expectations, the more likely it is people are going to succeed.

As part of the 40-hour workweek requirement, of course, we recognize that people need education and vocational help. And so part of meeting the work requirement is to allow for 2 days each week for vocational training and educational training. So in other words, part of the vision is to say, "You'll get work. We want to help you get work, and we recognize the importance of job training and vocational training to help people find the skills necessary to find jobs that actually exist," like they do right here at St. Stephen's.

Now, one of the keys to make sure—now, if we set high goals and high standards and high expectations, we've got to recognize that it's important to give flexibility to States and local authorities to achieve those goals. In order to achieve the expectations, you've got to trust local people. If you don't trust local people, it means everybody in Washington is making the decision. It's not going to work with everybody in Washington making the decision. There needs to be flexibility.

I was struck today on our discussions about the fact that a lot of folks from Somalia have come to Columbus. I met a young lady—there she is—who came from Somalia, who came—barely speak English; she got help. Needed job skills; she got help. She now owns her own business in America, because the program had flexibility to meet her particular needs. And we need to have flexibility—as we call it, the ticket to independence—that gives States the freedom to inno-

vate and to create programs that meet local needs.

Oh, some in Washington don't like that because they want to control everything out of Washington. But if you're interested in helping people, we've got to empower people at the local level to help people in need.

I'll give you an example of some of the roadblocks that Federal regulations create, all the rules, all the fine print, Mr. Mayor, all the thick layers of booklets. The Governor's explained to me this case, and it's interesting. There's a single mom with two daughters here in Ohio. One of the daughters is disabled, and the other daughter is working at—she's 17 years old—to help the family. She's working part time. Because she was 17 years old, her income didn't count in the formula to decide whether or not the family was eligible for food stamps. Guess what happened on her 18th birthday? All of a sudden, her income, because of a rule or regulation, starts to count. Even though the income level of the family didn't increase, they lost their food stamps.

Now, that's not what a compassionate America is all about. When people need help, we need to help them. Now, it's conservative to trust local people, but it's compassionate to provide flexibility so that rules and regulations don't prevent people from getting the help we want them to get. What ought to happen is, the State of Ohio should have the flexibility necessary to allow that young girl and her family to receive food stamps as a transition period to full-time employment. In other words, it ought to be a part of the transition from welfare to work, but that's not the way the food stamp program works.

And I'll tell you what else happens with a system that is too bureaucratic and too focused on rules and regulations. The administrative costs of these programs end up putting money not in the pockets of people we're trying to help, but in—as a result of the bean counters, you know, how do you keep track of what's going on? The more complicated the rules and regulations out of Washington, the more money States have to spend to account for the money.

And I'll give you an example. On the food stamp program here, the State of Ohio spent \$192 million administering the program. The

program provides \$573 million of benefits. That is a high cost per dollar delivered. It's about 25 percent overhead cost. Now, I'll tell you, a lot of that money—with fewer rules and regulations, a lot of that money would end up going to benefit people. And that's important for the American people to understand. The more regulations there are out of Washington, the more complex the Washington, DC, regulations are, the more likely it is money is not going to end up helping people.

And therefore, for the good of the people we're trying to help, flexibility out of Washington—no-strings-attached type legislation—not only will help people; it'll be more efficient with our taxpayers' money. After all, if you look at the success the TANF program, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Family program, the overhead cost in those programs as a result of the flexibility at the local level is only 10 percent—is only 10 percent. I hope Congress understands that granting States flexibility not only will help people we're trying to help but will make it easier to spend our dollars in a more efficient way.

We had some great success—we met with some great success stories. Josef, where are you? Josef is a man—as a result of flexibility in the program in Dayton, Ohio, Danna was able to take some TANF funds and some work assistance funds, and Josef is now becoming a computer expert. Yes, he's going to end up—[*applause*].

One of the important things about the future of our country is to remember some important values. One of the most important values in America is our family values, the importance of family in our country. Now look, I recognize that not every marriage is going to survive; I know that. And I recognize some folks, you know, are just going to find it impossible to stay married, and I know that. But I firmly believe that in order to make the welfare program work, in order to help people, that wherever couples seek help in trying to figure out how to save a marriage, our Government ought to be responsive to that need.

The statistics show that when moms and dads raise a child, when moms and dads stay together, that child is much more likely to succeed. It's an important—it's never to di-

minish the fact—listen, being a single mom raising a child is the toughest job in America. I know that. But wherever possible, we ought to promote and encourage programs that help save marriage, foster family, encourage families. That ought to be a focus of the welfare reform. We've got money in the budget to do just that.

Today we met with Melvin and Rhonda Tuggle. Where are the Tuggles? There they are. Thank you all for coming. These are folks that had—that had children. They had income, but it was certainly not enough to meet the needs of their three children. The economic struggles put a huge strain on their marriage. They split apart. Thankfully, in the city of Cincinnati, Rhonda sought help, sought a job training program to help her out. But one of the interesting things that she found in the program was the willingness of the folks there to help work to save her marriage.

In other words, you know, in a compartmentalized world, no one ever would have thought to have a marriage counseling be a part of somebody trying to help find a job, but these good people did. They understood the importance of family, the importance of encouraging moms and dads to stay together.

As a result of a social entrepreneur working hard to help save a soul, the Tuggles not only have helped improve themselves by better job training and better jobs, but they received the counseling necessary to encourage them to stay married. They had another child. They're together. Their four children now have a much better future as a result of the decision they made. We must have the courage in America to promote and encourage stable families for the good of our children.

It's also important to help our young children learn to make right choices in life, to help them understand consequences of choices. One of the parts of our welfare reform reauthorization is to promote abstinence, is to be willing as a society—[*applause*]. I've heard all the reasons why we shouldn't. Let me give you a reason why we should: It works every time. [*Laughter*]

And finally, in order to complete our welfare vision, which says we're going to help everybody in America, that every individual

has got worth and dignity, we must not be afraid to rally faith-based programs in America. There's legislation in Washington that will encourage charitable giving, allow non-itemizers to deduct their charitable gifts, which the experts tell me will increase charitable giving immeasurably in America, and that's good. It's important. Part of the legislation, the Faith-Based Initiative which has passed the House and hasn't passed the Senate yet—it needs to get out of the Senate, by the way—is to recognize that our Government should allow faith-based programs to access Federal dollars, to help people in need without causing them to have to lose the heart and soul of their mission.

Government has got to recognize that love and compassion are oftentimes the result of strong faith. In order to help heal broken hearts and save broken lives, we need love and compassion. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America that we must be addressing. Money helps, obviously, but it cannot put faith in people's lives, or hope. That requires compassion and decency.

I talk a lot in America about this war on terror, obviously. Part of my job is to educate the American people about how long it's going to take to defend ourselves. And it's going to take a while. But I also tell people, and I truly believe this, that out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. Part of the good is going to be peace. Part of the good is going to be a more compassionate America.

My call to the good folks of Columbus, Ohio, is to become involved in helping a neighbor in need. If you really want to join the war against terror, do some good. People say, "How can I fight the war against terror?" And the answer is, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

The Faith-Based Initiative relates to welfare that way. Loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself is the natural extension of welfare reform. The best way to save some folks from drug and alcohol abuse is to recognize faith can change hearts and therefore change lives. The best way to help a child who may wonder whether or not he or she has a future in America—and there's a lot who wonder that—is to encourage a loving mentor and welcome a loving

mentor in their lives. The best way to encourage the homeless to recognize that there—somebody cares, is for a church or a synagogue or a mosque to rally a program to help the homeless.

No, this is a great country, because we're full of great people. The strength of our country is not really in the halls of Government—our system is great; it's magnificent—but the true strength of America lies in the fact that there are millions of Americans who want to help a neighbor in need. The role of the Government is to recognize that power and that goodness of the American people, and structure our welfare laws that welcome and encourage and foster the greatness of the country.

Every American has got dignity. Every American has got value. And we want to make sure our laws welcome that—understand that. This is a welcoming country. And when we get the welfare reauthorization bill right, it's going to be even more welcoming.

Listen, thank you for letting me come and talk to you all. You live in the greatest country in the face of the Earth. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Judith Stattmiller, executive director, St. Stephen's Community House; Dannelle Graves, director, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services; and Ramla Munye and Josef Pollard, who were both helped by job assistance programs.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Governor Bob Taft in Columbus

May 10, 2002

Thank you very much. Gosh, it's a great Ohio welcome. I'm honored to be back. It's good to be back near the family plot. [*Laughter*] As you may recall, Prescott S. Bush, my grandfather, was raised right here in Columbus, Ohio. Last time I did that, my mother was watching on C-SPAN. She said, "What about my father?" [*Laughter*] I said, "Oh, yes, he was raised in Dayton, Ohio." [*Laughter*] So, Mother, I mentioned him. [*Laughter*]

But it's great to be back in this great State. I'm here to talk about welfare reform, but I'm also here to make sure that the good people of Ohio send this good man back to the Governor's Mansion. There's a lot of reasons to send him back, but none greater than the fact that he married well. *[Laughter]* Hope is doing a great job as the first lady of the State of Ohio.

When we were walking in, Bob was telling me how proud he is of Hope and the job she does, particularly to promote literacy. And I told him, "I'm real proud of my wife, too." I can't tell you how—what a great job Laura is doing. She has brought a lot of calm and a steady hand. You know, when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian who didn't like politics and really didn't like politicians. *[Laughter]* A lot of people are now beginning to realize why I asked her to marry me. She's got a lot of class. A lot of people, however, are wondering why she said yes. *[Laughter]* But I wish she were here. She loves the Tafts. She really appreciates Hope and Bob, and she sends her best to you all.

I'm also traveling with some pretty good company today. I had the honor of flying down on Air Force One with a fabulous United States Senator, George Voinovich. I like George; he's the kind of fellow that tells you what's on his mind. *[Laughter]* There's no doubt what he believes in. One of the things he believes in is Ohio. He loves the State of Ohio.

I'm also honored to be traveling today with members of a great congressional delegation, Deborah Pryce, Dave Hobson, Pat Tiberi, Bob Ney, and Rob Portman. These people not only represent Ohio well; they're friends. And they're people with whom it's a real pleasure to work. They bring a lot of class to the United States Congress.

And earlier today, I had the honor of meeting a fellow named Mike Turner, who won a primary in Dayton, Ohio, who a lot of people think, when he continues to work hard, he's going to be the next Congressman from Dayton. Welcome, Mike.

I also want to thank Jennette Bradley for willingness to run and to join the ticket. I appreciate you, Jennette. It's going to be a

historic moment when you become the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio.

It seems like ever since I was—been coming to Ohio to campaign for one Bush or another, Bennett has been around. It's great to see you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

I want to thank Tim and all the folks who organized this event. I want to thank you all for coming to help—to help Bob. You know, when you find a good, honest, decent, honorable person in politics, you need to back him, and this guy is just that. Plus, he's got a great record. He has his priorities straight. His most fundamental priority is to make sure that every child in the State of Ohio gets a good education, and the record is impressive. The record is impressive. Not only has he focused on making the Ohio schools a funding priority; he's focused on insisting that there be excellence in every single school-room in Ohio. I appreciate your—Bob, I appreciate your leadership. The people of Ohio have got to understand that he has led on this issue.

And not only that, he and Hope understand that if a child cannot read, a child cannot learn. And it's important to have a Governor set a priority. Not only is public schools a priority, public education a priority, but teaching every child to read is the first priority of making sure there's excellence in every public school in the State of Ohio.

We have just passed historic reform in Washington, DC, education reform. It may be hard for you to believe, but there are, at moments, when Republicans and Democrats come together for the good of the Nation. And this is one of the cases. People from both parties came together and worked on education reform which says that we believe every child can learn in America, not some, not a few, but every child. We set the highest of high standards.

We also say that in return for Federal money—we're going to spend money; Washington is good about spending money—and in return for Federal money, we expect there to be results. In return for Federal money, you, the local folks, must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we will sing your praises, as a society. But if not, we expect there to be change. It is not right

for there to be children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change.

High standards, strict accountability, coupled with local control of schools—I believe that the people who care more about the children of Ohio are the citizens of Ohio. And we passed power and flexibility out of Washington, DC, so that good Governors like Bob Taft can chart the path of excellence for every single child who lives in your great State.

Earlier today I had the opportunity to talk about welfare reform. We're getting ready to reauthorize the welfare bill. First of all, it is important for Americans to understand that the welfare reforms of 1996 have been a huge success, a success because the welfare roles are down dramatically, but more importantly, a success because more and more citizens as a result of finding a job now have dignity in their lives.

Knowing that there are Governors like Bob Taft, I can safely say, the best way to make sure we continue with welfare reform is to trust Governors and local authorities to match up programs and needs with people. In other words, the Federal Government must get out of the way, must provide maximum flexibility at the local level, which is precisely what I intend to do.

It is good to know that you have a Governor who's willing to rally the social entrepreneurs all across the State of Ohio to make sure that people are able to get the help we want them to get. Ohio is on the leading edge of welfare reform, thanks to Governor Voinovich and now thanks to Governor Taft.

And I appreciate Bob Taft's understanding the role of Government is not to create wealth. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which small-business owners and entrepreneurs have a chance to flourish. His initiative of the Third Frontier Project for the State of Ohio understands that jobs and job creation best take place in the private sector. Governor, you're right on track, and I appreciate your vision for economic vitality. And thankfully to the United States Congress, our economy is better on track.

You may remember when I came to the State of Ohio to campaign, I said, "If you give me a chance to be the President, I'm

going to make sure that people get to keep more of their hard-earned dollars." And thankfully, we passed tax relief right at the right time.

Here's what Bob and I know, that if you let people keep their own money—and, by the way, it's not the Government's money. I love to read these stories about, "Well, the Government's money—we can't send the Government's money back." It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. It's the taxpayers' money. When they have more of their own money, they demand goods and services. And when they demand goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when somebody produces the goods and services to meet demand, somebody is going to be able to find work. The best way to stimulate our economy was to let the American people keep their own money, so they get to decide what to do with it.

George Voinovich has been a leader in Congress, as have the other members from the congressional delegation, about joining me and the Vice President to make sure this Nation finally wakes up and has a balanced energy policy. You know, we import over 50 percent of our energy, and sometimes the people we import from don't like us. [*Laughter*] For the sake of economic security and for the sake of national security, this Nation needs a comprehensive energy plan that encourages conservation, promotes new technologies that will save energy and enhance renewable sources of energy, but at the same time, a energy plan that has the wisdom to promote clean coal technology, so that we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Oh, there's a lot of issues we face. And you know, we've got issues related to trade. I'm pleased that the Senate looks like they've got an agreement on a trade bill. This Nation ought to be confident. We ought to be opening up markets all around the world to trade. It'll be good for our Ohio farmers to trade; it's good for Ohio small-business people to trade. I hope Congress finally gets a trade promotion authority bill to my desk. Confident nations open up markets; they don't build walls around themselves. I'm confident that we're the best producers and innovators

in many products, and therefore we ought to be selling our products around the world.

I'm also working on issues like terrorism insurance, to encourage construction projects. I know the Senate will join me on that. We've just got to make sure that when we do so, we don't provide a gravy train for personal injury lawyers in America.

Obviously, we've got budget matters. You know, when I was running for President, in Chicago, somebody said, "Would you ever have deficit spending?" I said, "Only if we were at war, or only if we had a recession, only if we had a national emergency." Never did I dream we'd get the trifecta. *[Laughter]* But that's what we got, and we're going to deal with it. And we're going to deal with it in a way that understands that each individual American matters, in a way that promotes jobs not Government. And we're going to deal with it in a way that makes a priority the defense of the United States of America.

I've got a routine that I really enjoy there at the White House. It starts off early in the morning where, like I did at the Governor's Mansion in Texas, I bring Laura her coffee. *[Laughter]* My next job is to take Spot and Barney out for a walk on the South Lawn. Spot was born there at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, so she's used to the accommodations and understands the decorum necessary to go into the Oval Office. *[Laughter]* Barney, on the other hand, is only a year and a half. In that we've got a brand new rug, he's not allowed in. *[Laughter]* So Barney goes off with the gardener, and I go in the Oval Office with the dog, Spot, and sit.

First thing there, sit behind a fantastic desk that many of you may have seen. It's a desk used by Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, some of the great names that have preceded me to the Presidency. And the first thing I do is I open up a threat assessment. I read about the fact that the coldblooded killers are still after us. And by the way, that's all they are. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and they still want to hurt America.

It's hard for a lot of young to understand why they would want to do so. And the answer is, because we believe in freedom, and

they don't. We're a beacon for freedom, and they can't stand that. They cannot stand the thought that America worships freely, that we welcome people of all faiths, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu; you name it; we welcome. We understand a lot of Americans have no faith at all, and that's okay. They're proud Americans. We know that. They can't stand the thought that there's free and open discourse in America. They hate the thought of a free press. No, they hate our freedoms, and therefore, they're going to continue to try to strike us.

We're doing everything we can. You need to know that our law enforcement officials are communicating a lot better than ever before between the Federal and State and local governments. Any time we get any kind of hint, we're moving. And we're sharing intelligence all around the world. Our coalition is more than just a coalition of military; it's a coalition of our respective treasuries to shut down money. It's a coalition of our intelligence gathering to share information. I mean, we are—we're on full alert in Washington, DC, about anything that might happen. But the best way to make sure that we protect the homeland, the best way for me to do my job is to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice, and that's precisely what the United States of America is going to do.

I have submitted a significant increase in our defense budget for two basic reasons. One, any time we commit our troops into action, they deserve the best equipment and the best training, best possible pay. And by the way, for those of you who have got relatives in the United States military, you can tell them, this Commander in Chief is incredibly proud of how they've conducted themselves. And the second reason why is because we're in this for the long run. There are no calendars, no dates certain as to when this is going to be over, because we're defending freedom. That's what we're defending. No matter how long it takes, we will defend our freedoms and civilization, itself.

Oh, I know there are some saying, "Well, it's got to end by such-and-such," or "What happened here? What happened there?" That's what the enemy wants. What makes them really nervous is when they hear the

fact that our Nation is united and focused and disciplined and patient.

I've traveled the country a lot, and I'm proud to report that's exactly the way Americans think. You see, I'm amazed of what—I try to speculate what went on in the minds of these people when they attacked us. They must have thought we were weak. You know, they must have thought that—this kind of false image of materialism affected their thinking. They thought we were so materialistic, we wouldn't react. They probably thought all we were going to do is maybe file a couple of lawsuits. [*Laughter*] They were watching the wrong TV show. [*Laughter*] They found out that this Nation, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, is plenty tough.

When it comes to the values we hold dear, we will be strong, and we'll be steadfast. And when it comes to enforcing doctrine, when I said, "Either you're with us or against us," they understand. And when I said, "If you're going to harbor one of those terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," thanks to the United States military, thanks to our coalition, the world now knows what we mean.

The Taliban Government now knows what we mean. We have totally destroyed their training camps. We've disrupted their chain of command. We've got them on the run. And once you get them on the run, the key is to make sure that there's no place to run to. And so our second strategy is to make sure there is no safe haven for these killers. There is no place for them to light. Either you're with us, or you're against us.

And there's going to be a lot of action left. I mean, when you're hunting them down one by one or in small bunches, it's going to take a while. It's just going to take a while, and that's the resolve of my Government and our Government. It doesn't matter how long it takes. See, that's the thing that people have got to understand about America. It just doesn't matter how long it takes, because we love our freedom.

It also matters that there are potential threats that we recognize. This threat bothers me: the idea of a terrorist organization teaming up with a nation that develops and harbors weapons of mass destruction. It bothers me. We cannot let the world's most

dangerous regimes threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons. For the good of our children, for the good of freedom, for the good of civilization itself, this Nation will be deliberate; we'll be patient. But we're not going to allow the world's most dangerous regimes to hold the United States blackmail with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I believe that by being firm and tough and strong, we can achieve peace. It's very important for the moms and dads to tell their children that your Government is interested in peace and freedom. If there's any doubt in your children's mind about what we're doing, remind them that when we sent our troops into Afghanistan, we liberated a country. And for the first time in a long time, young girls got to go to school. While we're chasing down the killers, we're also helping the nation rebuild herself, with medical care and food. This is a compassionate nation, a nation that longs for peace. And I believe by being firm and strong and leading the world, we can achieve peace.

I was pleased to see today that the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was resolved peacefully. That's positive news in a troubled region. But you just need to know, in that region and around the world, I visualize a peace so people can live side by side in peace. And our country will continue to work in that direction.

Out of the evil will come good. Out of the evil will come good, not only around the world but here at home as well. People ask me, they say, "Well, Mr. President, what can I do to help in the war against terror?" And my answer is, if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help this country, go across the street to a shut-in's house and say, "What can I do to help you?" If you want to be a part of a movement in America that's taking place, mentor a child; go into your church or your synagogue or mosque and rally the good people that show up to worship, to help people in need.

There are pockets of despair in America; there are pockets of hopelessness which can and will be overcome because loving citizens have decided to do something about it. The

great strength of this country is really not our military. It's not the fact that we're, you know, great and rich. It's the fact that our Nation is full of people with decent hearts and loving souls, people who are willing to take time out of their day to help a neighbor in need.

I believe that as a result of the evil done to America, many are taking a hard look at the values in their life. Moms and dads recognize that their most important job is to love their children with all their hearts and all their souls. Many citizens around our country are realizing that, while it's important to make a living, it's also important to serve something greater than yourself, your community. And it's happening. That's why I'm so optimistic that not only will we achieve peace, but we'll show the world the true face of America, a decent face, a hopeful face, a compassionate face.

It is an unimaginable honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And I'm the man with that honor.

Thank you for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hope Taft, wife of Governor Taft; Robert T. Bennett, chairman, Ohio Republican Party; and Tim Timken, finance chairman, Taft-Bradley Campaign. Mike Turner is a candidate for Congress in Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Statement on the End of the Standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

May 10, 2002

I am pleased by the nonviolent end to the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Like the resolution to the situation in Ramallah, the positive result in Bethlehem was achieved through the efforts of a number of individuals and governments. In particular, I appreciate the efforts of personnel at our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate General in Jerusalem, which were critical to the outcome, and the work of the European Union.

The end of the standoff in Bethlehem is a positive development that removes an obstacle to restoring security cooperation between the parties and should advance the prospects for resuming a political process toward peace. As I said on April 4th, this can only happen if all parties assume their responsibilities for fighting terror and promoting peace.

Proclamation 7558—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2002

May 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In the face of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation witnessed the remarkable heroism of America's peace officers as they selflessly aided those in need. As the World Trade Center towers burned, dedicated officers rushed into the severely damaged buildings to rescue the injured. Seventy-two peace officers died that day, trying to save others. These supreme sacrifices remind us of the remarkable commitment that our Nation's peace officers have made to preserve our safety and our country's well-being.

In all, 230 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty last year. The name of each fallen officer has a place of honor on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. This monument ensures that the valor of the more than 15,000 law enforcement officers lost since 1794 will never be forgotten.

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

Effective law enforcement is a crucial element to maintaining our quality of life; and we must continue to ensure that our police

have the financial, technical, and civil support necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The more than 740,000 sworn law enforcement officers who are our first responders play a critical role in our Nation's safety and security.

Every American should also play a role in making our communities safer. Programs operated through the Citizen Corps, including Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the Terrorism Information and Prevention System, offer citizens the opportunity to take a stand against crime. As we observe Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to fight crime in their communities and to honor the brave individuals who protect our lives and property.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and, by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2002, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as Police Week. I call on Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 4

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain. In the afternoon, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

May 5

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 28–May 3.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on May 2 and continuing.

May 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Southfield, MI. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later in the afternoon, he met with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Preston Graves, John Roderick Davis, and Patrick Lloyd McCrory to be members of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michele Ridge as a member of the Board of Directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy: Candace C. de Russey, John E. Kidde, Dionel E. Aviles, and James H. Harless.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding on April 15 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on April 24–28.

May 7

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss progress on an agreement to reduce offensive nuclear weapons. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal to discuss U.S. support for democracy in Nepal, regional security issues, and economic and educational cooperation. Also in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Abel Pacheco de La Espriella of Costa Rica on May 8: Ann M. Veneman, who will lead the delegation; John Danilovich; Otto J. Reich; Roger F. Noriega; Elton Bomer; Mark Langdale; Joseph O'Neill; and H. Douglas Barclay.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Bruce Matthews and John Edward Mansfield to be members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The President announced his nomination of James Howard Yellen to be Ambassador to Burundi.

The President announced his nomination of John R. Dawson to be Ambassador to Peru.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tor-

nadoes, and flooding on April 27 and continuing.

May 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI, where he went to Clarke Elementary School and visited with students in Carolyn Davis' and Pat Steelman's second and third grade classes. In the afternoon, he traveled to La Crosse, WI, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ben S. Bernanke and Donald L. Kohn to be members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick D. Gregory to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

May 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to express his thanks for President Mbeki's leadership in efforts to resolve the political situation in the Congo. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

The President announced the laureates of the 2001 National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology.

May 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Columbus, OH. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert J. Battista and Peter Schaumber to be members of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter J. Hurtgen to be Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas L. Flory to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gene B. Christy to be Ambassador to Brunei.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara Calandra Moore to be Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristie A. Kenney to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

The President announced his intention to appoint LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as a member and Chair and Lance Edward Armstrong as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Schornack to be a Commissioner of the International Boundary Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council: Tom Bernstein, Joel Geiderman, Alice Kelikian, Mervin G. Morris, Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Ronald Steinhart, Mickey Shapiro, Sheldon G. Adelson, Nechama Tec, Sonia Weitz, and Aldona Zofia Wos.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 6

John Roderick Davis, of Alabama, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice E. Gordon Gee, term expired.

John R. Dawson, of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

Steven D. Deatherage, of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Moore, term expired.

Mark W. Everson, of Texas, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice Sally Katzen.

William Preston Graves, of Kansas, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Mel Carnahan.

Patrick Lloyd McCrory, of North Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Richard C. Hackett, term expired.

Gregory Robert Miller, of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Patrick Michael Patterson, resigned.

James Howard Yellen, of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Burundi.

Submitted May 8

Anthony Dichio, of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of 4 years, vice Nancy J. McGillivray-Shaffer, term expired.

David McQueen Laney, of Texas, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Tommy G. Thompson, resigned.

John Edward Mansfield, of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2006 (reappointment).

R. Bruce Matthews, of New Mexico, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2005, vice Joseph DiNunno, resigned.

Withdrawn May 8

Jose Gerardo Troncoso, of Nevada, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of 4 years (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on April 16, 2002.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 5

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Released May 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Michigan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Fact sheet: President Highlights Next Step of Education Reform

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida and U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Illinois

Released May 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Released May 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on efforts to resolve the political impasse in Madagascar

Statement by the Press Secretary: First Lady To Visit France, Hungary, and the Czech Republic

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts

Fact sheet: President Highlights Immediate Help for Students in Failing Schools

Released May 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's affirmation of Peter Kirsanow's status as a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of James F. Moriarty as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council

Fact sheet: The President's Call to Action on Judicial Nominees

Released May 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: President Calls for Ticket to Independence in Welfare Reform

Announcement: Homeland Security Director To Speak at Candlelight Vigil Honoring Fallen Law Enforcement Officers

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 7

H.R. 861 / Public Law 107–169
To make technical amendments to section 10
of title 9, United States Code

H.R. 4167 / Public Law 107–170
To extend for 8 additional months the period
for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United
States Code is reenacted

Week Ending Friday, May 17, 2002

**Proclamation 7559—National
Defense Transportation Day and
National Transportation Week, 2002**
May 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The importance of America's transportation system became evident to all Americans on September 11, 2001. Airliners were diverted, airports closed, and travelers were stranded for days as transportation systems across the country were disrupted. In the aftermath of September 11, the men and women in the transportation industry have helped restore function and trust to a system that was traumatized. Today, Americans and America's goods and services are being more safely moved to their destinations, as our communities continue the process of important restructuring.

We have helped secure our transportation system with the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which greatly enhanced the protections for America's passengers and goods. And we are determined to ensure that Americans have the transportation system and mobility that is necessary for a vibrant economy and meaningful quality of life.

We live in a time of unprecedented travel, when goods and services, regardless of origin, can be available in a short amount of time. Thanks to imagination, innovation, and investment in transportation, we can safely commute to work, receive overnight mail, buy fresh fruit and vegetables, and travel with relative ease to destinations around the world. We also continue to make progress in developing a transportation system that offers choices and protects the environment through cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles and new, environmentally sound infrastructure.

To recognize Americans who work in transportation and who contribute to our Nation's prosperity, defense, and progress, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 17, 2002, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize how our modern transportation system has enhanced our economy and contributed to our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
May 11, 2002

Good morning. Next week the United States House of Representatives is scheduled to debate a welfare reform plan that will touch the lives of millions of Americans. The last time Congress reformed welfare, in 1996, it put millions of Americans on the path to better lives.

Because of work requirements and time-limited benefits, welfare caseloads have dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty, including 2.8 million fewer children than in 1996. Yet, the real success of welfare reform is not found in the number of caseloads that have been cut but in the number of lives that have been changed.

I've traveled all across our Nation, and I've met people whose lives have been improved because of welfare reform. I have heard inspiring stories of hope and dignity and hard work and personal achievement. Yet, there are still millions of Americans trapped in dependence, without jobs and the dignity they bring. And now Congress must take the next necessary steps in welfare reform.

Compassionate welfare reform should encourage strong families. Strong marriages and stable families are good for children, so stable families should be a central aim of welfare policy. Under my plan, up to \$300 million per year will be available to States to support good private and public programs that counsel willing couples on building a healthy respect for marriage.

Compassionate welfare reform must allow States greater flexibility in spending welfare money. Today, confusing and conflicting regulations are keeping people from getting help. My proposal would give States the freedom to redesign how Federal programs operate in their States. This will allow States to be more innovative in providing better job training, housing, and nutrition programs, and better childcare services to low-income families.

Most of all, compassionate welfare reform must encourage more and more Americans to find the independence of a job. Today, States on average must require work of only 5 percent of adults getting welfare. I am proposing that every State be required within 5 years to have 70 percent of welfare recipients working or being trained to work at least 40 hours a week. These work requirements must be applied carefully and compassionately.

Because many on welfare need new skills, my plan allows States to combine work with up to 2 days each week of education and job training. Our proposal allows for 3 months

in full-time drug rehabilitation or job training, and adolescent mothers can meet their work requirements by attending high school. A work requirement is not a penalty; it is the pathway to independence and self-respect. For former welfare recipients, this path has led to a new and better life.

When I was in North Carolina earlier this year, I met Ella Currence, a mother of four who was on welfare for 7 years. She knew change would be difficult, but she also knew change was best. Ella began participating in the State's Work First Program. She has been working for the last 5 years, and she put her life in order. Ella says, "You can do anything you want to do if you put your mind to it." This is the spirit and confidence encouraged by work.

Everyone in America benefits from compassionate welfare reform. Former welfare recipients gain new hope and know the independence and dignity of an honest day's work. As our recovery continues, business will need more motivated and trained workers. Good welfare reform laws can break dependency and help the American economy.

My administration has worked closely with Congress in writing the new welfare legislation. It's an excellent bill that will provide hope and promise, dignity and opportunity to millions of Americans. I urge the House to pass it and the Senate to then act on it.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:10 a.m. on May 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Signing the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

May 13, 2002

The President. Good morning, and welcome to Washington's grand old building, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building—or as we now call it, the Ike. [Laughter]

Because of work requirements and time-limited benefits, welfare caseloads have dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty, including 2.8 million fewer children than in 1996. Yet, the real success of welfare reform is not found in the number of caseloads that have been cut but in the number of lives that have been changed.

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The President. Good morning, and welcome to Washington's grand old building, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building—or as we now call it, the Ike. [Laughter]

Today's event is being broadcast by Farm Radio to farmers and ranchers all across our country. Hardworking farmers and ranchers, whether they be from Texas or Maine, from Mississippi or California, are up early and are working hard. And this morning I want to talk about the tremendous contributions that they make, that our farm and ranch families make to America, the support they deserve, and why I am pleased to sign the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here: Senator Harkin, Congressman Combest, the leaders in both the House and the Senate. I appreciate you all coming. And when I sign this bill, I'd like for you all to come up here and watch me sign it.

I appreciate Secretary Ann Veneman, who is here. I want to thank her for her hard work and her staff for their hard work as well.

And I want to thank the members of the farm and agricultural groups who represent the people who work the land. I want to thank you all for your efforts and for your concern.

American farm and ranch families embody some of the best values of our Nation: hard work and risktaking, love of the land, and love of our country. Farming is the first industry of America, the industry that feeds us, the industry that clothes us, and the industry that increasingly provides more of our energy. The success of America's farmers and ranchers is essential to the success of the American economy.

I was honored to be the Governor of the second-biggest farm State in the Union. I understand how hard farmers have to work to make a living. I know they face tough challenges.

I recently spent some time with some of my neighbors at the coffee shop in Crawford, Texas. I know how hard many struggle. Their livelihood depends on things they cannot control, the weather, crop disease, uncertain pricing. They need a farm bill that provides support and help when times are tough. And that is why I'm signing this bill today.

This bill is generous and will provide a safety net for farmers, and it will do so without encouraging overproduction and de-

pressing prices. It will allow farmers and ranchers to plan and operate based on market realities, not Government dictates.

In the past, loan rates and the minimum price farmers and ranchers received for some of their commodities were set too high. This practice made the problem worse by encouraging surplus production, thereby forcing prices lower. This bill better balances loan rates and better matches them to market prices.

It reduces Government interference in the market and in farmers' and ranchers' planting decisions. The farm bill supports our commitment to open trade and complies with our obligations to the World Trade Organization.

Americans cannot eat all that America's farmers and ranchers produce, and therefore, it makes sense to sell more food abroad. Today, 25 percent of U.S. farm income is generated by exports, which means that access to foreign markets is crucial to the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers. Let me put it as plainly as I can: We want to be selling our beef and our corn and our beans to people around the world who need to eat.

My administration is working hard to open up markets. I told the people, I said, "If you give me a chance to be the President, we're not going to treat our agriculture industry as a secondary citizen when it comes to opening up markets." And I mean that. I understand how important the farm economy is to the future of our country.

To help, this new law helps keep our international trade commitments, and that's important for America to understand. And because I believe the best way to help our farmers and ranchers is trade, I need trade promotion authority, particularly from the Senate. The House has passed it; I need it from the Senate—soon. *[Laughter]*

This bill offers incentives for good conservation practices on working lands. For farmers and ranchers, for people who make a living on the land, every day is Earth Day. There's no better stewards of the land than people who rely on the productivity of the land. And we can work with our farmers and ranchers to help improve the environment.

To help them live up to the newer and higher environmental standards, this bill expands the ECP program, which provides financial assistance to our farmers and ranchers to encourage sound conservation. And the bill will greatly enhance the abilities of our farmers and ranchers to protect wetlands, water quality, and wildlife habitat, and that's important.

This bill breaks a bad fiscal habit. In the past, Congress would pass a multi-year farm bill and then every year after continue to pass supplemental bills. These unpredictable supplemental payments made it difficult for Congress to live within its budget. It also created uncertainty for farmers and ranchers and their creditors. This bill is generous enough—the bill I'm going to sign is generous enough to eliminate the need for supplemental support later this year and in the future and therefore adds the kind of reliability that farmers and ranchers need.

This bill is also a compassionate bill. This law means that legal immigrants can now receive help and food stamps after being here for 5 years. It means that you can have an elderly farm worker, somebody here legally in America who's worked hard to make a living and who falls on hard times—that person can receive help from a compassionate Government.

It means that you can have a head of a family who's been working hard, been here for 5 years, been a part of our economy, been legally working, and that person falls on hard times—our Government should help them with food stamps, and this bill allows that to happen.

It's not a perfect bill, I know that. But you know, no bill ever is. There's no such thing as a perfect bill; otherwise I'd get to write every one of them. *[Laughter]*

You know, for example, I thought it was important to have what they call farm savings accounts to help farmers and ranchers manage the many risks they face. I thought that should be an important part of the bill. It didn't happen; I'm going to continue to work for it, work with the Members here on it.

I also believe strongly there's more that we should do for our farm community. You know, one of the best things we have done for ranchers and farmers is to eliminate the

death tax. It's a really important part of making sure that farms and ranches stay in our families. The death tax needs to be—the repeal of the death tax needs to be made permanent. That happened in the House; I hope it happens in the Senate soon. It's a good signal that we care deeply about those who live on the land and make a living.

The farm bill is important legislation, and it meets important needs. The bill will strengthen the farm economy, and that's important. It will strengthen the farm economy over the long term. It will promote farmer independence and preserve the farm way of life for generations. It helps America's farmers, and therefore, it helps America.

It is now my honor to sign the bill. And for any of the Members who dare have their picture taken with me—*[laughter]*—I welcome.

Senator Leahy. Or vice versa.

The President. Yes, or vice versa. *[Laughter]* That wasn't just—for those listening on radio, that wasn't just some quack yelling out. That was a Member of the United States Senate. *[Laughter]*

Please come for the bill signing. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:46 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by State and county Farm Service Agency committees. H.R. 2646, approved May 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107-171.

Statement on Signing the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

May 13, 2002

I am today signing into law H.R. 2646, the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002." This Act will provide a safety net for America's farmers, who feed America and much of the world. The Act also will expand nutrition programs and improve the conservation and effective use of our natural resources.

A few provisions of the Act raise constitutional concerns. The method of appointment of the board of trustees of the fellowship program prescribed in section 4404 of the Act

is inconsistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of the Constitution. I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation to cure this constitutional defect before the effective date of the program.

Sections 6027 and 6028 of the Act establish and continue multi-member regional authorities to implement development programs. Serious doubts arise concerning the constitutionality of these regional authorities because the members are likely Federal officers for purposes of the Appointments Clause, but many of the members are not appointed in the manner required by that Clause. Again, I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation that will cure this constitutional shortcoming by establishing the role of the members as advisory only, or by providing for appointment of all the members in accordance with the Appointments Clause.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 13, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2646, approved May 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107-171.

Remarks on Departure for Chicago, Illinois

May 13, 2002

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Arms Agreement

The President. Good morning.

The Press: Good morning.

The President. Today I'm pleased to announce that the United States and Russia has agreed to a treaty which will substantially reduce our nuclear arsenals to the agreed-upon range of 1,700 to 2,200 warheads. This treaty will liquidate the legacy of the cold war.

When I sign the treaty with President Putin in Russia, it will begin the new era of U.S.-Russian relationships. And that's important. The new era will be a period of enhanced mutual security, economic security, and improved relations.

I look forward to going to Moscow to sign this treaty. It is—it will be the culmination of a lot of months of hard work and a rela-

tionship built on mutual trust that I established with President Putin in Slovenia.

This is good news for the American people today. It'll make the world more peaceful, and put behind us the cold war once and for all.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:32 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks in a Discussion on the Welfare to Work Program in Chicago *May 13, 2002*

The President. Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. Mr. Mayor, I'm honored to be in your presence. This man is a great mayor of a great city. I've learned one thing: I'd rather have him for me than against me. [*Laughter*] And the good news is, he is for the people of Chicago, and that's important, Mr. Mayor.

Michael, thank you very much for having us here. We're honored to be able to come and to talk about how to make America a more compassionate and better place for all people.

I want to thank Rodney Carroll, who is the president of the Welfare-to-Work Partnership, for being here. He has helped recruit thousands of businesses across the country, which have employed over 1.1 million citizens who were formerly on welfare, who are now independent and free to realize their dreams. Rodney, thank you for your leadership. I want to thank my two new friends who are here, with whom we'll be discussing their lives and how important work is for the future of their family.

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who are joining us today: Senator Peter Fitzgerald—thank you, Peter, for coming. Congressman Rod Blagojevich—thank you, Rod, for being here. The chairman, Henry Hyde—thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you're here.

I'm looking forward to flying back to Washington with the chairman on Air Force One. I announced this morning at the South Lawn of the White House that we've reached an agreement with Russia on a treaty that

will substantially reduce our nuclear weaponry, so that we can enter into a new era of relations with Russia. I can't wait to explain it to you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate your support.

I want to thank Judy Biggert for being here. Judy, thank you for coming. I appreciate Mark Kirk as well for coming. Thank you, Congressman. Jerry Weller—thank you, Jerry. I appreciate you being here. Finally, the attorney general of the State of Illinois, Jim Ryan—thank you, Jim.

I want you to know that we're here to talk about how to make America better. Before we talk about that, I want to remind you of one thing: My job is also to make sure America is safer. And the best way to make America safe is to not only have a homeland security strategy that will support our mayors and our police and fire and EMS teams all across America; but to make America safe, we've got to hunt these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

And much to the chagrin of the enemy, we are a united country. The security of America has nothing to do with our political parties; it has everything to do with doing our jobs. We are a united nation; we are a patient nation. And we're plenty tough when it comes to protecting that which we hold dear. And what we hold dear is freedom, and we're not going to let anybody get it.

I can't imagine—I can't imagine what was going through the mind of those people. They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-absorbed that all we was going to do is maybe file a couple of lawsuits. [Laughter] But much to their chagrin, they realized that we're tough. But also the world is learning we're compassionate as well. While we work to make the world more secure, we've got to make the world a better place.

And it starts right here at home. Today I had the honor of meeting Adrienne and Jerry Welenc. Would you all stand up for a second, please? [Applause] These good folks—hold on, don't applaud yet, until you hear what they've done. They have fostered over 90 children over the last 35 years. These good Americans didn't need a law; they didn't need a government telling them what to do. They decided to love a neighbor just

like they wanted to be loved themselves. These good Americans asked the question, what could they do to save one person's life.

If you want to join the war on terror, help somebody in need. It's going to be hard to do what they've done; 90 children over 35 years is a fantastic feat. But it's a fabulous tribute to Americans making the decision to help somebody. We can't do it all, but we can help one person at a time. And as we do so, America will be a more compassionate place. As we work hard to defy the evil ones through military strength, we must also do so with the kindness and compassion that define America.

I want to thank you all for being here. God bless you for your work.

And we can continue to make America a better place by helping people find work. We can help America be a compassionate, decent land, where hope can penetrate places of despair and despondency, by helping people find a job.

And that's what we're here to talk about, as we reauthorize the welfare bill. It is essential that a central component of that bill be work. We must set high standards. Over the next 5 years, the States, and working with the local governments, ought to place 70 percent of the people on welfare into a job. It is important not only for our society; it's important for the people. Because as you're about to hear, a job is such an important part of a person's dignity, a person's future.

And so one of the things about welfare—welfare to work is, not only do we need to encourage businesses to provide a place; we've got to encourage States to get after it, to provide training and help. Listen, the welfare budget we're submitting is \$17 billion. That's the same level it was when we had twice the number of welfare cases we had to deal with. The welfare rolls have declined in half, yet the dollars are the same, which ought to be ample money to help people with training or drug treatment, to give them a chance so that they can work and realize the dignity of a job. When we reauthorize welfare, let us always remember that a job is a central core to someone's hopeful future.

I want to make three other points, and then I promise, Mr. Mayor, I'll be quiet—

for a brief period of time. The best way to help people avoid welfare is education. Mr. Mayor, I want to thank you for setting high standards for the public schools of the city of Chicago. Washington doesn't know everything, believe it or not. That may be a horrible admission for somebody who lives there temporarily to say. The best way to help people get off welfare is to empower local folks, is to recognize one size doesn't fit all, is to recognize that the more options there are at the local level, the more opportunity it is for people to succeed.

And finally, in order to make sure welfare works, we've got to welcome faith-based and community-based programs into the compassionate delivery of help. We shouldn't fear faith in our society. We ought to welcome faith. We ought to welcome the programs that come out of our inner-city churches or synagogues and mosques. Our Government ought to say, "You ought to be able to access Federal money to help people in need, without losing your mission." In order to make sure that welfare works, not only do you encourage jobs, but we need to welcome those programs that can fundamentally change people's lives by changing their hearts.

Mr. Mayor, I want to thank you for letting me come here to Chicago. I've been talking too much. So what I'm going to do is ask Rodney Carroll, who's in charge of this Welfare to Work Partnership—one of the things I preach is personal responsibility. There's also such things as corporate responsibility in America. CEOs have the responsibility not only to make sure that we all understand fully their assets and their liabilities, that there's full disclosure, but they have the responsibilities of helping the communities in which they live. Mike has done a fabulous job doing that for Big Brown, and Rodney's in charge of lining up corporate America to do that as well.

Welcome, Rodney.

[At this point, the discussion began.]

The President. I believe the thing that's interesting to note is, a beneficiary, of course, is UPS. [Laughter] You talk—for a person who has never worked a day in her life until UPS, you're one articulate soul.

Vivian Kimmons. Thank you, thank you.

The President. And that's a really good job.

Ms. Kimmons. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Congratulations.

Ms. Kimmons. Thank you.

The President. And your oldest daughter?

Ms. Kimmons. She's 17.

The President. What's she fixing to do?

Ms. Kimmons. She's about to graduate from the Firefighters Police Academy, tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

[The discussion continued.]

The President. Great job. Thank you very much, Lupe.

I think the—what we're trying to say here, most eloquently by these two ladies, is that in this country, if you give somebody a chance, they can succeed. Now, it takes extra help sometimes, and we've got to provide that help. It takes a little extra education. We've got to provide that education. If we don't get it right the first time, we can't quit. We've got to get it right the second time.

But the key is, is that when this country puts its mind to something, like making sure every child gets educated or making sure everybody gets a hand—businesses cooperating, local government cooperating, Federal Government—we can succeed. And here are two prime examples of what we're talking about, people who now have hope, children who see their mom—and by the way, being a single mom, raising children, is the toughest job in America; it's the toughest work. And that's what makes these two stories even more courageous and successful.

I told them, when we got it—back there in the back they said they were nervous. I said, "There's not going to be many people out there." [Laughter] But I thank you for sharing with us your hearts and your story. For those people who are watching and realize that—and maybe wondering whether you can succeed, just look at these two ladies. They're great examples of what is possible, what is possible.

Mr. Mayor, one of the things you do is you run a great city, and you care deeply about the lives of the citizens here. In the city of Chicago, the welfare rolls are down

by 70 percent. We're proud of your record, Mr. Mayor, and we'd love to hear from you.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Michael, I want to thank you all for giving us a chance to come and visit with you. There's a lot of issues that we face in Washington or here in Chicago. But there's no bigger issue than all of us remaining united to show the world what we're made out of, that people from all walks of life, all backgrounds, political parties, can come together to defend our country and at the same time elevate the spirit of this great land, to defend common values that are bigger than any single individual, and to serve a nation by helping somebody. It's really what we're talking about today, people willing to help themselves, as well as corporate America willing to provide an opportunity so people can succeed.

I want you to know that you live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. The stories we hear here today speak to our greatness and speak to the fact that we will not rest as a nation when we see and find pockets of despair and hopelessness, that in order to make this country complete, everybody has got to feel a part of its future—not just some but everybody. Oh, I know that's a high goal, but it's a goal we can achieve. Working together, it's something that this Nation can do. Out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. And part of that incredible good is that the promise of America extend its reach into every single neighborhood.

It is an honor for me to be here today. And it is an honor for me to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. God bless. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in a loading area of the UPS Jefferson Street Hub. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; Mike Eskew, chairman and chief executive officer, UPS; and former welfare recipients Vivian Kimmons and Guadalupe "Lupe" Meza, who participated in the discussion.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Jim Ryan in Chicago

May 13, 2002

Well, thank you for that warm Chicago welcome. I appreciate your kind remarks, "Governor." [*Laughter*] I want to thank you all for coming. Pat, thanks for your leadership. And I want to thank you all for supporting this good, honorable man to be become the next Governor of the State of Illinois.

I want to thank all the grassroots advocates who are here, those who man the phones and stuff the envelopes and get out the vote. I want to thank you for what you've done in the past, and I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do. I can just see the headlines: Ryan Replaces Ryan. [*Laughter*] Durkin Defeats Durbin.

And I want to thank Marie. We had our picture taken with the Ryan family. I thought it was never going to end. That's a good sign. [*Laughter*] If all the Ryans vote, it's a landslide. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank Marie. Mother's Day must have been a heck of a day for you, with all those kids. And I want to thank the sons and daughter who are here. Marie has got four sons and a daughter. It reminds me of another name in American politics: Barbara has got four sons and a daughter. The difference is, is that your sons must be treating you better. You don't have any white hair. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank you for being a great wife, and soon to be a great first lady of the State of Illinois. And to you boys out there, you listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] I'm still listening to mine. [*Laughter*]

Speaking about great First Ladies, I'm sorry that Laura can't be with us today. She is off to Europe, and she's going to represent our country in the Czech Republic and Hungary and France. And then I'm going to team up with her there in about 9 days. I bring her up just to—you know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She wasn't really interested in politics. And if the truth be known, she really didn't care for politicians. [*Laughter*] But thankfully, she

agreed to marry me, and now the American people are beginning to see why. She is calm, and she is steady. She's got great values and a huge heart. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. But she sends her love and wishes you all the best.

And I appreciate Senator Hawkinson being here, the next Lieutenant Governor for the State of Illinois. Thank you for coming, Senator.

Members of the Illinois delegation are here, some of them looking for a ride back to DC, I suspect. *[Laughter]* Just depends on how you vote. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate Senator Peter Fitzgerald for coming to-night—today. Peter, where are you? Thank you, Peter.

I think Chairman Henry Hyde thought I was teasing him. I told him today I was announcing the fact that Russia and United States agreed to a treaty to substantially reduce our offensive nuclear weapons. It is a treaty that will change the relationship between Russia and the United States for the better, for world peace. Mr. Chairman, I'm serious about talking to you about this treaty when we fly back to Washington. Henry Hyde, thank you for coming. He's what we call a solid citizen. And so are the other members of the congressional delegation who are here, Mark Kirk, Jerry Weller, Judy Biggert, as well as Ray LaHood. I appreciate you all coming as well.

I mentioned the fact that Durkin is going to beat Durbin. I want to thank Jim Durkin for being here and for running for the United States Senate. I appreciate the Lieutenant Governor, Corinne Wood, for being here. Thank you for coming, Corinne. And the State treasurer—and the old State treasurer, Judy Baar. Where is she? Thank you, Judy. Yes, just kidding—well. *[Laughter]*

And finally—well, not quite finally—I'm glad to see my old friend Pate Philip. Pate, thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here. I remember going to your great county more than once to learn the lessons of good State politics at the foot of a master. Mr. Senator, thank you for being here. And I appreciate Lee Daniels being here as well. Lee, thank you for your leadership and your strong, strong support for the next Governor. Thank you, Lee.

Now I'm getting to the finally. I had the honor of knowing two great Governors, past Governors, who are here with us today, big Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you, Edgar.

I'm proud to support Jim Ryan. I appreciate, first of all, his heart and his philosophy. I call him a compassionate conservative, somebody who believes like I believe that if you embrace a conservative philosophy and you have a heart, you can help people. And that's what government is all about, is to help people help themselves, to understand the limitations of government, to apply government where it needs to be applied, but always remember, the idea is to make sure the American experience and the American Dream reaches every corner of our country. And that's the way Jim thinks. And that's an important attitude for the people of—for the Governor to have, for all the people. We're running as proud Republicans. We serve as a proud American.

I appreciate his strong stand on law enforcement. He's been given the job as the attorney general of this State to hold the law, to bring people to justice, to blow the whistle where a whistle needs to be blown. And he's done just that. If the people get beyond the rhetoric in this campaign and look at the record, a record of accomplishment, the people of Illinois will put this man in the statehouse with the big numbers, because he has got a record of accomplishment as the attorney general: The truth-in-sentencing law; supports the first child advocacy center to deal with child abuse; he believes strongly in school safety. I mean, he's got a record.

And he's got a vision as well. See, he understands that the number-one priority of any State has got to be to make sure every child—every single child is educated. You know, we passed a really good education reform law in Washington, and it relates to this campaign. And I'll tell you how in a second.

But first, it's amazing what can happen when you put your country or your State ahead of petty politics. I was—and I must confess, it did confuse some of the folks at the Crawford, Texas, coffee shop, when I was traveling around the country with Theodore Kennedy—Ted Kennedy, thanking him for working on this bill. But we put it all aside,

all the typical Washington, DC, bickering and name-calling, and decided to do something right for the children and passed a great piece of education reform.

And it starts with setting high standards. It starts with saying every child can learn in America, not a few, not just certain kind of children but every child. It believes that every child can learn. That's the way that Jim Ryan thinks.

Secondly, it says that in order to understand whether every child is learning, we must measure. We must hold people to account as to whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. I've heard all the talk about school accountability. Let me put it on the line: It is racist and it is wrong not to determine whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is a mistake not to measure.

And a system that does not measure—a system that does not measure is a system that has low expectations. A system that won't hold people to account as to whether or not our children are learning is a system that's more likely just to shuffle kids through as if they don't matter. Every child matters in America. And in order to receive Federal money, after I signed this bill, the people of Illinois and Texas and every State must determine whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers, and they need to be praised. But if not, here's your chance to change.

If we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, you need to change. You need to have a Governor who's willing to blow the whistle on failure. Every child matters. Every child counts. That's why I'm for Jim Ryan. He's willing to take on the status quo when he finds children in schools that will not teach.

And finally, the bill I signed says that the people who care more about the children in the State of Illinois are the people of Illinois. It has a strong component of local control. We're passing power out of Washington. We're giving maximum flexibility at the local level, so the local folks can chart the path to excellence. Listen, one size doesn't fit all. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to the

education of the children of the State of Illinois. And you'd better have you a Governor who understands that and who won't stand for excuses and who's willing to innovate when innovation is needed. The number-one priority of any Governor in any State has got to be the education of the children of the State. And Jim Ryan understands that.

I just came from Big Brown, UPS, where the mayor, thankfully, was there to greet me. I appreciate the mayor a lot. As I said publicly, I learned one thing: It's better to have him for you than against you. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate his leadership for this great city. It's a fabulous city you live in. And we were talking about welfare to work and the fact that millions of people have moved from welfare to work, for the betterment of our country. It's helped our country. It's also helped each individual person when they realize the dignity of work.

And we were talking about the need to make sure that corporate Illinois or corporate America does its part about helping people go from welfare to work. Big Brown has hired 52,000 people from the welfare rolls. We had two young ladies, young moms, talk about what it means to go from welfare to work. It's just a compelling story and a great morning for me.

The reason I bring it up is, we're in the midst of reauthorization of the welfare reform. And it's important for States to continue to strive for high standards when it comes to deploying resources to help people find work. It's essential you have a Governor who feels compassionate about each individual and who works hard and tirelessly to provide the job training necessary and the education necessary so that Americans can have the dignity of a job.

And so when I talked about advocating maximum flexibility for States in the welfare to work—I mean, the welfare reauthorization bill, it gave me great comfort to know that Jim Ryan is going to be the next Governor of the State of Illinois, because he cares about people and he's willing to bring people together to achieve the common objective.

I'm confident that when you have a man of good values who knows what he thinks, who doesn't need to take a poll or focus group to figure out his direction that he's

going to head in life, he's going to make a good leader for your State. And I'm proud to support him.

I also look forward to working with your Governor to make sure that the State of Illinois is prepared to respond, should the enemy hit us again. And they want to. I know that every morning when I go in the Oval Office and read a threat—a threat assessment to our country, they're interested in hitting us again. Kids say, "Why? Why would they want to do that to America?" Because they hate us. And the reason they hate us is, we love freedom. We cherish our freedoms. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America; that's something we strongly believe in. They don't like that. And we can speak our minds freely, and we can come to political gatherings, make our decisions in freedom. We have free press. We're an open society. That bothers the enemy a lot.

And they're still out there. And you need to know that we're doing everything we can, everything in our power, to make the United States safe. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans. Our law enforcement agencies are talking like they've never talked before. Anytime we get a hint of anything, we're sharing information across jurisdictional boundaries; we're running down every possible lead. We operate—proudly operate within the confines of the United States Constitution. But there is no hint, no lead that is insignificant, as far as we're concerned.

But you need to know that the most—the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. That's precisely what the United States of America is going to do.

There's been some interesting lessons. First of all, I always kind of felt that the farther we got away from September the 11th—my worry was, the farther we got away, that the more likely it is America will say, "Maybe it's not worth it." I'm proud to report that's not the case. In my travels around our country, I have seen what must make the enemy feel terrible, a united, resolved, strong nation which says that we'll do whatever it takes to defend the values that we hold dear. And

that's comforting to me, and it's not so comforting to them.

You know, I can't imagine what was going through their mind when they attacked. They must have looked at America and said that this Nation is so self-absorbed, so shallow in its materialism that all America would likely do is maybe file a couple of lawsuits. They were wrong. They found out that we are plenty tough, and we're going to remain tough. I unleashed a military that should make every one of you proud.

You will read about the budgets I submitted. By the way, right here in Chicago I was asked, when I was campaigning here, they said, "Hey, Mr. President, would you ever have a deficit?" I said, "Only if there was a war or a recession or a national emergency." [Laughter] Yeah, we've got one right now. But it's worth it because we're fighting for freedom. And when we bring some fiscal discipline to Washington, it's going to help make the deficit short-term.

And I submitted a big budget, no question about it, for defense. And I did it for a reason. One, anytime we commit our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible. That's what we owe our military. And secondly, it is important to show the world that we're in this for the long run, and that while there may not be dramatic action on your TV screens on a daily basis, we're making progress. And it's going to take awhile.

This is a new kind of war. This isn't a war of known fronts and carrier movements and battle stations being manned on a regular basis. We're facing a shadowy enemy. Look, these are the guys that send youngsters to their suicide death, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves. It's a new form of warfare, and it's going to require incredible patience.

And the American people have got to understand, we're in it for the long run. Our coalition must understand that we're in it for the long run. They do; I tell them all the time, see. I say, "This is freedom we're fighting for. This is—this is—this is the most important value that we believe in, in America. Either you're with us, or you're against us, and I expect you to be with us. We're in it for the long pull." And that's what that budget says.

We've been successful; we've been successful. We enforced the doctrine that said, if you harbor one—"one" being a killer—you're just as guilty as the killer. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. But in enforcing that doctrine, we showed another side of America as well. We showed not only are we tough, not only are we wise with the military strategy, not only were we able to win a guerrilla war using interesting new technologies, we liberated a nation.

I want the young of America to understand that we went into a country and freed people. We didn't conquer people; we freed people from the clutches of a barbaric regime that would not even let young girls go to school. And today, they do in Afghanistan, thanks to the United States of America.

No, it's going to take awhile, but we're making progress; you just need to know, we really are. We're doing a better job of cutting off their money, and that's important. We're getting the kind of—sometimes we're getting a hint where somebody might be trying to hide out, and we're kind of rallying people to get them. There's countries that looked like they were potential safe havens, a nice place for maybe the terrorists to train. They're no longer safe havens for the terrorists.

We're just taking our time and doing our job. And that's what the American people want. That's what the coalition is seeing. There's a lot of people who are out there, saying, probably, "Gosh, we kind of hoped the United States would grow tired of all this. It would make our life a lot easier at home." Forget it. [*Laughter*] We're not growing tired of it. My most important job is to protect the security of the American people, and I take that seriously. I also understand, history has called us into action, and our country will not blink in the face of evil.

I also believe that by leading a coalition and by being firm and resolute and strong, that out of the evil that has been done to America will come incredible good, starting with peace. I believe if we're patient and strong and deliberate, we'll be able to achieve peace. And that's important to me, and I know it's important to you as well. We don't seek revenge as a nation. We seek justice, and we seek peace.

I also believe that out of the evil can come some incredible good at home. I believe that. I'm asked all the time by people that say, "What can I do to help on the war against terror?" My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to show the world what we're made out of, that we're stronger than just military might, why don't you mentor a child. Teach a child to read. Why don't you go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and start an initiative to help folks who live in pockets of deep despair.

That's how you fight the war against terror, and that's how we can make an enormous difference in our own country. I truly believe that America—the great strength of America is our hearts and souls. And out of this evil can come some great good. I see it all the time. I see it in small acts of generosity and kindness that will astound you.

Today at the Meigs Field, I met two folks who have fostered 90 children here in Chicago—90 children. It's unbelievable to think about that. Two good—it didn't require a Government act or a Government edict. They just decided to do that. And it happens all the time in our community. If you really want to fight evil, find out a way to contribute your time and efforts and money and talent to making one person's life brighter. That's how we change America. I like to say, each of us can't do everything, but each of us can do one thing. See, America changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Out of this evil is going to come good. There's a new attitude in America about serving something greater than yourself. It was highlighted to me, and I'm sure most of the country—and history should record this moment—about Flight 93, when you had people on an airplane. They're flying from one place, one part of our country to another. They find out the plane is going to be used as a weapon. They tell their loved ones on the cell phones they love them; they say a prayer; and they drive the plane into the ground to save somebody's life, to serve something greater than themselves.

I truly believe that out of the evil done to America can come a sense of serving

something greater than a materialistic society. And therefore, America is going to be a more hopeful place for all. The true strength of America is our people. That's the strength of our country. And I can't tell you how proud I am to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming to help Jim. May God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:11 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to event chairman Patrick G. Ryan, chairman and chief executive officer, Aon Corp.; Marie Ryan, wife of candidate Jim Ryan, and their children, John, Jim, Matt, Patrick, and Amy; former First Lady Barbara Bush; Gov. George H. Ryan of Illinois; State Representative Jim Durkin, candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois; State Senator Carl E. Hawkinson, candidate for Lieutenant Governor; State Senate President James "Pate" Philip; State House Republican Leader Lee A. Daniels; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; and foster parents Adrienne and Jerry Welenc.

Proclamation 7560—National Hurricane Awareness Week, 2002

May 13, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Hurricanes can devastate our communities, endangering thousands of human lives and causing billions of dollars in property damage. Stemming from the ocean, the atmosphere, and heat from the sea, hurricanes bring with them the potential for high winds, tornadoes, torrential rains, flooding, and ocean water storm surges. Their fierce and destructive power requires that we all take steps to reduce our vulnerability to this natural hazard.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an average of ten tropical storms develop annually over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Every year, an average of six of these storms grow strong enough to become hurricanes. Approximately five hurricanes strike the United

States coastline every 3 years. Out of these, two will have winds above 111 miles per hour, qualifying them as major hurricanes. The resulting high winds and high waves can seriously damage homes, businesses, public buildings, and critical infrastructure, and ultimately have the potential to injure people and claim lives.

To help avoid damage and help ensure the public's safety from hurricane hazards, FEMA recommends a variety of preventative steps for both individuals and communities. For example, construction measures can help minimize property destruction. These include installing storm shutters over exposed glass and adding hurricane straps to hold the roof of a structure to its walls and foundation. More complex measures, such as elevating coastal homes and businesses, can further reduce a property's susceptibility. In addition, communities can reduce their vulnerability by adopting wind- and flood-resistant building codes and by implementing sound land-use planning.

More than 50 million people live along hurricane-prone coastlines in the United States, with millions of tourists visiting these areas annually. During National Hurricane Awareness Week, I encourage those who live in coastal areas, as well as all concerned Americans, to be more vigilant in preparing for hurricanes and other natural disasters before they occur. By promoting awareness of hurricane hazards and helping with relief efforts when these powerful storms strike, we can reduce the risks of hurricane damage and help our neighbors recover more quickly from their devastating effects. With preparation, forecasting, and coordination, we can save lives and improve our Nation's ability to withstand the impact of hurricanes.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 19 through May 25, 2002, as National Hurricane Awareness Week. I call on government agencies, private organizations, schools, news media, and residents in hurricane-prone areas to share information about hurricane preparedness and response in order to help prevent storm damage and save lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Remarks on Signing the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002

May 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored today to sign a bill that is an important step in an effort to secure our border, while promoting trade and commerce. It's a good piece of legislation. It's bipartisan legislation. And I want to thank the members of both parties who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's here. Where are you, Tom? Oh, you're Tom Ridge, yeah. [Laughter] At least that's what some of the Members are saying. I particularly want to thank Senators Kyl and Brownback and Kennedy, Feinstein, and Hatch for being here—fine, fine Members of the United States Senate. I want to thank you for coming. I also want to appreciate Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and George Gekas as well. These Members worked hard on this legislation. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here.

I also want to say hello to Arlene Howard. Ms. Howard, it's good to see you. A lot of folks might remember—you can stand up. [Applause] Thank you for coming. Arlene gave me her son, George's, badge and—as a reminder of the evil that had been done to our country. You look great. I remember when I went over to Yankee Stadium to throw out the ball there at the World Series, Arlene's—one of Arlene's other sons was there. Where is he? Oh, there he is. Thanks for the advice—aim high. [Laughter]

I want to thank Peter Johnson, who was George's partner for 12 years. Peter, thanks for coming. It's good to see you. I appreciate you being here. Thank you, sir.

I want to welcome you all. I was looking at Arlene and the brave folks here; it reminds me of what was done to us there on September 11th and how important it is that we remain tough and strong and diligent as we seek justice, as we chase down these killers, one by one, and bring them to justice.

And that's a major responsibility of all of ours, and it's a responsibility we take seriously. The country is united in our drive for justice. This Nation is determined, and we're patient, much to the chagrin of the enemy. It must make them really worried to know that we don't have a calendar that says, on such and such a date we're going to quit, that when it comes to our freedoms—defending our freedoms and securing our homeland and protecting our innocent Americans and never forgetting what happened on September the 11th, we are some kind of tough. And that's the way it's going to be.

We've got responsibilities here at home as well, and it starts with our borders. Our borders process an incredibly huge number of people. It may come as a surprise to some of you, but there's—over 500 million people a year enter America, and half of those are our own citizens that may have been traveling. We have 11 million trucks come across our borders. We have 51,000 foreign ships call into our ports. It reminds us that no nation can be totally secure or more secure, unless we're well-protected and unless our borders are well-screened. We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave. That's important for us to know. It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure.

America is not a fortress; no, we never want to be a fortress. We're a free country. We're an open society. And we must always protect the rights of our law—of law-abiding citizens from around the world who come here to conduct business or to study or to spend time with their family. That's what we're known for. We're known for respect.

But on the other hand, we can do a better job of making our borders more secure and make our borders smart. We must use technology and be wise about how we use technology, to speed the flow of commerce across our borders and to identify frequent travelers who pose no risk. We should be directing resources to risk. We ought to be routing out smugglers and focusing on criminals and, of course, stopping terrorists from coming into the country.

The bill I sign today enhances our ongoing efforts to strengthen our borders. The purpose of this bill is to help our country do a better job of border security. It authorizes 400 additional inspectors, investigators, and other staff on the INS over the next 5 years. We're adding manpower, obviously. It makes it easier for the INS and other Federal agencies to get better information about people and products that come into America. It requires every foreign visitor desiring entrance into the United States to carry a travel document containing biometric identification—that would be fingerprints or facial recognition—that will enable us to use technology to better deny fraudulent entry into America.

It strengthens the requirements that all commercial passenger ships and airplanes entering the United States provide a list of passengers and crew before arrival, so that border authorities can act immediately to prevent someone from entering the country if he or she poses a threat to our citizens. It makes a lot of sense to do that. We should have probably been doing it a long time ago.

These new measures will only be effective if Federal authorities have access to important information. One of the things we've learned is how to better share information. Right now, the FBI and the CIA do a good job of sharing information. Information is getting better shared from the Federal to the State to the local levels. But we've got to do a better job of sharing information and expanding information to the INS and the State Department and Customs agents and throughout the intelligence community. We've just got to do a better job.

This bill enables us to modernize our communication, so the information flows freely and quickly. The legislation requires law enforcement and intelligence communities to

continue to develop a list of suspected terrorists and to maintain that list and to make it readily available, so that nobody is granted entry into the United States that's on the list.

In other words, we're beginning to gather information overseas in a much better way. We've got a vast coalition of nations that are still with us. They heard the message, either you're with us, or you're not with us. They're still with us. And we're sharing information, and we can use that—better use that information with our own agencies here at home, to make sure that we really button us up, that we do our job, the job the American people expect.

The bill didn't have everything I wanted. I wanted a temporary extension of 245(i) in the bill, which basically allowed certain immigrants, sponsored by their families or employers, to become legal residents without having to leave the country, so that families can stay together. I thought that made sense. It's not a part of the bill. I intend to work with Congress to see if we can't get that done here pretty quick.

Yet, the commonsense measures will help us meet the goal, and that's important. It will help us meet the goals of legitimate commerce and important travel. And at the same time, it will help us keep the country secure. Basically what we're saying is, this is part of a—legislative part of a national strategy. Tom's worked on the national strategy. He's worked with our respective agency heads. And Congress has been a great partner in this strategy. This is good work.

You know, sometimes in Washington we actually are able to put our political parties aside and focus on what's best for the country. And we're able to say, let's make sure America comes—is the first priority of all of us. And this has happened in this bill.

So it's my honor to welcome both Republicans and Democrats from the legislative branch of Government here as I sign this important legislation.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

The President. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:29 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred

to Officer George G. Howard, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who was killed in the World Trade Center collapse on September 11, 2001, and his mother, Arlene; and Officer Peter Johnson, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. H.R. 3525, approved May 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107-173.

Statement on Signing the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002

May 14, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 3525, the “Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002.” The legislation strengthens the ability of the U.S. Government to control the country’s borders, a top priority of my Administration. The Act will improve our ability to screen aliens seeking to enter our country, facilitate the sharing of border-related information among U.S. agencies, and improve efforts to keep track of foreign students and foreign exchange visitors in the United States.

Section 2(4)(G) of the Act defines as a Federal law enforcement agency the “Coastal Security Service.” Because no such agency exists, and the principal agency with coastal security functions is the U.S. Coast Guard, the executive branch shall construe this provision as referring to the Coast Guard.

Several sections of the Act raise constitutional concerns.

Sections 2(6), 201(c)(2), and 202(a)(3) purport to require the President to act through a specified assistant to the President or in coordination or consultation with specified officers of the United States, agencies, or congressional committees. The President’s constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and take care that the laws be faithfully executed cannot be made by law subject to requirements to exercise those constitutional authorities through a particular member of the President’s staff or in coordination or consultation with specified officers or elements of the Government. Accordingly, the executive branch shall treat the purported requirements as precatory.

Section 203 requires the President, in appointing the nine members of the Commission on Interoperable Data Sharing, to ap-

point eight of them from a list of nominees provided by the congressional leadership acting jointly. Laws that provide for appointment in the Government of individuals to exercise significant governmental authority must provide for such appointment by one of the means specified in the Appointments Clause of the Constitution, which includes appointment by the President with Senate consent or by the President alone, but does not include appointment by the President from a pool of persons selected by the congressional leadership. Accordingly, to give effect to section 203 insofar as is constitutionally permissible, the executive branch shall construe the Commission’s functions as advisory only. Also, the executive branch shall construe the Commission’s responsibility to make recommendations to the Congress in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to submit for congressional consideration such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

The executive branch shall construe section 404(a), relating to U.S.-Canadian joint border inspection operations under an international agreement, in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to conduct the foreign affairs of the Nation and to supervise the unitary executive branch.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 14, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3525, approved May 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107-173.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia and an Exchange With Reporters

May 14, 2002

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the Oval Office. It’s great to see you.

I’ve been looking forward to this visit to publicly thank the Prime Minister for his strong support in the war against terror. He, right after the September the 11th attacks,

immediately went and signed a condolences book in our Embassy, and that meant a lot. He's been a—somebody with whom we can talk; we've got good relations. We share a deep concern about terror, what terror means to our respective countries, what it means to our peoples.

Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for your friendship and thank you for your leadership, and I want to welcome you.

Prime Minister Mahathir. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for the invitation. Since we met in Shanghai, I have always wanted to follow up on what we discussed there, in particular with regard to how we handle this problem of international terrorism. And I hope that as a result of this visit, we will be able to understand the strategy and maybe to work out how best to deal with this problem which plagues all the world, not just the United States. I'm quite sure that this visit will be very fruitful.

President Bush. I think so, too. Thank you.

A couple of questions. David [David Sanger, New York Times].

Al Qaida Activity in Malaysia

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, when you met with a group of us in New York, you said that there was no evidence at that time that Al Qaida was actively—was active in Malaysia. American officials have now told us that they believe some links do exist. Has your opinion changed since then?

And Mr. President, I'd like to know whether it's still the position of the United States that Anwar Ibrahim has been jailed primarily for his political opposition to the Prime Minister?

Prime Minister Mahathir. Well, at that time we were not very certain, but we have discovered that some of these people who were active, who planned to overthrow the Government by force of bombs, had activity into Pakistan and eventually to Afghanistan, where they did meet with the Al Qaida people.

And they—I believe that they could overthrow the Government by force of bombs in order to establish what they consider to be an Islamic state.

Q. You believe they are Al Qaida?

Prime Minister Mahathir. Yes, they are. We have found evidence that they have had involvement with these people. But they're primarily in east Malaysia.

President Bush. What was your second part of your question?

Former Malaysian Finance Minister Anwar bin Ibrahim

Q. The question was, Mr. President, is it still the position of the United States that Anwar Ibrahim, the former finance minister—

President Bush. Yes.

Q. —was jailed primarily for his political opposition to the Prime Minister? Or do you believe—and do you believe he should be released?

President Bush. Our position has not changed.

Q. Mr. President—

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. The Malaysian press.

Malaysia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what you—what we can expect of future Malaysia-U.S. relations as a result of these talks that are taking place today?

President Bush. Well, I think you can expect continued cooperation—intelligence sharing, for example.

Let me finish, please.

One of the things that we're finding is that our enemy is shadowy. They lurk behind civil institutions, and then they strike. They—they're not like an enemy we've known before. And in order to make sure our respective societies are as secure as possible, we must share intelligence. We find out a lot about movements throughout the region, and we're more than willing to share with the Prime Minister's Government what we know, and vice versa, and that's important. That's incredibly important. My most important job—I remind this to the American people—is to secure our homeland.

Q. Not more extensive than that—

President Bush. There's a lot more. We'll talk about trade. We'll talk about economy. There's a lot more to talk about. But when it comes to the security of a homeland, that's about as extensive as it gets. You see, I'm

not going to let our Nation forget or our friends in the world forget what happened to us on September the 11th. It could happen to somebody else as well, and the Prime Minister understands that.

And this is a very important visit from that respect. The—we'll also talk about the Middle East, and I look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister on the Middle East. So we'll have a good discussion.

Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News].

Cuba

Q. Mr. President, former President Carter is in Cuba, about to address the Cuban people. Has his—have his remarks complicated your foreign policy? And what would you say to the Cuban people, if allowed to speak directly to them?

President Bush. Well, I—you know, I appreciate President Carter's focus on human rights. I think that's important in Cuba, in a place where there is no human rights.

My message—first of all, it doesn't complicate my foreign policy because I hadn't changed my foreign policy. And that is that Fidel Castro is a dictator, and he is repressive. And he ought to have free elections, and he ought to have a free press. And he ought to free his prisoners, and he ought to encourage free enterprise.

And my message to Fidel—my message to the Cuban people is, demand freedom, and you've got a President who stands with you. And my message to Fidel Castro is precisely what I said. I'm going to deliver that message next Monday in—here, and then I'm going to go down to Miami for Cuban Independence Day.

Last question here for—

Response to Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of Dr. Mahathir's definition of terrorism and his view that the root causes of terrorism must be addressed not through military action alone?

President Bush. I agree with that. I think that—but first, some of these people are nothing but coldblooded killers, and there's no rehabilitation program, except for bringing them to justice. I mean, there's no way that—these people made up their minds.

The leaders of these groups have decided that they're going to come and kill. And it may be an American; it may be a Malaysian—who knows? But we're going to stop them. And so the best program is to use our respective militaries, intelligence gathering, cutting off money, to go after these killers.

Now, in terms of youngsters who are looking for—you know, who are searching for a future, if there's a hopeless future, there may be an opportunity to convert them into potential suiciders or potential killers. And that's what I think we need to talk about, about how to ease hopelessness where there is no hope; I mean, to help people and to help people realize there's a better future other than joining up with a terrorist organization whose sole intent is destruction.

That's why education is important. Good health care initiatives are important. That's why it's important for, you know, people in the Middle East to feel like there is a future. It's one of the reasons I've advocated a Palestinian state to be able to live side by side with Israel in peace, so that there—people realize there's a future, and there's a better—provide better choices for people other than suicide killing.

But in terms of the senior Al Qaida members or some of these, listen, there's no—as I say, I want to repeat, there's no rehabilitation program for them. There's only one thing to do, is to get them, and we're going to. We're going to bring them to justice. And I will remind the Prime Minister it's going to take awhile. This is a—and we're patient. He needs to know that the American President, our Government is a very patient Government. And we're steadfast, and we're resolved, and we're going to hunt them down. And we look forward to continue working with him to do just that. And we'll bring them to justice, and that's precisely what's going to happen to these people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Fidel Castro of Cuba. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Republican National Committee Dinner

May 14, 2002

Thank you for that great welcome. I'm honored. I'm glad I heard the second introduction. [*Laughter*] You know, when I asked Marc to become the party chairman, I knew he was going to do a great job, and he hasn't let me down. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership. I appreciate that.

I want to thank Marc, and I want to thank Ann Wagner. I want to thank Marie-Josee; thank you very much for doing this. I appreciate your leadership. I'm honored that Lew Eisenberg agreed to serve as the finance chairman of our grand party. Lew, thank you for your leadership as well. I want to thank all who made this dinner possible. I particularly want to thank you all for being here tonight.

I've been blessed by a lot of things. I've been blessed by a great group of friends, many of whom are here, and I want to thank you for coming. And the country realizes now I've been blessed with a great wife. I am sure glad she said yes when I said, "Will you marry me?" [*Laughter*] As you know, a lot of her friends are still confused as to why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I wish she was here tonight. She's in Paris, and I don't mean Paris, Texas. [*Laughter*] She is in Paris, France. The French are getting to see what America knows, that our First Lady is calm and steady and dignified and is a great First Lady for the United States.

I see out there many of the members of my team, and I've been blessed with a great team. I want to thank my Cabinet officials who are here tonight. I particularly want to say one word about a member of my team who isn't here; I understand he spoke at lunch. Somebody said to me one time, he said, "Well, Dick Cheney is going to be a good Vice President." No, Dick Cheney is a great Vice President for the United States.

I want to thank the Speaker. Mr. Speaker—where is Mr. Speaker? Somewhere down there. Hi, Speaker. The Speaker of the House is a fabulous Speaker of the House. And one of the things I'm going to dedicate myself to is to make sure he remains the Speaker of the House.

And I've got another job, too, as the leader of this party, and it's to make sure that Trent Lott becomes the majority leader of the United States Senate. I look out there and see many of the fine Members of the United States Congress, Tom DeLay and others. I want to thank you all for being here. Thank you for supporting our great party. Thank you for your leadership, and thanks for working with your President.

I also want to thank all the folks who do the grassroots work for the Republican Party. Those of us who have ever run for office know full well how important it is to have people who are willing to man the phones and to stuff the envelopes, to carry the signs, to stand on the street corners, to do all the work necessary. And so, on behalf of a grateful group of elected officials, thank you for your hard work on behalf of our candidacies and our philosophy.

You know, it doesn't seem like a year ago that I was here. Time is flying. Either that's because I've got a lot to do, or I'm enjoying myself. [*Laughter*] The truth is, both are the reasons why time is flying. I do have a lot to do. But I can't tell you how much I love being your President, and thank you for the opportunity to serve this great Nation.

A year ago I said that I would do my part to try to change the tone in Washington, DC, to get rid of the needless name-calling that tends to go on here, to try to focus on what's best for America, to bring a philosophy which is conservative and yet compassionate, to not listen to the voices that try to tear people down but to lift this Nation up, and to focus on getting things done. And I believe—and I strongly believe—that we've made great progress. I feel just as strongly today as I did a year ago about the need for the American people to learn that when our philosophy is put into action, people are better off, and that when they give us a chance to lead, we lead by focusing on results. And I want to talk about some of those results here tonight.

First, I had the honor of signing the largest tax reduction in years. That tax reduction reflected two things: One, we Republicans understand that we're not spending the Government's money. It's the people's money, and we've got to let the people keep more

of their own money in order to keep our economy growing. And secondly, that tax relief came at the right time.

Some of them up here read a different economic textbook than we do. They thought that it made sense to take more money out of the pockets of the hard-working taxpayers if the economy were to slow down. We think just the opposite. We think, when the economy slows down, you give people more of their own money so they can spend. And when they spend on goods and services, somebody provides the goods and services. And when somebody provides goods and services, it means work for American people. This tax relief was the right thing for the taxpayers, and it's the right thing for the economy of the United States.

And I look forward to working with the United States Congress to make sure that the tax relief we passed is permanent, is long-lasting, is real for the American taxpayer.

At the same time, I worked with Members on both sides of our aisle to provide an economic stimulus package, just when the country needed it. And I want to thank the leaders here who worked with the White House, who understands that when we encourage investment in the private sector, it is more likely to lead to work for the American people.

I want to thank the people here who helped me work on education reform. There's nothing more important than making sure that every child in America gets educated. I don't mean a few; I don't mean some who live in certain neighborhoods; I mean every single child in this country.

We passed a bill that sets high standards. You see, we understand that if you set low standards, if you don't believe people can learn, people won't learn. See, ours is the party that looks at each individual and says, he or she matters, and he or she can learn. And we set high standards.

Ours is also the party that believes in results. Listen, if we spend Federal money—which we do—on disadvantaged children, we want to know. We expect results. We expect the children to learn to read and write and add and subtract. See, we believe every child can learn.

So part of the reform package said that if you get help, you must show us—you, the

States and local jurisdictions, must show us. And if children will learn, listen, we'll praise all day long the teachers who are working hard to make that happen. But when we find children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, we demand something else. No child should be stuck in a school that won't teach.

And finally, the core component of the education bill recognizes that we don't know all—everything here in Washington. And so we passed power out of Washington to empower local people, to empower people closest to the children, to chart the path to excellence for each child. No, this education reform is an important piece of legislation. It's conservative to trust local people; it is compassionate—it is compassionate to insist that every single child in America get a quality education.

And when Dick Cheney and I came to Washington, we said we'd make sure our defense and defenses of the United States were strong. And we have done that. The morale in the United States military is high. Our folks are being trained, and they're being well equipped. And our Nation is better off for a strong defense policy that we support.

We've made progress on key issues—key issues—like trade. I want to thank the House of Representatives for getting a good trade bill out of the House. And it's now up to the United States Senate to get a trade bill to my desk. It is important to open up markets for U.S. products.

We passed an energy bill. For the first time, our Nation had an administration that was willing to stand up and say we need an energy policy, a policy which encourages conservation and new technologies for renewal but also a policy that understands it's not in our Nation's interest to be dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, particularly when some of those foreign sources of crude oil don't like us.

One of my passions, one of my legislative passions, is to encourage programs based upon faith and programs based upon love to flourish all across America. The House of Representatives passed a important piece of legislation called the Faith-Based Initiative. It is stuck in the Senate. It is time to get this important legislation out of the United

States Senate and on my desk, so we can capture and rally the great compassion all across America, to make sure nobody in America feels left out of this great country.

And there are issues we're working on. There is no more important an issue for the President than to be able to name and nominate judges. I want you to know that this country has got a vacancy crisis on the Federal bench, and that's not good for America. That's not good for America. I've worked hard to name well-qualified jurists, people from all walks of life, people who have done different things in their life, different occupations, but all of them great judges. And I can't get the politics of the United States Senate to be set aside for the good of the judiciary. One reason we need to change the Senate is to make sure the well-qualified judges I have named and nominated get approved to the benches all across America.

We're working on an early childhood development program. We want our Head Start programs to be able to teach our children the basics of reading and writing and math. If we're going to measure, we want little kids from all walks of life at the same starting point as other kids. This is essential, that we get good legislation out of the Congress that focuses on making sure every child learns to read. There's nothing more basic and nothing more important for the future of this country.

We're working on a welfare reform package. One of the great success stories was the welfare reform of 1996. The welfare rolls in America are down by over one-half. And that's good for taxpayers, but more importantly, it's good for the people who've found work. A job for a family means dignity, and we must continue the reform of making sure we help people find work in America.

And one of the interesting debates going on in Washington, which amazes some people—I know it amazes the people in Crawford, Texas—is, I think a crucial component of a good welfare reauthorization bill is to encourage people to marry and stay married, to encourage families—two-parent families. The statistics show that when there's a mom and dad together, a child is more likely to succeed in America. And I'm proud to strongly support family initiatives all across

this country. No, there's a lot to work on here for the good of the people.

Another thing we're going to be working on is the budget. I was in Chicago in 2002; some guy said—a reporter said, excuse me, said—[*laughter*]*—a male reporter said—[laughter]*—“Would you ever allow a deficit?” I said, “Only if we're at war or only if the Nation were in recession or only if we had a national emergency would I allow a deficit.” Well, this administration got all three. And we're going to have a deficit because our economy isn't generating the tax revenues that we thought. That will be okay after a while. We'll have a small deficit if Congress adheres to the budget I submitted. But I wanted you to know how I feel about it.

My most important job is to protect the American people. And one of the reasons we have a short-term deficit is because I've insisted that we fund our national defense to the fullest.

My most important job is to protect innocent lives, is to secure our homeland, is to do everything we can to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again. I want you to know that the defense of our country, protecting the homeland, I don't view as a partisan issue. I view it as my duty. And I view it as the duty of the United States Congress to work with the President, which is what's happening.

I wish I could report to you that the enemy is defeated, that they no longer are interested in hurting us, but that's not the case. They're still moving around. A lot of kids say and write letters in and say, you know, “Why? Why would they want to come after America?” It's hard for people to understand, but these coldblooded killers hate what we stand for. They hate our love for freedom. They hate the fact that America believes strongly in the freedom for people to worship the way they see fit, the people for—the freedom for people to speak their mind, the freedom of the press. The freedoms we hold dear are hated by these people.

I like to remind my fellow Americans that we're a unique land, that we're plenty tough. And I guess they just didn't understand us. They must have thought that we were so materialistic and shallow and feeble that, oh,

yeah, we might file a couple of lawsuits—*[laughter]*—but that we wouldn't do anything else. Thanks to the mighty United States military and a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, we've proved them wrong.

And we're going to continue to prove them wrong, because this Nation is a united Nation; we're together. We're also patient. I've been so pleased and thankful that the American people have been so patient in the understanding of the task ahead. They don't have—like me, they don't have a calendar on the wall that says, by such-and-such a date we're going to quit. They understand that we're facing an enemy that we have never really seen before—a faceless, nameless bunch of people who—they've got leaders who say to the youngsters, "Go blow yourself up, and in the meantime, I'm going to find a cave to hide in." A different kind of enemy.

But we're learning more about them. You need to know that our intelligence-gathering is getting better; we're sharing a lot of intelligence with our friends. And we're going to run them down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

History has called us into action. History has laid a significant responsibility on this Nation's shoulders, our collective shoulders. And I'm proud to report to my friends and proud to report to the world that we accept that responsibility.

That's why the defense budget I submitted is significant. It has two principles involved in it: One, anytime we commit our young men and women in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best equipment, and the best training.

And the second message is to not only our friends but our enemies: We're in this for the long haul. We're in it until we secure our own homeland. See, we fight for freedom, and when somebody comes after our freedom, this mighty Nation is plenty tough. This mighty Nation will not relent in the face of people who think that we will back down.

We've got a lot of work ahead of us. We've got work ahead of us in Afghanistan, and we're after them. We're going to continue to work to make sure that the Al Qaida killers aren't able to bunch up or train in other spots of the world. We're making good progress there. We're cutting off their money.

But there's some larger tasks ahead as well. We just cannot, as a nation that loves freedom, allow the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us or to team up with Al Qaida to threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

History is going to look back at this time, and people are going to say, "Did the United States have the courage to lead, or did the United States blink?" And I'm here to report to you that history will say that the United States of America led the world to freedom.

I'm an incredibly optimistic person. I believe that there's some incredible good that's going to come out of this evil. I want you to know that I talk about our military, and I talk about "getting them" in caves, but I long for peace. You see, I know that by being tough and strong and resolute, we can achieve peace. And that's what I—that's my hope and my goal. And I believe it's going to happen. I believe when the United States leads the world, we're more likely to achieve peace in troubled regions and peace around the world.

And out of the evil is going to come some good at home, too; you mark my words. This country is so compassionate, so decent that we will be able to address the pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist in cities and communities around our country, not by vast new Government programs but by the love of the American people.

People say, what can they do to help to fight in the war against terror? And my answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. The acts don't have to be hugely significant. Mentor one child as a part of doing some good. If you've got a shut-in in your neighborhood, walk across the street on a daily basis and say, "What can I do to help you?" That's part of doing good. If you go to church or a synagogue or a mosque, rally your fellow citizens to feed somebody who is hungry. Find a child whose parent might be in a prison and surround him with love.

And that's happening in America. See, the strength of America is not in our halls of Government; the strength of America is in the hearts and souls of incredibly decent and generous and kind people. There's a spirit

in this country that I can feel, that's alive and well, a spirit that on the one hand says, we'll defend our freedoms, and a spirit on the other hand that says, not only will we make the world safer, we will make America better.

It has been an honor to serve as the President of this great country. I'm an early morning guy. I love getting up in the morning and bringing the First Lady her coffee. I love taking Spot and Barney down the elevator and heading out into the South Lawn. Barney heads off with the gardener, because the rug in the Oval Office is new and he's quite young. *[Laughter]* Spot goes in with me. After all, she was born in the White House during the "41" era and is quite used to the accommodations. *[Laughter]*

I sit behind a fantastic desk that has been used by Theodore Roosevelt—I'm a President; I call him Ted—*[laughter]*—Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, the great Ronald Reagan. I look at Abraham Lincoln on the wall, and I put him on the wall there because he had the toughest job of all, which was to keep our Nation united in the face of a civil war. I know my job: My job is to keep our Nation united so that we can capture the great spirit of America, to make sure that everybody who lives in this country understands our promise, our values, and our hope. That's my dream for the world—peace—and our country being as hopeful for everyone as it can possibly be.

Thank you for giving me the chance to be the President. May God bless you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:50 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Marc Racicot, chairman, Ann Wagner, cochairman, and Lewis Eisenberg, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; and Marie-Josée Kravis, dinner chairman.

Remarks at the Peace Officers Memorial Service

May 15, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for that kind welcome, and thank you for the privilege of joining you today at this annual tribute.

Today and every May 15th the American flag flies at half-staff in grateful memory—in grateful memory—of thousands of fallen police officers. This year we pay special homage to 480 men and women whose names are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. We do so with enormous respect and appreciation for the courage and character of all who have answered the call to be a law enforcement officer.

I want to thank my friend Steve Young, the president of the FOP, for inviting me to be here, and I want to thank him for his leadership. I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who have joined us on the stage and who are here with us as well. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate Aliza Clark and those who work so hard to help the families of the fallen. I want to thank the United States Capitol Police, Vernon Baker. I want to thank Daniel Rodriguez for lending his fabulous voice in tribute after tribute to the greatness of America. And I want to thank Marc Anthony as well.

So many family members of fallen officers have come to Washington for this service, and I want you to know we are honored by your presence. Standing by you today and always are brother and sister officers who are faithful to the memory of lost friends.

I thank all the officers in attendance and the departments you represent. Thank you for your loyalty to one another and for your service to America. The loyalty of police officers is seen in the neighborhoods of America when our officers are on duty and whenever one of your comrades is suddenly taken from us. That happens on average about three times a week in the life of our Nation, and each time we witness the powerful family that unites the police officers of America. When an officer dies in the line of duty, an entire community will pause in sorrow and in admiration with the depth of feeling Americans reserve for people who protect us every day.

Last September the 11th, our entire Nation grieved at the loss of 72 police officers. It was a loss unlike any we have known before, all in one moment, all at one place.

More than 300 firefighters and rescueworkers died as well in New York, along with thousands they were trying to save. As the buildings fell, the sound, said one survivor, “was like the roar of the devil.”

September the 11th was a day of great horror and great heroism. It was the first day of a long struggle against determined enemies. It was the first day in which this mighty Nation will hunt down the killers and their like one by one and bring them to justice.

It's the saddest day in the history of law enforcement. In his final moments, trapped in rubble, Officer Dominick Pezzulo called out to one of his fellows, and he said, “Just remember me.” The last voice he heard was Officer Will Jimeno, promising him they would never forget. So, Dominick, today we remember—we remember courage and bravery and sacrifice.

Sacrifice like that of John—Police Officer John Perry, who retired on September the 11th. Early that morning, he had turned in his badge at the 40th Precinct. A moment later, he heard the sound of the first attack and the radio traffic that followed. He put his badge back on and was last seen directing people to safety at the bottom of the tower.

I have the police shield of another officer who died on that day. His name was George G. Howard. His mother gave me this badge. She gave it to me in love for George, but she gave it to me because I'm confident she wanted her President never to forget what took place.

We call all those we honor today, those who lost their life in 9/11 and those who lost their life before and after 9/11, heroes—because they are heroes. Their families are proud of them and always will be. Yet there's not a husband or wife here today or a parent or child who would not trade the honor to have them back. In a eulogy for his son who died on September the 11th, one father said, “I know he's in good hands, but I wish he was in my hands.” We know how you feel.

There are more than 700,000 sworn law officers across America. When the oath is administered, they accept great responsibilities and accept great risk. Even in the most routine moments on watch or patrol, you protect us. Even on the quietest day, the next call

may send you into extremes of danger. America is grateful. You just need to know, America is grateful.

We have confidence in our law enforcement because we know the kind of men and women we select and we know the nature of the men and women we train for the job. They're the ones who face down threats, who place themselves between the innocent and the guilty, who step into scenes of chaos and violence thinking only of whom they can help.

No one goes into police work for the money, nor does anybody put on the uniform expecting a life of ease. You take the job because you respect the law and you know that someone has to do the challenging work of enforcing it. Fortunately, this great country, America, has never been short of such men and women and your devoted service, and we are very grateful.

Every day in every place in America, we can be thankful for the integrity and courage of our officers of our law. Today we give thanks for the special courage of the fallen, those whose watch ended with their lives. America cannot fully repay our debt to them and to the families. We can only acknowledge that debt, which we do today with pride and affection of an entire nation.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. on the West Grounds at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Young, national president, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP); Aliza Clark, president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; Officer Vernon Baker, chaplain, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, who gave the invocation; Officer Daniel Rodriguez, New York City Police Department, who sang the national anthem; singer Marc Anthony; Officer Will Jimeno, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and Arlene Howard, mother of Officer George G. Howard.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India

May 15, 2002

The United States condemns the terrorist attack carried out by militants in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the

families of the victims and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, whose citizens were killed in this attack.

Yesterday's attack was also aimed at destroying opportunities for South Asia to build a future that is more stable, more peaceful, and more prosperous. We will not allow terrorists to succeed in this larger mission. The United States will not yield in its determination to work with the people of South Asia to fight terrorism and to build a better future.

Statement on the Proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002"

May 15, 2002

I was pleased to meet this morning with the leadership of the United Jewish Communities (UJC). We share a strong commitment to see passage of the CARE ("Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment") Act. The UJC and more than 1,600 other organizations—ranging from America's Second Harvest to the YMCA—support this important piece of legislation, which will spur charitable giving and create a more level playing field for faith-based and community organizations.

America should stand by the charities that support people in need and in crisis. Giving to many charities—and particularly to social service organizations—is down, while the demands on them remain great. The Senate should pass the CARE Act, and the Congress should send me legislation that I can sign that will help support the vital work of thousands of faith-based and community-based charities across America.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Subsidy Budget Authority Necessary To Support America West Airlines

May 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$429 million Federal credit instrument for America West Airlines. I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$172 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of Funds Previously Transferred From the Emergency Response Fund

May 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107-38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund.

This reallocation within the United States Postal Service reflects revised requirements related to the anthrax incidents that affected-

the Nation's mail. As provided in Public Law 107-38, the reallocation would be effective 15 days from the date of this transmittal.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

May 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$500 million for the Disaster Relief program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These funds will allow FEMA to continue providing assistance to victims of disasters in several States, including victims of recent tornadoes in Maryland and storms and flooding in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that FEMA has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate the \$500 million made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

May 16, 2002

The President. Thank you all. *Sientense.* [Laughter]

Audience member. [Inaudible].

The President. *Sí. Muchas gracias.* [Laughter]

Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It is *un honor para mí de estar aquí para le*—the first—the first—not the last but the first—[laughter]—National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. I want to tell you it's an honor to be here amongst people who dedicate their lives to the embetterment of our fellow human beings. I appreciate that a lot.

I want to thank Luis. I met with Luis; one of the things that struck me was he is a—he'll say sergeant; I say general—in the army of compassion in Philadelphia. I loved his compassion. Not only is he a man of God; he also understands the importance of education. We talked about a charter school he wanted to start in his neighborhood. He understands what I understand, that when you have quality education, you improve inner-city America. And so, Luis, I want to thank you for your focus on education. We must continue to work to make sure *todos los niños puedan leer*.

I want to thank Mel Martinez. *Dónde está Mel?* Anyway, he's somewhere here. He's a member of my Cabinet. You may remember the story about Mel. He's the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development now. As a young boy, his mother and daddy put him on an airplane to America from Cuba. He was a part of Operation Pedro Pan. They wanted their son to be raised in freedom. They longed for freedom and were willing to take the risk to send their loved one to the land of freedom. And now I'm proud he has gone from a young *niñito* in Pedro Pan; today, he is now the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And it shows the wonderful spirit and strength of our country.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I see I've got Senators here and Members of the Congress. Thank you all for coming. It's important that you're here, and I appreciate you being here as well.

I want to thank all who have worked hard to set this breakfast up. It gives me a chance to come and remind us all that America has many traditions of faith, and that's important to always remember. We have never imposed any religion, and that's really important to remember, too. We welcome all religions in America—all religions. We honor diversity in this country. We respect people's deep convictions.

We know that men and women can be good without faith. We know that. We also know that faith is an incredibly important source of goodness in our country. Throughout our history, Americans of faith have always turned to prayer—for wisdom, prayer for resolve, prayers for compassion and strength, prayers for commitment to justice and for a spirit of forgiveness.

Since America's founding, prayer has reassured us that the hand of God is guiding the affairs of this Nation. We have never asserted a special claim on His favor, yet we've always believed in God's presence in our lives. This has always been true. But it has never been more true since September the 11th. Prayer has comforted people in grief. Prayer has served as a unifying factor in our Nation. Prayer gives us strength for the journey ahead. Millions of Americans have turned to prayer during these times and have been reminded of an important truth: While weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning.

The last 8 months have showed the world the American character is incredibly strong and confident. Yet prayer reminds us that a great people must be humble before God, searching for wisdom—constantly searching for wisdom—from the almighty *Dios*.

Prayer is a vital part of our national life. That's why your breakfast is so important. Prayer and faith are an especially vital part of the life of Hispanos in *este país*. We see the role of faith in your devotion to church, to your family, and to charity. The power of faith is found among the young, and that's good news—really good news. Ministers say that a *revolución espiritual* is taking place amongst *los jóvenes Hispanos aquí*. That's good.

I want to thank you all for leading that effort. It's an important contribution to our

country. One youth leader put it this way: "The revival is impacting the youth most of all, because they do not set limits on God. God is doing something so big with the youth of this Nation." Those are mighty powerful words for a President to hear.

We know how important faith can be, and we know that faith without works, without action, is dead. True faith is never isolated from the rest of life. It proves itself through actions and sacrifice, through acts of kindness and caring for those in need.

For some people, Jesus' admonition to care for "the least of these" is an admirable moral teaching. For many Hispanic Americans, it's a way of life. You understand that God has a special concern for the poor and that community helpers and healers are doing the most important work of all, repairing broken lives, bringing love into pockets of hopelessness and despair.

Charities and community groups and faith-based institutions do incredible work in our country, really important work, providing shelters for battered women, helping the homeless, the important work of mentoring children without fathers, the work of loving a child whose mother or father may be in prison, reminding them that there is love and compassion and decency and hope, of helping people overcome drug and alcohol addictions by helping them first and foremost change their hearts.

These groups, these platoons in the armies of compassion, demonstrate compassion and inspire hope in a way that Government never can. And they inspire life-changing faith in a way that Government never should.

The Faith-Based and Community Initiative that I've been working on and others from Congress have been working on is really important. It's an important part of our strategy to combat hopelessness and despair and loneliness, to make America a land of opportunity and hope and promise *por todos—por todos*.

This set of laws will provide new incentives for charitable giving, and that's important, really important. It will allow non-itemizers to be able to deduct a charitable gift. That will help raise money. It will help encourage the flow of people who realize it's important

to not only give of their time but of their money as well.

When it comes to providing Federal resources to effective programs, this law will make a difference, because, you see, it welcomes private and faith-based programs. It says that the days of discriminating—when it comes to the use of Federal money, the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because they are religious must come to an end.

I understand you'll be hearing from or have heard from Senator Joe Lieberman, Rick Santorum, and I know you just heard from J.C. Watts. I mention these gentlemen because first, they're fine leaders. They come from different faiths, different political parties, but are united by the common desire to pass important legislation that unleashes the strength of the country, which is the compassion of our fellow citizens. I appreciate their hard work. I appreciate their willingness to focus on the common good. I look forward to signing a bill as soon as we can get it out of the United States Senate.

You know, I often tell people that if you want to respond to what has happened to our country, you can do so with prayer, but as importantly, you can do so by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. I also—one person cannot do everything in our society, of course. But one person can do something. And by that, I mean that we can change our country one person at a time—one person at a time. And that's what we've got to do, and that's what we have to think about.

And there's nothing more powerful in helping change the country than the faith—faith in *Dios*. I want to tell you, the greatest gift that people can give to a President or people in positions of responsibility—anybody else, for that matter—is prayer.

I work the ropelines a lot, and people say, "Mr. President, I pray for you and your family." I turn to them, I look them in the eye, and say, "That's the greatest gift you can give—the greatest gift you can give." I mean it with all sincerity.

And so I want to thank you for your prayer. I want to thank you for what you do for our Nation. I want to thank you for your good

works. I want to thank you for helping change America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I believe that it will be said, it will be said of Americans such as yourself, "*Bien, siervo bueno y fiel.*"

It's my honor to be with you this morning. May God bless you and your ministries, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:07 a.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Capital Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes of Philadelphia, founder and president of Nueva Esperanza, Inc., a Hispanic faith-based community development corporation. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Former President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan

May 16, 2002

Thank you all very much. Ever since the American Revolution, our Congress has given gold medals to heroes of our Republic. Today I'm honored to join the Members of the Congress from both parties in paying tribute to Nancy and Ronald Reagan as they receive this high award, the Congressional Gold Medal, in recognition of their contributions to America and to the cause of freedom.

Mrs. Reagan, it's great to see you again. It's always a pleasure to be with you.

I want to thank our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, for joining us today; Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming. I appreciate the justices from our courts being here. I particularly want to thank the Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker and Senator Byrd and all the Members of the Congress who are here.

I want to welcome all the friends of President and Mrs. Reagan. All of you all who work in the Reagan administration, welcome back to your old stomping grounds.

Ronald Reagan is one of the largest figures of our time. His name will always stand for courage and consistency, for patriotism and resolve, and for humor and optimism. He's a man of great talent and great character.

Yet, his entire career is a tribute to the power of great ideas.

President Reagan believed deeply in American character and destiny. He believed deeply in the power of freedom to improve the lives of average men and women. These ideas changed America, and they changed the world, not only because he eloquently explained them, because they are right and they are true. Ronald Reagan believed that prosperity is another—another name for economic freedom, and his policies of freedom laid the foundations for a prosperous and for a generous society.

Ronald Reagan believed that history is on the side of human liberty, that all tyranny must be temporary, because liberty is the universal hope of all mankind. He believed that the aspirations of our country require the might of our military. And he knew that the cause of freedom is served by moral clarity, a willingness to call oppression and evil by their proper names.

Above all, Ronald Reagan believed in the strong character of the American people, even when some on both the left and right were quite skeptical of that character. He would recognize the country we have seen since September the 11th. He would look at the spirit and sacrifice of the firefighters and police officers, the men and women of our military, average Americans, and he'd be proud. He wouldn't be surprised. He knew the courage and decency and generosity at the heart of this country because he shared it and he embodied it.

At every step of an amazing life, Nancy Reagan has been at Ronald Reagan's side—right by his side. As his optimism inspired us, her love and devotion strengthened him. As first lady of California, Mrs. Reagan spoke out on behalf of POWs and American servicemen missing in action. As our First Lady of the United States, Nancy Reagan led an antidrug campaign that helped significantly reduce teen drug use. Now she has joined the fight against the terrible curse of Alzheimer's.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan were married in 1952, and their love for one another has only grown greater with the passage of time. They set out to make a life together, and this amazing partnership helped change the

world. Now on a difficult journey, we admire Nancy Reagan's eloquent example of loyalty and love.

May God bless you and your husband, Mrs. Reagan. And may God bless this country he loves so much.

And now I'm honored to present the Gold Medal, along with the Speaker and Senator Byrd, President pro tempore.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Rotunda at the Capitol. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Welfare Reform Legislation

May 16, 2002

Today the House passed welfare reform legislation that will help millions of Americans realize a life of hope, dignity, and independence. This compassionate approach builds upon our past successes by moving more Americans from welfare to work, encouraging strong families and healthy marriages, and freeing States to innovate as they help people find the independence of a job.

I commend the House for moving quickly and now urge the Senate to act on behalf of those who seek a better life.

Statement on Completion of the NATO Mission in the United States

May 16, 2002

I thank NATO for the steadfast support and cooperation after the attacks on September 11. Today marks the end of NATO aircraft and crews patrolling American skies as part of Operation Noble Eagle. These aircrews began their deployment soon after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. This deployment, coupled with the declaration that the attacks on the United States were attacks on all NATO members, affirmed NATO's commitment to collective defense.

For 220 days, NATO aircrews from 12 nations, based at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma, flew missions over the United States. On behalf of the American people, I thank them

for their important contribution to the defense of this Nation.

Proclamation 7562—Armed Forces Day, 2002

May 16, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The words of President Dwight D. Eisenhower written in 1953 remain true today: “It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world.” On Armed Forces Day, our grateful Nation salutes the brave men and women who protect our country, defend freedom, and help make our world a better place.

During these extraordinary times, we are reminded that our achievements in peace and war stand upon the service and sacrifice of those in uniform. Today, we have troops fighting overseas to defeat terrorism. These brave men and women follow in the footsteps of previous generations who, since our Nation’s founding, have stepped forward to defend our homeland and secure liberty for our country and our friends and allies. The members of our military exemplify the true spirit of patriotism—a love of country expressed through a commitment to serve our Nation and defend our freedom. Their selfless dedication and determination are an inspiration to every American.

In difficult times, America has called on members of our Armed Forces to protect the democratic ideals on which our country was founded, and they have never let our country down. As we confront the challenges of this new era, we will continue to rely on our military’s extraordinary skill, sense of honor, devotion to duty, and courageous commitment to service.

More than 50 years ago, President Harry S. Truman helped establish a day for Americans to join together and thank our military members for their service to our country. In 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson

announced the establishment of Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Days. A year later, President Truman issued a Presidential Proclamation, observing that the day “marks the first combined demonstration by America’s defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense.”

The theme of this year’s celebration is “United For Freedom.” During this celebration, I encourage Americans to show the world that we are unified as a people and ready to defend our way of life, our freedoms, and our homeland. As President and Commander in Chief, I urge all our citizens to join me in expressing appreciation for the dedication and selfless service of the members of our extraordinary Armed Forces.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, continuing the precedent of my ten immediate predecessors in this Office, do hereby proclaim the third Saturday of each May as Armed Forces Day.

I direct the Secretary of Defense on behalf of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, and the Secretary of Transportation on behalf of the Coast Guard, to plan for appropriate observances each year, with the Secretary of Defense responsible for soliciting the participation and cooperation of civil authorities and private citizens.

I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to provide for the observance of Armed Forces Day within their jurisdiction each year in an appropriate manner designed to increase public understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces of the United States.

I also invite national and local veterans, civic, and community service organizations to join in the observance of Armed Forces Day each year.

I call upon all Americans not only to display the flag of the United States at their homes on Armed Forces Day, but also to learn about our system of defense and about

the men and women who sustain it by attending and participating in the local observances of the day.

Proclamation 6693 of May 21, 1994, is hereby superseded.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 20, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 21.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy Falcons

May 17, 2002

Please be seated. Thank you. Well, it's my honor to welcome back—[*laughter*—the Mighty Falcons. It seems like Coach DeBerry is the charter member of the White House frequent visitor club. [*Laughter*] I'm real proud of you all and want to congratulate you for a great season and for winning the Commander's Trophy again.

I recognize Pete Pace. You look a little out of place here, Pete—[*laughter*]—but I'm glad you're here. You're doing a fine job. General John Jumper, as well, is here. I want to thank the Lieutenant General, John Dallager; thank you, Superintendent, wherever you are. One of these days, you'll invite me to the graduation ceremonies. [*Laughter*]

I do want to thank the players for their hard work and the example they set. And of course, I want to congratulate the coach again. I was reading where he is going to go to the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. That's a big deal, if you're from South Carolina. So Coach, congratulations for that.

The interesting thing about this group of seniors is, they have never lost to Army or Navy. But upon graduation, they're going to be on the same team, and that's important for them to remember.

During last May's visit, I said of Coach DeBerry, he is not just recruiting to win football games; he is recruiting to win our Nation's wars, if we have one. That was May. And on September 11th, war came to our country. And I want to thank you, Coach, for recruiting those who will help us win our Nation's wars, because unlike the last time we met, we're at war. We're in the midst of a war against a determined and fierce enemy.

I want the troops here to know that I take my job as the Commander in Chief very seriously, that my most important job is to protect America and to protect our homeland. I do whatever it takes, and I know you'll join me in doing whatever it takes to prevent the enemy from attacking America again, like they did, and causing thousands to suffer and to mourn and to grieve.

You know, what's interesting about Washington, it's a town—unfortunately, it's the kind of place where second-guessing has become second-nature. The American people know this about me and my national security team and my administration: Had I known that the enemy was going to use airplanes to kill on that fateful morning, I would have done everything in my power to protect the American people. We will use the might of America to protect the American people.

We're in for a long struggle. It's a tough war. This is an enemy that's not going to quit. So therefore, in order to protect innocent lives, this country must have the will and the determination to chase these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what is going to happen, so long as I am the President of the United States of America.

I'm proud of what this group of Americans have done on the football field; no more proud than those who wear the blue, I might add. And I'm proud of your commitment to our country. See, this enemy of ours, they don't understand the Air Force Academy or what it stands for. They thought we were weak—of course, they never saw the Air Force football team play. They thought we'd just roll over. They thought we might file a couple of lawsuits. They found out we think differently here in America.

We think differently because this is a nation that loves our freedom, loves our country. And this is a nation that has got citizens who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than themselves. We're here to honor a football team; we're also here to honor soldiers, men and women who wear our uniform and who are willing to sacrifice for the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Welcome back to the White House. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, head football coach, and Lt. Gen. John R. Dallager, USAF, Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy; Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF, Air Force Chief of Staff; and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Remarks to the Coalition for Medicare Choices

May 17, 2002

Well, thanks for that warm welcome, and welcome to the people's house, the White House. I am so glad you're here to discuss an incredibly important subject, and that is how we can work together to strengthen Medicare.

The most eloquent spokespersons for Medicare are our senior citizens. And I share the determination of people in this room to make sure that Medicare is—not only works for this generation, the generation now on Medicare, but works for generations to come. Our Nation has a moral commitment to fulfill Medicare's promise of health care security for American seniors and for people with disabilities. Yet, we need to do more to meet the commitment, and that's what we're here to talk about today.

Two problems demand immediate action: Medicare must provide prescription drug coverage, and all seniors should be able to choose an affordable Medicare coverage option that best suits their needs. We're going to keep our commitment to senior Americans, and we'll work together to make Medicare work better.

I want to thank Tom Scully from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for being

here—that used to be called HCFA. [*Laughter*] He joins me in a strong commitment for that which I'm about to talk about. You need to know, my administration is committed to trusting seniors with more options. We're committed to the programs and the principles about which I'm going to speak.

I want to thank my fellow Americans who have joined us on the stage. I want to thank the Salazars; they're from Texas. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Mary Gruenewald for being here as well. I want to thank Joe Hotin and Ben Oppenheim, Florence Galloway, the Holmes family. Thank you all for coming and sharing with me your deep concerns and for sharing with others your concern about how to make sure Medicare fulfills its promise.

I want to thank the docs who are here, one from California and one from Florida. I asked him if he'd ever heard of the Governor down there. [*Laughter*] Dr. Bangasser and Dr. Thompson—I want to thank them for being here as well. They're men who are deeply concerned about the health and welfare of our seniors, who understand firsthand the problems that Medicare faces.

The health care system that we have in America is unique and strong in many ways. After all, we lead the world in dramatic medical advances, and that's really positive. It's important, as we think about medical policy, that we encourage innovation in our health system. After all, life-saving drugs are helping millions of senior citizens—millions of senior citizens to live longer and to have healthier lives.

New drugs are available to treat diabetes, for example, and that's a positive development for many of our seniors. New drugs are available to prevent serious complications from heart disease or cancer, and that's incredibly positive news as well. Yet, as many in this room can testify, the costs of these treatments are really high. Because Medicare does not cover most prescription drugs, many seniors often pay the highest price for drugs, forcing too many to choose with either paying for pills or paying for their bills.

Members of Congress in both House and Senate are working on legislation, and that's a positive development, and that's good. They're hearing my call and your call to do something about Medicare. In the House,

the committees and the leadership are drafting legislation to help seniors immediately with drug costs and to ensure every senior has access to prescription drug coverage. That's a positive development, and we're hopeful to get this legislation out of the House very soon. In the Senate, there is a tripartisan group working on legislation to provide prescription drug coverage and improve Medicare, and I support their efforts as well.

So we've got something to work with. And I urge you all to not only pay attention to the process but let your voices be heard as the process—the legislative process starts heading down toward, hopefully, a conclusion this year.

My administration is doing some things in the short term that I'd like to share with you. We're working for a Medicare-endorsed drug card that will allow seniors to get lower prices from drug manufacturers right away. I unleashed the idea a while back. It kind of got snagged up in the courts. Now we're working to get it unsnagged in the courts for the benefit of our seniors. This is a good idea, and this will help.

We're also working on temporary assistance with drug costs for seniors with limited incomes. We're trying to bridge toward the time when full prescription drug benefits become available. In other words, we want to help people who need help immediately. Those are two ideas that we're working with Congress on.

Medicare also needs to give every senior affordable, up-to-date health insurance coverage options to get the most out of Medicare. Right now in America, more than 5 million Medicare members have access to a valuable program, to a modern health insurance program with modern health benefits called Medicare Plus Choice. Medicare Plus Choice is a vital program if we're going to meet our commitments to our seniors. And Congress ought to understand how vital the program is and how important the program is. They need to listen not only to me—of course, I'd like them to listen a little more to me—[laughter]—but to the folks here in this room, the people who understand.

Now, let me give you some interesting facts. Many Medicare members, including

those with limited means, including those with low incomes, prefer these private health plans because they provide more benefits than traditional Medicare at lower cost. If you find an idea that provides better benefits at lower cost, it seems like it makes sense that people up on the Hill there would understand that.

The improved benefits and innovative treatments have given Fred Salazar the assistance he needed to get his diabetes under control. That's not just theory; that's actually happened. Ben Oppenheim improved his arthritis and lowered the amount he spends on his arthritis treatment through an exercise program provided in his health plan. Florence Galloway got the bills paid for the care she needed when she fell and broke a back-bone in Spain. She got the care she needed. Arina Holmes was hospitalized with a serious illness. She was not saddled with hundreds of dollars of deductibles and co-payments for her care.

These are examples, right here, of people who have benefited in a real way from the innovative options under Medicare Plus. Some plans in Medicare Plus even make it possible for their members to help other seniors with transportation or grocery shopping or yardwork or other needs. That's also very positive.

What's important to understand is that almost none of the treatments that I described—or programs that can save and improve lives and reduce health care costs—are part of Medicare's defined benefits. Many are only available through Medicare's private plans, and that's important to understand. As we discuss Medicare and its reform, it's important to understand that the defined benefit plan in Medicare limits the capacity of seniors to meet their needs. And that doesn't seem right to me.

Dr. Thompson—Dr. Isaac Thompson said this: "Medicare Plus Choice has served as a safety net for my patients and for tens of thousands of beneficiaries, so many of whom are low income and would otherwise not be able to afford the drugs they need." This is Dr. Thompson speaking, a man who makes a living off of helping seniors, a person who understands Medicare and Medicare Plus Choice, and the differences between the two.

You know, as he talks eloquently about low income seniors, the myth is, somehow, that if seniors are given choice, low income seniors will not benefit; that if we provide more options for our senior citizens to tailor plans that meet their needs, that somehow the low income will be left behind. That's the opposite of what Dr. Thompson has learned, because it is the opposite of what happens with Medicare Plus Choice.

We've got to address this issue straight on. Millions of Medicare members don't have the option to choose benefits from private health plans, and access to these benefits for everyone in Medicare is threatened. Under current law, private health plans cannot compete in Medicare in the same way that the Federal Government has long provided for people who work for the Federal Government.

I've always found that to be pretty interesting, that the people who make the laws here in Washington—good, fine people from both political parties—make sure that the Federal employees have choice. They trust the Federal employees with whom they work to be able to go into the marketplace and figure out what best suits their needs. And yet, when it comes to our seniors, through Medicare, they don't get the same benefits. It seems like, to me, that the Congress ought to be consistent with how they view—[*ap- plause*].

You know better than me—or you know as well as I do, at least—that the current system hasn't reflected rising costs. The lack of enthusiasm for choice for seniors has affected budgets. And therefore, 100 private plans have left Medicare, and millions of seniors have lost the valuable additional benefits that private plans provide. To be blunt about it, it seems like Medicare Plus Choice is getting slowly starved, and we've got to change that.

Part of my message today is, I want to work with you to provide more choices and more savings for our seniors. I'm a person who trusts people. See, I trust the American people. The American people are fantastic, great citizens. We've got to trust people with their own choices in life. I'd rather have the American people make choices than the Federal Government make choices on their behalf.

We need a fair system of competition. We need a system that guarantees that patient protections and all of Medicare's required benefits are included in every choice, a system that encourages additional benefits and options for better care at lower cost, including improved medical savings accounts. That's what we need to think about, and that's where we ought to head here in America.

The cost savings from competitive reforms are essential. They're essential. If you notice, and the people will testify to this, that there are lower costs in Medicare Plus Choice. And those cost savings in a Medicare Plus Choice plan are very important for the future, for your children and your grandchildren to be able to have a Medicare system that works. We must this year pass legislation that gives all seniors secure access to prescription drugs, along with up-to-date, lower cost coverage options in Medicare. That's the goal.

I believe strongly that we've got to make sure that our seniors understand that if you're happy with your current Medicare coverage, nothing changes. There are a lot of our citizens who worry that any kind of strengthening of the system will maybe disrupt their current health plans. And I can understand that. I can understand someone who is perhaps content with the way things are and shouldn't be forced to change, particularly at this point in somebody's life. And I respect that, and any reform must honor that. We've got to make sure, however, that the promise of prescription drugs is a part of any plan and that we recognize that as treatments change, as the ability to treat a disease changes with modern times, that the people we're trying to help are able to realize those benefits.

You see, Medicare was written awhile ago, in such a way that it doesn't have the ability to change. And so all of a sudden, technology is heading here, and Medicare is stuck back here. And Medicare Plus Choice has provided seniors with the ability to stay up with technology. That's why you're so supportive of it, and that's why I am as well. But we've got to make sure that the whole system moves with the technological change, so we can benefit—all of us, not just the young but

all of us can benefit from the new technologies available to help save lives.

I believe that when we trust people with their—trust their decisions and trust their judgment about how best to care for themselves, a better plan evolves, a much better plan than one designed by some green eyeshades up on Capitol Hill, because it will be a plan designed by the consumers, not by the planners. It's a plan that evolves as a result of the collective decisions of people we're trying to help, not by some who aren't even in the plan.

And so what we're talking about today is recognizing the importance of Medicare Plus Choice, what it means to people's lives in real terms, how it can positively affect people that we have a moral obligation to help, but also how best to incorporate the principles of the plan to expand it, to make it work for more seniors and, at the same time, make sure Medicare works for people like me, when it's my time—to make sure that it's not only healthy today but healthy tomorrow, that it can exist and be available.

I believe we can make good progress, but we need your help. To be frank with you, there are some up there that really don't like this plan, and I understand that. I mean, what the heck, that's the great thing about democracy; not everybody agrees 100 percent of the time. We all agree we need to help the seniors, and that's important. But to the extent that you can help influence opinion, it's really important; it is. People listen—people listen—people around here listen to opinion, and they listen to people such as yourself, who understand what you're talking about. And we need your help to get this done.

There's a reluctance, but it's okay. It's—you've seen reluctance in your life before. You've lived a good, strong, full life in the service of your country, many of you, and now is your chance to provide a unique service, an important service not only for yourself but future generations that are coming up, by spreading the word, by contacting your Congressman or your Senator. Let them know. Let them know the importance of this program and this idea.

I also want to thank you for your service to the country. You know, you know better than me that—you've seen a lot of America

in your day, and it's a fabulous country that we're able to call home. It's a—what a remarkable land, where we share common values. People from all walks of life come into—underneath this unique experiment called America. Our spirit is strong. It's never been more needed these days, of course, as we make it clear to the world and to an enemy that we'll defend our freedoms at any cost.

You know, I like to remind people, those that attacked, they must have thought that we were so selfish and so weak and so materialistic that we might file a couple of lawsuits or two, but that's all we were going to do. *[Laughter]* They found out we think a little differently here in America when it comes to our freedom. And that when it comes to our freedoms that we love—the freedom to worship the way each of us sees fit, the freedom to raise our family the way we think is necessary, the freedom to speak out, freedom of the press—the freedoms that we hold dear, if anybody attacks those freedoms, we'll defend them. We'll defend them.

You need to know about me that I am as resolved as I was the day after the attack, today. I know my duty, and my duty is to protect America in the best way. And as we do so, I believe we'll make the world safer. I long for peace. I just want you to know and assure you that the actions my administration takes has a lofty goal in mind, and that's peace, peace for our country, peace around the world. That's why we do what we do.

But we need to make the world not only safer but better, a better place. And one way we can make the world a better place is to make sure our seniors are treated with dignity, by starting with a health care plan that provides options.

So I want to thank you all for coming to this magnificent house, the White House. It's—as you can imagine, it's an honor to be here, and it's an honor to welcome you here.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dr. Ronald Paul Bangasser, family physician, Redlands, CA; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks on the Observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 17, 2002

The President. Elaine, thank you very much. Welcome to your house—[*laughter*]—the White House. I want you to know, Norm, I welcome Republicans, Democrats—[*laughter*]—people who don't care—[*laughter*]—all Americans. You're welcome here. I am honored to welcome you. I didn't realize you sponsored the legislation that my dad—we call him "number 41"—signed, which permanently made the celebration of Asian and Pacific American culture a month-long event. And that's what we're honoring today.

I'm so proud to be the President of a diverse nation, a nation with 13 million Americans of Asian or Pacific Island heritage. What a great country, to welcome such diversity. Whether you're here by birth, or whether you're in America by choice, you contribute to the vitality of our life. And for that, we are grateful.

I also appreciate service to our Government and our country. I picked two fabulous members of my Cabinet from Asian Pacific backgrounds. You've seen them both. One lady who wasn't born in America, yet because of the dreams of her mother and father and because our country can be a welcoming country, was able to get a good education, and here she sits in the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

Another man, a man not of the same political party as I am but a man who loves his country just as much as I do, a person who, as a young boy, was interned in a camp for Japanese Americans on our own soil—a moment that is not a good chapter in our history—and yet had the courage to fight for change and for the dignity of every American, and now sits in the Cabinet of the President of the United States. I am fortunate to have them in my Cabinet. I appreciate their advice, and I appreciate the great job they're doing on behalf of all Americans—all Americans.

I want to thank Senator Inouye for being here. He's one of the fine distinguished Members of the United States Senate. He's an ally when it comes to defending our Nation. He understands what it means to serve

your country and be prepared for the defense of America. Senator, you're doing a great job. Thank you for coming. I also want to thank Congressman David Wu from Oregon for being here as well.

I want to thank Delegate Faleomavaega. [*Laughter*] Did I even come close? [*Laughter*] Well, at least I gave it my best shot, Eni. [*Laughter*] How about just Eni? Thank you for coming from the American Samoa.

We've got friends of ours from Guam, the Guam Senate: Senate Leader Edward Calvo and the House Speaker, Tony Unpingco. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored you both are here. You are welcome.

I want to thank Susan Allen, the president of the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Thank you, Susan, it's great to see you again.

Richard, I want to thank you for filling this room and the whole house with incredible music. Man, what a talent. And I appreciate you sharing it with us. You help make a special day more special. And Lisa, thank you for bringing your beauty here. [*Laughter*]

I'm looking around for Dat Nguyen. Is he here? He's supposed to be here.

Audience members. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes, he's a Texan. [*Laughter*] He's a mighty Texas A&M Aggie, middle linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys, came from a Vietnamese family. He's a great story, and I just wish they'd win a couple more games. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank John Tsu, the Chairman of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. John, thank you very much, and Russell Wong, a great actor, for being here as well. And welcome to you all.

The history of Asian Pacific Americans is really a history of great patriotism, people who were willing to sacrifice. Incredibly enough, Asian Pacific Americans fought in the Civil War and, of course, World War II and the war on terror.

It's a story of hard work. Many of you have had relatives who came here early, early on in our country, that worked the railroad, helped build the infrastructure necessary for America to grow. It's a story of great achievement and great success. I mean, look at our Olympic teams, Asian Americans on our

Olympic teams, helping a unified country achieve in sports. It's a story of great business success, great cultural success. It's a story of influence on our society, scientific influence, architectural influence, music, art—significant contribution to our country. And for that, all of us are grateful.

Sadly, one of the greatest contributions, Asian contributions to our Nation was destroyed on September 11th. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were designed by Seattle architect Minoru Yamasaki. He and his partners designed the towers. For 30 years, they stood as a testament to American ingenuity and prosperity. They served as a symbol—now, perhaps, as a symbol of a more innocent time.

But for me, I can assure you, it's a reminder, a symbol, that we must never forget there are people in the world who hate what we stand for, people who can't stand the thought that a diverse nation can be a free nation, people who hate freedom, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of press. They can't stand it. And I can't stand the thought that they hate us, and we're going to run them down, one by one, to protect our homeland.

They don't understand us. Mr. Senator, they just didn't understand us. They thought we were so weak and materialistic, we must not have believed in much, that all we'd do is kind of roll over and say, "Well, that's just what happens, you know," and go about our business. But that's not America. See, we defend our values and our freedom.

We fight for peace, and I want you to know, I long for peace—that's my dream, for peace. But we also fight for values that we hold dear. We believe strongly in America that each person needs to be judged on his or her individual values, abilities, and talents, that each life has dignity—has dignity—each individual matters, no matter where you're from, no matter how you were raised. That's what we fight for.

And as we fight for a safer world and a peaceful world, we've got to work for a better world here in America. One of the great traditions in our Asian communities is the understanding and love for education. It's amazing how well and how hard Asian youth work in school to get ahead. It is an unbeliev-

ably good example for all of us. Educational excellence must be the standard for every child in America. Access to good education must be the goal for every single child. In order to have a better tomorrow, we've got to continually work to make sure that every child gets educated—I mean every child.

In order to make sure there is a better tomorrow, we've got to make sure the entrepreneurial flame continues to shine brightly in America, that we're known as entrepreneurial heaven. I was pleased to see that there are nearly a million small businesses in America owned by Asian Pacific Americans. That's a lot. That's good news for our country. It means that people are willing to take risk and own their own business, which is a powerful part of the American experience. The role of Government's never to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which anybody from any background who's got a good idea can work and achieve the dream of owning your own business—and therefore, by the way, employing more people.

Talked about the tax cuts—Elaine talked about the tax relief. I viewed the tax relief that we passed as an incredibly important part of small business formation. Most small businesses are not incorporated; they pay income tax at the personal tax level. And therefore, when you reduce the personal income taxes, you help small businesses all across America.

As you know, we're working hard to make sure our homeland is more secure. The best way to make—the best defense is a good offense, no question about that. But you need to also understand that I'm mindful of American traditions, and as we work to make our borders more secure, for example, people will be treated fairly. Our INS must do a much better job of identifying who's coming into our country and why, but they've also got to do a better job of processing paperwork. It's inexcusable, the endless delays of paperwork that really do make it hard for families to function and to stay together.

I'm a strong believer that our Nation must pass what they call 245(i), immigration reform which will allow families to stay together. People who are here and applying for different paper shouldn't have to go back

to their country and then come back if one of the members is here legally with cards. It just doesn't make any sense. We need to be mindful of the dignity of each person in our country. And I know we can achieve that goal—good homeland security, better border control—and at the same time treating people with respect who are here in our land.

I also very much appreciate the bridge that our Asian Pacific community provides America to an incredibly important part of the world. And those are the nations of the Pacific. I spent some time there, and I gave a speech in China and Japan and South Korea where I said, "This is going to be the Pacific century." And I believe that. We are a Pacific nation, America. We've got a lot of incredibly important ties with China and Japan, Korea, the Philippines; all the nations represented in this room are an incredibly important part of our future.

We've got to work on trade issues, issues that open up trade between our respective nations, so that we're able to better exchange goods and services. That's to the benefit of not only workers here in America, of course; it's also to the benefit of workers in countries with whom we trade. We've got to continue dialog; we've got to make sure that we work closely together to promote peace, to fight off this scourge called terror.

And the Asian Pacific Americans of our country make those ties incredibly important. Not only do you help Americans understand the cultures in the countries, you, yourself, by your presence, export American values so that those countries understand us better.

And so it's my honor to welcome you all to this magnificent house, to welcome your contributions to the greatest land on the face of the Earth, to tell you how proud I am to be the President of a diverse nation in which people make contributions, all kinds of fantastic contributions, to let you know that as we fight, we do so with peace in our mind and that we do so to make the world a better place here at home.

I often say that if you want to join in the war against terror, do some good. If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. That's a universal call. That's a call that is exhibited in neighborhoods all throughout America. See, the

great strength of our country really isn't in the halls of government, Senator and Congressmen; it's in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's what makes our country unique and strong and vibrant, is the great citizens of America.

And it's my honor to welcome such citizens to the White House. May God bless you all. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao; Commerce Secretary Norman Y. Mineta; and television personality Lisa Ling.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 12

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

May 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then traveled to Chicago, IL, where he met with Jerry and Adrienne Welenc, who have been foster parents to over 90 children and provide support to other foster parents. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

May 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed the Hematological Cancer Research and Investment Education Act of 2002.

In the afternoon, he met in the Diplomatic Room at the White House with the Sunshine Kids, a group of children with cancer who were visiting Washington, DC.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the

United States at the inauguration of President Xanana Gusmao of East Timor on May 22: former President Bill Clinton, who will lead the delegation; Richard Holbrooke; James Kelly; Karen Brooks; Shari Villarosa; and Brig. Gen. John G. Castellaw, USMC.

The President announced his intention to nominate John William Blaney to be Ambassador to Liberia.

May 15

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt to discuss the congressional agenda. He then had CIA and FBI briefings. Later in the morning, he met with members of the United Jewish Communities to discuss the proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002." He then met with the House Republican Conference at the Capitol, to discuss defense and domestic issues.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India to express his condolences for the victims of the May 14 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

May 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. In the afternoon, he met with the Senate Republican Conference at the Capitol, to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on April 20.

May 17

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia to discuss bilateral issues.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 13

James E. Boasberg,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Gregory E. Mize, retired.

Gene B. Christy,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Douglas L. Flory,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring October 13, 2006, vice Michael V. Dunn.

Phyllis C. Hunter,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of 2 years (new position).

Kristie A. Kenny,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ecuador.

Susanne T. Mitchell,
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, vice Beth Susan Slavet.

Barbara Calandra Moore,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nicaragua.

Submitted May 15

Charles E. Beach, Sr.,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Phylliss Jeanette Henry, resigned.

John William Blaney,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia.

Kevin Vincent Ryan,
of California, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Robert S. Mueller III.

J.B. Van Hollen,
of Wisconsin, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin for the term of 4 years, vice Peggy A. Lautenschlager, resigned.

Submitted May 16

Emil H. Frankel,
of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Eugene A. Conti, Jr., resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gerald Reynolds,
of Missouri, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education, vice Norma V. Cantu, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Dennis L. Schornack,
of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, vice Thomas L. Baldini, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Jeffrey Shane,
of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Stephen D. Van Beek, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Michael E. Toner,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007, vice Darryl R. Wold, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and designation of Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Released May 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Senator Danforth's Report to the President on Sudan

Fact sheet: History of Senator John Danforth as Envoy for Peace in Sudan

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorneys for the Northern District of California and the Western District of Wisconsin and U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Travel to Buffalo, New York, To Meet With Deputy Prime Minister John Manley To Discuss Border Security Issues

Released May 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the chronology of events during the spring and summer of 2001

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney at a Conservative Party of New York dinner

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Released May 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Strengthening Medicare's Coverage Options: Affordable Health Care To Improve Lives

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 13

H.R. 2646 / Public Law 107–171
Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

Approved May 14

S. 1094 / Public Law 107–172
Hematological Cancer Research Investment and Education Act of 2002

H.R. 3525 / Public Law 107–173
Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002

Approved May 15

H.R. 169 / Public Law 107–174
Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002

Approved May 17

H.R. 495 / Public Law 107–175
To designate the Federal building located in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, as the “Ron de Lugo Federal Building”

H.R. 819 / Public Law 107–176
To designate the Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, as the “Donald J. Pease Federal Building”

H.R. 3093 / Public Law 107–177
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 501 Bell Street in Alton, Illinois, as the “William L. Beatty Federal Building and United States Courthouse”

H.R. 3282 / Public Law 107–178
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 400 North Main Street in Butte, Montana, as the “Mike Mansfield Federal Building and United States Courthouse”

Week Ending Friday, May 24, 2002

Proclamation 7563—National Safe Boating Week, 2002

May 17, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America is blessed with beautiful coastlines, lakes, and waters that offer ample opportunities for boating recreation. More than 70 million recreational boaters use our waters every year and boat registrations continue to increase. Although the number of recreational boats and boaters is growing, the incidence of boating deaths continues to drop, thanks to an increasing emphasis on safety.

Despite this positive trend, much work remains to further reduce boating accidents and fatalities. National Safe Boating Week and the North American Safe Boating Campaign remind us that safety must always remain a top priority when boating on our Nation's waterways.

To further reduce boating deaths, it is vital that both children and adults wear life jackets while boating. Nearly 70 percent of recreational boating deaths are by drowning, and nearly 90 percent of these victims were not wearing life jackets. Many of these fatalities could have been avoided had a Coast Guard-approved life jacket or personal flotation device been worn. Thanks to new technology and designs, life jackets are now less burdensome to wear.

Another major cause of boating accidents is the operation of boats while drunk or otherwise impaired. Boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal in every State and is a violation of Federal law. According to the United States Coast Guard, the dangerous effects of alcohol on persons operating boats are even greater than for individuals operating land vehicles. The additional factors that can further impair judgment and

coordination include motion, vibration, engine noise, wind, sun, and any spray. Boat operators with a blood alcohol concentration above .10 percent are ten times more likely to be killed in a boating accident than boat operators who have not been drinking. During National Safe Boating Week, we must underscore again that to operate a boat or any vehicle while under the influence is never safe.

A less recognized boating hazard involves a silent killer: carbon monoxide. Dangerous or deadly fumes can accumulate in confined spaces on boats, near stern ladders, and under swimming platforms. Swimmers and water-skiers behind running boat engines face the greatest risk of exposure to exhaust fumes, which can build up to deadly levels. Boaters should be aware of the threats posed by carbon monoxide and take steps to avoid them. Individuals may learn more about carbon monoxide and other ways to stay safe while boating by visiting the U.S. Coast Guard's website at www.uscgboating.org.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 18 through May 24, 2002, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this occasion. I also urge boaters to learn about proper boating practices and to take advantage of programs offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. By taking sensible precautions on the

water and learning more about potential dangers, boaters can enjoy boating recreation and help ensure the safety of others.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 21, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 22. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7564—World Trade Week, 2002

May 17, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Trade plays a vital role in encouraging prosperity and improving the lives of people around the world. It fosters economic growth, ingenuity, and innovation. And it builds high-quality jobs and promotes economic and political stability around the world. During World Trade Week, we recognize the importance of trade to building a brighter future for our Nation and for countries throughout the world.

Over the last decade, U.S. exports have accounted for as much as a quarter of our Nation's economic growth. Most of our exporters are small- and medium-sized firms that have fewer than 100 employees. An estimated 12 million U.S. jobs are supported by our export of manufactured products, agricultural goods, technology, and other goods and services. These jobs are high-quality, high-paying positions that provide good wages.

As the world's largest exporter, the United States is a leader in promoting free trade. Free trade and open markets benefit businesses, employees, and consumers by creating a competitive environment with greater choice and lower prices. We must continue

to promote an aggressive trade agenda that opens markets and builds economic opportunity. In support of this goal, my Administration has worked to help secure the entry of China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization. We also completed trade agreements with Vietnam and Jordan and launched new global trade negotiations in Doha, Qatar. But more remains to be done.

At present, there are about 150 free trade agreements in effect worldwide, nearly 25 percent of which involve countries in the Western Hemisphere. The United States is a party to only three of these pacts. To give U.S. exporters much broader access to markets throughout the hemisphere, our Nation envisions a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), an area that would be the world's largest open market. The FTAA would include more than 800 million consumers in countries with a combined Gross Domestic Product of around \$13 trillion. Our Nation would also benefit from renewal of the Andean Trade Preference Act, which would continue to help create economic alternatives to drug production in Andean region countries.

Economists have calculated that lowering trade barriers by just one-third will strengthen the world's economic welfare by up to \$613 billion and that of the United States by \$177 billion. For the average American family of four, that amounts to \$2500 of annual savings.

Another critical step for U.S. economic growth is successful passage of Trade Promotion Authority. Under this legislation, the Congress grants the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade Promotion Authority demonstrates to our trading partners the alliance that exists between the executive and legislative branches to help raise living standards through out the world. This is vital to securing new free trade agreements with potential negotiating partners.

Fundamental to free trade is competitive fairness. America's support of an aggressive, forward-looking trade agenda requires that government assist industries' interests when they are challenged by unfair trading practices or subsidies. We must insist that our trading partners honor their commitments. As we open markets for American companies competing internationally, we need tools to

secure a level playing field for American businesses. And we will remain committed to improving both the environment and worldwide labor standards.

In the future, trade will continue to play a crucial role in creating economic and political stability, building democracies, reducing poverty, and contributing to an increased standard of living around the world. Open trade will help ensure a more peaceful and prosperous tomorrow for all people.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 19 through May 25, 2002, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our economy and the global economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 21, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 22. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address *May 18, 2002*

Good morning. Medicare is one of the most important and compassionate programs in American history. It provides medical care to the elderly and people with disabilities. It is a source of security and dignity for tens of millions of Americans. The health of America's senior citizens is one of America's most sacred obligations, and it is a commitment my administration will fully honor.

Yet we need to do more to fulfill Medicare's promise. Seniors should have affordable coverage choices that meet their needs, but Medicare does not do that. Many seniors need prescription drug coverage; Medicare

does not provide it. And because Medicare does not cover prescription drugs, seniors often pay the highest prices for drugs out of their own pockets, forcing too many of our seniors to choose between paying for pills or paying their bills.

Medicare is an essential program, but it has not kept pace with the advances in medicine. The Medicare program is costly for seniors and too often does not provide the choices that our seniors need and our seniors want, so Medicare must be strengthened, and it must be improved.

Congress is working hard to pass legislation that will help many seniors with their drug costs and guarantee all senior citizens prescription drug coverage. I strongly support these efforts.

At the same time, I am working for a Medicare-endorsed drug card that will allow seniors to get lower prices from drug manufacturers right away. And I'm working for temporary assistance with drug costs for seniors with limited incomes, even before the full prescription drug benefit becomes available a few years from now.

Medicare also needs to give every senior affordable, up-to-date health insurance options. Right now, more than 5 million Medicare members have access to valuable modern health insurance benefits and prescription drug coverage in Medicare Plus Choice plans.

These improved benefits, along with innovative treatments, probably saved Joe Hotin's life. Mr. Hotin served in the Navy in World War II. He joined his Medicare Plus Choice in 1995. Because his health plan covers annual checkups, Joe's doctor caught a spot and got it treated before it turned into life threatening cancer.

Many of these treatments and programs that can save and improve lives and reduce health care costs are only available through Medicare's private plans. Unfortunately, millions of Medicare members do not have the option to choose these benefits. The Federal Government has long provided reliable coverage choices to all its employees, but current law prevents private health plans from giving Medicare enrollees the same choices. As a result, over 100 private plans have left Medicare, and millions of seniors have lost

the valuable additional benefits that private plans provide.

We must act now to provide every Medicare member with more choices and more savings. Medicare needs a fair system of competition, a system that encourages additional benefits and options for better care at lower cost. Medicare is crucial to elderly Americans. I urge members of both parties to work together to protect and improve Medicare and to maintain our moral commitment to millions of Americans.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:10 a.m. on May 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 17 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Announcing the Initiative for a New Cuba

May 20, 2002

Bienvenidos. Welcome to the White House for the 100th anniversary of Cuban independence. Today we honor the ties of friendship and family and faith that unite the Cuban people and the people of the United States. We honor the contributions that Cuban Americans have made to all aspects of our national life. And today I am issuing a proposal and a challenge that can put Cuba on the path to liberty.

I appreciate our Secretary of State being here. He and I take this issue very seriously. He loves freedom as much as I love freedom. I want to thank Mel Martinez, a graduate of Pedro Pan, for being here. Mr. Secretary, you're doing a great job. Welcome.

I appreciate members of the diplomatic corps who are here. Thank you all for coming; I'm honored to have you here.

I want to thank Senator George Allen from the Commonwealth of Virginia. I want to thank Congressman Dan Burton; Mr. Chairman. And of course, two great Members of the United States Congress, people who have got a lot to offer, a lot of sound advice: Ileana

Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Diaz-Balart. Thank you all for coming.

Cuba's independence one century ago today was the inspiration of great thinkers such as Felix Varela. It was the result of determination and talent on the part of a great statesman such as Jose Marti and great soldiers such as Antonio Maceo and Maximo Gomez. Most of all, Cuba's independence was the product of the great courage and sacrifice of the Cuban people.

Today, and every day for the past 43 years, that legacy of courage has been insulted by a tyrant who uses brutal methods to enforce a bankrupt vision. That legacy has been debased by a relic from another era who has turned a beautiful island into a prison.

In a career of oppression, Mr. Castro has imported nuclear-armed ballistic missiles, and he has exported his military forces to encourage civil war abroad. He is a dictator who jails and tortures and exiles his political opponents. We know this. The Cuban people know this, and the world knows this. After all, just a month ago the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in a resolution proposed by the nations of Latin America, called upon Cuba's Government to finally—to finally—begin respecting the human rights of its people.

Through all their pains and deprivation, the Cuban people's aspirations for freedom are undiminished. We see this today in Havana, where more than 11,000 brave citizens have petitioned their Government for a referendum on basic freedoms. If that referendum is allowed, it can be a prelude, a beginning for real change in Cuba.

The United States has no designs on Cuban sovereignty. It's not a part of our strategy or a part of our vision. In fact, the United States has been a strong and consistent supporter of freedom for the Cuban people. And it is important for those who love freedom on that beautiful island to know that our support for them will never waver.

Today I'm announcing an Initiative for a New Cuba that offers Cuba's Government a way forward towards democracy and hope and better relations with the United States.

Cuba's scheduled to hold elections to its National Assembly in 2003. Let me read Article 71 of the Cuban Constitution. It says,

“The National Assembly is composed of deputies elected by free, direct, and secret vote.” That’s what the constitution says. Yet since 1959, no election in Cuba has come close to meeting these standards. In most elections, there has been one candidate, Castro’s candidate. All elections in Castro’s Cuba have been a fraud. The voices of the Cuban people have been suppressed, and their votes have been meaningless. That’s the truth. *Es la verdad.*

In the 2003 National Assembly elections in Cuba, Cuba has the opportunity to offer Cuban voters the substance of democracy, not its hollow, empty forms. Opposition parties should have the freedom to organize, assemble, and speak, with equal access to all airwaves. All political prisoners must be released and allowed to participate in the election process. Human rights organizations should be free to visit Cuba to ensure that the conditions for free elections are being created. And the 2003 elections should be monitored by objective outside observers. These are the minimum steps necessary to make sure that next year’s elections are the true expression of the will of the Cuban people.

I also challenge Cuba’s Government to ease its stranglehold, to change its stranglehold on private economic activity. Political and economic freedoms go hand in hand, and if Cuba opens its political system, fundamental questions about its backward economic system will come into sharper focus.

If the Cuban Government truly wants to advance the cause of workers, of Cuban workers, surely it will permit trade unions to exist outside of Government control. If Cuba wants to create more good-paying jobs, private employers have to be able to negotiate with and pay workers of their own choosing, without the Government telling who they can hire and who they must fire.

If Cuba wants to attract badly needed investment from abroad, property rights must be respected. If the Government wants to improve the daily lives of its people, goods and services produced in Cuba should be made available to all Cuban citizens. Workers employed by foreign companies should be paid directly by their employers, instead of having the Government seize their hard-cur-

rency wages and pass on a pittance in the form of pesos. And the signs at hotels reading “*Solamente Turistas*” should finally be taken down.

Without major steps by Cuba to open up its political system and its economic system, trade with Cuba will not help the Cuban people. It’s important for Americans to understand: Without political reform, without economic reform, trade with Cuba will merely enrich Fidel Castro and his cronies. Well-intentioned ideas about trade will merely prop up this dictator, enrich his cronies, and enhance the totalitarian regime. It will not help the Cuban people. With real political and economic reform, trade can benefit the Cuban people and allow them to share in the progress of our times.

If Cuba’s Government takes all the necessary steps to ensure that the 2003 elections are certifiably free and fair—certifiably free and fair—and if Cuba also begins to adopt meaningful market-based reforms, then and only then I will work with the United States Congress to ease the ban on trade and travel between our two countries.

Meaningful reform on Cuba’s part will be answered with a meaningful American response. The goal of the United States policy toward Cuba is not a permanent embargo on Cuba’s economy. The goal is freedom for Cuba’s people.

Today’s initiative invites the Cuban Government to trust and respect Cuban citizens. And I urge other democracies, in this hemisphere and beyond, to use their influence on Cuba’s Government to allow free and fair National Assembly elections and to push for real and meaningful and verifiable reform.

Full normalization of relations with Cuba—diplomatic recognition, open trade, and a robust aid program—will only be possible when Cuba has a new government that is fully democratic, when the rule of law is respected, and when the human rights of all Cubans are fully protected.

Yet, under the Initiative for a New Cuba, the United States recognizes that freedom sometimes grows step by step, and we’ll encourage those steps. The current of history runs strongly toward freedom. Our plan is to accelerate freedom’s progress in Cuba in every way possible, just as the United States

and our democratic friends and allies did successfully in places like Poland or in South Africa. Even as we seek to end tyranny, we will work to make life better for people living under and resisting Castro's rule.

Today I'm announcing a series of actions that will directly benefit the Cuban people and give them greater control of their economic and political destiny. My administration will ease restrictions on humanitarian assistance by legitimate U.S. religious and other nongovernmental organizations that directly serve the needs of the Cuban people and will help build Cuban civil society. And the United States will provide such groups with direct assistance that can be used for humanitarian and entrepreneurial activities. Our Government will offer scholarships in the United States for Cuban students and professionals who try to build independent civil institutions in Cuba and scholarships for family members of political prisoners. We are willing to negotiate direct mail service between the United States and Cuba. My administration will also continue to look for ways to modernize Radio and TV Marti, because even the strongest walls of oppression cannot stand when the floodgates of information and knowledge are opened.

And in the months ahead, my administration will continue to work with leaders all around our country, leaders who love freedom for Cuba, to implement new ways to empower individuals to enhance the chance for freedom.

The United States will continue to enforce economic sanctions on Cuba and the ban on travel to Cuba until Cuba's Government proves that it is committed to real reform. We will continue to prohibit U.S. financing for Cuban purchases of U.S. agricultural goods, because this would just be a foreign aid program in disguise, which would benefit the current regime.

Today's initiative offers Cuba's Government a different path leading to a different future, a future of greater democracy and prosperity and respect. With real reform in Cuba, our countries can begin chipping away at four decades of distrust and division. And the choice rests with Mr. Castro.

Today, there is only one nation in our hemisphere that is not a democracy—only

one. There is only one national leader whose position of power owes more to bullets than ballots. Fidel Castro has a chance to escape this lonely and stagnant isolation. If he accepts our offer, he can bring help to his people and hope to our relations. If Mr. Castro refuses our offer, he will be protecting his cronies at the expense of his people. And eventually, despite all his tools of oppression, Fidel Castro will need to answer to his people.

Jose Marti said, "Barriers of ideas are stronger than barricades of stone." For the benefit of Cuba's people, it is time for Mr. Castro to cast aside old and failed ideas and to start to think differently about the future. Today could mark a new dawn in a long friendship between our people, but only if the Castro regime sees the light.

Cuba's independence was achieved a century ago. It was hijacked nearly half a century ago. Yet, the independent spirit of the Cuban people has never faltered, and it has never been stronger than it is today. The United States is proud to stand with all Cubans and all Cuban Americans who love freedom. And we will continue to stand with you until liberty returns to the land you love so well.

Viva Cuba Libre.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Fidel Castro of Cuba. He also referred to Operation Pedro Pan, a 1960s immigration program in which thousands of Cuban children were sent to the United States by their parents. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the 100th Anniversary of Cuban Independence in Miami, Florida

May 20, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. *Sientense. Voy a hablar en Español hoy, pero no. No. [Laughter] No quiero destruir un idioma que bonita, y por eso voy a hablar en Ingles. [Laughter]* Thank you for having me. God bless you all, and thanks for coming. It is such an honor—it is such an honor—

for me to be here today with so many who love freedom.

One hundred years ago, a proud island people declared independence and put Cuba on a democratic course. We're here today to celebrate this important anniversary. We are here today to honor the Cubans and Cuban Americans who strengthen America with their character and with their enterprise. We are here today—we are here today to proclaim loudly and clearly to the entire world—to *todos*—that the Cuban people's love of liberty cannot and will not be denied.

Audience members. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Not only today will we remind the world how much we love freedom and long for freedom, but I also want to talk about a proposal and a challenge that will help put Cuba on the path to freedom.

I want to thank *mi hermano—mi hermanito*—[*laughter*]*—y el gran Gobernador de este estado*. Thank you, Jeb. We love you *y mi cuñada bella*. [*Laughter*] I love being with my family. I love being with my family. There's nothing more important than family in life, and I love my brother Jeb a lot.

I'm honored to be with a great American, a great American who is a graduate of Pedro Pan, Mel Martinez, who brings a big difference in our Cabinet. [*Applause*] I didn't realize Mel had that many cousins. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the two United States Senators from Florida for being here, Senator Graham and Senator Nelson. I'm honored that you're here. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate working with Senator Graham and his important job of chairing the Intelligence Committee in the United States Senate. I want to thank two fine Congressmen, Ileana Ros y Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

I can't—listen, every time I see and hear Gloria Estefan sing, it makes my heart feel better. Gloria, thank you, and it's good to see Emilio. And I appreciate Jon Secada as well. Jon, you did a great job. Thank you very much—honored you're here.

I appreciate Vicki Huddleston, our Ambassador, Principal Officer at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, for being here. Vicki, thank you for coming—appreciate you. I'm honored to be traveling today with Otto

Reich, the Under Secretary for the State Department. Dr. Elsa Murano is here today as well, who is in my administration. Thank you, Elsa, for being here. Where are you? Thank you, Doc—appreciate you coming. Emilio Gonzalez, the Director of the Western Hemisphere Affairs of the National Security Council—where are you, Colonel? Yes, Emilio. He's on my National Security Council. He reports directly to Arroz—[*laughter*]*—Senorita Arroz*. [*Laughter*]

Today, when I landed in Miami, I got off the airplane there and had a chance to meet a young man named Emilio J. Rodriguez. Emilio is with us today. Emilio, stand up for a second. [*Applause*] The reason I bring up Emilio is, I say oftentimes to Americans who want to—how best they can participate in our country, how best to fight evil is to do some good, is to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested—if you're interested in helping define our Nation to the world and if you're interested in resisting evil, do some good. And that's what Emilio does. He is a 19-year-old honor student at Miami-Dade Community College. He volunteers in park cleanup programs. He does art shows for children, and he hosts activities at a school for mentally challenged Cuban American children. For this, we're grateful for your service. Thank you for being here.

The accomplished individuals I just named are just a small handful of over a million fellow Americans from Cuban descent who make such an incredibly important contribution to our country. So, as on the one hand we—we celebrate independence, but we also celebrate the greatness of America that opens her doors so that people can realize their dreams. The success stories are unbelievable and unbelievably powerful. People have escaped a jail and have come to America and have succeeded and have been able to raise their families and have been able to prosper. It's a wonderful part of the American story.

But it's not just a story of the elderly and the older Cuban Americans; it's a story throughout generations. I want to talk about Miguel Arguelles, who came to America in 1995, at age 10 years old. At age 10, he couldn't speak English. A few weeks from

now, he'll graduate as the valedictorian of Miami Lakes' Barbara Goleman Senior High School. He comes in 1995; he is going to be the first person to have graduated from that high school to attend Harvard University.

I want to read what Miguel wrote in his application essay, and I want all Americans from all backgrounds to listen to what this young man said. He said he was born in a place where the sun shines brightest and drowns in tears, where Santa Claus has not the visa to enter and dreams cannot escape their prison of nonexistence, where hopes are shattered and religion is an endangered species, where freedom is in shackles.

I love how you put that. It's essential that—Miguel, that you not only succeed, but it's essential that we remember the shackles of freedom that Miguel wrote about, that there are people whose lives are being disrupted because Cuba is not free. I want to thank you for your poignancy.

And the shackles that this young man wrote about are an insult—an insult—to the Cuban independence dreamed of by Felix Varela and generations of Cuban patriots. They're an insult. The shackles he wrote about are an insult to Jose Marti, who sacrificed his life for a great principle. No, we stand here today to declare loud and clear to the entire world: Cuba must not only be independent; Cuba must be free.

One hundred years ago, Cuba declared her independence. And nearly 50 years ago, nearly a half century ago, Cuba's independence and the hopes for democracy were hijacked by a brutal dictator who cares everything for his own power and *nada* for the Cuban people. In an era where markets have brought prosperity and empowerment, this leader clings to a bankrupt ideology that has brought Cuba's workers and farmers and families nothing—nothing—but isolation and misery. I was amazed to read in this modern era, the Cuban regime banned the sale of computers to the public. What does that tell you? In an era where every other nation in our hemisphere has chosen the path to democracy—every nation in our hemisphere has chosen the path to democracy—this leader instead chooses to jail, to torture, and exile Cuban people for speaking their minds.

But the amazing thing is, through all the pains—through all the pains—the Cuban people's aspirations for freedom are undiminished. We see this today in Havana, where more than 11,000 brave citizens have petitioned their Government for a referendum on basic freedoms. If that referendum is allowed, it can be a prelude to real change in Cuba.

This country has no designs on Cuba's sovereignty. We have no designs on the sovereignty of Cuba. But we'll continue to be a strong and consistent supporter of the Cuban people's aspirations for freedom. And nowhere is that support stronger than right here in the streets of Miami, Florida. The support will never waive here, and it's not going to waive in my heart, either. For how long it takes—after all, we fight for freedom here in America. We love freedom. We love what freedom means. It is the cornerstone of our country, and therefore, we will never stop in our search for ways to advance freedom in Cuba.

Earlier today, in *la Casa Blanca*, I announced an initiative for a new Cuba that offers Cuba's Government a way forward, toward democracy and hope and better relations with the United States. Cuba is scheduled to hold elections to its National Assembly in 2003. I challenge Cuba's Government to make these elections free and to make them fair.

To make them free and fair, they must give opposition candidates the freedom to organize, assemble, and speak. They must give them the chance to open up the airwaves, so they can get their message out to the people. To make them free and fair, they must release all political prisoners so they can participate in the elections. In order to make sure we know if they're free and fair, they must let human rights organizations into Cuba, to make sure that the elections are free and fair. Once the 2003 elections are certified as free and fair by international monitors, once Cuba begins the process of meaningful economic reform, then and only then I will explore ways with the United States Congress to ease economic sanctions.

For 43 years—for 43 years—every election in Cuba has been a fraud and a sham. Mr. Castro, once, just once, show that you're

unafraid of a real election. Show the world you respect Cuba's citizens enough to listen to their voices and to count their votes. Start to release your chokehold on the working people and on enterprise. Then and only then will we talk about easing sanctions and not before.

The goal of the United States, the goal of our policy towards Cuba is not a permanent embargo on Cuba's economy; our goal is freedom for Cuba's people. Full normalization of relations with Cuba, diplomatic recognition, open trade, and a robust aid program will only—only—be possible when Cuba has a new Government that is fully democratic, when the rule of law is respected, and when the human rights of all Cubans are protected.

Under the new initiative for Cuba—under this new Initiative for a New Cuba, the United States recognizes that freedom sometimes grows step by step, and we will encourage those steps. You need to know that I feel so strongly about freedom—I mean, the current of history runs toward freedom; eventually, it's not going to be denied. And our plan is to accelerate freedom in Cuba in every way possible. We'll work to encourage freedom within Cuba by making life better for people living under and resisting the Castro regime. So, today I want to talk about some steps we can take, the beginning of some important steps.

My administration will ease restrictions on humanitarian assistance from legitimate U.S. religious and other nongovernmental organizations that directly serve the needs of the Cuban people, and to help build a Cuban civil society. The United States will provide such groups with direct assistance that can be used for humanitarian and entrepreneurial activities. Our Government will offer scholarships in the United States for Cuban students and professionals who are trying to build independent civil institutions. And we will offer scholarships to the children of political prisoners. We're willing to negotiate direct mail service between the United States and Cuba. My administration will also continue to look for ways to modernize Radio and TV Marti.

These are beginning steps. We'll listen to the leaders in the community for innovative

ways to continue the inevitable march and to hasten the inevitable march toward freedom.

Mr. Castro must now act. He has his chance. He's been given an opportunity. We will continue to enforce economic sanctions and ban the travel to Cuba until Cuba's Government shows real reform.

Audience members. *Cuba si, Castro no! Cuba si, Castro no! Cuba si, Castro no!*

The President. And when we—when I talk about economic reform—when I talk about economic reform, I mean real economic reform. The Government must allow for workers to be able to organize in unions outside of the control of the Government. The Government must respect private property. Economic reform means the Government must allow employers to hire who they want to hire, as opposed to those on a special list. Economic reform means that when workers earn hard currency, they get to keep the hard currency, as opposed to it going to the Cuban Government. We know what the Cuban Government's up to. We trade in hard currency; they pay in pesos and keep the difference. And therefore, without meaningful reform, trade with Cuba would do nothing more than line the pockets of Fidel Castro and his cronies.

Audience members. *Cuba si, Castro no! Cuba si, Castro no! Cuba si, Castro no!*

The President. I say reform because we care about the people. We want to reform, insist upon reform so the people will benefit. We hurt for the people in Cuba. We long for a day when they realize the same freedoms we have here in America. I want you to understand that I know what trade means with a tyrant. It means that we will underwrite tyranny, and we cannot let that happen. And I also want you to know I will not allow our taxpayers' money to go to enrich the Castro regime, and I'm willing to use my veto.

The initiative I've just—the initiative I've outlined today offers the Cuban Government a way forward, a way towards democracy, a way towards prosperity, a way towards respect. The choice now rests with Mr. Castro.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. If Mr. Castro does not allow free elections, he will be protecting his cronies at the expense of his people. And

eventually—and eventually—despite all his tools of oppression, Castro will need to answer to his people.

Ten years before Cuba achieved independence, Jose Marti wrote this: “If our suffering homeland could see the care with which her absent children are preparing to serve her, if our homeland could see the tenderness with which she is loved by her children in exile, the joy of their faith and her pride at once would give her the strength to break her chains at last.”

Those words, written a long time ago, apply with equal power today. The dream of a free and independent Cuba has been deferred, but it can never be destroyed, and it will not be denied.

For those listening on Radio Marti, it’s important for you to know the United States stands with the Cuban people, not just on Independence Day but on every day—every day. Every day we stand with those who reject tyranny and torture and embrace liberty and life. Every day we stand with the *plantados* in prison confronting illegitimate power with righteous truth. Every day we stand with the Cuban families everywhere seeking a better future. Every day we cultivate “*una rosa blanca*” for Cuba’s freedom.

Thank you all for coming. *Viva Cuba libre!*

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. at the James L. Knight Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife, Columba; entertainers Gloria Estefan and Jon Secada; Gloria Estefan’s husband, producer Emilio Estefan, Jr.; Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety Elsa A. Murano; National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; and President Fidel Castro of Cuba. He also referred to Operation Pedro Pan, a 1960s immigration program in which thousands of Cuban children were sent to the United States by their parents. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Interview With Claus Kleber of ARD German Television

May 21, 2002

President’s Upcoming Visit to Germany

Mr. Kleber. Mr. President, “George Bush” is probably the best name a man can carry to Berlin—

The President. Oh, well, thank you.

Mr. Kleber. —given the achievements of your father, especially. But still, the city, right now, even as we speak, is bracing, expecting huge demonstrations. And the largest police force in the history of the city has been mobilized to protect you.

The President. Thank you.

Mr. Kleber. Not only against terrorism—yes, I guess. It is not only about the terror threat, which of course is on everybody’s mind.

The President. Sure.

Mr. Kleber. But also, thousands of demonstrators of all colors, more than ever before. Have you been made aware of that?

The President. No. I—but that’s good. That’s democracy. See, I love to visit a place that is confident in her freedom, a place where people feel free to express themselves, because that’s what I believe in.

And so I’m looking forward to my visit. I’m going to have a great visit with the Chancellor. I’ll be at the Bundestag, and I look forward to a speech there that talks about the importance of our relationship; that is, the relationship between Germany and America and what we can do together.

I’m anxious—I’ve never been to Germany, so I’m anxious to go, and I’m looking forward to it.

Mr. Kleber. It’s too bad that the President never gets to really see a city like Berlin.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Kleber. There’s always this security around.

The President. The bubble.

Mr. Kleber. Yes.

The President. That’s true. And that’s part of my life; that’s part of the—that’s one of the drawbacks of being the President. You really are encapsulated into a bubble, whether it be in Germany or in America, for that matter.

Mr. Kleber. There is, beyond the demonstrations and beyond the people who show up everywhere just to cause havoc, there is a mood in Germany right now, pervasive among decent people, who are concerned about an America that more and more seems to stand in many important questions outside the global consensus, from the Kyoto agreement to the International Criminal Court to

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, military options versus Iraq, all these questions. My question to you: Is your Government really still part of that global family? Or is it more, America looks for coalitions of the willing, meaning if you go with us, fine; if you don't, we find somebody else or we go it alone?

The President. Well, that's a very complicated question. Let me just tell you this: I'm coming to Germany to say that together we can work to achieve peace, and we must work together to achieve peace.

I'm going to talk about a NATO—the idea of expanding NATO to help achieve peace. I'm going to reaffirm those institutions that are important, where we can cooperate.

I am—listen, I believe in alliances. I know America can't win the war on terror alone. I understand there's some reluctance about some of the positions I take. But one of the things that the German people at least ought to respect is, I speak my mind. There's no doubt where I stand. And I remember, when Ronald Reagan came to Germany, he said: Mr. Gorbachev, tear down the whole wall. He didn't say, tear down a couple of bricks. He said, tear the whole thing down. And I guess I tend to speak that way too.

But the German people will know, if they listen to my speech, that I care deeply for the alliance and friendship we have with the German people. And I believe together we can do a lot of good in the world.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Mr. Kleber. Iraq is an issue very much on everybody's mind in this context. Your Government seems to be determined to end the regime of Saddam Hussein by any means necessary. This seems to include military options. Is there any way that this man, this dictator, can address your concerns and stay in power? Or are we drifting towards a war?

The President. Well, first, let me say this, that Iraq ought to be on the minds of the German people, and they ought to be on the minds of the American people, because the Iraq Government is a dangerous Government. Iraq ought to be centerpiece in our thinking.

This is a Government that's gassed its own people. This is a Government that is not transparent, and this is a Government we

know wants to develop weapons of mass destruction. They may have weapons of mass destruction; we just don't know. This is a dangerous regime. And for the good of freedom and for the good of our future, we've got to deal with it.

Mr. Kleber. One way or the other?

The President. One way or the other, absolutely.

Now, I'm not going to—I have no military plans on my desk that calls for—that plots out a military operation. I'm looking at all options. And of course, I'll consult closely with our allies and friends. I look forward to talking this subject with the Chancellor of Germany. I will be very blunt in my assessment of his—"his" being Saddam Hussein's—threat to the freedom of the world.

But this is a threat that we better take seriously, and we better take it seriously now.

September 11

Mr. Kleber. One question about September 11th.

The President. Sure.

Mr. Kleber. I don't care about this Washington second-guessing game; this is really not what I'm getting to. We have pictures of your travel pool on Air Force One looking in horror at this little flat screen which was back in the plane, seeing the second tower collapse.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Kleber. I wondered what was going on at about that time in the front of the plane?

The President. Well, thanks for asking. First of all, I learned about the attack—the second attack; I knew about the first attack when I walked into a schoolroom. I thought it was an accident. And I'm listening to an education briefing, and Andy Card, my Chief of Staff, whispered in my ear, he said, "America's under attack. There's been a second plane crash. America is under attack." I made up my mind right then and there that if somebody was attacking us, we would respond with the full might of America.

Mr. Kleber. But there was little you could do at that moment, in that plane.

The President. At that moment, no, there wasn't. You're right. I mean, I was trying to get out of harm's way. We were concerned

about threats on the President. We were worried about future attacks, and there's a lot of belief that Flight 93 was headed to the White House.

I was concerned about things like, is my wife safe? You know, I was worried about that. I was worried about things such as my parents. I was worried about my girls. And that's what I was concerned—I was worried about Americans who were grieving.

But at the same time, you need to know about me that I was also thinking clearly about how to respond. If America is under attack, my job as the President is to protect the homeland, to find out the facts, and to deal with it in a firm way.

I want to thank the German people and the German Government, not only for their sympathy but for understanding the new war of the 21st century. And we have a new war, and we'd better deal with it, because this is an evil group of people that are interested in destroying civilization. And so long as I'm the President, I'm going to do everything I can to prevent that from happening.

Mr. Kleber. Your people give me the signal to stop. I would love to keep going.

The President. Well, I'm sorry we can't, but maybe some other time.

Mr. Kleber. Have a safe trip.

The President. Thank you.

Mr. Kleber. Take care. Bless you.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:12 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Giulio Borrelli of RAI Italian Television

May 21, 2002

Terrorist Alerts

Mr. Borrelli. Mr. President, raising the alarm about the possibility of new terrorist attack without being specific is a way of crying wolf, which can frighten people. Can Americans stop the suicide bombers?

The President. Yes, it's a very interesting question. Well, first of all, the Vice President

and the Director of the FBI was expressing a general threat—they're basically saying—with which I agree—that the Al Qaida still exists; they still hate America and any other country which loves freedom; and they want to hurt us. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers.

And if we had a specific threat to ourselves or to Italy, for that matter, we would deal with it in a way that you probably wouldn't know about. In other words, we'd be on the phone to the Italian authorities, sharing information to protect our—just so that they would help our friends protect themselves. Had we had a specific threat here in America, we would have used our assets to harden the threat. But no, it's a real problem.

The best way to secure our homeland, the best way for Italy to be secure, and other countries, is to find these killers, is to hunt for them, is to chase them down. And that's what we're going to do. And the good news is, for those of us who love freedom, and the bad news is, for the enemy, this country is very patient and very united and going to be very deliberate in our pursuit of freedom.

Europe-U.S. Relationship

Mr. Borrelli. The U.S. and Europe are divided on important issues, as the next step in the war on terrorism and steel trade. Do you think you have to change something in your leadership to be more convincing with European countries? Or do they have to modify their policy?

The President. Well, I don't think either of us have to change because we share great values. See, we love freedom. We hate those who want to kill. That's the common ground, and that's very important. And that's the high ground.

And you bring up interesting issues, you know. You bring up the issue of steel. We trade—first of all, we have trade disputes because there is so much trade. If we had no trade, there would be no disputes. And we've got \$2 trillion worth of trade, which is a significant amount of trade. Obviously, I was concerned about what imports were doing to our industry. And under the rules of the WTO, under the guidelines that we've all agreed to, I acted. I am confident and hope that our European trading partners will also

respond within the guidelines of the WTO. And that's the way you settle disputes. A trade dispute is hardly a breach of an important relationship. It is a way to work through a difficult situations.

And as far as the axis of evil, you know, I understand there are some that would hope that the threat would go away just on its own, but we're going to have to act. I will, of course, consult with our friends. I'm deliberate in my thinking. I have no set plans right now. But I am serious about making it clear to countries around the world that we need to work together to rid the world of the threat. And the threat is a nontransparent dictator—dictatorship having a weapons of mass destruction to be used countries such as yours and mine. And that's a threat that we must deal with if we want to do our duty to history.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. Borrelli. How can America and Europe improve their efforts to make peace in the Middle East?

The President. Yes, that's a great question. We are working together well, I believe. I was very pleased with—and the Secretary of State is the one who keeps me abreast of the levels of cooperation. During the recent issues in the Middle East, the EU and our country worked very closely to try to lay out the foundations and a pathway to peace.

I gave a speech right here in the Rose Garden on April the 4th that said parties have responsibilities: Israelis have got responsibilities if they're interested in peace; the Arab world has responsibilities; as do the Palestinians. I've talked about a vision of two states living side by side, at peace, with respect to each other. The Europeans agree with that position, so we're on the same—we share the same vision. And I believe that the Europeans also agree that there will never be peace so long as terrorists continue to kill and that we've all got to use our collective efforts to stop the terrorist attacks.

We definitely agree that we've got to provide hope for the Palestinian people. There's a lot of people who've been suffering for a long period of time. We need an economic development package that will help the Palestinians realize a hopeful future. But we

cannot do so until there is the institutions of a credible state in place. In other words, we're not going to give money if it ends up going into somebody's pockets and not to help the people we're trying to help.

So we've got the framework. We've got the vision for peace and the framework for getting there, and now we've just got to continue working together to achieve it. It is a difficult subject. People have been killing each other there for a long period of time. But once there is the collective vision for peace—and I think we're building that collective vision—and once people understand their responsibilities—and we're now laying out the responsibilities—we have an opportunity to move toward that vision of peace, and that's exactly what we're doing.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Mr. Borrelli. Last time I came here I asked you if you received an invitation to have dinner with Mr. Chirac or Mr. Berlusconi, which one would you accept? You answered, you like Italian food. Do you still enjoy Italian cuisine made by Berlusconi?

The President. I love Italian cuisine. And I'm very close to the Prime Minister. He is a—he is a good man; he's easy to be around because he is a good listener and a good talker. And I like his judgment, and I like his friendship.

President's Upcoming Meeting With Pope John Paul II

Mr. Borrelli. When you go to Rome, you meet the Pope.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Borrelli. One of his desires is to visit Ground Zero in New York. Will he be visiting soon?

The President. I hope so, but that's up for the Pope to make that decision. He is a—I had the honor of visiting the Holy Father the last time I was—the visit in beautiful Rome. And actually, it was outside of Rome; we went to the summer—the summer palace overlooking the spectacular lake. And you know, he's getting older, and whether or not he's able to travel to Ground Zero will be up to—up for the Holy Father to decide. But I just want you to know I'm looking forward

to that visit. It is a great honor to be in his presence. He's a great man.

Mr. Borrelli. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:33 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. Mr. Borrelli referred to President Jacques Chirac of France. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Champion Teams

May 21, 2002

The President. Welcome. Please be seated. It's a beautiful day to welcome a bunch of champs to the White House. I want to welcome you all; I want to welcome the teams. Thanks for coming.

Thank you, Senators, for being here. I see Senator Dodd, Dayton. I—Senator Lieberman's on his way; I know that for a fact. I want to thank my friend Johnny Rowland, the Governor of Connecticut, here. He told me, he said, "The Connecticut women's basketball team is pretty good this year." I said, "Oh, yeah?" He said, "No, they're real good." And I said, "Well, how good?" He said, "They're going to go undefeated." I said, "Sure, Governor." Thanks for making me look bad, Johnny. *[Laughter]*

Senator Wellstone, thanks for coming as well, honored you're here.

I want to thank the representatives from the universities. My good friend Mark Yudof is here from the University of Minnesota. I want to thank Don Lucia as well, the head coach of the men's hockey team. I want to congratulate the Minnesota team; you won it in dramatic fashion. And you had to let down your—change your immigration laws to allow somebody from North Dakota to come in to score. *[Laughter]* But it was a great victory.

I want to thank Kathryn Martin and Shannon Miller from the University of Minnesota-Duluth women's hockey team for coming back again. It is a repeat performance by a great group of athletes. I want to congratulate you all for winning it two years in a row.

I want to thank and welcome Geno Aurinuma—is that right?

Mr. Auriemma. Auriemma.

The President. Auriemma. Okay, fine. *[Laughter]* I've never been too good in English. *[Laughter]* But he's a heck of a coach, however he says his name. *[Laughter]*

I want to congratulate the UConn women's basketball team for an unbelievable season. It—what great athletes, and they were really fun to watch.

And then, much to the delight of thousands of people around here, and many who work upstairs in the White House, the mighty Terps of Maryland are the NCAA champions. I want to congratulate Dan Mote, the president, and Gary Williams, the coach. You guys need to know that there was a lot of people that were stepping a little lighter in my family, as well as who work in this compound, when you won. It was a great feat in an unbelievably tough field. And so congratulations to you all.

You've now got a—you showed some things that I think are important for our country, particularly at this time, that if you serve something greater than yourself, called a team, you can achieve great things. If you recognize that life is more than just an individual record, that if you recognize there are—something bigger than an individual accomplishment, you can win. You can win in a broader sense. And to me, that's what these championships mean.

It's kind of what our country has got to do as well. If we serve something greater than materialism or self-absorption, we can do some great things as a country. Starting with loving our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves, making sure the country is as hopeful and promising as it can possibly be.

As well as the result of being champs—I mean big-time champs—you've now got a lot of people looking at you, a lot of kids wondering, how does a champ behave? What does a champ do when they win the crown? It's a great opportunity to set an example for other people, to help people understand they're responsible for the decisions they make in life. You have that chance right now as a champ.

You've been champs on the field and on the courts and on the rinks. Now you can

be champs off, and do your country a great service.

It's my honor to welcome you all here. I love championship day at the White House. I love to be around success. I hope you cherish these memories in winning these great championships for a long time coming and use them as an opportunity to work to make your Nation the best it can possibly be.

May God bless your talents, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Yudof, president, and Don Lucia, head men's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota; Kathryn Martin, chancellor, and Shannon Miller, head women's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Geno Auriemma, head women's basketball coach, University of Connecticut; and Dan Mote, president, and Gary Williams, head men's basketball coach, University of Maryland. The President honored the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team, the University of Maryland's men's basketball team, the University of Minnesota's men's ice hockey team, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth's women's ice hockey team.

Statement on the Peace Process in Sudan

May 21, 2002

Senator Danforth has made considerable progress in helping to bring both sides in Sudan's peace process closer to the negotiating table. I am grateful for Senator Danforth's efforts, and I have asked him to continue to serve as my envoy. The road ahead will be difficult. Lives continue to be lost, and conditions for the people of Sudan are hard.

Achieving peace will require verifiable action by both sides. We must see deeds, not just words. The Government of Sudan cannot make empty promises while continuing to wage war against its own people. It must stop interfering with food deliveries. It must stop attacking civilians. It must honor fully its commitments to Senator Danforth. It must accept that it cannot win the war. It must seek peace.

The United States is committed to helping the aggrieved people of the Sudan. We will continue to urge the parties toward peace

at the talks in Kenya. To achieve a lasting and just peace, all parties at the talks must make every effort to ensure the discussions are a success.

Statement on the Establishment of East Timor

May 21, 2002

The United States salutes the establishment of East Timor, the first new nation of the millennium. With those in Dili, we celebrate the successful conclusion of the long struggle of the people of East Timor for an independent nation. We are heartened that the people of East Timor have embraced the path of democracy that will lead their nation to peace and prosperity. On behalf of the American people, I congratulate Xanana Gusmao, who was sworn in as East Timor's first President.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in bringing East Timor into the family of nations. We praise the contributions and efforts of the international community which helped make the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor a success.

Proclamation 7565—National Maritime Day, 2002

May 21, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our commercial maritime tradition dates back to the founding of our Nation; and it continues to play an important role today, moving passengers and freight, protecting our freedom, and linking our citizens to the world.

Merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments. Before World War II, they made dangerous and difficult voyages carrying vital supplies to Europe. During that war, more than 700 United States merchant ships were lost to attack, and more than 6,000 merchant mariners lost their lives. Merchant mariners played a vital role

in the Korean Conflict, especially in the rescue of 14,000 Korean civilians by the SS MEREDITH VICTORY. During the Vietnam War, ships crewed by civilian seamen carried 95 percent of the supplies used by our Armed Forces. Many of these ships sailed into combat zones under fire. In fact, the SS MAYAGUEZ incident involved the capture of mariners from the American merchant ship SS MAYAGUEZ.

More recently, during the Persian Gulf War merchant mariners were vital to the largest sealift operation since D-Day. And after the tragic attacks of September 11th, professional merchant mariners and midshipmen from the United States Merchant Marine Academy transported personnel and equipment and moved food and supplies to lower Manhattan. Their efforts enhanced rescue operations and helped save many lives.

Today, the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine and thousands of other workers in our Nation's maritime industry continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and our ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful world. We must ensure our maritime system can meet the challenges of the 21st century. As cargo volume is expected to double within the next 20 years, a viable maritime network will help our country compete in our global economy.

Accordingly, my Administration is working with government agencies, the shipping industry, labor, and environmental groups to ensure that our waterways remain a sound transportation option that complements our overland transportation network.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. Merchant Marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on May 20, 1933, as amended, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2002, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate this observance and to display the flag of the United

States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Proclamation 7566—National Missing Children's Day, 2002 *May 21, 2002*

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On May 25, 1979, 6-year old Etan Patz disappeared on his way to school in New York City. The ensuing search focused national attention on the tragedy of missing children, as well as the lack of resources and information available to help locate and recover missing children. Since that time, many high-profile cases and the dedicated efforts of parents, the law enforcement community, and others concerned with children's well-being have generated even greater awareness about the need to protect children from criminals and other predators.

During this year, we mark the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Missing Children Act, originally signed into law by President Reagan. Over the past two decades, the Department of Justice, along with many important community and faith-based partners, have made great progress in raising public awareness, improving public safety, locating and recovering missing children, and protecting children from exploitation on the Internet.

Americans must continue to work together to ensure the safety of our children. The Department of Justice will commemorate National Missing Children's Day by presenting

six awards that recognize outstanding efforts to safeguard our youngest citizens. The recipients deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their dedicated work. As they are honored for their contributions, I urge all Americans to take an active role in upholding the safety of our communities and in defending the well-being of our children.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2002, as National Missing Children's Day. I call upon Americans to join me in commemorating this observance and to remember those young people who are missing. I also call on our citizens to recognize and thank those who work on behalf of missing children and their families. By renewing our commitment to protect our children from harm, we can save lives and prevent untold suffering and grief among the most vulnerable of our society.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Proclamation 7567—Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2002

May 21, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Every Memorial Day, Americans remember the debt of gratitude we owe to our veterans who gave their lives for our country. On this important day, communities across our Nation stop to remember and to honor the great sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

Since its beginnings, our country has faced many threats that have tested its courage.

From war-torn battlefields and jungle skirmishes to conflicts at sea and air attacks, generations of brave men and women have fought and died to defeat tyranny and protect our democracy. Their sacrifices have made this Nation strong and our world a better place.

Upwards of 48 million Americans have served the cause of freedom and more than a million have died to preserve our liberty. We also remember the more than 140,000 who were taken prisoner-of-war and the many others who were never accounted for. These memories remind us that the cost of war and the price of peace are great.

The tradition of Memorial Day reinforces our Nation's resolve to never forget those who gave their last full measure for America. As we engage in the war against terrorism, we also pray for peace. When America emerged from the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called on all Americans to "cherish a just and lasting peace." In these extraordinary times, our Nation has once again been challenged, and Lincoln's words remain our guiding prayer.

We continue to rely on our brave and steadfast men and women in uniform to defend our freedom. United as a people, we pray for peace throughout the world. We also pray for the safety of our troops. This new generation follows an unbroken line of good, courageous, and unfaltering heroes who have never let our country down.

As we commemorate this noble American holiday, we honor those who fell in defense of freedom. We honor them in our memory through solemn observances, with the love of a grateful Nation.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby designate Memorial Day, May 27, 2002, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. I urge the press, radio, television, and all other media to participate in these observances.

I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Requests for Supplemental and Emergency Appropriations

May 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for an FY 2002 supplemental appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This request is for an increase in the mandatory cost of disability compensation and pension benefits for veterans.

During the current year, VA has made dramatic improvements processing claims, significantly accelerating the rate of payments. This supplemental request for \$1.1 billion is needed to help pay the benefits associated with reducing the backlog of claims from previous years.

Absent this adjustment, there would be insufficient funds in September to pay the 2.5 million veterans who are entitled to benefits.

This transmittal also contains requests for FY 2002 supplemental appropriations for the legislative branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the legislative branch are transmitted without change.

Furthermore, in accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-63, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$54.0 million in emergency appropriations for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management. These emergency funds will be used to undertake necessary rehabilitation projects on lands damaged by wildland fires and to support fire suppression activities. I hereby designate this amount as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Interview With European Journalists

May 21, 2002

The President. I have a couple comments, and I'll answer some questions, obviously.

This is a trip that I've been looking forward to. I've never been to Germany; I'm looking forward to it. I've prepared a speech to the Bundestag, which is going to be a very interesting opportunity for me to talk about a very important relationship.

In my speech I'm going to refer to my trip to Russia as well, about how I view this as an opportunity—my trip to Russia and Germany and France and eventually Italy—as a

way to confirm the importance of our relationship bilaterally as well as institutions like NATO but as a way to talk about how welcoming Russia, Russia's vision into the West is important for all of us.

I look forward to my bilaterals with Gerhard Schroeder. We've got a good relationship. I look forward to my bilaterals with Jacques and Prime Minister Berlusconi, who is—three friends. As you know, I rely upon personal diplomacy a lot. I think it's easy, when people find areas of mutual respect, to work together. I've got good relationships with all three and, of course, we've got good relationships with President Putin as well.

Q. He's also a friend?

The President. He is a friend; yes, he is, very much.

I will talk in the bilaterals as well, of course, in my public addresses, about our need to continue to fight terrorism. You've seen our newspapers. You've seen members of my administration, high-ranking members of my administration clearly talking about the potential threats and attacks on America. I will remind our friends that this war is far from over. I will praise the cooperation, because I believe it. I will talk to them about what we need to do to continue fighting for liberty and freedom.

In my speeches—in discussions privately and in my public speeches, I will also remind us that we want the world to be not only more secure but a better world. I'll explain the Millennium Challenge Fund that I laid out in Monterrey, and I'll talk about some of it publicly in the Bundestag as well.

I think this is an opportunity—I view this as a great opportunity for those of us who are in positions of responsibility to defend our freedoms and to work collaboratively to make the world a better place, improve the human condition. So I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be an interesting experience.

I'm looking forward to going to Normandy on Memorial Day. It's going to be a very dramatic moment for the son of a World War II veteran. And I look forward to going to a church and a synagogue in Russia, Sunday. I look forward, as I said, going to the Bundestag. It's going to be a—it'll be a memorable event, to talk in front of the vast chamber with democratically elected members, some

of whom who agree with what I believe in, some of whom don't—but all of them are free to express their minds.

And then, of course, go to Paris—it's going to be a magnificent moment—then Rome, and then as well the “at 20,” the NATO confirmation of a new relationship with Russia.

But anyway, this is going to be a good trip. I sent the best advance team I can send, and that is the First Lady—[laughter]—preparing my way.

So why don't we go around and answer some questions? Who would like to start?

Europe-U.S. Relationship

Q. Mr. President.

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. You are by now an experienced European traveler, so I would like to ask you, is there something wrong with the U.S.-European relationship in terms of a growing psychological, military, technological gap? Is there something that is worrying you and that you hear from your friends that is worrying them?

The President. Well, first, I recognize that there are more ties that bind us than don't. You see, when you love freedom, that's a powerful tie. The German people, the French, Russians, and the Italians, like Americans, love freedom. And so do I, a lot. And that's what binds us. We've got values that bind us: rule of law, constitutions, marketplace, the rule of the marketplace. These are common values that make us bound together.

We've got common problems that we must solve that are also greater than any dispute that may arise. I mean, listen, fighting for terror is a common cause that is a powerful force that unites us.

So I think the relationship is a strong relationship, and it's a healthy relationship. And of course there are disagreements at times. We have trade disagreements, but that's because we've got a lot of trade; we've got \$2 trillion of trade a year. If we didn't have any trade, there would be no disagreements. But that's normal; that's in the normal course of business. And I certainly do not let that affect my way of how I view this incredibly important alliance and relationships.

So I'm—I go to Europe feeling optimistic about our relationships and feeling optimistic about our capacities to work together to solve problems.

Russia

Q. Mr. President, some American political scientists would prefer to see Russia in the future as undeveloped.

The President. Yes.

Q. As a strong developer—

The President. Pay attention to him.

Q. —they became a significant competitor for the U.S.A. However, a poor and a bitter country would be even more dangerous.

The President. Yes.

Q. How do you, Mr. President, see Russia in the near future?

The President. Well, first of all, it's the same issue that relates to the European Union and America as well as Russia and America. We want healthy competition. We want our friends to be strong and competitive. We want the economies to grow. I think it's essential for American policymakers to recognize that a healthy Europe and a healthy Russia is in our Nation's interests. It makes it easier; for example, a healthy economy makes it more likely that a friendship will develop in a more significant way.

And so my message to the Russian people, as well as to here at home, is that it is important that Russia be viewed as a friend, not as an enemy. I said that right off the bat; that was my stated goal as a President, is to work with Russia as a friend, not as an enemy. I was able in Slovenia to realize that was possible when I visited with President Putin. And this head of his bureau there, or whatever you want to call the guy, asked me the question, first question: Do you trust Putin?

Yes. I answered that several months ago when—what's the boy's name? Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] is his name—please, please, scratch that from the—[laughter]—scratch that from the notes.

They said, “How do you know?” I said, “I looked into his eyes and was able to glimpse into his soul.” See, and I've been proven right. I do trust him because I believe

he cares deeply about moving forward. There's so much that can be done in the spirit of friendship, together. And that's how I view—that's—and we've got a lot of problems.

We've got AIDS ravishing an entire continent. Well, imagine, here we are, we're all representative of relatively wealthy nations—hopefully, Russia's wealth will increase—and yet, we're confronted with a society that's being wiped out. And so one of the fundamental questions is how—what do we do? We've got nations, responsible nations—how do we respond to that?

And I've got some ideas. As you know, we put a—anyway, my point to you is that we want Russia to succeed. We want Russia to be healthy. We want Russia, our partner now in fighting terrorism, to have the means to continue the fight. And I hope this trip will help, you know, assuage the doubts of some in Russia who—and in America—who like the old way of resentment and bitterness and hatred. Vladimir Putin and I are putting that behind us for the good of both peoples.

Yes, sir.

NATO

Q. Mr. President, one of the main vehicles of the relationship between the U.S. and Europe is, of course, NATO.

The President. Yes.

Q. And we have many in Europe, and not only Europe, are wondering, is NATO doomed? Will it disappear at some point? And if not, what is the purpose of NATO in the coming years?

The President. Well, that's a great question. NATO is more needed than ever in many ways. And let me explain it to you this way. The nature of the threats to us—and I say “us” collectively—has changed. And what we're learning is, it's the ability for nations to share information and to cut off finances, the ability for nations to deny safe haven, the ability for nations to keep these killers on the run that's going to make this war successful. And therefore, it's a collective effort in order to beat a terrorist network. And NATO is a collection of freedom-loving countries. Therefore, NATO must change its

mission—not its mission, its focus and its capabilities in order to meet the threats that now face us.

So I think NATO is very relevant. That is why in Prague, next fall, I will—depending upon the actions of applicant states—will follow through my speech I gave in Warsaw and will reiterate somewhat in Germany, that I see a Europe whole, free, at peace with itself. And NATO expansion is one way to achieve that.

Now, I caution those who would read your articles to not take anything for granted when it comes to the NATO expansion. But I have been on record as one that has talked aggressively about expansion. The reason I do is because I understand the importance of NATO and the relevance of NATO.

And we need to work within NATO to make sure that NATO has got the capacities to—to better use capabilities, define capabilities and strategies, make sure an expanded NATO is flawless and seamless in its capacity to advance against a new threat. So I think it's a very relevant part of the future, and I will say that in Germany, and to Jacques.

Q. If I may have a followup on this—

The President. Sure.

Q. Are you worried by the gap in military capabilities, which is widening—and even, with your budget, will be widening more—between Europe and the U.S.?

The President. I think that's an issue. I do think it's an issue. On the other hand, it's an issue that can be overcome with time.

We're transforming our military or trying to transform our military rapidly. There's a few weapons systems that seem to keep popping up, even though they may have been doomed at one point. But that's part of the process. And—but we are transforming. And NATO must transform as well in order to meet the true threats. Russia is not a threat. Russia is not a threat to the West. And therefore, NATO must align its capabilities and its budgets to the new threat. And that's going to take awhile. I understand that.

So I'm not in a—you know, I'm optimistic about NATO changing. I've talked to Lord Robertson about this issue. I will address it in my speech in Germany as well, about how to make sure NATO stays relevant as we head into the 21st century.

But gaps can be closed, and gaps can be changed, particularly technological gaps, particularly among friends. And I'll repeat, I go to Europe as a friend, and someone with whom—someone who wants to work with Europe to achieve common objectives.

And I will say this again: The war on terror requires significant cooperation. We're not fighting a nation that has got the capacity to move tanks. We're fighting a group of killers, international killers who hide in caves, who burrow in free societies, who are patient and tough and mean, and who want to destroy. And therefore, we must cooperate with each other; we must share intelligence; we must run down leads; we must interdict; we must arrest. And a great place to start is with a collection of freedom-loving countries, and that is NATO.

Yes, sir?

Russia

Q. What is the Russia-NATO Council about? Does it give a say to Russia on NATO issues? And if not, what?

The President. The “at 20” certainly does not give Russia any veto power over military actions. And that's important to know.

However, it recognizes that Russia can be an important partner in a peaceful Europe by working, initially working with Russia on counterproliferation measures, terrorism measures, ways to address the new threats facing all of us.

Russia faces the same threat that Italy, France, Germany, and America faces, and that is the threat of terrorism. It is important for your readers to know you face the threat, just like we face the threat. It may not seem so—it may not seem so. But I'm telling you the threat is real. President Putin understands that. Therefore, it makes—as do Europe leaders as well, I want you to know. And it, therefore, makes eminent sense to include Russia in a new relationship with NATO, and that's what we're going to confirm on the outskirts of Rome.

Iraq and State-Supported Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, would you say that Iraq, for the time being, is basically contained? Or

do you think that there are urgent steps required to undertake against Saddam's plans with weapons of mass destruction?

The President. Sure. I'm a patient man. And I am a deliberate man. But the word "contain" doesn't work if someone's got the capacity to deliver a weapon of mass destruction. How can you contain somebody when they've got the ability to blackmail or launch a weapon? And that is my deep concern.

And I feel passionate about this concern, because I know the nature of the regime. And I know the potential threat that could come if this terrorist organization that we're hunting down teams up with—I'm not sure how you translate into German, but—

Q. We'll find a way.

The President. —coordinate, allies with, coordinates with—uses these weapons of mass destruction to further their means as well. And I'm concerned about it.

I know there's a lot of angst about my statements about these nations, but I have the responsibility to speak as clearly as I possibly can about how I view the nature of these regimes. And I will continue doing that.

Q. Is that why the Vice President said that inspections are not really enough?

The President. Well, we certainly hope that the Iraq Government will allow there to be full and open and unfettered inspections. We want to know. This is a man who's denied inspections for years. I wonder why. I think the world ought to ask, why won't you allow for inspections?

Every time they talk about inspections, he's got a certain kind of caveats and strings, and won't let them—"You can't go here. You can't go there." So I think the Vice President was expressing some skepticism about the nature of the regime itself. And we'd like to see inspections, unfettered, whole, free inspections. We'd like these inspectors to go look where they want to look, just like Saddam Hussein agreed to do over a decade ago.

Mr. Volk?

Putin-Bush Relationship

Q. Mr. President, can you please describe your relationship—I'm excited, therefore I'm reading. [Laughter] Can you please describe your relationship with President Vladimir Putin?

The President. Yes.

Q. How do you call each other during the informal session? What are the subjects of your conversation after official state session?

The President. Well, I would call my relationship warm. I enjoy his company. He has got a good sense of humor, and I appreciate that. And he has kindly invited me to his house, and I'm looking forward to going.

Our conversations will be about—here's a man who loves Russia, and he loves the Russian people. And he's deeply concerned about problems facing Russia. And a lot of times, even in the most informal gathering, he shares with me his deep concerns.

He is a—he also is a man who worries about the threats that Russia faces. We share a common interest in this war on terror because Russia, herself, has been attacked; innocent people have lost life. And he's passionate on the subject, about protecting his homeland. And we share information about how best to do that. I mean, we ask questions as friends would ask questions: "How are you doing this? Where are you doing that?"

Q. How do you call him? Vladimir?

The President. Oh, I call him Vladimir, yes.

Q. Vladimir?

The President. Yes. And he calls me George.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Jorzh.

The President. But he's a—one of the interesting things we're going to do is go to St. Petersburg together and go on the barges and see the White Nights.

Q. Do you know a couple of words in Russian?

The President. No.

Q. No?

The President. *Nyet.* [Laughter] One. But I've got a Russian speaker with me, *Senorita Arroz*. "Arroz" means "Rice."

Terrorist Alerts

Q. Mr. President, the warnings which have been issued in the last days about terrorist threat, including what the Vice President said on Sunday—is it a kind of general notice to the American people that they must stay vigilant in the demands on the U.S. front? Or does it point out to any specific and imminent threat?

The President. The FBI Director yesterday, I talked to him—he comes in every morning, by the way. So this subject—he came up this morning. He was talking about—he was speculating based upon a lot of intelligence that indicates that the Al Qaida is active, plotting, planning, you know, trying to hit us. So he was speculating. He basically said, “Look, I wouldn’t be surprised if there is another attack, and it’s going to be difficult to stop them,” is what he said. The Vice President also reflected that attitude.

Now, if and when we have a specific threat, you know, we—in other words, if I were to tell you that I know that there’s a—thinking about an attack on a certain moment at a certain place, we would deal with that in a way that would obviously harden that site. We would put our assets in place to prevent that from happening. I doubt there’d be a lot of publicity. The people, obviously, whose lives could be affected would be informed, directly informed, as the country, as the Government deployed assets to react.

These are very clever killers. And I refer to them as killers because that’s what they are. They’re out to kill, no other way to put it. And they—their communications are adept. And we’re learning more about them. But they’re—they’re a heck of a lot more sophisticated than people assume, I guess is the best way to put it. They think, and they plan, and they plot. They burrow into free societies.

And so what the Vice President and the FBI Director were reflecting was a general understanding of the desires and attitudes and methodology or potential methodology—obviously, if we knew the exact methodology, they wouldn’t be around; we would have taken care of—well, protect our homeland, I’ll put it to you that way, within the Constitution of the United States, of course. They would be off the streets.

It’s a concern. This is—I mean, every morning I read threats—some, by the way, directed not toward U.S. assets, but to the assets of our friends. As a matter of fact, I am confident that I’ve read threats that were directed to the countries represented here. All the time, we share information immediately. As a matter of fact, before I see it,

I’m confident that the information has gone to the intelligence-gathering networks of the respected countries. And that’s very important; that’s very important. I don’t mean to be an alarmist. And again, there are no—I didn’t have a—there’s not a moment.

But there is an attitude of these people. And they’re relentless, they just are. And therefore, when you hear me say that the best strategy, the best defense is an offense, I mean it. And the best way to protect our respective people is to hunt these people down.

One of my jobs is to continually educate the American people and, for that matter, anybody who is interested in the world who wants to listen, as to the true nature of what we face. I’ve got a better handle on it than most. I pay attention to it every day. My most important job—we’ll debate all the debates and all the issues, but my most important job is to protect America and our friends and allies and work with our friends and allies to protect the innocent people in your countries.

You know, it’s a unique war we’re fighting. The old wars, there would be battlelines and movements, and you could measure progress here and territory taken here. A lot of people steeped in history kind of still think that way. But it’s a different kind of war. And we’re recognizing how different it is as we get more intelligence. And it takes a different effort to fight it.

But it’s real; it’s absolutely real. I know some in the world don’t particularly want to hear that. It’s much easier not to be confronted with the truth, because it means that there’s going to be sacrifice and worry and concern. But it’s a real threat, and I’m going to—I’ll battle with all my—and I’ve got a great country behind me doing—

Q. On this point, were you disappointed by the questions raised by the Democrats about the way you were informed? Did the conclusions you draw, you drew from this information—

The President. As I said, this is the—the thing about Washington. I suspect capitals elsewhere—democracy, there’s nothing like a little second-guessing. As I said, in Washington, the second-guessing is second nature. I’m used to it. I think there was a lot of—

most of the elected officials here are very responsible citizens. They understand the nature of the intelligence; they understand how it works.

We're a united country—may flare up a little, politics flares up. But we're a united country. And this country is—both Republicans and Democrats are united to win this war on terror, and I appreciate that spirit from Washington.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. On Middle East—

The President. Make it a good one.

Q. Yes.

The President. Be sure it's a good one. [Laughter] I'm sure everybody here is interested in that subject.

Q. Is peace possible with Arafat?

The President. It's a very interesting question. First of all, I meant what I said on April the 4th, when I said Mr. Arafat has let the Palestinian people down. He's had a chance to lead. He had a chance to get a peace agreement with my predecessor. He's had chance after chance. And by failing to lead, he has really let the Palestinians down.

I say that with a lot of angst in my heart because I am concerned about the plight of the Palestinian citizenry, poor and isolated and frustrated. Many live in refugee camps and have for years. And there's obviously—I realize in many of their hearts, there's little hope, and that's frustrating.

And so I am clearly disappointed. Somebody said, "Has he earned your respect?" I said, he never had my respect, because he has—he let his people down. The role of a leader is to lead.

Having said that, I do think peace is possible, and I think it's important. I think it's very important that we work toward a vision of two states, living side by side in peace. There's work for all of us involved in this process, to have that vision so necessary for a secure Israel and so necessary for a hopeful Palestine.

The process to get there is going to require a commitment by all parties: a commitment for the United States to continue to lead on the issue, and we will; a commitment by the Israelis to make the tough choices necessary

for the Palestinian state to exist; the commitment by the Palestinians to renounce and fight terror; the commitment by the Arab world to become engaged not only in the humanitarian aspects of the region but to be a part of the building of the institutions necessary for a Palestinian state to exist.

That starts with a security apparatus that actually functions for the benefit of the Palestinian people by fighting off terror, by rejecting extremism. There is—and at the same time, shows the world, not only just Israel but shows American and Arab nations and everybody, the EU, that there is a concerted effort to fight terror, a security force in which authority and responsibility are properly aligned. That's step one.

A while ago I announced that Tenet was going to reengage in the process of developing this security force. There also needs to be the institutions necessary for the growth of a state, such as the ability to disburse money in a noncorrupt way, the capacity to provide help for citizens—actual help for citizens who suffer—in a way that will lead to the rebuilding of community; they have the civil institutions necessary for growth. That will come when there are—when there is the reforms necessary to make sure there is accountability in the Palestinian Authority.

There needs to be the conditions necessary for economic vitality; that's trade. There's money willing to be spent. The EU—I've talked to President Aznar on the subject; I've talked to your respective leaders on the subject. I've committed to it.

But I'm not committed to spending—sending money in a place until I'm convinced it's going to be spent to help the Palestinian people. And so I—yes, I think peace is possible. It's going to take awhile; it's going to take a lot of work. And the first steps necessary are for people to assume their responsibilities, to assume a responsible role.

I am—I will tell you that you've read the press accounting of what's taking place. There is a sense that—amongst some in the region, a lot in the region, that there needs to be a reform process in the Palestinians that will boost the confidence of, first, the people, second, the neighborhood, and third,

the community of the world, of which the EU and America are an integral part.

So I will continue to work for peace, and I just—to renounce terror, insist that people fight off terrorist attacks, demand that there be accountability for people who are involved in the process, cut off money wherever we can, to deny terrorists the capacity to derail peace by death. And we have to do that in order to achieve peace. You've got to deny people—killers the ability to destroy hope through death. And I'm optimistic we can do that. I believe we can. Thanks for asking.

Okay, thanks for your time.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:20 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, and the transcript was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 10 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany; President Jacques Chirac of France; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia; Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain in his capacity as President of the European Council. He also referred to "NATO at 20," a proposed NATO-Russia cooperation mechanism in which NATO member states and Russia will work as equal partners in areas of common interest. Journalists participating in the interview were: Leo Wieland, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; Patrick Jarreau, *Le Monde*; Gabriel Volk, *Argumenti i Fakti*; and Alberto Flores-D'Arcais, *La Repubblica*. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Christian Malar of TF-3 French Television

May 21, 2002

Terrorist Alerts

Mr. Malar. Mr. President, thank you very much. Could you be more specific on the prospects of new attack against the United States? It's a source of concern for all of us, of course. And do you think it's a—concerns also, for instance, the French, who have been severely targeted—struck recently by the terrorist networks in Pakistan?

The President. Yes, it's a good question. First, I'm concerned about all people who love freedom. The French love freedom;

Americans love freedom. And Al Qaida hates freedom, and they can't stand people who embrace freedom.

I have no specific threat to America and Americans or to the French. If I had a specific threat, something that would hurt the French, I can assure you we would have shared that information immediately with our friends in the French Government. If I have a specific threat relating to America, we would deal with that specific threat. We would use our assets to harden whatever the target might be. You probably wouldn't know about it.

What you're hearing is—you're hearing—the people of my administration are concerned about a group of people who continue to plot and plan on ways to hurt us. And the best way to prevent further attacks is to find them and hunt them down, to chase them one by one, and to bring them to justice. And that's what my country and our coalition will continue to do.

Iran and Iraq

Mr. Malar. Mr. President, you spoke a lot about the evil axis. Are you still planning to attack Iraq? And what about Iran, which, according to our understanding of various sources, might have been harboring bin Laden for the last few months?

The President. Oh, really? Well, I certainly hope that's not the case, for Iran's sake, that they be harboring bin Laden. We don't know about Mr. bin Laden. He might be dead; he might be alive. All I can tell you is, I heard—I haven't heard much from him in a long period of time.

I do believe there is an axis of evil. These are countries that are not transparent; they're dictatorial; they've got designs for weapons of mass destruction, if they don't have them already. They hate—they preach a gospel of hate. And we'll deal with each of them differently. Obviously, the military is an option. I have no plans on my desk right now, but whatever I decide and whatever we decide, of course, we'll consult closely with the French, our allies, and our friends.

But we must deal with this threat, the threat of countries such as Iraq using a weapons of mass destruction to affect a balance

of power or to affect our willingness and ability to go defend ourselves. And this is a dangerous problem that we've got to deal with.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. Malar. Mr. President, concerning the peace process in the Middle East, it seems there is no peace solution in sight right now. Arafat doesn't want—cannot control the Islamic terrorist acts against Israel. Mr. Sharon doesn't want him anymore as a partner for peace. What can you do? The United States is the only country to be able to impose a solution. What can you do concretely, Mr. President, to put peace back on track for good?

The President. Yes, thank you. I'm not so sure you can ever impose a solution on people. In other words, the first job is to convince people the need for peace, to give people a chance to work toward a vision. And I've laid out a vision. And the vision is two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. That's something we will work toward.

I believe we're making some progress. It starts with convincing all parties in the region they have a responsibility toward peace. The Israelis have got a responsibility; I've made that clear to Prime Minister Sharon. The Palestinians have a responsibility, particularly to denounce and to fight against terror, to stop these killers from derailing peace. And the Arab world has the responsibility to be a party to not only discussions but a party to providing hope for the Palestinians.

And we are—we've got a dialog going on. One of the first things we need to do is put the institutions in place that will help provide a stable society in the Palestinian territory. That means a security force that actually works, one that functions properly, one in which authority and responsibility are aligned.

You need to know I'm an optimistic man. I believe we can achieve peace. It's going to take a lot of hard work. I have started this the first day of my administration, and I will continue during the last day of my administration.

Mr. Malar. Two quick last questions.

The President. Sure.

Europe-U.S. Relationship

Mr. Malar. Mr. President, what do you answer to the Europeans, and especially the French, who are very fussy sometimes and considers—the reproach of America's unilateralism? What do you answer to them? They even fear today, among Europeans, that the new American-Russian axis which would prevail over the rest of Europe.

The President. Well, listen, my trip into Europe will let people know me a little better. I'm a person who knows that—first of all, I know what I believe. And the thing I believe—I believe strongly in the common values that we share. And I believe strongly in freedom. I mean, I believe we ought to do everything in our power to encourage freedom all around the world. And that's important. I also know we can't win a war on terror alone, that we've got to work with our allies and friends. I'll confirm the importance of the NATO Alliance for all of us.

So I look forward to the trip. I'm confident there are some there that have got an opinion about me that I might not like, but that's the good thing about democracy. I welcome people—people's opinions. And I'll be honored to represent our country overseas, and to reconfirm our friendship.

I'm going to Normandy, and—

President's Memorial Day Visit to Normandy

Mr. Malar. You are going to Normandy, so I imagine you are going to spend Memorial Day on the beaches of Normandy. And I'm sure, Mr. President, it means a lot to you when we are in the world where a lot of people try to fight for freedom and security.

The President. Yes. Well, it's going to be an emotional moment, to think of all the sacrifice that went so that you and I can speak here in freedom. I'm the son of a World War II veteran. I'm a product of what they call the Greatest Generation. And I just—my friends who have been there tell me that it's an amazingly emotional place. Memorial Day is a great holiday here in America, where we honor those who have sacrificed. And so I'll give a speech that will talk about sacrifice and will call people to the memory of those who have come before us and lay out the

sacrifices that we're going to need to do in the future if we expect the world to be free.

And I can't wait to go. It's going to be one of the best parts of the trip. It's going to be a memorable trip, and I'm confident that the trip to Normandy will be one of the great highlights of the trip.

Mr. Malar. Mr. President, I want to thank you very much. I wish you all the best.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Malar. And God bless you.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped on May 21 at 1:24 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 22. In his remarks, the President referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. Mr. Malar referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks on Departure for Berlin, Germany

May 22, 2002

I'm looking forward to my trip to Europe. I'm going to take a couple of messages.

One, of course, I appreciate the friendship with the European people, our strong alliance, and that our alliance must remain tough in the war against global terror, that even though we've had some initial successes, there's still danger for countries which embrace freedom, countries such as ours or Germany, France, Russia, or Italy. And as an alliance, we must continue to fight against global terror. We've got to be tough.

Secondly, friends benefit through free trade. I will reaffirm our commitment to trade. I hope the United States Senate finishes debate on the trade promotion authority and passes the bill. It's going to be important for our friends around the world to see this commitment to trade. Trade is in the interests of our workers. Trade is in the interest of job creation, and trade is in the interest of developing nations as well as developed nations. And so I want to thank those in the United States Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, who have worked hard on this

bill. I hope they finish the debate and pass this important legislation. It'll be a strong positive message.

I'm looking forward to the trip. I'm honored to represent the greatest nation on the face of the Earth in capitals around Europe. And I look forward to reporting back to the American people upon my return.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

The President's News Conference With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany in Berlin

May 23, 2002

[The Chancellor's remarks are joined in progress.]

Chancellor Schroeder. —welcome you most warmly here to the garden of the Chancellery. We have exceedingly been looking forward to this visit of the U.S. American President, George W. Bush. And the results of our conversations I think are such that we have every reason to be pleased.

U.S. American are in an exceedingly healthy state. It's a very friendly atmosphere; that has become abundantly clear in all of our conversations. But I also think that there is a tremendous amount of agreement between the two of us and our two countries as regards the assessment of the situation around the world.

Now, to begin with, we have started to talk about, very intensely, about the U.S. American-European relations. I think what the American President and the Russian President have agreed together regarding questions of disarmament, but also regarding the process of approachment of Russia towards NATO, that that is of historic importance. And I would very much say that—and we both agree that this process is going to be topped by what we're going to be doing in Rome on the 28th of May together. The world is going to be a safer place for it, and I think it's a tremendous success not only of America but of this special U.S. American President.

We then, obviously, talked about the ongoing necessity to continue with our joint fight against international terrorism. And I have been able to brief the President about my visit to Kabul and about the necessity of maintaining the protection force on the ground, the ISAF. They are the force to guarantee a minimum of security and, therefore, a minimum perspective of hope of reconstruction for people in this country. This is also important: We want to rebuild economic and social structures in the country. We're very much in agreement that we have every reason to trust the Interim Government with Interim President Karzai and to give them all of the support that they need to move their country forward as a way of their own momentum.

Now, we very much agree that it is necessary and important to make sure we move the peace process forward in the Middle East. I have emphasized very strongly that the President's speech in Washington was a milestone regarding this situation. He went in and made it abundantly clear what we all believe in—at least we, too, certainly believe in—that Israel has got a guaranteed—*[inaudible]*—right of safe existence within strong and reliable borders, that it needs to be recognized by all of its neighbors, and that by the end of the day, certainly there is going to be an independent Palestinian state too.

And we're very much agreed that this is a job to be done by the international community of states, certainly by means of the Quartet that arose from Madrid, the United States of America, the United Nations, Europe, and Russia. Now, this Quartet is hopefully going to support the constructive process as well as they can, because we really need stability and peaceful development for this region, specifically.

We very much share the concern about the existing conflict between Pakistan, on one hand side, and India on the other hand. And we're very much agreed that we have to do whatever we can to bring a peaceful solution to this conflict. I mean, we must make sure that no further escalation happens over there.

Now, moreover, we addressed questions of interest regarding trade with one another.

We also addressed some other issues that are in existence regarding our bilateral relations.

Thank you.

President Bush. Well, thank you, Chancellor. It's an honor to be here in this historic city. I want to thank you for your hospitality, and I want to thank you for treating Laura so well.

The Chancellor and I have met—I think it's now five times, and I value our friendship. I appreciate the frank discussions we have. I'm here to let the German people know how proud I am of our relationship, our personal relationship, and how proud I am of the relationship between our two countries. Germany is an incredibly important ally to the United States of America. We respect the German people. We appreciate democracy in this land. We appreciate the struggles that Germany has gone through, and we value the friendship going forward.

My speech today at the Bundestag will talk about the problems that we can solve together, that we share so much particularly when it comes to values and a deep and abiding concern for humanity and for peace. One of the things I like about Gerhardt is, he's willing to confront problems in an open way. And he is, hopefully like people consider me, a problemsolver, that we're willing to use our respective positions to solve problems, such as making sure our respective homelands are secure from terrorist attack. I'm going to talk clearly about that today, about the need for us to continue to cooperate and to fight against terror—people who hate freedom, people who are challenging civilization itself.

I want to thank again the German people and the German Government for the commitment to Afghanistan. The Chancellor made a very tough but, I think, correct decision in sending troops to Afghanistan, and those troops have performed brilliantly. I know you've lost life, as have we. And our hearts go out to the families of the soldiers who died. But in my judgment, the sacrifice is necessary, because we defend freedom, and freedom is precious.

We talked about weapons of mass destruction and the need for us to be concerned about weapons of mass destruction. As I will mention in my speech, one way to help our mutual security is to work together to solve

regional problems, and we spent a lot of time talking about the Middle East. The German Government has been very helpful in helping set the foundation for peace. Both of us agree that there ought to be two states, a Palestinian state and obviously the Israeli state, living side by side in peace, and we're working in that direction. A hot topic today, of course, in the world and one that we spent a lot of time talking about is, as Gerhardt mentioned, the India-Pakistan issue.

My point is, is that we've got a reliable friend and ally in Germany. This is a confident country led by a confident man, and that's good. That's good for world peace. It's good for those of us who love and embrace freedom.

So, Mr. Chancellor, thanks for—thanks for giving me a chance to come and visit with you. Thanks for your hospitality. Thanks for giving me a chance to speak to the Bundestag here in a little bit.

We'll be glad to answer a couple of questions for you.

Chancellor Schroeder. There is the possibility to put three questions from each side. Please, possibly, that the guests could start.

President Bush. Did he just call on you? Okay—[laughter]—okay, I'm sorry. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], have you got a question? [Laughter]

Q. I do—

President Bush. That's right.

Q. This is a question to President Bush—

President Bush. Wait a minute, how many questions are you going to ask?

Intelligence Before September 11/Iraq

Q. Should the American people conclude there were some intelligence lapses before September 11th? And can you please explain why you oppose an independent commission to look into the matter and why you won't release the August 6th memo?

And quickly to you, sir, do you think there should be a regime change in Iraq?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I've got great confidence in our CIA and FBI. I know what's taken place since the attacks on September the 11th. Our communications between the two agencies is much better than

ever before. We've got a much better—doing a much better job of sharing intelligence.

I, of course, want the Congress to take a look at what took place prior to September the 11th. But since it deals with such sensitive information, in my judgment, it's best for the ongoing war against terror that the investigation be done in the intelligence committee. There are committees set up with both Republicans and Democrats who understand the obligations of upholding our secrets and our sources and methods of collecting intelligence. And therefore, I think it's the best place for Congress to take a good look at the events leading up to September the 11th.

The other question?

Q. The August 6th memo—

President Bush. Oh, yes. Well, one of the things that is very important, Ron, is that the information given to the President be protected, because we don't want to give away sources and uses and methodology of intelligence gathering. And one of the things that we're learning is, in order to win this war on terror, we've got to have the best intelligence gathering possible. And not only have we got to share intelligence between friends, which we do, but we're still at war; we've still got threats to the homeland that we've got to deal with. And it's very important for us to not hamper our ability to wage that war. And so there are ways to gather information, to help improve the system without jeopardizing the capacity for us to gather intelligence, and those are the ways I support.

Chancellor Schroeder. Saddam Hussein is a dictator, there can be no doubt, nothing else. And he does act without looking after his people at all, whatsoever. We're agreed when it comes to that. And we're also agreed to the fact that it is up to the international community of states to go in and exercise a lot of political pressure in the most—possible way. The United Nations have decided to do so as well. We need to pressurize him so that international arms inspectors can get into the country to find out what weapons of mass destruction can be found in his hands. I mean, there is no difference there between President Bush and myself when it comes to the assessment of this situation.

We then obviously also talked about the question as to what should happen in the future, what could happen in the future. I have taken notice of the fact that His Excellency, the President, does think about all possible alternatives. But despite what people occasionally present here in rumors, there are no concrete military plans of attack on Iraq. And that is why, for me, there is no reason whatsoever to speculate about when and if and how. I think such speculation should be forbidden. That certainly is not the right thing for a Chancellor, and I am in this position.

We will be called upon to take our decision if and when, after consultations—and we've been assured that such consultations are going to be happening—and then we'll take a decision. And before that, I think we should not speculate about serious questions like this one.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President—[inaudible]—Chancellor, looking beyond Iraq, given the fact that Syria, too, in U.S. terminology, is a state sponsor of terrorism, given the fact that Saudi Arabia is anything but a democratic, rule-of-law, pluralistic society, how do both of you want to have this whole region, the Middle East, look like once the fight against terror is over?

President Bush. Yes, it's a great question. Would you care to go first, Mr. Chancellor? [Laughter] I'll be glad to answer it, if you like.

First, you need to know that in order for the region to be peaceful and hopeful, there must be a resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I believe that strongly. And that's why my Government and I feel strongly that we've got to work toward a vision of peace that includes two states living side by side.

And the positive news is that many Arab leaders understand that they have got to be a part of the process now. We spent a great deal of time talking to the Saudis, for example—you mentioned the Saudis. They must be a party to the process. They have—sometimes in the past, the process has not gone forward because there hasn't been, as we say in America, the buy-in by the parties; they haven't been a party to the process. And I'm pleased to report, as you can probably see

in your newspapers, they are now; they're involved.

I think one of our—and the reason I mention that is because I think their involvement to a process that I'm optimistic will succeed will then enable us to continue to more likely have an effect on promoting values that we hold dear, values of rule of law and democracy and minority rights. The institutions of change are more likely to be effective with our ability to achieve a peace in the Middle East. And so much of the ability to promote reform, which we're for, hinges on our abilities and capacities to get something done. And it's going to take a while, I believe, but nevertheless, we are making progress. And my administration spends a great deal of time on the Middle East, because we understand it is a linchpin for convincing regimes to adopt the habits of freedom that sometimes we take for granted in our respective countries.

Chancellor Schroeder. Well, I don't think I've got to add a lot to what's been said, but possibly so much. I think there cannot be peace in the Middle East without the United States of America and without them being active in this field. And it was not without reason that I pointed to the tremendously important speech of the President. It's very important. And that is why we support the efforts towards peace undertaken by the United States, but also by all other members of the so-called Quartet. We are supporting this in the framework of the European Union, but we're also doing it through bilateral channels. And my impression is—and here yet again, I fully agree with the President—that a certain degree of progress is visible in this process.

Now, obviously, we cannot be satisfied with the degree of progress, but still we have moved a little bit, and there is no alternative to the way that the President just described. There is no such thing as a magic formula to solve this tremendously difficult problem. Nobody has such a formula. And that is why I think the task that the President just described is certainly one that needs to be seriously supported by the European Union and us, bilaterally.

President Bush. Steve Holland, Reuters.

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. A fine man, fine man.
Chancellor Schroeder. We'll see that once he's put his question. [Laughter]
President Bush. There you go.

Russia and Iran

Q. When you meet with President Putin tomorrow, how are you going to talk him into ending nuclear cooperation with Iran?

President Bush. Well, that's a—that's going to be a topic. One way to make the case is that if you arm Iran, you're liable to get the weapons pointed at you, that you've got to be careful in dealing with a country like Iran. This is a country that doesn't—it's not transparent; it's not open. It's run by a group of extremists who fund terrorist activity, who clearly hate our mutual friend Israel. And you know, it's very unpredictable. And therefore, Russia needs to be concerned about proliferation into a country that might view them as an enemy at some point in time. And if Iran gets a weapon of mass destruction deliverable by a missile, that's going to be a problem. That's going to be a problem for all of us, including Russia.

So that's how I'm going to make the case. We've got a lot of work to do with Russia. I will continue to make the case. As you know, Steve, I have brought that subject up ever since I've started meeting with Vladimir Putin.

The good news is, we're—our relationship is a friendly relationship; that I view President Putin as a friend. I view Russia as a friend, not as an enemy. And therefore, it's much easier to solve these difficult issues, an issue like proliferation, amongst friends.

And I want to appreciate the Chancellor's kind words about tomorrow's treaty signing. It's going to be a positive development for America and, I believe, a positive development for Europe. And then, of course, we're going to Rome afterwards, and that, too, will be a positive development for Europe and America. And it is within the—it's in this positive relationship and positive atmosphere that we're more likely to be able to achieve satisfaction on nonproliferation.

Iraq/State-Supported Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, the Chancellor just said that your Government does not seem to be

very specific right now when it comes to plans to attack Iraq. Is that true, sir? And could you, nevertheless, try to explain to the German people what your goals are when it comes to Iraq?

And secondly, by German standards, Germany has already shouldered a huge burden in military terms of the fight against terrorism. Are you satisfied with that, or do you want Germany to do more?

President Bush. First, what the Chancellor told you is true.

Chancellor Schroeder. Of course it is. [Laughter]

President Bush. I'm surprised anybody would doubt your word, Chancellor. [Laughter]

Yes, look, I mean, he knows my position, and the world knows my position about Saddam Hussein. He is a dangerous man. He is a dictator who gassed his own people. He's had a history of incredible human rights violations. And he is a—it's dangerous to think of a scenario in which a country like Iraq would team up with an Al Qaida-type organization, particularly if and when they had the capacity—had the capacity, or when they have the capacity to deliver weapons of mass destruction via ballistic missile. And that's a threat. It's a threat to Germany; it's a threat to America; it's a threat to civilization itself. And we've got to deal with it. We can play like it's not there. We can hope it goes away. But that's not going to work. That's not going to make us safer.

And I told the Chancellor that I have no war plans on my desk, which is the truth, and that we've got to use all means at our disposal to deal with Saddam Hussein. And I appreciate the German Chancellor's understanding of the threats of weapons of mass destruction, and they're real. Now, I know some would play like they're not real. I'm telling you: They're real. And if you love freedom, it's a threat to freedom. And so we're going to deal with it, and we'll deal with it in a respectful way.

The Chancellor said that I promised consultations. I will say it again: I promise consultations with our close friend and ally. We will exert a unified diplomatic pressure. We will share intelligence. We love freedom, and so does the Chancellor, and we cannot allow

these weapons to be in a position that will affect history.

Listen, history has called us to action. I don't want to be in a position where we look back, and say, "Why didn't they lead? Where were they when it came to our basic freedoms?" And we are going to lead.

What was your other part of your question? That's what you get for asking long questions, or what I get for answering long answers.

Germany's Role in the War on Terrorism

Q. That's perfectly all right. The second question was, sir, that Germany has already shouldered a huge burden in military terms, and do you expect more—

President Bush. Germany has shouldered a significant burden, and we are very grateful for that. The Chancellor and I talked about how to make sure we complete the task in Afghanistan, which is to continue chasing down the killers, by the way, and to find them before they hit us, but as well is to leave institutions behind so that Afghanistan can run herself, so Afghanistan can be a peaceful nation, so Afghanistan can function. And we both recognize that our presence is going to have to be there for a—for quite awhile. And the Chancellor made that commitment, and I appreciate that. I'm very satisfied with the commitment of the German Government.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Disposition of the Russian Nuclear Arsenal

Q. Thank you, sir. On the subject of weapons of mass destruction, the strategic arms agreement you'll sign in Moscow does not address what many people say is now the greatest threat posed by the Russian arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, and that's proliferation to terrorists or rogue states because of insufficient security. What specific plan do you have to address that issue with President Putin? Do you believe the Russian Government is doing a good job securing those weapons? And what do you say to critics of this arms deal who say that by taking the material off the warheads, you provide more opportunities for terrorists to get them?

President Bush. Well, I guess to start with the critics, I'd say, would you rather have

them on the launchers? Would you rather have the warheads pointed at people? I would think not.

Secondly, this issue about the so-called loose nuke issue has been around for quite a while. This isn't anything new. This is a problem that we are jointly working on. As you know, Terry—and others may not know—we've got what's called Nunn-Lugar, which is a significant expenditure of taxpayers' money to help Russia dispose of and dismantle nuclear warheads, which we're willing to do. As a matter of fact, the '03 budget is nearly a billion dollars toward that end.

We're working with Chancellor Schroeder on what's called 10-plus-10-over-10: \$10 billion from the U.S., 10 billion from other members of the G-7 over a 10-year period, to help Russia securitize the dismantling—the dismantled nuclear warheads.

And President Putin understands that. He understands the need to work closely with all of us. Listen, he understands that a loose nuke could affect his security as it affects somebody else's security. He's a wise man; he's aware of the issues that we confront. That's why he's one of the best partners we have on the war against terror. He understands the implications and consequences of terror. And he also recognizes that a nightmare scenario is a dirty bomb or some kind of nuclear bomb in the hands of a—in the hands of any kind of terrorist organization.

Chancellor Schroeder. Last question.

President's Security Bubble/Addressing Issues of Hope

Q. Mr. President, at the present you are visiting a kind of ghost town around here. Do you feel a bit of pity about not to meet the Berlin people—[inaudible]—visit first? And then secondly, when discussing ways to find a—[inaudible]—peace, did you discuss on social and developmental matters too, these means? Is there a chance that you'll come back to the table to sign the Kyoto treaty?

President Bush. No. [Laughter]

Q. Then what are your aims, concerns in the Johannesburg summit in August? Will you take part of it—[inaudible]?

President Bush. Okay. Let's see, part one of a four-part question. I live in a bubble. That's what happens when you're the President. So unfortunately, I don't get to see as much of Berlin as I'd like to see. That's just life. So when I come back at some point in my life, Mr. Chancellor, you can show me around. We'll go fishing together.

No, I don't—yes, of course, whether it be in Berlin or Moscow or anywhere else, I mean, I'm a person who likes—I like to meet people. I like—I enjoy people. I had one small glimpse of Berlin last night when we went to a restaurant. It was my pleasure to shake hands with everybody or most everybody in the restaurant. I enjoy that. It frustrates me not to be able to see this growing city. But that's just life in the bubble. That's just what happens when you're the President, and I knew that going in, so I'm not griping about it.

Yes, the human condition is very important to me. I mean, it is—and that's one way to make sure that the terrorists are less likely to be effective in their recruiting, is to promote those conditions necessary for human beings to realize their full potential, such as good health and good education and prosperity—those habits necessary for the growth of prosperity. And I will address that in my speech to the Bundestag.

And I don't know whether or not you followed it, but we've laid out an initiative called the new Millennium Fund, where after 3 years our Government will be spending \$5 billion a year—new money—for development. And that money is going to go promote—to countries which are willing to fight corruption and promote rule of law. Look, you can give all kinds of money to corrupt societies, but it's not going to help the people; it will help the few. And I'm tired of that. I want to encourage reforms in society that help people.

You know, I'm desperately concerned about AIDS. I know the Chancellor shares my grief. And we've put a significant amount of money on the table. But eventually I hope to see a strategy that will work. It's one thing to commit money; it's another thing to insist that the money actually work and start saving people's lives. And when that happens, we'll commit more money.

So, you bet, we're going to talk—we've talked about and will continue to talk about the human conditions necessary to really make sure the whole world is able to be free and at peace.

Thank you all.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:28 p.m. in the courtyard at the Kanzleramt. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Chancellor Schroeder referred to Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority; and ISAF, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of Chancellor Schroeder. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks to a Special Session of the German Bundestag

May 23, 2002

The President. President, thank you very much for your kind introduction. And thank you for giving me this chance to be here today. President Rau, thank you very much; Chancellor Schroeder. I understand former Chancellor Kohl is here. I want to thank the members of the Bundestag. How are you, sir? I was a little nervous when the President told me that you all are on vacation. [*Laughter*] I can just imagine how my Congress would react if I called them back to hear a speech of mine when they were on vacation. [*Laughter*] But thank you for coming. I'm so honored to be here, and my wife Laura and I really appreciate the hospitality that you've shown us.

I've had the pleasure of welcoming your Chancellor to Washington three times, and we have established a strong relationship. Mr. Chancellor, I'm grateful.

And now I am honored to visit this great city. The history of our time is written in the life of Berlin. In this building, fires of hatred were set that swept across the world. To this city, Allied planes brought food and hope

during 323 days and nights of siege. Across an infamous divide, men and women jumped from tenement buildings and crossed through razor wire to live in freedom or to die in the attempt. One American President came here to proudly call himself a citizen of Berlin. Another President dared the Soviets to tear down that wall. And on a night in November, Berliners took history into their hands and made your city whole.

In a single lifetime, the people of this capital and this country endured 12 years of dictatorial rule, suffered 40 years of bitter separation, and persevered through the challenging decade of unification. For all these trials, Germany has emerged a responsible and prosperous and peaceful nation. More than a decade ago, as the President pointed out, my dad spoke of Germany and America as partners in leadership, and this has come to pass. A new era has arrived. The strong Germany you have built is good for the world.

On both sides of the Atlantic, the generation of our fathers was called to shape great events, and they built the great transatlantic alliance of democracies. They built the most successful alliance in history. After the cold war, during the relative quiet of the 1990s, some questioned whether our transatlantic partnership still had a purpose. History has given its answer. Our generation faces new and grave threats to liberty, to the safety of our people, and to civilization itself. We face an aggressive force that glorifies death, that targets the innocent, and seeks the means to matter—murder on a massive scale. We face the global tragedy of disease and poverty that take uncounted lives and leave whole nations vulnerable to oppression and terror.

We'll face these challenges together. We must face them together. Those who despise human freedom will attack it on every continent. Those who seek missiles and terrible weapons are also familiar with the map of Europe. Like the threats of another era, this threat cannot be appeased or cannot be ignored. By being patient, relentless, and resolute, we will defeat the enemies of freedom.

By remaining united—

[At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.]

The President. By remaining united, we are meeting—we are meeting modern threats with the greatest resources of wealth and will ever assembled by free nations. Together, Europe and the United States have the creative genius, the economic power, the moral heritage, and the democratic vision to protect our liberty and to advance our cause of peace.

Different as we are, we are building and defending the same house of freedom—its doors open to all of Europe's people, its windows looking out to global challenges beyond. We must lay the foundation with a Europe that is whole and free and at peace for the first time in its history. This dream of the centuries is close at hand.

From the Argonne Forest to the Anzio beachhead, conflicts in Europe have drawn the blood of millions, squandering and shattering lives across the Earth. There are thousands, thousands of monuments in parks and squares across my country to young men of 18 and 19 and 20 whose lives ended in battle on this continent. Ours is the first generation in a hundred years that does not expect and does not fear the next European war. And that achievement—your achievement—is one of the greatest in modern times.

When Europe grows in unity, Europe and America grow in security. When you integrate your markets and share a currency in the European Union, you are creating the conditions for security and common purpose. In all these steps, Americans do not see the rise of a rival, we see the end of old hostilities. We see the success of our Allies, and we applaud your progress.

The expansion of NATO will also extend the security on this continent, especially for nations that knew little peace or security in the last century. We have moved cautiously in this direction; now we must act decisively.

As our summit in Prague approaches, America is committed to NATO membership for all of Europe's democracies that are ready to share in the responsibilities that NATO brings. Every part of Europe should share in the security and success of this continent. A broader alliance will strengthen NATO; it will fulfill NATO's promise.

Another mission we share is to encourage the Russian people to find their future in Europe and with America. Russia has its best chance since 1917 to become a part of Europe's family. Russia's transformation is not finished; the outcome is not yet determined. But for all the problems and challenges, Russia is moving toward freedom, more freedom in its politics and its markets, freedom that will help Russia to act as a great and just power. A Russia at peace with its neighbors, respecting the legitimate rights of minorities, is welcome in Europe.

A new Russian-American partnership is being forged. Russia is lending crucial support in the war on global terror. A Russian colonel now works on the staff of U.S. Army General Tommy Franks, commander of the war in Afghanistan. And in Afghanistan, itself, Russia is helping to build hospitals and a better future for the Afghan people.

America and Europe must throw off old suspicions and realize our common interests with Russia. Tomorrow in Moscow, President Putin and I will again act upon these interests.

The United States and Russia are ridding ourselves of the last vestiges of cold war confrontation. We have moved beyond an ABM treaty that prevented us from defending our people and our friends. Some warned that moving beyond the ABM treaty would cause an arms race. Instead, President Putin and I are about to sign the most dramatic nuclear arms reduction in history. Both the United States and Russia will reduce our nuclear arsenals by about two-thirds, to the lowest level in decades. Old arms agreements sought to manage hostility and maintain a balance of terror. This new agreement recognizes that Russia and the West are no longer enemies.

The entire transatlantic Alliance is forming a new relationship with Russia. Next week in Rome, Chancellor Schroeder, NATO Allies, and I will meet as equal partners with President Putin at the creation of the NATO-Russia Council. The Council gives us an opportunity to build common security against common threats. We will start with projects on nonproliferation, counterterrorism, and search-and-rescue operations. Over time, we will expand this cooperation, even as we preserve the core mission of NATO. Many gen-

erations have looked at Russia with alarm. Our generation can finally lift this shadow from Europe by embracing the friendship of a new democratic Russia.

As we expand our Alliance, as we reach out to Russia, we must also look beyond Europe to gathering dangers and important responsibilities. As we build the house of freedom, we must meet the challenges of a larger world. And we must meet them together.

For the United States, September the 11th, 2001, cut a deep dividing line in our history, a change of eras as sharp and clear as Pearl Harbor or the first day of the Berlin blockade. There can be no lasting security in a world at the mercy of terrorists—for my Nation or for any nation.

Given this threat, NATO's defining purpose, our collective defense, is as urgent as ever. America and Europe need each other to fight and win the war against global terror. My Nation is so grateful for the sympathy of the German people and for the strong support of Germany and all of Europe.

Troops from more than a dozen European countries have deployed in and around Afghanistan, including thousands from this country, the first deployment of German forces outside of Europe since 1945. German soldiers have died in this war, and we mourn their loss as we do our own. German authorities are on the trail of terrorist cells and finances. And German police are helping Afghans build their own police force, and we're so grateful for this support.

Together, we oppose an enemy that thrives on violence and the grief of the innocent. The terrorists are defined by their hatreds. They hate democracy and tolerance and free expression and women and Jews and Christians and all Muslims who disagree with them. Others killed in the name of racial purity or the class struggle; these enemies kill in the name of a false religious purity, perverting the faith they claim to hold. In this war we defend not just America or Europe; we are defending civilization itself.

The evil that has formed against us has been termed the "new totalitarian threat." The authors of terror are seeking nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Regimes that sponsor terror are developing these weapons and the missiles to deliver them. If

these regimes and their terrorist allies were to perfect these capabilities, no inner voice of reason, no hint of conscience would prevent their use.

Wishful thinking might bring comfort but not security. Call this a strategic challenge; call it, as I do, "axis of evil"; call it by any name you choose; but let us speak the truth: If we ignore this threat, we invite certain blackmail and place millions of our citizens in grave danger.

Our response will be reasoned and focused and deliberate. We will use more than our military might. We will cut off terrorist finances, apply diplomatic pressure, and continue to share intelligence. America will consult closely with our friends and allies at every stage. But make no mistake about it, we will and we must confront this conspiracy against our liberty and against our lives.

As it faces new threats, NATO needs a new strategy and new capabilities. Dangers originating far from Europe can now strike at Europe's heart, so NATO must be able and willing to act whenever threats emerge. This will require all the assets of modern defense: mobile and deployable forces, sophisticated special operations, the ability to fight under the threat of chemical and biological weapons. Each nation must focus on the military strengths it can bring to this alliance, with the hard choices and financial commitment that requires. We do not know where the next threat might come from; we really don't know what form it might take. But we must be ready, as full military partners, to confront these urgent threats to our common security.

One way to make ourselves more secure is to address the regional conflicts that enflame violence. Our work in the Balkans and Afghanistan shows how much we can achieve when we stand together. We must continue to stand for peace in the Middle East. That peace must assure the permanent safety of the Jewish people, and that peace must provide the Palestinian people with a state of their own.

In the midst of terrorist violence in the Middle East, the hope of a lasting accord may seem distant. That's how many once viewed the prospect of peace between Poland and Germany, Germany and France, France and England, Protestant and Catholic. Yet, after

generations of traded violence and humiliation, we have seen enemies become partners and allies in a new Europe. We pray the same healing, the same shredding of hatred, might come to the Middle East. And we will be unrelenting in our quest for that peace.

We must recognize that violence and resentment are defeated by the advance of health and learning and prosperity. Poverty doesn't create terror; yet, terror takes root in failing nations that do not police themselves or provide for their people. Our conscience and our interests speak as one: To achieve a safer world, we must create a better world.

The expansion of trade in our time is one of the primary reasons for our progress against poverty. At Doha, we committed to build on this progress, and we must keep that commitment. Transatlantic nations must resolve the small, disputed portion of our vast trading relationship within the rules and settlement mechanisms of the World Trade Organization, whether those disputes concern tax law, steel, agriculture, or biotechnology.

For all nations—for all nations to gain the benefit of global markets, they need populations that are healthy and literate. To help developing nations achieve these goals, leaders of wealthy nations have a duty of conscience. We have a duty to share our wealth generously and wisely. Those who lead poor nations have a duty to their own people, but they have a duty as well, to pursue reforms that turn temporary aid into lasting progress.

I've proposed that new American aid be directed to nations on the path of reform. The United States will increase our core development assistance by 50 percent over the next 3 budget years. It will be up to a level of 5 billion a year, above and beyond that which we already contribute to development.

When nations are governed justly, the people benefit. When nations are governed unjustly, for the benefit of a corrupt few, no amount of aid will help the people in need. When nations are governed justly—when nations are governed justly, investing in education and health and encouraging economic freedom, they will have our help. And more importantly, these rising nations will have

their own ability and, eventually, the resources necessary to battle disease and improve their environment and build lives of dignity for their people.

Members of the Bundestag, we are joined in serious purpose—very serious purposes—on which the safety of our people and the fate of our freedom now rest. We build a world of justice, or we will live in a world of coercion. The magnitude of our shared responsibilities makes our disagreements look so small. And those who exaggerate our differences play a shallow game and hold a simplistic view of our relationship.

America and the nations in Europe are more than military allies; we're more than trading partners; we are heirs to the same civilization. The pledges of the Magna Carta, the learning of Athens, the creativity of Paris, the unbending conscience of Luther, the gentle faith of St. Francis: All of these are part of the American soul. The New World has succeeded by holding to the values of the Old.

Our histories have diverged, yet we seek to live by the same ideals. We believe in free markets, tempered by compassion. We believe in open societies that reflect unchanging truths. We believe in the value and dignity of every life.

These convictions bind our civilization together and set our enemies against us. These convictions are universally true and right. And they define our nations and our partnership in a unique way. And these beliefs lead us to fight tyranny and evil, as others have done before us.

One of the greatest Germans of the 20th century was Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who left the security of America to stand against Nazi rule. In a dark hour, he gave witness to the Gospel of life and paid the cost of his discipleship, being put to death only days before his camp was liberated. "I believe," said Bonhoeffer, "that God can and wants to create good out of everything, even evil."

That belief is proven in the history of Europe since that day, in the reconciliation and renewal that have transformed this continent. In America, very recently, we have also seen the horror of evil and the power of good. In the tests of our time, we are affirming our deepest values and our closest friend-

ships. Inside this Chamber, across this city, throughout this nation and continent, America has valued friends. And with our friends we are building that house of freedom for our time and for all time.

May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Bundestag at the Reichstag. In his remarks, he referred to President Johannes Rau, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, and former Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

Statement on the Conference on Improving Forest Health and Reducing Risk of Wildfire

May 23, 2002

I commend Secretary Norton and Secretary Veneman for their strong leadership in addressing the widespread problems of declining forest health and the risk of destructive wildfires, particularly in the West. Today's conference, highlighting the completion of the Ten Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan, marks an important new cooperative effort between the Federal Government, States, local governments, Native American tribes, and concerned citizens and organizations. Working together, we will promote sound forest management to restore forest health and make the recreational opportunities and resources of our forests more accessible. In many areas, this will require active forest management efforts to thin our forests of excessive natural fuels and restore native vegetation to our forests and rangelands.

Our goal is to reduce the threat that wildfires pose to homes, communities, and the environment. Severe drought conditions in many areas of the United States make it essential that we cooperate in our efforts to fight fires and reduce the fuel loads that cause them. Cooperation will also enable us to move forward on other important endeavors, such as improving the performance of the Northwest Forest Plan. I thank Governor Kempthorne and Governor Kitzhaber for their help in crafting this bipartisan agreement and for hosting this important conference.

Statement on Congressional Action on the Proposed “Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002”

May 23, 2002

I applaud members of both parties, including Congressman Tauzin and Dingell and Senators Kennedy, Gregg, and Frist, for acting on my proposals to protect Americans against bioterrorism. This legislation strengthens food safety and security, improves the ability of Federal, State, and local authorities to coordinate their response to possible bioterrorist attacks, and enhances surveillance and security over dangerous biological agents.

I commend the House and Senate for their hard work and look forward to signing this important bipartisan legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3448, the proposed “Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.”

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed “Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act”

May 23, 2002

Today’s passage by the Senate of a vital package of trade legislation is a critical step in advancing America’s trade agenda and strengthening the U.S. economy. As I begin my trip here in Europe, the passage of this bill sends an important signal to our trading partners that we are committed to free and open trade.

Restoring trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for American workers, consumers, families, and farmers. The administration also supports expanding the Andean Trade Preferences Act in a way that reflects the economic realities of the region. ATPA will help the Andean economies grow through legitimate trade, while also enhancing our counternarcotics strategy.

Every day the United States goes without trade promotion authority is another day the

American people are deprived of the benefits of trade. Therefore, I urge the House and Senate to convene a conference committee immediately so they can resolve their differences and send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3009, the proposed “Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act.”

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Moscow, Russia

May 24, 2002

President Putin. Distinguished Mr. President, distinguished colleagues and friends, we are happy to welcome you in the capital of Russia and in the heart of it, in the Kremlin of Moscow.

This is the first visit of the President in office of the United States of America to the Russian Federation, and I’m very pleased to note that this visit is of a different quality than all previous visits of the heads of the U.S. state to our country.

I’d like to underline that if prior to this time virtually all meetings at this level were dedicated to overcoming contradictions or consequences of those contradictions, today we have the right to state the creation of an absolutely new quality to our relationship. This touches upon the issues of security, the issues of limitation of a strategical process, and our participation in the building of the new safe world. And this has a bearing to the quality of trust for the relationship. And all this happened over the past months, past 12 or 18 months, with active participation and support of this process on behalf of the President of the United States, Mr. Bush, and his team.

Therefore, we’re especially pleased, distinguished Mr. President, to receive you here in Moscow, in Russia. Myself and my colleagues recall the warmth of the reception we were accorded in the United States, including in your home, in your family, and we would like very much to respond with a similar hospitality. And we hope and we’re confident that your visit to our country will

be very productive and will serve a powerful thrust to the development of our relationship.

Welcome, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I appreciate your hospitality. It's a magnificent setting for our very important discussions and our signing of a treaty which says—it says that we're friends, that we're going to cast aside old doubts and suspicions and welcome a new era between the relations between your great country and our country.

I'm really looking forward to coming to your home tonight to have dinner. We'll work all day long, and then I look forward to relaxing with you in the setting of your home. I think it's—I think it's an important signal for the world to see that we take our jobs very seriously and we visit in formal settings, we talk about important issues, and then after the working day is over, we will settle down as friends and have dinner together.

This is a day that has required your strong leadership and your vision, and I want to congratulate you and your team on working hard toward a vision of a world that is more peaceful and a world that is more prosperous for all of us.

And so, thank you, sir, for your hospitality and for your friendship.

NOTE: The remarks began at 11:58 a.m. in St. Catherine's Room at the Kremlin. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Presidents spoke following their one-on-one meeting and prior to an expanded bilateral meeting.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Moscow

May 24, 2002

President Bush. President Putin, thank you very much. Laura and I are so grateful for your hospitality and your friendship. It's an historic and hopeful day for Russia and America. It's an historic day for the world as well.

President Putin and I today ended a long chapter of confrontation and opened up an entirely new relationship between our coun-

tries. Mr. President, I appreciate your leadership. I appreciate your vision. I appreciate the fact that we've now laid the foundation for not only our governments but future governments to work in a spirit of cooperation and a spirit of trust. That's good. It's good for the people of Russia; it's good for the people of the United States.

President Putin and I have signed a treaty that will substantially reduce our nuclear—strategic nuclear warhead arsenals to the range of 1,700 to 2,200, the lowest level in decades. This treaty liquidates the cold war legacy of nuclear hostility between our countries.

We've also signed a joint declaration of new strategic relationship that charts a course toward greater security, political, and economic cooperation between Russia and the United States. Our nations will continue to cooperate closely in the war against global terror. I understand full well that the people of Russia have suffered at the hands of terrorists, and so have we. And I want to thank President Putin for his understanding of the nature of the new war we face together and his willingness to be determined and steadfast and patient as we pursue this war together.

President Putin and I agree also that the greatest danger in this war is the prospect of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Our nations must spare no effort at preventing all forms of proliferation. And we discussed Iran in this context today. We'll work closely with each other on this very important issue.

Our nations also agree on the importance of a new NATO-Russia Council that will be launched in a few days in Rome. And Mr. President, this council is also a tribute to your leadership and your vision. For decades, Russia and NATO were adversaries. Those days are gone, and that's good. And that's good for the Russian people; it's good for the people of my country; it's good for the people of Europe; and it's good for the people of the world.

Russia and the United States are also determined to work closely on important regional challenges. Together, we will work to rebuild Afghanistan. Together, we will work to improve security in Georgia. We will work

to help end fighting and achieve a political settlement in Chechnya.

Russia and the United States are committed to economic cooperation. We have launched a major new energy partnership. Private firms will take the lead in developing and transforming the vast energy reserves of Russia and the Caspian world to markets through multiple pipelines such as the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and Baku-Jihan. And I want to thank you for the cooperation and the willingness to work together on energy and energy security.

Russia is building its market economy, opening new opportunities for both our countries. I'm impressed by the level of entrepreneurial growth here in Russia. It's a significant achievement. Again, it's a testimony to the leadership of Vladimir Putin.

In a while, we're going to meet with Russian and American business leaders to discuss how we can continue fostering good relations and fostering opportunity. We want Russia to be a part of the world economy. We look forward to one day welcoming Russia as a member of the World Trade Organization. President Putin and I also agree that we'll work to resolve disputed areas of trading, such as poultry or steel, in a spirit of mutual respect and trust.

America welcomes the dramatic improvement in freedoms in Russia since Soviet days, including the new freedoms of Russia's Jewish community. In recognition of these freedoms, I am determined to work with Congress to remove Russia from the Jackson-Vanik amendment. It is time our Congress responded to my request, President Putin's desire, that the Jackson-Vanik amendment be removed pertaining to Russia.

I also discussed with President Putin the important role of free press in building a working democracy. And today we will meet with media entrepreneurs from both countries. It's an issue we discussed before. The President said it makes sense to have a forum where media entrepreneurs can meet and visit. And it's going to take place today. Mr. President, I appreciate that.

I am pleased with our relationship. I am confident that, by working together, we make the world more peaceful. I'm confident that, by working together, we can win the first war

of the 21st century, and that is the war cold-blooded killers—against coldblooded killers who want to harm nations such as America and Russia. And I'm confident that, when we work together in a spirit of cooperation on all fronts, both our peoples will benefit.

Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality.

President Putin. Distinguished American colleagues, distinguished Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, we've just accomplished the official part of our talks with U.S. President George Bush. Before our distinguished colleagues are the visit in Moscow and in St. Petersburg. But now we can name the major result of our talks—first of all, the logical development and practical implementation as seen by our agreements reached in Crawford last year. I mean the signature of the treaty between Russia on strategic defensive reductions and, first of all, this document.

It's the statement of our countries to reduce our nuclear arsenals and the joint work for nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It's the decision of two states which are particularly responsible for international security and strategic stability. We're on the level of adopting the declaration on new strategic relationship which determines the basic directions in the security and international policy. It will have a positive impact for economic cooperation and development of our relations between the institutions of general public. And together with Mr. President, we discussed especially this aspect, the civil society between the people of our countries. The declaration formulates the principles of our dialog, anti-missile dialog; that is, the transparency and openness and exclusion of potential threats. We confirmed the Genoa agreement on offensive and defensive systems in all their aspects.

A separate issue, the mechanism of NATO-Russia cooperation within the framework of 20, it presumes a new level of joint responsibility and confidence between all its participants. I would like to stress, especially, that is the international novelty. And it happened because of the strengthening of Russian-American relations, including in joint confrontation to international terrorists—struggling with international terrorism. Russians work together with American people in

September the 8th, and we're grateful for sincere feelings of compassion headed by President Bush on behalf of American people because of the recent events in Kaspiysk. The memory of terrorism victims and the responsibility for the security of our people means joint struggle against this evil, as well as the struggle against nazism. The spirit of our co-operation will mean fruitful results even today.

That's why the agenda has very concrete issues of interaction against terrorism on the basis of unique standards against any manifestation of terrorism and extremism. We need close contacts through all agencies and services, including special services. Here we have very positive experience we've accrued over the past years. And we see today—we feel it today during the negotiations. The bilateral working group on Afghanistan has demonstrated its efficiency. And we, Mr. President, would like to transform it on a group to combat terrorism, especially chemical, biological, nuclear terrorism.

Russia and the United States are oriented to build new relations in economic activity. Our businessman mentality is much alike, that their qualities and their joint work is based on free trade and supporting the initiatives. That's why our task is to open new opportunities for business community.

We need to avoid obstacles of the past. Here we mean not only the market status of the Russian economy—and I'm grateful to Mr. President that he has given a very positive signal during our talks. And it does also mean such things as Jackson-Vanik amendment. We have to remove administrative obstacles, which encurls both countries, to cooperate, especially in the high-tech sphere, which determined the economy of the 21st century; that is, the aeronautics, telecommunications, science and technologies, new sources of energy. I would like to focus on energy, especially nuclear energy. We paid much attention to it today. And the large format of our cooperation will be a great element for the global economy on the whole.

I would like to stress, in conclusion, that, of course, not all ideas, not all initiatives, are on paper and in the form of official documents. But a serious move forward in all these issues is quite evident for us. Today,

we together counteract global threats and challenges, and we're going to form a stable world order that is within the interests of our peoples and our countries. And I think it's in the interest of all the civilized human society.

Thank you.

President Bush. Name your agency.

Nuclear Arms Reductions

Q. I have a question for both Presidents, please. If we've truly entered a new era, why do you each need 1,700 nuclear weapons? And President Putin, why does Russia need to continue producing nuclear warheads? And to President Bush, why does the United States need to keep some 2,000 of these weapons in storage, ready for deployment?

President Bush. Yes. First of all, remember where we've come from. We've come from 6,000 to 1,700 in a very quick—or to 1,700 to 2,200 in a very quick period of time. You know, friends really don't need weapons pointed at each other. We both understand that. But it's a realistic assessment of where we've been. And who knows what will happen 10 years from now? Who knows what future Presidents will say and how they react?

If you have a nuclear arsenal, you want to make sure they work. It's—one reason that you keep weapons in storage apart from launchers is for quality control. And the thing I think it's important for you to know, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], is that we've made tremendous progress from the past. And the treaty is setting a period of time in the rear-view mirror of both countries. And I am not only confident that this is good for world peace; I'm confident this sets the stage for incredible cooperation that we've never had before between our countries.

President Putin. I concur with the assessment given by my colleague, Mr. Bush. And naturally, our position is well known. We are guided by the facts that it's more worthwhile, perhaps, to eliminate a certain part of nuclear potentials. At the same time, I'd like to point out another thing here. Any man who has at least once in his career dealt with arms, had arms in his hands, at least to hunt or a rifle or whatever, he knows that it's much

better, much safer to have it in stock disarmed, disassembled perhaps, rather than to have it in your arms and charged with bullets in it and with your finger on the trigger at the same time. This is a different state of affairs, as it were.

And the fact that we agreed with President Bush regarding such détente, in such manner, this is a serious move ahead to ensure international security, which is a very good sign as regards the relationship between our two countries.

Now, as to why Russia should continue to produce nuclear arms, I'd like to say that this is not our priority. But in addition to Russia and U.S. out there, there are other states who possess nuclear arms. What is more concerning, there are countries who want to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Experts in the area of international security are aware of the fact, and they have been talking a lot about nuclear arms as deterrent.

Moreover, many of them assert—and it is difficult to dispute this fact—they say the existence of the nuclear arms was an impediment, an obstacle which contained the world from large-scale wars over the past decades, let's say. And I think we should take that into consideration while building a new quality of relationship within the two main nuclear states of the world.

We also should pay attention to the whole set of relations currently in the world out there, and we should take into account the prospects of development of the world in the realm of security, bearing in mind those potential threats I've mentioned here.

Jackson-Vanik Amendment/Russia-U.S. Economic Relationship

Q. Mr. Bush, when we can hope that Jackson-Vanik will be rescinded, which currently is very out of place? That's, you know, a remnant of the cold war here. And will the U.S. continue to use it as a leverage of applying pressure on Russia and when Russia will finally be recognized as a marketplace country? And what's the prospect of Russia's accession to WTO?

And now to Mr. Putin, Russian President. What's your idea of how U.S. Boeings can help Russian civil aviation?

President Bush. I couldn't make myself clearer during my opening statement about how I feel about Jackson-Vanik—not much action by the Congress of the United States, and I hope they act. The market-based economy is an issue that the President and I talked about. It is a regulatory matter, the responsibility of which resides at the Commerce Department. Secretary Evans and I have to talk about this subject, and we'll have an answer to the President soon.

And in terms of success of Russia ascending into the WTO, it's something that we want. It's in our Nation's interest that Russia be a part of the WTO. And we look forward to working with the President and respective ministers to see that that happens. It's in our interest that that happen. So it's hard for me to predict the timetables on all the issues you mentioned. Those over which I have got direct control will happen relatively quickly.

President Putin. Well, you know, while talking about the whole set of commercial and trade ties between our two countries, today we've mentioned more than once that we are facing somewhat an unusual situation in this area today, which has to do with the fact that while improving relations in disarmament matters, building confidence and so on and so forth, at the same time, we're expanding the whole set of relations in economic area. And naturally, we'll face new problems we never had to deal with before.

The position taken by the U.S. administration and the President is known to us as regards Jackson-Vanik. It's precisely the administration who initiated its rescinding. And business communities of our two countries, American and Russian business communities, and their interaction together with the interaction of the parliamentary issues, will be able to remove similar problems in automatic manner, I guess.

Now, as regards your specific question on purchase of Boeings, I must say that the best lobbyist of the interests of U.S. companies will be American President standing here, since both Boeings and poultry and other matters very often have been told by my colleagues. People usually say, "Well, it's not on our level, but I must say," and then there will be a lengthy monolog on specific matters.

Anyhow, you've posed a very acute and very specific question. Why it's acute? Because it's on the agenda or practical interaction. And it's very specific since it has a bearing to very specific matters. And since it's acute and specific, I'll answer as one should in gentlemen's society, in a very general manner.

First and foremost, our carriers, in my opinion, should be primarily guided towards Russian aircraft producers. Why? Because Russian manufacturers, you know, don't have anywhere to sell their products, otherwise, because they are not let anywhere or with a lot of difficulty. They only can sell it domestically. That's the first thing. And here we can talk about interaction on the market.

Now, the second thing, primarily—Aeroflot should be competitive on the market and should have advanced technology in their hands. Therefore, they both have American Boeings today; they also have European Airbus aircraft. And the question has been raised currently on additional purchase, on replacement of old equipment with those foreign aircraft.

Now, I should say, depending on the decision to be taken by economic structures, this is not a political question, mind you. The economic structure should decide on it. A lot will depend on it in regards of the state of our political interaction, of course. And our American colleagues' proposal today is a little bit costlier than the Europeans' proposal. Had Americans bought our cheap aluminum and steel, then their aircraft would have been cheaper and more competitive, including in our market.

So all of this jointly has been a subject of our discussions with the President here, and our good friend and partner, Secretary of Commerce and economy. And I think that in the course of normalization of trade and commerce relations, all these issues will be addressed in a most mutually advantageous manner.

Iran/Nuclear Nonproliferation

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—state sponsor of terrorism. I wonder because of that, if these Russians sales that you object to continue, does that—this new strategic relationship you're discussing today bump up against*

what you outlined in your speech to Congress when you said, in the war against terrorism, you're either with the United States or against the United States?

And President Putin, the Bush team says that your sales of nuclear technology and sophisticated military technology to Iran are the world's single biggest proliferation problem right now. Do you agree with that assessment, and did you make any specific promises today in your meeting with President Bush?

President Bush. Well, first, we spent a lot of time on this subject. And as I said yesterday in Germany, I worry about Iran. And I'm confident Vladimir Putin worries about Iran, and that was confirmed today. He understands terrorist threats, just like we understand terrorist threats. And he understands that weapons of mass destruction are dangerous to Russia, just as they are to America. And he's explained that point himself, of course, now that he's standing here.

But we spoke very frankly and honestly about the need to make sure that a nontransparent government run by radical clerics doesn't get their hands on weapons of mass destruction. It could be harmful to us and harmful to Russia. And the President can speak for himself. And he gave me some assurances that I think will be very comforting for you to listen to. And I'm confident we can work together on this issue. This is in both our countries' mutual interest that we solve this problem.

President Putin. I will confirm what Mr. Bush has just said, and I agree with your evaluation of threats in this regard. Generally speaking, I believe that the problem of nonproliferation is one of the key problems as regards ensuring international security.

Incidentally, this happened to be one of the main motivating and underpinning logical stimuluses to work in Russia-NATO framework together on nonproliferation on nuclear arms.

At the same time, I'd like to point out that cooperation between Iran and Russia is not of a character which would undermine the process on nonproliferation. Our cooperation is exclusively, as regards energy sector, focused on the problems of economic nature. I'd like to point out also that the U.S. has

taken a commitment upon themselves to build similar nuclear powerplant in North Korea, similar to Russia.

And in addition to Iran, I think, we also need to think about other countries here. For example, we have some questions concerning development of missile programs in Taiwan, in some other countries where we've been witnessing active work of producing mass destruction weapons and their carriers. All of that should be a subject of our in-depth discussion both bilaterally and in the frameworks of NATO-Russia agreement. That's one of the key issues of the modern times, I believe.

It would seem to me that in order to be efficient, in this sense, like in other areas, we need to address the main task, to upgrade confidence mutually. And today I mentioned to President Bush here that as regards Iran and some other countries, according to our data, the missile programs of those countries, nuclear programs, are built largely on the basis of the technologies and with the support of the Western companies. We do have such info, and we stand ready to share it with our American partners. So if we pursued that way, not dealing with generalities, then we'll get results with respect to this very complicated and very important for our two countries track.

And the conclusive question—[inaudible].

Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty

Q. Mayak Radio Station. To both Presidents, to what extent the treaty ensures real nuclear parity, and are there conditions that the treaty can be terminated by either side? And how true is the fact that Russia still remains as one of the nuclear targets for nuclear forces? And how does that relate to the announced new strategic relations between our two countries?

President Bush. Well, it is a treaty. This document is a treaty that will be confirmed by the United States Senate and the Duma, hopefully. Secondly, treaties have always had outs; there's nothing new about that. There are conditions of which things may change, and people get out of treaties. That's the way it's been. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty had an out; there's nothing new about that. And thirdly, you know, we are going to work

to end the—forever end the cold war. And that begins with the statement that Russia's our friend, not our enemy.

And you say "targeting"—I mean, the idea of our weaponry—our military has no aims at Russia. There may be old vestiges in place, but Russia's not an enemy. You don't think about how to deal with Russia the way they used to. Russia is a friend, and that's the new thinking. That's part of what's being codified today.

President Putin. As regards the parity, the parity relationship of sorts, the weight of military potentials and nuclear potential, and so on, so forth, each state would have its own strategy of development of what you refer to as nuclear deterrent process. But I'd like to assure you that all the action undertaken by us in this area fully confirmed with the interests of the Russian Federation. The documents signed today are a result of joint effort of the Minister of Defense and Chiefs of Staff and our Minister of Foreign Affairs, of course, jointly with our American colleagues. And we proceed from the assumption we have today, and we try to forecast the status of affairs in the world for a lengthy period of time—I would like to point out, again, for a lengthy perspective.

Now, as regards the question of verification and control, perhaps, I'd like to point out that we're very much satisfied with the U.S. administration approach to this question. Our American partners have agreed that we need to retain START I, which is provided for by the system of verification. We agreed we will continue this work on the basis of the documents signed today as well.

And what was the second part of the question, incidentally? The mike was off at this time. Regarding those targets, that was not to me. I will also make a remark here, regarding aiming targets. And Mr. Baluyevskiy, our military First Deputy Chief of Staff, is here with us. He and his American counterpart are full aware of those things, targeting aims and other things involved, and what is the status today of those aimings and targeting. All in speculations in the press are nothing but expression of domestic political infight either here or in the U.S., just on the verge of the visit.

We are not being emotional here. We're not talking to the press, but as experts, we're full aware of that, and we have no concern whatsoever in this regard.

Thank you. Thank you for your kind attention and for your participation.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:55 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall at the Kremlin. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which places restrictions on normalized trade relations between the U.S. and Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union based on their economic structure and emigration policies. President Putin referred to Gen.-Col. Yuriy Nikolayevich Baluyevskiy, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Russian Federation Armed Forces. Prior to their news conference, President Bush and President Putin signed the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions.

Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions
May 24, 2002

The United States of America and the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Embarking upon the path of new relations for a new century and committed to the goal of strengthening their relationship through cooperation and friendship,

Believing that new global challenges and threats require the building of a qualitatively new foundation for strategic relations between the Parties,

Desiring to establish a genuine partnership based on the principles of mutual security, cooperation, trust, openness, and predictability,

Committed to implementing significant reductions in strategic offensive arms,

Proceeding from the Joint Statements by the President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation on Strategic Issues of July 22, 2001 in Genoa and on a New Relationship between the United States and Russia of November 13, 2001 in Washington,

Mindful of their obligations under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of July 31, 1991, hereinafter referred to as the START Treaty,

Mindful of their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of July 1, 1968, and

Convinced that this Treaty will help to establish more favorable conditions for actively promoting security and cooperation, and enhancing international stability,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

Each Party shall reduce and limit strategic nuclear warheads, as stated by the President of the United States of America on November 13, 2001 and as stated by the President of the Russian Federation on November 13, 2001 and December 13, 2001 respectively, so that by December 31, 2012 the aggregate number of such warheads does not exceed 1700–2200 for each Party. Each Party shall determine for itself the composition and structure of its strategic offensive arms, based on the established aggregate limit for the number of such warheads.

Article II

The Parties agree that the START Treaty remains in force in accordance with its terms.

Article III

For purposes of implementing this Treaty, the Parties shall hold meetings at least twice a year of a Bilateral Implementation Commission.

Article IV

1. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Party. This Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

2. This Treaty shall remain in force until December 31, 2012 and may be extended by agreement of the Parties or superseded earlier by a subsequent agreement.

3. Each Party, in exercising its national sovereignty, may withdraw from this Treaty upon three months written notice to the other Party.

Article V

This Treaty shall be registered pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Done at Moscow on May 24, 2002, in two copies, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the
United States of America:
George W. Bush

For the
Russian Federation:
Vladimir V. Putin

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this treaty.

**Joint Declaration by President
George W. Bush and President
Vladimir V. Putin on the New
Strategic Relationship Between the
United States of America and the
Russian Federation**

May 24, 2002

The United States of America and the Russian Federation,

Recalling the accomplishments at the Ljubljana, Genoa, Shanghai, and Washington/Crawford Summits and the new spirit of cooperation already achieved;

Building on the November 13, 2001 Joint Statement on a New Relationship Between the United States and Russia, having embarked upon the path of new relations for the twenty-first century, and committed to developing a relationship based on friendship, cooperation, common values, trust, openness, and predictability;

Reaffirming our belief that new global challenges and threats require a qualitatively new foundation for our relationship;

Determined to work together, with other nations and with international organizations, to respond to these new challenges and threats, and thus contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, and free world and to strengthening strategic security;

Declare as follows:

A Foundation for Cooperation

We are achieving a new strategic relationship. The era in which the United States and Russia saw each other as an enemy or strategic threat has ended. We are partners and we will cooperate to advance stability, secu-

rity, and economic integration, and to jointly counter global challenges and to help resolve regional conflicts.

To advance these objectives the United States and Russia will continue an intensive dialogue on pressing international and regional problems, both on a bilateral basis and in international fora, including in the UN Security Council, the G-8, and the OSCE. Where we have differences, we will work to resolve them in a spirit of mutual respect.

We will respect the essential values of democracy, human rights, free speech and free media, tolerance, the rule of law, and economic opportunity.

We recognize that the security, prosperity, and future hopes of our peoples rest on a benign security environment, the advancement of political and economic freedoms, and international cooperation.

The further development of U.S.-Russian relations and the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust will also rest on a growing network of ties between our societies and peoples. We will support growing economic interaction between the business communities of our two countries and people-to-people and cultural contacts and exchanges.

Political Cooperation

The United States and Russia are already acting as partners and friends in meeting the new challenges of the 21st century; affirming our Joint Statement of October 21, 2001, our countries are already allied in the global struggle against international terrorism.

The United States and Russia will continue to cooperate to support the Afghan people's efforts to transform Afghanistan into a stable, viable nation at peace with itself and its neighbors. Our cooperation, bilaterally and through the United Nations, the "Six-Plus-Two" diplomatic process, and in other multilateral fora, has proved important to our success so far in ridding Afghanistan of the Taliban and al-Qaida.

In Central Asia and the South Caucasus, we recognize our common interest in promoting the stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all the nations of this region. The United States and Russia reject the failed model of "Great Power" rivalry that can only increase the potential for conflict

in those regions. We will support economic and political development and respect for human rights while we broaden our humanitarian cooperation and cooperation on counterterrorism and counternarcotics.

The United States and Russia will cooperate to resolve regional conflicts, including those in Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Transnistrian issue in Moldova. We strongly encourage the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia to exhibit flexibility and a constructive approach to resolving the conflict concerning Nagorno-Karabakh. As two of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE's Minsk Group, the United States and Russia stand ready to assist in these efforts.

On November 13, 2001, we pledged to work together to develop a new relationship between NATO and Russia that reflects the new strategic reality in the Euro-Atlantic region. We stressed that the members of NATO and Russia are increasingly allied against terrorism, regional instability, and other contemporary threats. We therefore welcome the inauguration at the May 28, 2002 NATO-Russia summit in Rome of a new NATO-Russia Council, whose members, acting in their national capacities and in a manner consistent with their respective collective commitments and obligations, will identify common approaches, take joint decisions, and bear equal responsibility, individually and jointly, for their implementation. In this context, they will observe in good faith their obligations under international law, including the UN Charter, provisions and principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE Charter for European Security. In the framework of the NATO-Russia Council, NATO member states and Russia will work as equal partners in areas of common interest. They aim to stand together against common threats and risks to their security.

As co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, the United States and Russia will continue to exert joint and parallel efforts, including in the framework of the "Quartet," to overcome the current crisis in the Middle East, to restart negotiations, and to encourage a negotiated settlement. In the Balkans, we will promote democracy, ethnic tolerance, self-sustaining peace, and long-term

stability, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states in the region and United Nations Security Council resolutions. The United States and Russia will continue their constructive dialogue on Iraq and welcome the continuation of special bilateral discussions that opened the way for UN Security Council adoption of the Goods Review List.

Recalling our Joint Statement of November 13, 2001 on counternarcotics cooperation, we note that illegal drug trafficking poses a threat to our peoples and to international security, and represents a substantial source of financial support for international terrorism. We are committed to intensifying cooperation against this threat, which will bolster both the security and health of the citizens of our countries.

The United States and Russia remain committed to intensifying cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime. In this regard, we welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters on January 31, 2002.

Economic Cooperation

The United States and Russia believe that successful national development in the 21st century demands respect for the discipline and practices of the free market. As we stated on November 13, 2001, an open market economy, the freedom of economic choice, and an open democratic society are the most effective means to provide for the welfare of the citizens of our countries.

The United States and Russia will endeavor to make use of the potential of world trade to expand the economic ties between the two countries, and to further integrate Russia into the world economy as a leading participant, with full rights and responsibilities, consistent with the rule of law, in the world economic system. In this connection, the sides give high priority to Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization on standard terms.

Success in our bilateral economic and trade relations demands that we move beyond the limitations of the past. We stress the importance and desirability of graduating Russia from the emigration provisions of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, also known as the

Jackson-Vanik Amendment. We note that the Department of Commerce, based on its ongoing thorough and deliberative inquiry, expects to make its final decision no later than June 14, 2002 on whether Russia should be treated as a market economy under the provisions of U.S. trade law. The sides will take further practical steps to eliminate obstacles and barriers, including as appropriate in the legislative area, to strengthen economic cooperation.

We have established a new dynamic in our economic relations and between our business communities, aimed at advancing trade and investment opportunities while resolving disputes, where they occur, constructively and transparently.

The United States and Russia acknowledge the great potential for expanding bilateral trade and investment, which would bring significant benefits to both of our economies. Welcoming the recommendations of the Russian-American Business Dialogue, we are committed to working with the private sectors of our countries to realize the full potential of our economic interaction. We also welcome the opportunity to intensify cooperation in energy exploration and development, especially in oil and gas, including in the Caspian region.

Strengthening People-to-People Contacts

The greatest strength of our societies is the creative energy of our citizens. We welcome the dramatic expansion of contacts between Americans and Russians in the past ten years in many areas, including joint efforts to resolve common problems in education, health, the sciences, and environment, as well as through tourism, sister-city relationships, and other people-to-people contacts. We pledge to continue supporting these efforts, which help broaden and deepen good relations between our two countries.

Battling the scourge of HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases, ending family violence, protecting the environment, and defending the rights of women are areas where U.S. and Russian institutions, and especially non-governmental organizations, can successfully expand their cooperation.

Preventing the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Non-Proliferation and International Terrorism

The United States and Russia will intensify joint efforts to confront the new global challenges of the twenty-first century, including combating the closely linked threats of international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We believe that international terrorism represents a particular danger to international stability as shown once more by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It is imperative that all nations of the world cooperate to combat this threat decisively. Toward this end, the United States and Russia reaffirm our commitment to work together bilaterally and multilaterally.

The United States and Russia recognize the profound importance of preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and missiles. The specter that such weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists and those who support them illustrates the priority all nations must give to combating proliferation.

To that end, we will work closely together, including through cooperative programs, to ensure the security of weapons of mass destruction and missile technologies, information, expertise, and material. We will also continue cooperative threat reduction programs and expand efforts to reduce weapons-usable fissile material. In that regard, we will establish joint experts groups to investigate means of increasing the amount of weapons-usable fissile material to be eliminated, and to recommend collaborative research and development efforts on advanced, proliferation-resistant nuclear reactor and fuel cycle technologies. We also intend to intensify our cooperation concerning destruction of chemical weapons.

The United States and Russia will also seek broad international support for a strategy of proactive non-proliferation, including by implementing and bolstering the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the conventions on the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons. The United States and Russia call on all countries to

strengthen and strictly enforce export controls, interdict illegal transfers, prosecute violators, and tighten border controls to prevent and protect against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Missile Defense, Further Strategic Offensive Reductions, New Consultative Mechanism on Strategic Security

The United States and Russia proceed from the Joint Statements by the President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation on Strategic Issues of July 22, 2001 in Genoa and on a New Relationship Between the United States and Russia of November 13, 2001 in Washington.

The United States and Russia are taking steps to reflect, in the military field, the changed nature of the strategic relationship between them. The United States and Russia acknowledge that today's security environment is fundamentally different than during the Cold War.

In this connection, the United States and Russia have agreed to implement a number of steps aimed at strengthening confidence and increasing transparency in the area of missile defense, including the exchange of information on missile defense programs and tests in this area, reciprocal visits to observe missile defense tests, and observation aimed at familiarization with missile defense systems. They also intend to take the steps necessary to bring a joint center for the exchange of data from early warning systems into operation.

The United States and Russia have also agreed to study possible areas for missile defense cooperation, including the expansion of joint exercises related to missile defense, and the exploration of potential programs for the joint research and development of missile defense technologies, bearing in mind the importance of the mutual protection of classified information and the safeguarding of intellectual property rights.

The United States and Russia will, within the framework of the NATO-Russia Council, explore opportunities for intensified practical cooperation on missile defense for Europe.

The United States and Russia declare their intention to carry out strategic offensive re-

ductions to the lowest possible levels consistent with their national security requirements and alliance obligations, and reflecting the new nature of their strategic relations.

A major step in this direction is the conclusion of the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions.

In this connection, both sides proceed on the basis that the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of July 31, 1991, remains in force in accordance with its terms and that its provisions will provide the foundation for providing confidence, transparency, and predictability in further strategic offensive reductions, along with other supplementary measures, including transparency measures, to be agreed.

The United States and Russia agree that a new strategic relationship between the two countries, based on the principles of mutual security, trust, openness, cooperation, and predictability requires substantive consultation across a broad range of international security issues. To that end we have decided to:

- establish a Consultative Group for Strategic Security to be chaired by Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers with the participation of other senior officials. This group will be the principal mechanism through which the sides strengthen mutual confidence, expand transparency, share information and plans, and discuss strategic issues of mutual interest; and
- seek ways to expand and regularize contacts between our two countries' Defense Ministries and Foreign Ministries, and our intelligence agencies.

The President of the
United States of America:
George W. Bush

The President of the
Russian Federation:
Vladimir V. Putin

Moscow

May 24, 2002.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint declaration.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on the Situation in the Middle East

May 24, 2002

Mindful of the responsibility the United States of America and the Russian Federation as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, we believe that there is an opportunity to move away from the current unacceptable situation of terror and violence towards a resumption of meaningful negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. We are agreed that we have to move aggressively to help the parties take advantage of this opportunity. In the Middle East, neither conflict nor peace is inevitable. Peace will not come to the Middle East on its own. We must do all we can for the attainment of peace.

In that spirit, the United States and Russia pledge their maximum efforts to realize the vision of a negotiated settlement, including two states, Israel and Palestine, living in peace and security within recognized borders. This should become part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid principles, and the principle of land for peace, and existing agreements and understandings. We share these approaches, which were reflected in UN Security Council resolution 1397.

We reaffirm our unequivocal condemnation of all terrorist acts, considering terrorism and any form of violence an absolutely unacceptable means for achieving political goals. At the same time, recognizing the legitimate right of Israel to fight terrorism, we urge the Israelis and Palestinians to consider carefully the consequences of any actions they may take and to work to create and sustain an environment in which the parties can return to a serious political dialogue. We urge the parties to move forward on a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians along the lines of the goals outlined by the President of the Russian Federation in his March 26 message to the Arab Summit in Beirut and by the President of the United States at the UN General Assembly last November and

advanced by him in his April 4 statement on the Middle East.

The United States and Russia are encouraged by several recent signals that have created a window of opportunity: the peaceful resolution—with the cooperation of the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority—of the standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem and the recent Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian areas; the Arab League's endorsement of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's initiative; and the May 12 joint call by the Saudi, Egyptian, and Syrian leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh for a negotiated solution and an end to all forms of violence. The Arab states have an essential role to play in the search for a just peace.

We believe that the parties themselves and the international community should seize this opportunity by pursuing a comprehensive strategy that includes the following parallel steps: security and freedom from terror and violence for both Israelis and Palestinians; serious and accelerated negotiations leading to a just political settlement; and efforts to address urgent humanitarian needs and help promote the rebuilding of strong, accountable, democratic, and market-oriented institutions as the basis for a vibrant Palestinian state. This will require vigorous efforts by the Palestinian leadership and action by all parties concerned to create an environment in which progress can be made in all the above mentioned directions.

The United States and Russia reaffirm their commitment, expressed most recently at the April 10 and May 2 meetings of the "Quartet," composed of the United States, Russia, European Union, and United Nations, to undertake all efforts to help Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the achievement of these goals. We are prepared to provide humanitarian and economic assistance to the Palestinians at this time of urgent need. We are also prepared to assist in the reconstruction of Palestinian institutions, including those of the Palestinian Authority, in order to lay the foundation of a future Palestinian state worthy of the Palestinian people and able to live as a good neighbor in peace with Israel.

The United States and Russia are committed to using an international meeting this

summer to create serious momentum to move forward on our comprehensive strategy for peace in the Middle East.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on Counterterrorism Cooperation

May 24, 2002

Reaffirming our commitment expressed on October 21, 2001 to fight terrorism in all its forms wherever it may occur, we commend the efforts of the worldwide coalition against terrorism since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The member nations of the coalition must continue their concerted action to deny safe haven to terrorists; to destroy their financial, logistical, communications, and other operational networks; and to bring terrorists to justice. We note with satisfaction that U.S.-Russia counterterrorism cooperation is making an important contribution to the global coalition against terrorism.

A successful campaign against terrorism must be conducted by nations through bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation, and requires a multifaceted approach that employs law enforcement, intelligence, diplomatic, political, and economic actions. We stress that initiatives against terrorism must be conducted in an atmosphere of rule of law and with respect for universal human rights.

Recognizing the importance of multilateral counterterrorism efforts, such as those under the auspices of the United Nations, the Group of Eight, the European Union, the OSCE, the "Six Plus Two" group, and NATO-Russia, we encourage the further development of regional counterterrorism initiatives, including within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its cooperation with the United States, that improve information-sharing, law enforcement cooperation, and border security. Of these institutions, we note that the UN Security Council Counterterrorism Committee

plays a key coordinating role in the struggle against international terrorism. In support of regional cooperation, the United States is sponsoring a counterterrorism conference in June 2002 to include participation from the Central Asian and Caucasus states, Afghanistan, Turkey, China, and Russia.

We call upon all nations to implement fully the provisions of UN Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1368, 1373, 1377 and 1390, directed against terrorism, the Taliban, and al-Qaida, and to become parties at the earliest opportunity to the twelve international antiterrorism conventions, including the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The United States supports conclusion of the Russian-proposed nuclear terrorism convention, and joins Russia in urging other nations to enlist in the efforts to resolve the outstanding issues related to the text. We call upon all nations to take steps to comply with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations on money laundering and terrorist financing. We shall work to block the financial assets of named terrorists and their organizations without delay.

We underscore the need to bring to a logical conclusion efforts to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in Afghanistan related to Usama Bin Laden, the al-Qaida organization, and the Taliban. Afghanistan should never again be a haven for terrorism. Reaffirming our support for the important role of the UN in efforts to implement successfully the Bonn Agreement, including the upcoming Loya Jirga, we share a vision of a stable, independent Afghanistan at peace with its neighbors and the rest of the world and on the road to a more prosperous future.

We recognize the links between illegal drug trafficking and terrorism and stress the importance of U.S.-Russia cooperation on counternarcotics. Both our countries are dedicated to continuing their support for regional initiatives, such as those of the "Six Plus Two" Working Group on Drugs, to encourage cooperation among member countries and to strengthen their counternarcotics capabilities. We both strongly support the Afghan Interim Authority's plan to implement its poppy ban.

Believing that the sovereignty, long-term stability, prosperity, and further democratic development of the states of Central Asia serve the strategic interests of the United States and Russia, we pledge transparency and cooperation in our relations with the states of Central Asia. An important step for ensuring their security is to eradicate terrorist activities in Afghanistan once and for all and to assist in the prevention of their reoccurrence.

We reaffirm our commitment to working with the Government of Georgia on counterterrorism issues, while upholding Georgian sovereignty, and hope that the presence of terrorists in this country will be eliminated. As members of the Friends of the UN Secretary-General on Georgia, the United States and Russia remain committed to advancing a peaceful, political resolution of the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We pledge to work closely with all relevant parties to these conflicts to reduce military tensions, address civilians' security concerns, and foster a lasting political settlement that preserves Georgia's territorial integrity and protects the rights of all of those involved in the conflicts. We highly appreciate the contribution of the UN Security Council, concerned states, and international mechanisms which participate in peaceful efforts toward resolution of these conflicts.

We note with satisfaction the entry into force of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, which will facilitate joint efforts on criminal and terrorist cases.

We will work to strengthen the exchange of professional know-how and experience in such areas as transportation security, hostage takeover, and airplane hijacking, among others.

We will work to strengthen national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, related technologies, and delivery means as an essential element of the fight against international terrorism and all those who support it.

An important step in our joint cooperation will be a meeting of our scientists in June. We will seek to develop jointly new tech-

nology to detect nuclear material that can be used to manufacture weapons for purposes of terrorism.

The U.S.-Russia Working Group on Afghanistan has proven a successful vehicle for joint efforts between the United States and Russia to counter terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. Recognizing the increased threat of terrorism originating in other regions of the world, we have directed that the Working Group's agenda be broadened, and that it be renamed the U.S.-Russia Working Group on Counterterrorism. Among other issues, this Working Group will address the threats posed by nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorism. The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in the Washington area in July 2002.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on Developments in the U.S.-Russian Economic Relationship

May 24, 2002

At our first meeting in Ljubljana, we expressed our commitment to foster a dynamic, forward-leaning economic relationship. We applaud the tremendous efforts made over the past twelve months to realize this goal. We are encouraged by the close contacts that are forming between our business communities and our governments, and the investment and trade opportunities that are growing out of these relationships.

Success in our bilateral economic and trade relations demands that we move beyond the limitations of the past. We stress the importance and desirability of graduating Russia from the emigration provisions of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, also known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. We note that the Department of Commerce, based on its ongoing thorough and deliberative inquiry, expects to make its final decision no later than June 14, 2002 on whether Russia should be treated as a market economy under the provisions of U.S. trade law.

We note our emerging energy relationship, which is aimed at enhancing global energy security and stability of supplies. In view of the successful advancement of the Sakhalin-I project and the opening of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline, we welcome implementation of more projects in the fuel and energy sector, including in the area of oil-refining and gas-processing and transportation as well as development of ports and production technology. We call for continued cooperation both on the basis of Production Sharing Agreements and other frameworks so that other multi-billion dollar joint projects can move forward. We also encourage our businesses to participate in the Commercial Energy Summit scheduled for later this year in the United States.

We continue to place high priority on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and we reaffirm our commitment to working together to accelerate Russia's entry on standard terms. We recognize the recent release of the first draft of the Working Party report as an important milestone in Russia's accession process.

We welcome the efforts of the Russian-American Business Dialogue, established at the time of our meeting in Genoa. The joint recommendations of this private-sector dialogue have been helpful in advancing mutual efforts to normalize Russian-American business ties, strengthening corporate governance, and promoting cooperation in information technology.

We welcome as well the development of the private sector-led U.S.-Russia Banking Dialogue and its report to governments. We hope the Dialogue will foster non-discriminatory cooperation between private-sector financial institutions of Russia and the United States. Among the important areas of cooperation, we emphasize small business and mortgage lending, consumer credit, implementation of cutting-edge technologies, and training of qualified banking personnel.

We welcome the progress made in Russia to establish laws and institutions to combat money laundering. We support the efforts to jointly counter financial criminal activities, including within the framework of the Egmont Group. We attach high importance

to implementation of programs enhancing cooperation in combating legalization of criminal incomes.

We note the importance of establishing a supportive tax, legal and regulatory environment for the development of small business, as well as the need to provide access to financing, and welcome the \$100 million expansion of the Russia Small Business Fund of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. We encourage other donors to join the United States in supporting the further expansion of this effort.

We also welcome the announcement by the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation to back a new \$100 million "Russia Private Equity Fund."

We note with satisfaction opportunities for the further development of successful and mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as civil aviation, commercial space exploration, the International Space Station, commercial satellite launches, and joint design and production of aircraft machinery.

We hail growing aviation cooperation between our two countries under the Russian-American civil aviation agreement. Since 2001, we have achieved agreement on the opening of new economically viable routes, including cross-polar flights.

We are confident that the creation of the Russian-American Working Group on Trade and Aerospace Cooperation will foster expanded direct contacts between aerospace corporations and airlines of our countries.

We welcome the positive trends in our cooperation in the area of information technologies, which is emerging as one of the priority areas of our bilateral relationship. The introduction of U.S. companies' advanced technologies in the Russian market, including through licensed modern software applications, contributes to economic growth in Russia. We support growing cooperation through services provided by Russian companies in designing software and high-tech products on the basis of Russia's existing scientific capabilities. We welcome the Information Technology Roundtable, which is providing for a comprehensive exchange of opinion between government agencies and businesses on removing barriers to business

and protecting intellectual property rights in this area.

We note growing trade cooperation between our countries. As our trade and economic cooperation gains momentum, we might face certain contentious issues that must be addressed in a swift, transparent and constructive manner by taking account of the interests of both sides.

Already existing positive examples of cooperation between U.S. and Russian companies give us confidence that many new significant and mutually beneficial projects will be implemented in the course of our expanding economic cooperation.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on U.S.-Russian People-to-People Contacts

May 24, 2002

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation between our two countries, we affirm the importance of strengthening contacts between our societies and citizens. We are confident that direct links between our cities, states and regions, businesses, educational, research, and medical institutions, and non-governmental organizations increase communication and promote understanding and trust between the United States and Russia.

Over the past decade, direct ties between Americans and Russians have grown rapidly, and they continue to broaden and deepen, including through joint business ventures and trade and economic relationships, academic and cultural exchanges, and cooperative efforts aimed at protecting the environment and developing new medical technologies and cures for the most deadly diseases. Such cooperation now goes beyond programs, projects, and agreements financed by our governments; our primary role in the future should be to support this trend by removing legal, bureaucratic, and other impediments. Recognizing the mutual benefits of travel for our private and official visitors, the United States and Russia are committed

to streamlining visa practices and taking additional steps to facilitate travel. To this end, we have agreed to reduce substantially visa fees for participants in student and school exchanges.

We note that government-supported partnerships between American and Russian institutions are flourishing: they include 94 Russian-American sister cities, 8 hospital partnerships, and 37 university partnerships. In addition, more than 100 U.S.-Russian community and institutional partnerships have been forged between local governments, judges, businesses, professional associations, and other non-governmental groups.

We also recognize the strong ties between American and Russian regions and cities, especially the Russian Far East and the U.S. West Coast. Thanks to existing intergovernmental agreements, Native American and Russian citizens can visit their relatives in Alaska and Chukotka visa-free. In an effort to stimulate more of these regional ties, we have just begun a new program which will use U.S.-Russian partnerships to facilitate cooperation, strengthen civil society and media, and improve the business climate in the Russian Far East and the Volga Federal District.

Government-supported exchange programs that send Russians to the United States and Americans to Russia have also grown exponentially over the past decade. Under these programs, more than 50,000 Russian students, scientists, legislators and others have been hosted by families and communities in all 50 American states. Last year alone, about 1,000 Russian entrepreneurs visited the United States to exchange experiences and develop mutually profitable ties with their American hosts; these business exchanges are set to increase significantly this year. Meanwhile, thousands of American scholars, scientists, business people, health care professionals, language teachers, and other experts from many walks of life have spent time in virtually every region of Russia, working side-by-side with their Russian colleagues.

We will also continue to support our partnership in the critically important area of health care. Our priorities are fighting such infectious diseases as tuberculosis, improving maternal and child health in order to reduce

maternal and child mortality, and combating cardiovascular disease. The United States and Russia are committed to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. In three regions in Russia, we are currently carrying out health education programs aimed at high-risk populations. We are pleased to note that funding will now be provided for an HIV/AIDS prevention program in a fourth site—St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast. In addition, joint programs for the treatment of tuberculosis within the framework of the World Health Organization are now underway in a number of Russian regions.

We will promote further expansion of contacts in such areas of cooperation as information technology, the natural and social sciences, and areas of fundamental research, such as fusion energy and high-energy physics.

A viable and independent media sector is an integral component of democracy in both our countries. Accordingly, we initiated the Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue in November. This dialogue has brought together American and Russian media professionals in a business-to-business partnership to exchange experience in resolving problems facing the media, including those of ensuring the development of commercially viable independent media. We welcome the successful development of this dialogue. We also welcome a new partnership starting this year that will bring together Moscow State University's journalism school with an American school of journalism to develop curricula and materials used for training media managers and journalists.

The availability and use of the Internet in both the United States and Russia has increased dramatically in recent years, greatly facilitating communication between our two peoples. Both governments will do all in their power to create the conditions for information to flow freely within and between our two countries.

Both of our countries are rich in the vast territories they cover and in the diversity of their populations. Respecting the spiritual, cultural, and ethnic legacies of our nations, we affirm our commitment to universal values in the sphere of human rights and religious freedoms. We will seek to promote a

climate of mutual tolerance and respect between different creeds and beliefs. To advance these goals, new initiatives are being developed to support Russian and American non-governmental organizations.

Our governments intend to promote further cultural interchange between our two countries, including the organization of exchanges between national museums, theaters, operas, ballets, orchestras, and individual artists. In addition, we will seek to promote activities that will enable American and Russian scholars, artists, and ordinary citizens to learn more about one another's history, language, and culture. We encourage the establishment of new contacts between American and Russian organizations such as the agreement between the State Hermitage Museum and the S. Guggenheim Foundation.

Through the centuries, Russia's great poets, novelists, painters, composers, and scientists have made brilliant contributions to world civilization, and Americans find their own lives enriched by learning more about this cultural legacy. Similarly, Russians have shown a great interest in learning more about American contributions to the arts and sciences. Increased appreciation of each other's cultures will help advance relations between our two nations into the future.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on the New U.S.-Russian Energy Dialogue

May 24, 2002

Successful development of the global economy depends on timely and reliable energy delivery. In this context, we welcome the fact that the Russian Federation has confirmed its role as a major world energy provider. In order to strengthen our overall relationship and enhance global energy security and international strategic stability, we have agreed to launch a bilateral energy dialogue.

Through this Dialogue we seek to:

- Develop bilateral cooperation in the energy sphere on a mutually beneficial basis in accordance with our respective national energy policies.
- Reduce volatility and enhance predictability of global energy markets and reliability of global energy supply.
- Facilitate commercial cooperation in the energy sector enhancing interaction between our companies in exploration, production, refining, transportation and marketing of energy, as well as in implementation of joint projects including those in third countries.
- Encourage investment aimed at the further development and modernization of the fuel and energy sector of Russia, including expansion of oil and gas production in Eastern Siberia, the Far East, and offshore areas.
- Promote access to world markets for Russian energy, including through the commercial development and modernization of Russia's port and transportation infrastructures, the electric power and gas sectors, and oil refining capabilities.
- Foster science, technological, and business cooperation in the use of unconventional energy sources, and energy-efficient and environmentally clean technologies.
- Cooperate in elaboration and development of new ecologically safer nuclear power technologies.

We intend to discuss energy issues at our future bilateral meetings, and direct that these issues be integrated into our bilateral agenda, at all levels of our governments. In this context, we welcome the creation of the Russian-American Working-level Group on Energy Cooperation.

We are encouraged that our commercial cooperation occurs not only in Russia and neighboring areas such as the Caspian region, where multiple pipelines and joint upstream investments in the energy sector strengthen the sovereignty, prosperity, cooperation, and global economic integration of all participating states. We also welcome our commercial cooperation in the United States and in other countries where our companies' and their international partners' expe-

rience, technology, and capital can be joined to provide the commercially reliable energy supplies which are essential to fostering prosperity and global stability.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks to Community and Religious Leaders in Moscow

May 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Mr. Ambassador, thank you and Lisa for opening up your modest home. [*Laughter*] I bet every Ambassador that represents the United States wishes they lived this way. But we appreciate your taking on this very important assignment, and that is to represent our country here in Russia.

I'm honored that Laura was traveling with me today. Trips always seem to go so much better when she is by my side, so I'm really glad you got to meet Laura. I like to tell the story in America that when I married her, she was a public school librarian who didn't like politics and didn't particularly care for politicians. [*Laughter*] And then she got stuck marrying one. [*Laughter*] But she's doing a great job for our country, and I'm real proud of her.

And I'm proud of the team I put together as well. I've got a great national security team, headed by Colin Powell and by Condi Rice and Andy Card. And I'm honored they're traveling with me, and I'm honored you have a chance to meet them as well.

And thank you all for coming. For those of us, the Spaso House—at least those of us who've paid attention to international politics—the Spaso House was always viewed as a refuge for freedom. And I'm so privileged to give you a few comments here in this historic setting, where so much history was written.

You know, I'm aware that during World War II, Russian, American diplomats and soldiers met here as allies. It's kind of an interesting part of the history of this house. And during the cold war, this is where many of you came, refuseniks and human rights activists. You're always welcome here, and we're glad you're here.

Our Nation stands for freedom. That's what we're fighting off the terrorists about. We believe so strongly in freedom, we're willing to defend it at all costs. The Soviet era is gone. The cold war, I hope, is past us. And today President Putin and I signed an historic document. It was more than just a document that reduces nuclear weaponry, although that in itself is good. It's a document that says there's a new era ahead of us, that instead of being stuck in the past, these two leaders are willing to take two great countries forward in a new relationship built on common interests and cooperation, and cooperation on all fronts—the idea of working together to make the Russian economy strong and vibrant so people can make a living, so people have hope about putting bread on the table for their families; the cooperation of fighting terror; the cooperation of promoting peace. But the best cooperation also must be based on common values, as well as common interests.

And I want you to know that we hold the values in America dear, and you know that. We hold dear what our Declaration of Independence says, that all have got unalienable rights, endowed by a Creator—not endowed by the ones who wrote the Declaration of Independence but by a Creator, a universal Creator. I want you to know that I believe all governments have a duty and responsibility to protect those rights, those unalienable rights.

In Soviet times, people heroically defended those rights with incredible courage, and you earned the respect of a lot of people—a lot of people—by doing so. Many of you now are active in a modern Russia, and I want to thank you for staying active and involved in this important society, starting with making sure that freedom is protected by rule of law. And we agree completely, and we hope we can help, because rule of law is essential for a modern society to thrive and to succeed.

I applaud your commitment and your patriotism. I love the fact that you love your country. I love mine, and you love yours, and that's incredibly healthy and important. You understand that free nations and a free Russia require strong civic and religious institutions, committed to democratic values.

Russia's on the road to democracy, but it's important, as she does so, that she embrace the values inherent in democracy. In the past, I know you know that we have been committed to helping institutions which promote those values through direct Government assistance, and we will continue to do so. We believe it's for the good of Russia. We believe it will help Russia develop in a way that will be—enable Russia to become a lasting friend. And that's what I'm interested in. I'm interested in friendship and peace and mutual development.

Most Russians want and expect what most Americans want and expect, and that's important for the Russian people and the American people to understand, a Government—starting with a Government that works for citizens, that represents everyday citizens, not a corrupt elite. And that's important.

People want a society ruled by law, not by special privilege, special circumstance; a law where people are treated equally, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, income level. In a multiethnic society, people must work toward tolerance and reject extremism. It's important in America, just like it's important here in Russia. And this is a multiethnic society, to the credit of Russia, just like America is a multiethnic society, which makes our country strong. We're bound together by common values. And so can Russia be bound by the same values.

To reach these goals, societies need fair laws and, as importantly, fair enforcement of law. They need independent media that is respected by the Government. I remind those who sometimes get frustrated with the media that even in America, elected officials sometimes don't agree what's written about them—maybe especially America, for all I know. [*Laughter*] But it's important for those of us who value democracy to promote an independent media.

Opposition parties must be free to associate and must be free to speak their minds. In order for a democracy to be strong, there has to be competition of ideas, a free discussion of ideas, and an airing of philosophy in an open way. Freedom of religion and separation of church and state are so important, so important so that people can worship as

they choose, Jews, Muslims, and all Christians, and all religions.

Free societies have all got to meet the great challenges we face in ways consistent with values. That's what I'm here to tell you that's in my heart. That's what I want you to know about this administration, that we're not only committed to fighting terrorism—and we will. We are. We were under attack in America.

In Germany yesterday I said, September the 11th was just a fine—just as clear a dividing line in our history, in our Nation's history, as Pearl Harbor. It was. America at one time was protected by two oceans—we seemed totally invulnerable to, for example, the wars that took place here in Russia or on the European Continent—and all of a sudden found ourselves attacked, because we love freedom, because we respect religion, because we honor discourse. And you need to know that we're going to defend ourselves and defend that which we hold dear and, at the same time, protect civilization itself.

But in Afghanistan, we've shown, I believe, how to do it in a way that's commiserate with our values—that, on the one hand, we're plenty tough, and we will be. We've got a military we're going to use, if we need to, to defend freedom. But on the other hand, we delivered a lot of medicine and a lot of food. We hurt thinking not only that the children in Afghanistan could not go to school; we cried for the fact that people were starving in the country. We have rebuilt schools. We have also provided medicine and food.

Russia is building hospitals in Afghanistan. That's incredibly positive, we think. Nations are not only contributing military forces, but we're working to build a state that can function on her own, a state at peace in the neighborhood, and a state where people have got hope and a chance to survive, where moms and dads can raise their children in peace.

And that's important for you to know as well. You know, a lot of the time, people talk about the tough talk. But you've got to understand, we also have got a soft heart when it comes to the human condition. Each individual matters to me. Each individual has got worth and dignity.

The experience in Afghanistan has taught us all that there's lessons to be learned about

how to protect one's homeland and, at the same time, be respectful of the—on the battlefield. And that lesson applies to Chechnya. The war on terror can be won, and at the same time, we have proven it's possible to respect the rights of the people in the territories, to respect the rights of the minorities.

We are—I represent a great nation, and Russia is a great nation. Both of us share a lot. We've got a big resource base. We've got people who are very smart. I remind Vladimir Putin that the great resource of Russia is the people of Russia. The resource of this country is the brainpower of this country. And when they get the system right, that encourages individual growth and entrepreneurship; that brainpower is going to flourish, and so will commerce, and so will opportunity. And while that happens, both nations must respect the multiethnic character of our lands. That, too, makes us great. And how we promote that multiethnicity, and how we respect human rights is another way we'll be judged by history.

We'll be judged by history on how we defend our freedoms. We'll be judged in history by how we help our people prosper and grow. And we'll be judged by history as to whether or not we defend the universal values that are right and just and true.

I want to thank you for that commitment to those values. I appreciate your stance for freedom. I appreciate your love of your country. I appreciate your understanding there is a universal and gracious God.

May God bless you all. May God bless Russia. And may God bless the United States. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. at Spaso House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Alexander Vershbow and his wife, Lisa; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Appropriations Legislation *May 24, 2002*

The House did a great service today for our men and women in uniform fighting the war against terror, for homeland security, and for fiscal discipline. The House also

showed our enemies that America is united and determined to fight and win this war on our terms.

A combination of recession and the need to spend what it takes to win the war have put the Federal budget into deficit. As we do what is necessary to prevail in the war and protect our homeland, the Congress must restrain other Government spending so we can return to a balanced budget soon.

The House has shown that a responsible budget can be enacted, and the Senate should follow suit. I expect the Senate to only spend on what is necessary to fight the war and for our immediate emergency needs. With our Nation now at war, now is not the time for unnecessary spending on lower priority items.

The House bill is a successful model for budget and spending bills: Fund our most basic priorities without increasing the deficit or undermining our efforts to return to a balanced budget. I am especially grateful to Speaker Hastert and Chairman Young for their leadership, and to all the Members of Congress who voted for this package.

Statement on the Proposed “Citizen Service Act of 2002”

May 24, 2002

I commend House Select Education Subcommittee Chairman Peter Hoekstra and Ranking Member Tim Roemer for their bipartisan leadership in introducing H.R. 4854, the “Citizen Service Act of 2002.” In January, I called upon all Americans to dedicate at least 2 years—the equivalent of 4,000 hours—over the course of their lives in service to others, and I laid out policies for fostering service all across the country and around the world. Increasing opportunities for all Americans to participate in meaningful service activities is a priority of this administration, and the bipartisan sponsors and co-sponsors of the “Citizen Service Act of 2002” are leading that effort in the House of Representatives.

Programs such as Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps offer Americans a variety of ways to help meet important community needs through service.

Through their hard work on the “Citizen Service Act of 2002,” Chairman Hoekstra and Congressman Roemer are helping to strengthen and improve these programs based on the principles and reforms I outlined earlier this year. I also look forward to working with the Senate and to signing the “Citizen Service Act of 2002” this legislative session.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 19

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

May 20

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Miami, FL. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome International Democrat Union leaders to Washington, DC, on June 10.

The President announced his appointment of Marilyn Carlson Nelson as Chairperson of the National Women’s Business Council.

May 21

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

The President announced his intention to nominate Seth Cropsey to be Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 21 and continuing.

May 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Berlin, Germany. While en route aboard Air

Force One, he had a CIA briefing. After arriving in the evening he had dessert at a Berlin restaurant with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and Mayor Klaus Wowereit of Berlin. Later, he met Mrs. Bush, who arrived from Prague, the Czech Republic.

May 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush were welcomed by President Johannes Rau of Germany and his wife, Christina Rau, at Bellevue Palace.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Moscow, Russia.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles H. Williams to be Director of the Office of Multifamily Housing Assistance Restructuring, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Panel of Arbitrators of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes: Fred Fisher Fielding; O. Thomas Johnson, Jr.; Daniel M. Price; and Davis R. Robinson.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Panel of Conciliators of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes: H. Douglas Barclay; Oscar M. Garibaldi; Steven M. Lucas; and Charles E. Roh, Jr.

May 24

In the morning, the President met with personnel at the U.S. Embassy. He then participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Russia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a lunch at the Kremlin hosted by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila. Later, they took a walking tour of the Kremlin and Cathedral Square.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner hosted by President Putin and Mrs. Putin at Novo Ogarevo, the Putins' residence in Moscow.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kim R. Holmes to be Assistant

Secretary of State for International Organizations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Diana E. Furchtgott-Roth to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Armando J. Bucelo to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter McPherson as a member of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Rosemary Ramirez Barbour, Joan Stevens Eller, Thomas Miller Ferguson, Donna S. Hall, Shenikwa D. Nowlin, James Henderson Shacklett III, and Joseph P. Watkins.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission on Presidential Scholars: Scott Allen Bundgaard, Jeanne Rolfe Ferst, Michael Anthony Galiazzo, Robert Earl Moss, John Frederick Mueller, Laura Emberton Owens, and Dorothy Jean Potter.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 21

David Scott Carpenter, of North Dakota, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of North Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Brian C. Berg, term expired.

James Robert Dougan, of Michigan, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Michigan for the term of 4 years, vice Barbara C. Jurkas, term expired.

James Thomas Roberts, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice John W. Caldwell, term expired.

James Michael Wahrab,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years, vice Roy Allen Smith, term expired.

Submitted May 22

Jay S. Bybee,
of Nevada, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Procter R. Hug, Jr., retired.

Timothy J. Corrigan,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida (new position).

James C. Dever III,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, vice W. Earl Britt, retired.

Tony P. Hall,
of Ohio, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 19

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Senate vote approving the "Freedom Consolidation Act"

Fact sheet: President Bush Announces Initiative for a New Cuba

Released May 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's trip to Europe and Russia

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Hosts the International Democrat Union

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Speak at the World Economic Forum Tuesday

Released May 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Southern District of Georgia, the Southern District of Ohio, the Western District of Michigan, and the District of North Dakota

Released May 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on arrival in Berlin, Germany

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Florida and the Eastern District of North Carolina

Released May 24

Fact sheet: U.S.-Russian People-to-People Cooperation

Fact sheet: Russian-American Business Dialogue

Fact sheet: Russian-American Media Entrepreneurship Dialogue

Fact sheet: United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation's Investment Fund for Russia and Eurasia

Fact sheet: United States Government Non-proliferation/Threat Reduction Assistance to Russia

Fact sheet: U.S.-Russia Air Transport Agreement

Fact sheet: U.S.-Russia Banking Dialogue

Fact sheet: United States-Russia Commercial
Energy Relations

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Mar-
shal for the District of Utah

H.R. 2305 / Public Law 107-180

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Re-
structuring Act of 2002

H.R. 4156 / Public Law 107-181

Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act
of 2002

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 20

H.R. 2048 / Public Law 107-179

To require a report on the operations of the
State Justice Institute

Approved May 21

S. 378 / Public Law 107-182

To redesignate the Federal building located
at 3348 South Kedzie Avenue, in Chicago,
Illinois, as the “Paul Simon Chicago Job
Corps Center”

Week Ending Friday, May 31, 2002

The President's Radio Address

May 25, 2002

Good morning. As you hear this, I am in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the middle of a 7-day trip to Europe. I've come to Europe to reaffirm our close ties with important allies, to talk about the next stages of the war on terror, and to open a new chapter in our relationship with Russia.

In this last century, the conflicts of Europe led to war and suffering for America. Today, Europe is growing in unity and peace, and that benefits our country. The nations of the European Union have made strong contributions to the war on terror. And the volume of our annual trade and investment relationship is nearly \$2 trillion, helping workers, consumers, and families on both continents.

Germany, which I visited earlier this week, has emerged from a troubled history to become a force for good. German police and intelligence officials are helping in the war on terror. In Afghanistan, German troops have served and died beside our own. Speaking in Berlin, I thanked the German people for their support and sacrifice and talked about the challenges that still lie ahead.

Here in Russia, President Putin and I are putting the old rivalries of our Nation firmly behind us with a new treaty that reduces our nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in decades. After years of planning for war, Russia and the United States are building a friendship based on shared interests, fighting terrorism, and expanding our trade relationship. After centuries of isolation and suspicion, Russia is finding its place in the family of Europe, and that is truly historic.

The partnership of America and Russia will continue to grow based on the foundation of freedom and the values—the democratic values we hold dear. Free nations are more peaceful nations, and the spread of liberty strengthens America.

On the rest of my trip, I'll travel to Paris and then to Normandy, France, for Memorial Day, to honor the soldiers who in 1944 gave their lives so that America, France, and all of Europe could one day live in peace and freedom. I will visit Rome for a summit that will forge new ties between the NATO Alliance and Russia. I'll meet with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, whose message of peace and social justice is particularly urgent at this time.

In two World Wars, the New World came to the rescue of the Old, and America became a European power. Now this continent is closer to being whole, free, and at peace than any time in its history. We must finish this job, inviting a new Russia to be our full partner. And together, we must face the challenges of the world beyond Europe and America, terrorism, poverty, and evil regimes seeking terrible weapons. Europe and America share common dangers and common values. We have the opportunity and the duty to build a world that is safer and better.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. on May 24 at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Moscow, Russia, for domestic broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia

May 25, 2002

President's Visit to Russia

Q. Mr. President, allow me to ask you—[*inaudible*—summarize results of your—[*inaudible*]. And the second part of that question, the expectation of the Moscow summit—how do you think—

President Bush. Well, first, the hospitality has been magnificent. The time we spent last night with the Putins in their beautiful home was very relaxing for Laura and me. It gave us a great chance to see how the Putins live, a very good sense of their values. I think the thing that struck me the most was how they have raised their daughters. They've got two beautiful daughters who are incredibly talented young ladies. It is clear their mom and dad love them a lot, and that was impressive to Laura and me.

The other good piece of news is, I got to go actually run outside—[laughter]—which is a difficult thing for me to do when I'm on the road and in Washington as well. I ran on beautiful grounds; it's such a spectacular piece of property. And then we had a wonderful breakfast—special Russian foods. It's been a wonderful, relaxing experience.

I was very touched that the President took time yesterday, after going to the Kremlin—after going to Red Square, to take us to his office. And I thought it was a great personal touch; that was important, to see the private side of this man's life. It meant a lot.

Secondly, I think the summit was—met expectations; it met my expectations. I hope it met the President's expectations. We not only signed a very important treaty; we signed a—you know, a very important protocol of how our relations ought to go forward, and I'm really glad that—I'm glad that all the hard work on both sides has paid off. And this will be good for the Russian people; this agreement will be good for the people of Russia; and it'll be good for the people of America.

You know, at the St. Petersburg cemetery today, the lady who gave us a tour spoke about peace and how it was important for everybody who walked those hallowed grounds to remember the ravages of war and to remember the importance of peace. And I explained to her that this visit was a visit of peace, where we cast aside the old ways of suspicion and now embrace peace.

Sorry about the interpreter. [Laughter]

Q. [Inaudible]—interpretation.

President Bush. Okay. Well, good luck. [Laughter]

[At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and no translation was provided.]

President Vladimir Putin of Russia. As far as the staying of Mr. President and his wife in our home yesterday, I would like you to know two things. For one thing, our personal relations to—have been greatly strengthened. They're very happy to know that I'm dealing with very honest and upward and straight people. That is one.

And then there is something else, which is by no means a political thing. Yesterday, when we had our dinner and I was treating my guests, of course, to the Russian caviar, and I told him how some of the caviar is produced. The experts would take the fish and open up the fish and then take the caviar and then throw out the fish again—and throw it back into the water. [Laughter] Everybody was laughing, thinking that I was really inventing things on the spot, something really improbable. [Laughter] But I was trying to convince them—I was really trying to tell them that I was telling the truth; that's how we treated the environment. [Laughter]

The Secretary of State, the Russian Foreign Minister, Dr. Rice, Mr. Ivanov, and also both wives—my wife and Mr. President's wife—all laughed at me. And there was only one person who wouldn't laugh and said, "I do believe you, Mr. President," and that was the President of the United States. [Laughter] And I want to confirm it here and now; that's the truth, ladies and gentlemen. [Laughter]

And one more thing. The dinner, the supper was over somewhere around midnight, because we were supposed to go to St. Petersburg early in the morning. Of course, we got up very early; we didn't have enough sleep this morning. And when last night, before going to bed, Mr. President told me that he would be jogging in the morning, I wouldn't believe him. [Laughter] But he was doing that, just that.

Well, on a serious note, as far as the results of this visit are concerned, I would like to say that myself and my experts, all my experts, we have been discussing the results of the visit this morning, and we have officially agreed that we are satisfied, and all the goals of this visit have been achieved.

I thank you.

President Bush. One question, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], go ahead.

Situation in South Asia

Q. If I could ask you real quickly, sir, is there anything personal you can do to ease tensions between Pakistan and India? And do you think President Musharraf is doing enough to crack down on terrorism in Kashmir?

President Bush. We are spending a lot of time on this subject—"we" being the administration. And we're making it very clear to both parties that there is—there's no benefit of a war—there's no benefit of a clash that could eventually lead to a broader war.

We're deeply concerned about the rhetoric. It is very important for President Musharraf to stop—do what he said he's going to do to in his speech on terror, and that is stop the incursions across the line—the line of control. It's important that the Indians know that he is going to fulfill that promise.

Vladimir and I have talked about this, and he's got—he as well as the United States and Great Britain and other countries have got influence in the region, and he is going to meet soon at a conference where we believe Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Musharraf will both be attending.

My point is, is that there's a lot of diplomatic efforts going into bringing some calm and reason to the region.

President Putin. An international event is planned for the early June this year in Kazakhstan, where both President Musharraf and Prime Minister Vajpayee have been invited. I do hope they will come, and there would be an opportunity for us to discuss things. And we have covered that ground with the President of the United States.

Of course, the testing, while there is escalating tension, really aggravates the situation, and Russia is concerned and sorry about that. I'm sorry about that. And we shall be working together to take steps in order to prevent the escalation of the conflict.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:05 p.m. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Putin's daughters, Masha and Katya, and his wife, Lyudmila; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India. President Putin referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov and Minister

of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov of Russia. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the closing remark of President Putin. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg

May 25, 2002

President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for having me here. It's a great pleasure, as always, to be with young people, but especially here since I graduated from this university; it's a double pleasure for me to be here. But this university played a dual role in my career. The first time, when they basically gave me a present—they just gave me the degree that I earned—that was the one important part. [Laughter]

The second very important facet in my life was when I worked here for the rector of the university as an assistant, helping him in the area of international contacts between and among various universities. And what I was doing was doing the same thing the rector was just talking about; I was setting up the initial contacts between our university and various other universities around the world. So what we did once, we invited the president of a midsize college from St. Petersburg, Florida, to come here and pay us a visit, since they had the same name. So then, what I did is I talked the former mayor, Mr. Sobchak, to receive this president of this college. So he, in turn, invited him to come to the United States. And this Mr. Carter, who was the head of this college in St. Pete, arranged a visit with one of the Presidents of the United States at the time, and I think his name was Bush. [Laughter] After that, he invited me to come to work for him, and the rest of my career is history, as they say. [Laughter]

Well, to be very, very serious now, it's really a great pleasure to have business and dealings with students because students are very direct, as you know. And they also feel the rhythm of civilization as it's changing.

When we were guests of the Bushes in Crawford, Texas, we also were given an opportunity to meet with young people. I think this will become a very fine tradition.

President Bush. That's right.

President Putin. And I think Mr. Bush also was waiting for this opportunity, because he asked me several times about this possibility. Well, George Bush and I don't know each other for that long; I think it's a little bit less than 2 years. But what we're trying to do is establish the environment which would be very conducive to having people in both of our countries meet, have opportunities to make contacts, and get along better.

I don't want this to sound like a major report here, but I just want to inform you that we have just signed two major agreements between our two countries. One of them is having to do with the reduction in strategic arms of the two countries, and the other one is called an agreement on a new strategic relationship between the two countries. As we all know, people are divided into two groups, optimists and pessimists, and the pessimists will always find something wrong. Optimists, however, will find in these two documents that we signed a lot of things that are very useful and beneficial.

But it's wonderful to deal with young people because, by their very nature, they're optimists and they look into the future. And that's why we're here, among other things.

So today, when we were coming to the conclusion of our visit to the Hermitage—and we were running late so we were in a hurry—Mr. Piotrovsky, who really had very little time, said, “By the way, before we leave I want to show you a portrait,” which was a portrait of our great Tsaritsa Catherine the Great. And Mr. Bush, without missing a beat, said, “Oh, and by the way, where is the portrait of Potemkin?” [Laughter]

So when you ask questions, I ask you to give me the easy questions and give Mr. Bush the tough questions. [Laughter] And with pleasure, I give the word to George Bush.

President Bush. Thank you very much. Madam President, thank you for your hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here at this famous university. I'm particularly pleased to be coming to this university because it is the alma mater of your President

and my friend, Vladimir Putin. But even more importantly, it is Mrs. Putin's alma mater. [Laughter]

The President was talking about a seminar on international relations. I guess this is the most sophisticated seminar on international relations that you could possibly have. So I'll give you a quick insight as to what it's like to be involved with international relations.

There we were, as guests of the Putins in their private home last night. We talked about our families; we talked about our passions; we talked about matters of life that friends would talk about. The best international relations start when people care about the other person, when they try to figure out how the other person thinks and what makes the other person's life go forward. We've had a lot of negotiations, of course. But the thing that impressed me the most about the President and his wife was how much they loved their daughters. That's a universal value. It's an impressive value.

When I got out of college in 1968, America and the Soviet Union were enemies—bitter enemies. Today, America and Russia are friends. It's important for you to know that that era is long gone as far as I'm concerned. The treaty we signed says a lot about nuclear arms. It speaks about the need for peace, but it also says the cold war is over, and America and Russia need to be and will be friends, for the good of the world.

And so it's my honor to come. I look forward to answering your questions. Since Vladimir went here to St. Petersburg, it only seems fair that the hard ones go to him. [Laughter] We'll be glad to handle your questions.

Russia's Brain Drain

Q. [Inaudible]—from the Sociology Department, and the question is: Everyone knows what the brain drain problem is, and it is an open secret that the traffic of brain drain is mostly oriented to the United States. I wonder what the Presidents of these two countries think about this problem.

President Putin. I'll tell you right away: He'll say it's good; I'll say it's bad. [Laughter] But if you look at it a little more deeply, I'll get a little more serious and give you some

more detail. There are two methods for stopping this occurrence: First of all, close the country down once again and create such regulatory conditions where people will lose the right to move freely; second is, in a free economy, to create economic conditions, conditions of prosperity for all those people so that they wish to stay here and work. And I think we have to take the second path.

President Bush. I—first of all, there's a lot of brains in this room, and you get to decide whether there's a brain drain in Russia. I tell Vladimir all the time—I mean, Mr. President all the time—that Russia's most precious resource is the brainpower of this country. And you've got a lot of it. It's going to take a lot of brains in Russia to create a drain. There are plenty of bright and smart people in Russia. Your history says that. I'm absolutely convinced that the future of this country is incredibly bright, first, because of the great imagination and intellect of the Russian people, and second, because you've got a leader who understands that freedom is going to enhance the future of this country.

You need to know that my view of foreign relations is not only to promote peace, but it's also to work with our friends the Russians so that the quality of life in both our countries improves.

And so, finally, your question had a little bit of a slightly pessimistic tone to it—only slightly. I'm optimistic about Russia, and a strong and prosperous and peaceful Russia is good for America.

Future of the Russian Economy

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—*from the Department of Economics, and I would like to ask this question: We are involved in high technology exports, and my question in fact is, when will the time come when the bulk of the exports from Russia would be high technology and high-technology products, and not the primary products like oil and wood as the situation is now?

President Bush. Good question.

President Putin. It's a very professional question. And you, as an economist, understand very well that this situation did not just happen yesterday. The world market demands those products that are competitive. And the things that you mentioned, the high-

tech kinds of things that you mentioned are in great demand in the world marketplace. And it's a no-brainer to understand that there were the kinds of talent and the kinds of products in the old Soviet Union that, in fact, had been in demand, because the best brains were directed precisely in that direction in those days.

One of these areas, for instance, is missile technology, and our cooperation with the United States in this area can be measured in the billions of U.S. dollar equivalents. And during this summit, we dedicated a substantial portion of our discussion time precisely to this issue, which I consider very important if we are to remove many of the things that are obstacles in allowing high tech to come into Russia. And these obstacles and limitations were placed upon us back in the days of the Soviet Union and by their very inertia continue on and on.

Therefore, many of the products come into Russia from third countries, from Europe, from Asia, and not from the United States. We think that it's not good for our bilateral relations with the United States. We have to do better. And that's why a great amount of time was spent by President Bush and myself in trying to find ways to remove these obstacles. We also spent a lot of time thinking about what we, ourselves, have to do internally in Russia to help get rid of these obstacles.

But since we have the high-level esteemed guest in our midst, let me just direct our question to our bilateral affairs, and that is, what we need above all for Russia is an absolutely nondiscriminatory access to world markets and to U.S. markets. And we don't need preferences; we don't need subsidies; we don't need special favors. We just want normal, simple, ordinary, fair trade relations.

President Bush. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur or small business or dreamer can flourish. And that starts with rule of law, respect of private property, less regulatory burdens on the entrepreneur, open banking laws so that all people have access to capital, and good tax policy.

Private ownership in Russia is a little more than 70 percent. That's a significant change.

More and more people are owning small business. That's incredibly important, because that phenomenon makes sure that the elites don't control the economy.

There's one piece of good news about Russian taxation, and one that I learned about yesterday, which Vladimir and I haven't had much time to talk about, that's troubling. The good news is that the flat tax in Russia is a good, fair tax—much more fair, by the way, than many Western countries, I might add.

I am worried when I heard that some Russian goods—there is an export tax on Russian goods. And the trouble with that, of course, is that no matter how good your goods are, if you price yourself out of the market, no one is going to buy. So that's a barrier. There's also barriers coming from Western countries that we've got to eliminate. Export controls on high-tech goods are problematic, that we're now reviewing in the United States.

And very briefly, it is very important for the infrastructure to be modernized as quickly as possible, so that information from around the world moves quickly, freely throughout Russia, so that an entrepreneur such as yourself are able to learn from other entrepreneurs being connected through the Internet, which is going to be a great source of ideas and potential wealth for Russia.

Okay.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—from the Foreign Affairs Department, and the question is addressed to President Bush: What is the image of—[inaudible]—that exists in the United States setup, and how this image of—[inaudible]—influences—*

Audience member. Image of Russia.

Audience member. Image of Russians.

President Bush. Image of Russia in the United States?

Q. *—what image of Russia—Russians exists in the American political setup, and how this image of the Russians influences the taking of decisions in the area of American foreign politics?*

President Putin. This guy is very tricky; he's a very tricky young fellow. Mr. President, he's going to listen to your answer,

write a dissertation, and get a degree. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Most Americans—by far, the vast majority of Americans are very pleased by the fact that the United States and Russia is entering into a new era. We've got a new war to fight together. We're joined to fight against bloodthirsty killers. These people hate freedom. They hate multiethnic societies. They can't stand religion. And it's a threat to America, and this is a threat to Russia, as you all so well know. In this country you've been hit by terrorist acts like we have been hit by terrorist acts.

The American people truly appreciate the cooperative spirit of the Russian Government and truly appreciate the sympathies of the Russian people for what took place on September the 11th.

It's an interesting question about leadership. Does a leader lead, or does a leader follow? Does a leader lead opinion, or does a leader try to chase public opinion? My view is, the leader leads. And my administration, along with Secretary of State Powell and National Security Adviser Rice, are going to do everything we possibly can do to make relations with Russia strong and friendly and cooperative and productive for both people.

Good foreign policy—good foreign policy sets a foundation that is so firm that it won't crack if one nation or the other gets weak in the commitment to friendship. And we're laying a strong foundation.

President Putin. I have to say that we have political leaders, we have public leaders, we have journalists. Our journalists and people who are specialized in the ministry, for instance, of international relations and foreign affairs and other specialists, in many other departments and agencies, confirm what President Bush has just said.

President Bush. Yes, ma'am. Sorry.

Q. The student of the Management Department, and the question is addressed to President Putin: Our countries have lived through quite different relations. While in the Second World War we had one type of relations, relations very close and friendly; and then the cold war came. And my question is, as a result of this evolution of relationships, what is the state of our relationship between these two countries now?

President Putin. You're studying management, right? Are there any people from the History Department? And I think the people from the History Department will probably support me in saying—in my saying the following: The World War II period and the cold war period were but two of the most contrasting and sharpest examples of the evolution of our relations. But we can talk about a lot of different episodes in our cooperation.

But it really began in the times of the Revolutionary War in the United States. At that time, the Crown of England appealed to Catherine the Great and asked for support in quelling the rebellion in the United States. And the Russian sovereign turned and said, that's not what we're all about, and declared a military neutrality vis-a-vis the war. And this neutrality played a significant role in the—allowing the United States to gain its independence and gain its foundation.

And today I'm going to present to President George Bush two very interesting documents, two original documents having to do with the earliest days of our diplomatic correspondence between our two countries.

The world was changing over time; our relations were changing over time. Today, for instance, the United States is our number one trading partner for Russia, both in terms of the number of goods that are traded and also in terms of the accumulated investments that we have from the United States in Russia. The United States is a great and powerful power and has an economy that is powerful enough to a great extent to determine world economics.

For decades, we voluntarily, on our own, created walls and barriers around ourselves and decided to live alone within these walls. And in a time when high technology is absolutely mandatory to the beneficial development of any country, this circumstance today is just unforgivable. And today, in the realms of national security, international security, economics, trade, we now are beginning to blend in together with the world economy at large.

You can call our relations today a multi-component kind of a relationship depending on many, many different aspects. But I want to name the one and most important aspect.

Over the last year and a half or 2 years, what we've experienced is a huge growth in confidence and trust manifested between our two countries. And it is precisely this distinguishing characteristic which colors our relationship.

If you're sitting next to the First Lady of the United States, I can't say you can't have a question. [Laughter]

Leadership

Q. The lady is from the Management Department, and she addresses her question to both of you gentlemen: To make up a manager, many factors are involved. What were those factors that shaped you as leaders, as managers?

President Bush. I understand a leader can't do everything. And so, therefore, a leader must be willing to surround himself, in my case, with smart, capable, honorable people. A leader must be willing to listen, and then a leader must be decisive enough to make a decision and stick by it.

In politics, in order to lead, you've got to know what you believe. You have to stand on principle. You have to believe in certain values, and you must defend them at all costs. A politician who takes a poll to figure out what to believe is a politician who is constantly going to be trying to lead through—it's like a dog chasing its tail.

And finally, any leader must—in order to lead, must understand, must have a vision about where you're going. You must set clear goals and convince people of those goals and constantly lead toward those goals.

And finally, you've got to treat people with respect on your team. And by respecting people, they become—they become better members of the team and, therefore, give better advice and work toward the same goal.

President Putin. To be successful in any kind of business, in any kind of enterprise, you have to have two qualities: You have to have a sense of responsibility, and you have to have a sense of love.

Unfortunately, we have to come to an end here. Somebody is going to start crying back there if they don't get a question.

Russia and the World Trade Organization

[At this point, the questioner spoke in Russian, and a translation was not immediately provided.]

President Putin. I did the right thing by giving the question to her; she's asking President Bush instead. *[Laughter]*

[At this point, the questioner spoke in Russian, and a translation was not immediately provided.]

President Putin. Great question, WTO.

Q. The question is for President Bush from—*[inaudible]*—from the Department of International Relations: What specific and concrete steps can we expect from the United States in order to support our accession to the World Trade Organization?

President Bush. Starting with having a President who thinks you ought to be in the WTO—and I think you ought to be. And I think the accession to the WTO ought to be based upon the rules that every other nation has had to live up to, nothing harsher, nothing less harsh.

And I've told Vladimir in private and I've told the American people, I'm for Russia going into the WTO, just like I've asked—just like I asked Congress yesterday once in a press conference in Russia to get rid of Jackson-Vanik.

So, to answer your questions, I vote aye, assuming that the President—the Russian Government continues to reform her economy, open it up, make market-based economy work. And that's exactly what the intentions of this President—that's the intention of this President.

President Putin. George said it very well. The President of Russia has to want to be a member of the WTO. And he said that he's for it. If that's sufficient, I'm in. *[Laughter]* But on conditions acceptable to Russia. *[Laughter]*

Dear friends, I want to thank you. I would like to thank you for the warm and friendly atmosphere in which we were, and it is of great importance for me personally, because indeed I want very much our dear guests to enjoy my native city. And although, of course, our movements create some hurdles for the

movement of other people in the streets of Moscow, but, as George pointed out, the people are not very cross with us, since they wave their hands at us and smile at us. *[Laughter]* And today we had a friendly and kind atmosphere here, and the questions were in that spirit. And I am grateful to you for that.

And as I promised, I would like to hand over to President Bush the copies of the first diplomatic documents. And these documents actually initiated—they started the diplomatic letters exchanged between our two countries, and they date back to 1780.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The remarks began at 3:17 p.m. in the school's Ceremonial Hall. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. President Putin referred to Anatoly Sobchak, former mayor of St. Petersburg, Russia; and Mikhail B. Piotrovsky, director, State Hermitage Museum. President Bush referred to Ludmila Alekseyevna Verbitskaya, rector, St. Petersburg State University; and President Putin's wife, Lyudmila. President Bush also referred to the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which places restrictions on normalized trade relations between the U.S. and Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union based on their economic structure and emigration policies. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Following a Tour of the Choral Synagogue in St. Petersburg May 26, 2002

Freedom of Religion in Russia

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Q. Good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Today we've had a—a beautiful morning. We've been to a church and a synagogue. One of the nonnegotiable demands of individual dignity is freedom of religion, and I'm impressed by what I've heard from religious leaders, Christian and Jewish, here about the state of affairs in Russia.

We went to a cathedral that up until recently was a museum of atheism, and today it's a place where people can worship God

freely. We've been to a synagogue that was, even though open, was not a welcoming sight for many Russians, and today it is a spectacular place for people to gather and worship an Almighty God—and worship an Almighty God freely.

And one of my strong beliefs is that people should be free to worship, and I'm pleased that that's taking place here in Russia. It's important for this country that religious freedom flourish and there be tolerance of all faiths.

And it's been a very rewarding morning for Laura and me, and we want to thank our hosts and thank the Russian people. Last night I was very impressed and pleased to see so many Russians lining the streets, and they were so welcoming to the American delegation. We're making great progress in our strides toward freedom—I mean, toward friendship and our mutual respect of freedom. Thank you for your hospitality.

Situation in South Asia

Q. Mr. President, yesterday Pakistan went ahead with their planned missile tests.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think that has had any impact on the situation there? And do you believe this is something they should have gone forward with at this point in time?

The President. As you know, we expressed our strong reservations about the tests. Obviously, we hope that there is restraint in the area, that that not be viewed as a provocation. We're continuing to work the diplomatic channels, as are other nations. I mean, everybody understands the danger of a serious conflict in the region. And slowly but surely we can erode the distrust that has arisen in the area so that they can——

Q. Do you think the situation is as tense and dangerous there now as it was in January, where in hindsight it appears they came very close to an armed conflict?

The President. I think that any time you have countries with nuclear arms, that a tension, serious tension is dangerous. And it's hard for me to measure the degree of tension. Let's just say it's tense now, and it was tense then. So we've just got to continue to work the problem, and we will. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to defuse the situation.

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, are you inclined to agree with your advisers who say that we should deal with Chairman Arafat, or those who think he should be frozen out?

The President. Well, you know, I get all kinds of advice. People know my opinion about Chairman Arafat, and that is that he has let the Palestinian people down. He hasn't delivered. He had a chance to secure the peace as a result of the hard work of President Clinton, and he didn't. He's had a chance to fight terror, and he hasn't. Evidently there's a new attitude emerging among some of the leadership in the Palestinian Authority, and the answer is, we'll see. We'll see if he can deliver.

The key for the—for peace in the region, as far as I'm concerned, is for the Arab world to continue to fight terror, to do what they say they're going to do—we believe that that's happening more than ever—and that we develop the institutions necessary so that a Palestinian state can emerge that will be at peace with Israel. And that start—first step is to have a security force that actually keeps the security, as well as, the reforms ought to align authority and responsibility so people can be held to account for success or failure.

Q. I just want to follow up and make sure I understand what you are saying, when you're saying that apparently there's a new attitude in the Palestinian Authority and we'll see. Are you——

The President. Well, you're beginning to see talk of reform. You know, if you read the press accounts, there's—people are beginning to question out loud as to why there hasn't been success. One of the things that we've been trying to do is to say people must be responsible. My speech on April 4th called upon—outlined the responsibilities necessary to achieve peace.

So I'm beginning to hear—this is publicly I'm beginning to hear, I might add—discussion about, “Well, maybe we ought to assess how to make the Palestinian Authority more accountable,” and that's what I was referring to.

Q. But you're not referring to any good words or deeds you're seeing out of—seeing out of Arafat. So are you saying that the time has now run out on Arafat and we're not

going to deal with him, or he's still got a chance to do it right?

The President. No, what I'm saying is that what we need to do is develop the institutions necessary for there to be a responsible Palestinian state. And it starts with security.

One of the things that's interesting is, when you talk to European leaders, there's an interest about helping the Palestinian people—the Palestinians with economic development, but it's hard to promote economic development when there is concerns about graft and corruption. And so there needs to be—there needs to be institutions that will be transparent, institutions that will hold people responsible for the expenditure of money, institutions necessary to make sure that the good hearts of the world, when they apply to the Palestinian people, will be met with good results.

Q. Can I follow on Ron's [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] question?

Q. Sir——

Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet's Upcoming Visit to the Middle East

Q. Is Director Tenet going back to the region this coming week?

The President. You've had a big day today, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]—three questions.

Q. It's because he's taller, you know.

Q. That's a pool, because we all want to ask that one, though.

The President. He's also booming. He's also booming out there with his question, butting in. No—anyway—[laughter]——

Q. My apologies to Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

The President. Poor Patsy, here she is trying to be dignified——

Q. That was my question, anyway.

The President. It was your question?

Q. Yes, I was trying to be dignified.

The President. Well, would you like to ask it, so you can——

Q. Sir, is Director Tenet going back to the region next week? [Laughter]

The President. As you know, I expressed—I said that I was going to send Director Tenet back to the region. I haven't changed my mind.

Q. Next week?

Russia's Role in the Middle East

Q. [Inaudible]—the role of Russia on the Middle East question?

The President. Well, President Putin has been very helpful. And he's been helpful because he has—he has insisted that there be accountability and responsibility in the region. And he has been a—he makes it very clear that the Russian Government is—rejects any kind of terrorist activities that disrupts the peace process, in a very strong voice for reason and for reasonable policy, and I appreciate that a lot.

Thank you all.

Q. This week for Director Tenet?

The President. See you in France.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:49 a.m. outside the synagogue. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Jacques Chirac of France in Paris, France

May 26, 2002

President Chirac. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Welcome here. Welcome to all of you here this afternoon. Of course, I extend a special welcome to the members of the press who have come with President Bush.

Can I, first of all, say how pleased I am that we'll have the opportunity to welcome on his first trip to France the President of the United States and his wife. It's, of course, a great pleasure for me to welcome them, and I think it's also a great pleasure for all the people of France to welcome them. And that is something that I wanted to say in no uncertain terms.

We had this afternoon a working session. We'll meet again over dinner. Tomorrow, as all of you know, President Bush will be in Normandy. And I think it's very moving for me and for the people of France to know that, for the first time ever, if I'm not mistaken, the President of the United States will

not be in the United States on Memorial Day, and that on this occasion the President will come and pay a solemn tribute to the great number of young American servicemen who gave up their lives to fight for France, for Europe, for freedom.

This fight for freedom, for liberty, is a constant fight, a fight that we all engage in, a fight that is a bond between the peoples of both sides of the Atlantic, a fight that is pursued still today under very specific ties, the fight against terrorism.

We exchanged views. We had an intense, candid, friendly exchange of views. And I think this echoes and epitomizes the nature of the dialog that we have had ever since President Bush's election, in the number of contacts we have had either in Europe or when I have been to the United States. I think the last time we met was when we both were in Monterrey, in Mexico, and also over the phone.

We mentioned a number of issues: the fight against terrorism—and in this respect, we have a similar understanding of what is being done and what should be done to fight and eradicate terrorism. We both know that terrorism still exists, that it can be active anywhere, at any time, and that, therefore, all the leaders across the world must pay great attention to this issue and be determined to eradicate terrorism.

We also mentioned strategic issues. In this respect, we paid special attention to the change and the developments in the relationship between the U.S. and Russia. And we welcome this change. Russia is a major nation, a great nation. And I think that the relationship between Russia and the U.S. are crucial in the world today.

On Tuesday, in Rome, we will have an opportunity to set in stone this change in the relationship, to act upon also the new treaty that has been signed between both Presidents in Moscow yesterday. We have an opportunity to make more concrete the relationship between NATO and Russia. And as you know, for a long time, the French position has been that the relationship between Russia and NATO should be strengthened. And you might even remember that the founding act was signed here in 1997, even though it didn't have quite the consequences

that we could have expected. This being said, nowadays Russia—from now on, Russia will be closer involved. And this will be the results of the NATO council in 2 days' time in Rome.

We also mentioned, of course, the list of strategic issues, the fight against proliferation—proliferation in a number of regions across the world. We also mentioned the relationship between France and the U.S. and, of course, the relationship between the EU and the U.S. These relationships are very good at a political level. They are instrumental for the equilibrium and the balance of our world. At an economic level, they're essential, instrumental in the good health of the global economy. There can be, indeed, no balance in our world if there is no strong relationship between the U.S. and the EU.

We also spoke about issues where we have diverging views: trade issues, for instance; the farming bill, for instance. And in this respect, the President said that there might have been—there could have been a misunderstanding of what the goals of the farming bill was, a misunderstanding here in France and in other places, maybe. But I think that this means that we have to have more consultation, more consultation between the U.S. and the EU. We also, of course, mentioned steel.

These are, of course, very real issues, and real answers have to be given to these problems, after consultation and intense dialog. But can I just remind you that these differences, these diverging views only account for 5 percent of the trade between the EU and the U.S. Of course, that's important, but we have to have a look at the greater picture and have a sense of perspective.

We also mentioned a number of other issues in which we have slight divergence of views: environment, for instance; the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. And I, personally, stressed the fact that there was a very real danger, a very real risk in going on consuming more of our planet than the Earth can actually produce. And I think that all of us know that these are very real issues and that we have to go on talking, discussing, and working together on these issues. And I'm sure—I'm convinced that we will find the right ways to produce, to consume, new ways to do so. And I think all the new technologies

that are being developed nowadays will enable us to do so, while at the same time, consuming less of our natural resources and better control of pollution. Of course, these issues are being discussed in other fora.

We also discussed globalization. And I said that, yes, of course, globalization is unavoidable and is positive, because it increases trade and thus production and thus wealth and thus the number of jobs that there are across the world. This being said, there is a necessity that we have to bear in mind, and that is controlling globalization so that the development of the people in other countries is protected. So what I am saying is that globalization in trade has to go hand in hand with globalization of solidarity.

We will be, this evening, mentioning a number of other issues, international crisis, for instance: the Middle East; the topical issues, the tension between India and Pakistan; be talking about Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, the Balkans, and Africa. We'll be talking about Africa in the context of the new relationship that is currently being developed in the relationship between rich and poor countries.

We've already, in a way, touched upon these issues. And I wanted to—I did stress when we were talking with President Bush that as a long-time advocate of aid to poor countries and relationship between poor and rich countries, what I stressed is that for a very long time, these issues haven't been considered properly and that in Genoa we had, for the first time, a very real discussion about Africa. And that will be what we should remember of Genoa, although people will remember other things of the Genoa summit.

And I think that this was partly do to the initiative taken by President Bush that gave us a real opportunity to talk about development—development at large and development of Africa, more specifically. And this also enabled us to move from a situation where we give assistance to Africa, to a situation where we have a partnership with Africa. And that also is one of the goals of our next meeting in the G-7 format in Kananaskis, in Canada, where we will talk about the NEPAD. We also spoke of some local situations about in Africa.

So all that is what we've done today. We've spoken in a very understanding and friendly atmosphere.

President Bush. It's true. [Laughter]

I am honored to be here in France. It's my first trip as the President to this beautiful country and to this beautiful capital. I always find it a great joy to talk with Jacques Chirac. He's a—it's not hard to figure out where he stands on issues, and he's a good friend. He's a friend to me, personally. He's a friend to my country, and for that, I'm grateful.

I'm also looking forward to going to Normandy tomorrow. We do believe this is the first time a President has been out of the country for Memorial Day. I'm looking forward to giving a speech. Memorial Day in my country is a day to honor those who have sacrificed for freedom, given their lives. Many died in France, and I'm looking forward to the moment to share my country's appreciation.

And we—in the talk, I'm going to talk about—there's been current—modern-day sacrifices. We still fight people who hate civilization. It was—or at least, civilization that we love; they can't stand freedom—it was President Chirac who was the first head of state to visit me in the White House right after September the 11th. I was very grateful for that visit. As he, himself, said, that we're in a fight to defend civilization, and I couldn't agree more with him. And I want to thank the French people for not only the sympathy shown for my country after September the 11th but the strong support in the war against terror.

Jacques and I spent a lot of time talking about how to better fight this fight, and that's not just in military terms. I speak in terms of doing a better job of cutting off money to terrorists, denying them safe haven, and as we fight for a safer world, how to make the world a better world. And one of the things I really admire about—I guess I should call you President Chirac—President Chirac is that you've had this great compassion for the developing world, and I appreciate your compassion, and I appreciate your heart. It's important that we continue to work together to make sure that there is a strategy in place to help people develop and grow and prosper.

I'm looking forward to the dinner. He's always saying that the food here is fantastic, and I'm going to give him a chance to show me tonight. And I also look forward to continuing our discussions on important issues, like how to make sure NATO works better, how best to continue to work with our friends in Russia, how we can work together to—in the Middle East to bring peace to that part of the world. I appreciate this good man's advice. I listen carefully to it when he gives it, and I'm proud to call him friend.

Thank you for your hospitality.

President Chirac. Thank you.

Situation in South Asia

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned this morning that you had expressed strong reservations to President Musharraf about the missile test in Pakistan. I'm wondering, sir, whether your administration actually asked President Musharraf not to conduct those tests, and second, whether you regard the escalating conflict there as a threat to U.S. forces in the region? And finally, as tomorrow is the first Memorial Day since 9/11, can you say to the American people how this Memorial Day will be somehow different from those past?

And President Chirac, you mentioned in your opening comments that the response to the President's strategic initiative with Russia from a year ago had not been what you had anticipated. Do you think that perhaps the Europeans overreacted a year ago to what President Bush was proposing to do with Russia? And were you suggesting, sir, that perhaps you underestimated this President?

President Bush. Like everybody else. [Laughter] Pakistan—yes, we expressed deep concern, and we'll continue to express concern about testing and our—I'm more concerned about making sure that—insisting, along with other world leaders, that—including the President of France—that President Musharraf show results in terms of stopping people from crossing the line of control, stopping terrorism. That's what's more important than the missile testing, is that he perform.

I'm jet lagged—what's the first couple of questions?

Q. The second one, sir, was I was wondering if the escalating conflict posed a threat to U.S. forces in the region.

President Bush. I would certainly hope not. Third? Is that it? [Laughter]

Memorial Day

Q. Memorial Day.

President Bush. Oh, Memorial Day. Thanks. That's what happens when you're over 55. [Laughter] You know what I mean. Let me say one quick thing about Memorial Day.

All Memorial Days are solemn days, particularly for those who mourn the loss of a loved one. All Memorial Days are days in which Americans ought to give thanks for freedom and the fact that somebody sacrificed for their freedom. This Memorial Day is the first Memorial Day in a long time in which younger Americans know firsthand the price that was paid for their freedom.

President Chirac. On that very last point, can I maybe just say that it really is very moving for all the people of France and Europeans at large to see that President Bush—that the President of the United States will be for the first time outside the United States on Memorial Day and that he come to Normandy to pay tribute to all those—many American—who gave their lives for freedom. This, I think, is a very strong gesture that we will not forget.

Maybe a question for a French journalist? Yes.

France's Role in the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Bush, after your trip to Russia, what would be for you a more decisive ally in your war against terrorism? Would it be Russia or this little corner of this continent which is called Western Europe? And please, Mr. President, don't say "both"—this wouldn't be the beginning of an answer.

President Bush. Both. [Laughter] What was that? I didn't get the full question. I got "Russia," and I got "this little corner of Europe." But what was the question? Who do I rely on more?

Q. What is for you the more decisive ally in your war against terrorism?

President Bush. Decisive ally? Ally? Decisive ally? Of course, Jacques Chirac.

[*Laughter*] I—listen, thank you for the trick question. Let me talk about this ally. The phone rang the day after the attack—the day of the attack. I can't remember exactly when, but it was immediately. And he said, "I'm your friend." On this continent, France takes the lead in helping to hunt down people who want to harm America and/or the French or anybody else.

We've shared intelligence in a way that is really important. One of the most important things in fighting the war on terror is to understand how the enemy thinks and when the enemy might strike. And make no mistake about it, they'd like to strike again. You know, some people would wish that their thoughts go away. These are coldblooded killers, and it requires strong cooperation to protect our citizens. My most important job—and I suspect Jacques feels the same way—is to protect our citizens from further attack. And it's—we've got no stronger ally in that task. I mean, he is willing to take steps necessary, obviously within the laws and Constitution of this country, just like I'm within the Constitution of mine, to protect our people. And for that, I'm very grateful, Mr. President.

I'll call on the Americans.

President Chirac. An American journalist, maybe?

Russia and Iran

Q. Yes, sir. You said in Russia that President Putin had offered some assurances about Russian sales of nuclear energy technology to Iran that we would find comforting. Aside from his statement that Russia doesn't want Iran to have nuclear weapons, what did you find comforting? And secondly, President Putin also argued that the plant he's building there is quite similar to the one and others have offered to build in North Korea. Is that accurate, sir?

And President Chirac, you mentioned that the two of you were talking about proliferation matters. Do you also have concerns about Russia's relations with Iran?

President Bush. Well, first, I think it's important to understand that President Putin understands that an Iran that's got the capacity to launch a missile is dangerous for him and his country. He understands that.

Secondly—and we had a very frank discussion about the potential—or the development of a nuclear powerplant that he is convinced will not lead to the spread of technologies that will enable Iran to develop weapons of mass destruction, and is willing to allow for international inspection teams to determine whether that's true or not. And we're thinking about what he told us.

Q. And the plant in North Korea, sir, is that different from the one he's building in Iran?

President Bush. As I say, we're thinking about what he told us.

Q. President Chirac?

President Chirac. I share, unreservedly, the position outlined by President Bush, by George.

French journalist?

Iraq/Situation in the Middle East

Q. France would like to see the Middle East peace conference convene the quickest possible, and the U.S. to do—to act for it. May we know, what are your forecasts for this Middle East conference, and when do you think it will happen, and if president Arafat will be participating in such a conference? Also, I would like to know, if possible, what are your plans for the Iraqi regime? Are you really willing to change the Iraqi regime, and how?

President Bush. Okay. Whew, a lot of questions here. Let me start with the Iraqi regime. The stated policy of my Government is that we have a regime change. And as I told President Chirac, I have no war plans on my desk. And I will continue to consult closely with him. We do view Saddam Hussein as a serious, significant—serious threat to stability and peace.

In terms of the Middle East, this week we will be sending American officials back into the region to work with the parties, to have a political dialog, start a political dialog, as well as develop a security force within the Palestinian Authority that can—will function like a security force, actually do what they're supposed to do.

And in terms of meetings, conferences, our view is, is that we need to develop a strategy, to continue working with our Arab

friends on that strategy, and then the Secretary will be convening a ministerial conference sometime this summer. Obviously, depending upon the progress being made and how much progress we are making toward establishment of the institutions necessary for a Palestinian state to evolve, that progress will determine how many conferences are necessary until we eventually get to, hopefully, the end of the process.

My Government and I, personally, strongly believe that it's in everybody's interest that there be two states, living side by side in peace. And that's the vision we work toward. The good news is, is that many in the Arab world are now working with us to help create an environment so we can get to that—to those two states. And to that end, I viewed the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia's declaration of a—declaration that Israel should live in peace with its neighbors is incredibly important breakthrough. And we're seizing that initiative and seizing that opportunity to work together.

President Chirac. Last question, for the American press, maybe?

President's Visit to Europe

Q. You said in reaction to demonstrations against you and your administration during this trip in Europe that it's simply a healthy democracy exercising its will, and that disputes are positive. But I wonder why it is you think there are strong—such strong sentiments in Europe against you and against this administration? Why, particularly, there's a view that you and your administration are trying to impose America's will on the rest of the world, particularly when it comes to the Middle East and where the war on terrorism goes next?

[At this point, the reporter asked the rest of his question in French, and the interpreter translated it as follows.]

Q. And Mr. President, would you maybe comment on that?

President Bush. Very good. The guy memorizes four words, and he plays like he's intercontinental. [Laughter]

Q. I can go on.

President Bush. Yes, I'm impressed. *Que bueno.* Now I'm literate in two languages. [Laughter]

So you go to a protest, and I drive through the streets of Berlin seeing hundreds of people lining the road, waving. And I'm—look, the only thing I know to do is speak my mind, to talk about my values, to talk about our mutual love for freedom and the willingness to defend freedom. And David [David Gregory, NBC News], I think a lot of people on the continent of Europe appreciate that, appreciate the fact that we're friends, appreciate the fact that we've got—we work together, that there's a heck of a lot more that unites us than divides us. We share the same values; we trade \$2 trillion a year. I mean, there's—so I don't view hostility here. I view the fact we've got a lot of friends here, and I'm grateful for the friendship. And the fact that protestors show up, that's good. I mean, I'm in a democracy. I'm traveling to a country that respects other people's points of view.

But I feel very comfortable coming to Europe; I feel very comfortable coming to France, I've got a lot of friends here.

Q. Sir, if I could just follow—

President Bush. Thank you.

President Chirac. Look, the demonstrations you've been referring to, sir, are indeed, as the President has just said, healthy and normal in democracies. That is one of the means of expression that people have. And it's only normal and important that people should respect that. Of course, there are limits; there are constraints that have to be enforced, and that is what is being done. But I think that it is only normal that, in the face of a very important political event, those who have a different understanding of things should express their diverging view.

The right to demonstrate is a fundamental right intertwined with democracy. And there's no need to tell Americans about that; they know it. But what I just wanted to say is that these demonstrations are really marginal demonstrations, that you shouldn't give too much credit to these demonstrations. They do not reflect a so-called natural aversion of such-and-such a people in Europe to the President of the United States or to the U.S. people as a whole.

Yes, we do have diverging views on this or that issue; it's only normal. And that is the result of interests, of our national interests, and they're not always converging. And I think it's only healthy that these demonstrations should occur, that we should express our diverging points of views, and that we should find democratic answers to these questions.

As for the relationship between Europe and the United States, it is a very old relationship, as you know. It is a fundamental relationship for the balance—for the equilibrium of our world. But I would also add that it's an increasingly important relationship, and it's—it would be the sign of shortsightedness to refuse to acknowledge that.

The United States and Europe are the two major economic powers in our world. And in our world the economy drives social progress. Economic power helps express political power. So I think that there is a very real, a deep-rooted link between Europe and the United States, and that's—the bedrock of that link, the roots of that link is the shared values that we have together. And that must be used to guarantee the balance of our world, the stability of our world.

And that's precisely why we welcome the trip of an American President in Europe—President Bush, in this case. But generally, a statement of generalities would be to say that we welcome a visit by the President of the United States because it shows the solidarity between the two sides of the pond, the two sides of the Atlantic, something that is fundamental for the stability of our world.

Well, thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:03 p.m. at Elysee Palace. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. President Chirac referred to NEPAD, the New Plan for African Development, a G-8 backed plan for the development of African nations. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the Sainte Mere Eglise Church in Sainte Mere Eglise, France

May 27, 2002

President Chirac, Mrs. Chirac, Mr. Mayor: Laura and I are so honored to be here. Thank you for your hospitality. We are here to pay tribute to those who sacrificed for freedom, both Americans and the French. It is fitting that we remember those who sacrificed because today we defend our freedoms—we defend our freedoms against people who can't stand freedom.

This defense will require the sacrifice of our forefathers, but it's a sacrifice I can promise you we'll make. It's a sacrifice we'll make for the good of America and for the good of France and for the good of freedom all over the world.

It's an honor to be here. May God bless France, and may God bless America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Jacques Chirac of France and his wife, Bernadette; and Mayor Marc Lefevre of Sainte Mere Eglise.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Colleville-sur-Mer, France

May 27, 2002

Mr. President and Mrs. Chirac; Secretary Powell and Secretary Principi; members of the United States Congress; members of the American Armed Services; veterans, family members; fellow Americans and friends: We have gathered on this quiet corner of France as the sun rises on Memorial Day in the United States of America. This is a day our country has set apart to remember what was gained in our wars and all that was lost.

Our wars have won for us every hour we live in freedom. Our wars have taken from us the men and women we honor today and every hour of the lifetimes they had hoped to live.

This day of remembrance was first observed to recall the terrible casualties of the war Americans fought against each other. In

the nearly 14 decades since, our Nation's battles have all been far from home. Here on the continent of Europe were some of the fiercest of those battles, the heaviest losses, and the greatest victories. And in all those victories, American soldiers came to liberate, not to conquer. The only land we claim as our own are the resting places of our men and women.

More than 9,000 are buried here, and many times that number have—of fallen soldiers lay in our cemeteries across Europe and America. From a distance, surveying row after row of markers, we see the scale and heroism and sacrifice of the young. We think of units sustaining massive casualties, men cut down crossing a beach or taking a hill or securing a bridge. We think of many hundreds of sailors lost in their ships.

The war correspondent Ernie Pyle told of a British officer walking across the battlefield just after the violence had ended. Seeing the bodies of American boys scattered everywhere, the officer said, in sort of a hushed eulogy spoken only to himself, "Brave men, brave men."

All who come to a place like this feel the enormity of the loss. Yet, for so many, there is a marker that seems to sit alone. They come looking for that one cross, that one Star of David, that one name. Behind every grave of a fallen soldier is a story of the grief that came to a wife, a mother, a child, a family, or a town.

A World War II orphan has described her family's life after her father was killed on a field in Germany. "My mother," she said, "had lost everything she was waiting for. She lost her dreams. There were an awful lot of perfect linen tablecloths in our house that never got used, so many things being saved for a future that was never to be."

Each person buried here understood his duty but also dreamed of going back home to the people and the things he knew. Each had plans and hopes of his own and parted with them forever when he died.

The day will come when no one is left who knew them, when no visitor to this cemetery can stand before a grave remembering a face and a voice. The day will never come when America forgets them. And our Nation and the world will always remember what they

did here and what they gave here for the future of humanity.

As dawn broke during the invasion, a little boy in the village off of Gold Beach called out to his mother, "Look, the sea is black with boats." Spread out before them and over the horizon were more than 5,000 ships and landing craft. In the skies were some of the 12,000 planes sent on the first day of Operation Overlord. The Battle of Normandy would last many days, but June 6th, 1944, was the crucial day. The late President Francois Mitterrand said that nothing in history compares to D-day. "The 6th of June," he observed, "sounded the hour when history tipped toward the camp of freedom."

Before dawn, the first paratroopers already had been dropped inland. The story is told of a group of French women finding Americans and imploring them not to leave. A trooper said, "We're not leaving. If necessary, this is the place we die."

Units of Army Rangers on shore, in one of history's bravest displays, scaled cliffs directly in the gunfire, never relenting even as comrades died all around them. When they had reached the top, the Rangers radioed back the code for success, "Praise the Lord."

Only a man who was there, charging out of a landing craft, can know what it was like. For the entire liberating force, there was only the ground in front of them—no shelter, no possibility of retreat. They were part of the largest amphibious landing in history and perhaps the only great battle in which the wounded were carried forward. Survivors remember the sight of a Catholic chaplain, Father Joe Lacey, lifting dying men out of the water and comforting and praying with them. Private Jimmy Hall was seen carrying the body of his brother, Johnny, saying, "He can't. He can't be dead. I promised Mother I'd look after him."

Such was the size of the Battle of Normandy: Thirty-eight pairs of brothers died in the liberation, including Bedford and Raymond Hoback of Virginia, both who fell on D-day. Raymond's body was never found. All he left behind was his Bible, discovered in the sand. Their mother asked that Bedford be buried here as well, in the place Raymond

was lost, so her sons would always be together.

On Memorial Day, America honors her own. Yet we also remember all the valiant young men and women from many Allied Nations, including France, who shared in the struggle here and in the suffering. We remember the men and women who served and died alongside Americans in so many terrible battles on this continent and beyond.

Words can only go so far in capturing the grief and sense of loss for the families of those who died in all our wars. For some military families in America and in Europe, the grief is recent, with the losses we have suffered in Afghanistan. They can know, however, that the cause is just. And like other generations, these sacrifices have spared many others from tyranny and sorrow.

Long after putting away his uniform, an American GI expressed his own pride and the truth about all who served, living and dead. He said, "I feel like I played my part in turning this from a century of darkness into a century of light."

Here where we stand today, the new world came back to liberate the old. A bond was formed of shared trial and shared victory. And a light that scattered darkness from these shores and across France would spread to all of Europe, in time turning enemies into friends and the pursuits of war into the pursuits of peace. Our security is still bound up together in a transatlantic alliance, with soldiers in many uniforms defending the world from terrorists at this very hour.

The grave markers here all face west, across an ageless and indifferent ocean to the country these men and women served and loved. The thoughts of America on this Memorial Day turn to them and to all their fallen comrades in arms. We think of them with lasting gratitude. We miss them with lasting love, and we pray for them. And we trust in the words of the Almighty God which are inscribed in the chapel nearby: "I give unto them eternal life, that they shall never perish."

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Normandy American Cemetery. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks in Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and an Exchange With Reporters in Rome, Italy

May 28, 2002

NATO-Russia Council Meeting

President Bush. This is a historic day.

[At this point, a delegation passed in front of President Bush.]

President Bush. So much for scripting every event. [Laughter]

Secretary General Lord Robertson. [Inaudible]

Q. Sir, is this an historic day? [Laughter]

President Bush. This is an historic morning. No, this is an historic day, and I want to thank Lord Robertson for such great leadership. He recognizes that a Europe whole and free and at peace is an important goal and one that will be more likely to be achieved for years to come by welcoming Russia west. And because of his vision and historic work, today we're signing a document that does just that.

So I want to thank you for your leadership. It's been impressive.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. Thank you very much, Mr. President. The President and I are exactly the same age, and what's happening today turns completely on its head everything we've lived with up to now, because here is the Russian President as an equal, round this table today. So I said that even the table plan is a revolution. [Laughter]

President Bush. That's right.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Can I ask you about the Middle East, sir?

President Bush. Yes, go ahead.

Q. Your reaction to the suicide attack yesterday? And do you plan to bring a new initiative, maybe a timetable for peace talks to the conference next month—this summer?

President Bush. First, we strongly deplore and condemn terrorist violence. There are people that don't want peace, and therefore they're willing to kill to make sure there is no peace. And all of us, all of us involved

in the process—Arab nations, the Palestinians, Americans, Europeans, Israelis—must do everything we can to stop terrorist action.

We're going forward with our plan. This week Burns will be going to the Middle East; Tenet will be going to the Middle East. Before Tenet leaves, I do want to go back and visit with him. That will be tomorrow morning. And at an appropriate time, we'll announce his schedule. There needs to be a—the implementation of institutions necessary for a state to evolve. And that's exactly what our strategy is. And that's what we're going to work on. And I call upon all nations to uphold their respective responsibilities, to see that that happens. And the first step is to make sure that there's a security force in place that keeps the security.

Modernizing the Military

Q. Lord Robertson, how concerned are you about the so-called capability gap between Europe and the United States in NATO? And how are you going to convince Europeans to boost their defense spending?

President Bush. Well, I should let Lord Robertson talk about that. But he and I have had this discussion a lot. He agrees with me that all militaries ought to be modernized. All militaries need to be modernized to meet the true threats of the 21st century. And we've got some ideas we'd like to share with him and NATO. This man understands the need to modernize militaries. And he's been a visionary in thinking—forward thinking—for NATO.

We've got to modernize our own military, too. As you know, we've been working with Congress to make sure that when we spend money, we spend money on weapons systems that are needed, not weapons systems that have got nice politics attached to it. And I'm speaking starting with the Crusader. And I expect the Crusader not to be in the appropriations—defense appropriations.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], last question.

President's Upcoming Meeting With Pope John Paul II

Q. Sir, what are you going to talk about with the Pope today, and are you going to raise the abuse scandal?

President Bush. I'm going to, first of all, listen carefully to what the Pope has to say. He's a man of enormous dignity and compassion. I will tell him that I am concerned about the Catholic Church in America; I'm concerned about its standing. And I say that because the Catholic Church is an incredibly important institution in our country. And I'm also going to mention the fact that I appreciate the Pope's leadership in trying to strengthen the Catholic Church in America.

[At this point, reporters started to leave the room.]

Modernizing the Military

President Bush. Wait, wait, wait. Modernization.

Secretary General Lord Robertson. I just want to first of all say that the responsibility and the credit for today's meeting, which by any measure is historic, lies with the President of the United States. He took an opportunity; he took the unique cooperation that happened after the 11th of September and made it into something that looks to the future, builds a base for future cooperation with what were the former adversaries. And I want to pay tribute to the President in this regard.

On capabilities, if this Alliance that the President has promoted so vigorously in his speeches this week is going to remain relevant and important to the people on both sides of the Atlantic, then there must be a true transatlantic bargain. The Europeans must do more—spend more and spend more wisely, and the United States must share technology and open export markets and encourage transatlantic reorganization.

So I occasionally stand on toes on both sides of the Atlantic, but that's why I was appointed, and I'll continue to do it until they get 19 people to agree to get rid of me. [Laughter]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. at the Pratica di Mare Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns. Secretary General Lord Robertson referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Opening Session of the NATO-Russia Council Meeting in Rome

May 28, 2002

Secretary General, thank you for your leadership. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your grand hospitality. You've been a great host. And I want to welcome our friend President Vladimir Putin to this table, and all my NATO colleagues.

Today marks an historic achievement for a great alliance and a great European nation. Two former foes are now joined as partners, overcoming 50 years of division and a decade of uncertainty. And this partnership takes us closer to an even larger goal, a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace for the first time in history.

NATO was born over a half a century ago as an alliance committed to defending democracy and advancing freedom. Today we renew our commitment to these important goals. And as we reach out to a new Russia that is building freedom in its own land and is already joining us in defending freedom against a common enemy, we do so in the spirit of peace and friendship.

The attacks of September the 11th made clear that the new dangers of our age threaten all nations, including Russia. The months since have made clear that by working together against these threats, we multiply our effectiveness.

The NATO-Russia Council gives us the opportunity to move forward together on common challenges and to begin building ties that can be expanded far into the future. We will start with areas where our ability to help one another as equal partners is unmistakable, areas such as countering terrorism, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, emergency planning, and search and rescue operations at sea.

We will improve our coordination in places where we are already working together, such as the Balkans. NATO, Russia, and our other partners can take great pride in the greater peace and stability we have brought to that region.

We will also look ahead to other areas where we can expand our cooperation, such

as missile defense and airspace control that can strengthen the security of all of Europe.

Nothing we do will subtract from NATO's core mission. We will be practical, moving forward step by step. And as our trust and track record of success grows, so will the breadth and depth of our work together.

The NATO-Russia Council offers Russia a path toward forming an alliance with the Alliance. It offers all our nations a way to strengthen our common security, and it offers the world a prospect of a more hopeful century.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 a.m. in the main conference room at Pratica di Mare Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Memorandum on Assistance to East Timor

May 27, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-19

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Eligibility of East Timor to Receive Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the United States, including section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 3(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, I hereby find that the furnishing of defense articles and services to East Timor will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

You are authorized and directed to report this finding to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

May 27, 2002

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared on May 30, 1992, with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the “FRY (S&M)”), as expanded on October 25, 1994, in response to the actions and policies of the Bosnian Serbs. In addition, I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared on June 9, 1998, with respect to the FRY (S&M)’s policies and actions in Kosovo. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

On May 30, 1992, by Executive Order 12808, President Bush declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Governments of Serbia and Montenegro. Under this emergency, President Bush first blocked all property and interests in property of the Governments of the FRY (S&M), Serbia, and Montenegro and subsequently prohibited trade and other transactions with the FRY (S&M).

On October 25, 1994, President Clinton expanded the scope of the national emergency by issuing Executive Order 12934 to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Bosnian Serb forces and the authorities in the territory that they controlled within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On December 27, 1995, President Clinton issued Presidential Determination 96–7, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to suspend the application of sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) pursuant to the above-referenced Executive Orders and to continue to block property previously blocked until provision is made to address claims or encumbrances, including the claims of the other successor states of the former

Yugoslavia. This sanctions relief, in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 of November 22, 1995, was an essential factor motivating the FRY (S&M)’s acceptance of a peace agreement initialed by the parties in Dayton on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995 (hereinafter the “Peace Agreement”). Sanctions against both the FRY (S&M) and the Bosnian Serb forces were terminated in conjunction with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1074 of October 1, 1996. This termination, however, did not end a requirement that those blocked funds and assets that are subject to claims or encumbrances remain blocked, until unblocked in accordance with applicable law.

Until the status of all remaining blocked property is resolved, the Peace Agreement implemented, and the terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 met, the national emergency declared on May 30, 1992, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue beyond May 30, 2002.

On June 9, 1998, by Executive Order 13088, President Clinton found that the actions and policies of the FRY (S&M) and the Republic of Serbia with respect to Kosovo, constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. President Clinton therefore declared a national emergency to deal with that threat.

On January 17, 2001, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13192 amending Executive Order 13088 to lift and modify, with respect to future transactions, most of the economic sanctions imposed against the FRY (S&M). At the same time, Executive Order 13192 imposes restrictions on transactions with certain persons described in section 1(a) of the order, namely persons under open indictment for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). It also provides for the continued blocking of property or interests in property blocked prior to the order’s effective date due to the need to address claims or encumbrances involving such property.

Because the crisis with respect to the situation in Kosovo and with respect to Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters

and persons under open indictment for war crimes by the ICTY has not been resolved, and because the status of all previously blocked property has yet to be resolved, I have determined that the national emergency declared on June 9, 1998, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue beyond June 9, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 27, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:44 a.m., May 28, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 29.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to the
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Serbia and Montenegro)**

May 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the “FRY (S&M)”) in 1992 and 1998, are to continue beyond May 30, 2002, and June 9, 2002, respectively. The most recent notice continuing these emergencies was published in the *Federal Register* on May 25, 2001.

1992 National Emergency. The 1992 national emergency involved imposition of economic sanctions first on the FRY (S&M), and subsequently, on Bosnia-Serb forces in Bosnia (the “Bosnian Serbs”). On December 27, 1995, President Clinton issued Presidential

Determination 96–7, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, *inter alia*, to suspend the application of sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) and to continue to block property previously blocked until provision is made to address claims or encumbrances, including the claims of the other successor states of the former Yugoslavia. This sanctions relief, in conformity with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 of November 22, 1995, was an essential factor motivating Serbia and Montenegro’s acceptance of a peace agreement initialed in Dayton on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995 (hereinafter the “Peace Agreement”).

Sanctions against both the FRY (S&M) and the Bosnian Serbs were subsequently terminated in conjunction with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1074 of October 1, 1996. This termination, however, did not end a requirement that those blocked funds and assets that are subject to claims and encumbrances remain blocked, until unblocked in accordance with applicable law.

Until the status of all remaining blocked property is resolved, the Peace Agreement implemented, and the terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1022 met, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the 1992 national emergency, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto, to respond to this threat.

1998 National Emergency. The 1998 national emergency involved sanctions imposed on the FRY (S&M) in response to its actions in Kosovo. On January 17, 2001, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13192 lifting and modifying, with respect to future transactions, most of the economic sanctions imposed against the FRY (S&M) with regard to the situation in Kosovo. At the same time, the order imposes restrictions on transactions with certain persons described in section 1(a) of the order, and persons under open indictment for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). It also provides for the continued blocking of property or interests in property

blocked prior to the order's effective date due to the need to address claims and encumbrances involving such property.

Because the crisis with respect to the situation in Kosovo, and with respect to Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates and supporters and persons under open indictment for war crimes by the ICTY has not been resolved, and because the status of all previously blocked property has yet to be resolved, this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that the emergency declared with respect to Kosovo, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto, to respond to this threat must continue beyond June 9, 2002.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Serbia and Montenegro)**

May 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on a combined 6-month periodic report on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives,

and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29.

**Statement Announcing Agreements
To Preserve Florida's Environment**
May 29, 2002

Florida is known worldwide for its beautiful coastal waters and the Everglades. Today we are acting to preserve both. Florida is also known for its strong commitment to preserving these extraordinary natural resources, and the Federal Government is a strong partner in those efforts.

Today I am extremely pleased to announce two historic actions in the State of Florida that exemplify personal stewardship and conservation partnerships. The United States Government will buy back the rights for natural gas and oil development in Destin Dome and in critical parts of the Everglades.

These are important steps in preserving some of our Nation's most beautiful natural treasures, including Big Cypress National Preserve, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, and the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Today's action once again demonstrates that my administration will take seriously the views of local communities. The Federal Government should continue to work closely with States and local communities in solving issues that affect energy security, the economy, and the environment.

I appreciate the good work of Secretary Norton and the staff of the Department of the Interior, Governor Bush and his team, the Collier family, and the private sector companies whose hard work has made these agreements possible. They have contributed greatly to our shared mission of sustained stewardship of these extraordinary natural areas.

**Statement Congratulating the Elliot
Richardson Prize Recipients**
May 29, 2002

I congratulate Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Director of the Office of Management and Budget Alice Rivlin, and

former Secretary of State George Shultz on their receipt of the first Elliot Richardson Prize for excellence and integrity in public service, awarded by the Council for Excellence in Government. Each of these distinguished public servants possesses the virtues embodied by Elliot Richardson: enduring commitment to the greater public good; a lifetime of public service; and courage, integrity, and diligence in the pursuit of excellence in Government.

Since September 11, Americans have demonstrated a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices that public servants make and for the commitment they bring to their jobs. The examples set by Secretary Powell, Director Rivlin, and Secretary Shultz stand as an inspiration to all Americans including our young people, especially those considering a career in Government service. Their lives serve as a testimony that public service is a noble calling.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Department of Defense Budget Amendment

May 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for an FY 2003 budget amendment for the Department of Defense reflecting my decision to cancel the Army's Crusader artillery system. The budget totals proposed in my FY 2003 Budget would not be affected by this amendment.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

May 30, 2002

The President. We started the Cabinet meeting today with a prayer from Secretary Mineta, who in his prayer reminded us that this is a somber day for America. It is the day in which we've removed all the debris from Ground Zero. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank all those who participated in the cleanup of that deadly site and want our Nation to continue to offer our prayer to those families and friends and citizens who still hurt as a result of the attacks of September the 11th.

As well I talked about our trip, as did the Secretary. We had a very successful trip to Europe, successful bilaterals with France and Germany and Italy. And of course, the highlight of the trip was signing the treaty with Russia that really signifies to the world that the cold war is over, Russia is our friend, and we need to work together. And then we went—I've signed an agreement with NATO and Russia that basically said the same thing. And this is a good—this is the dawn of a new era in relationship with Russia that will be very positive for our country and for world peace. And after all, that's what we work to achieve, which is world peace.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Yes, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], and then Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

FBI Reorganization/Civil Liberties

Q. Mr. President, the FBI is lifting restrictions on domestic spying, including against religious institutions and political organizations. Is there a risk of going too far in the battle against terrorism and actually losing some freedoms that are very important to the country?

The President. Of course, the Attorney General will be briefing the Nation today about what we intend to do. And here's what we intend to do: We intend to honor our Constitution and respect the freedoms that

we hold so dear; and secondly, we want to make sure that we do everything we can to prevent a further attack, protect America.

The FBI needed to change. It was a organization full of fine people that loved America, but they—the organization didn't meet the times. And so I appreciate Director Mueller's reform measures. This is a man who came on to the FBI not many days before the September the 11th attack, and he's now reforming this important agency, all aimed at preventing a further attack. Our most important job is to protect America. And the initiative that the Attorney General will be outlining today will guarantee our Constitution, and that's important for the citizens to know.

Randy, and then John [John King, Cable News Network].

Situation in South Asia

Q. Mr. President, are you preparing to activate plans for evacuating American civilians and troops from Pakistan and India? And how much concern do you have that the standoff over Kashmir is allowing Al Qaida to regroup and operate in Pakistan?

The President. Well, first of all, the Secretary is—both Secretaries are analyzing what it would take to protect American lives, if need be. Secondly, we are making it very clear to both Pakistan and India that war will not serve their interests. And we're a part of a international coalition applying pressure to both parties, particularly to President Musharraf. He must stop the incursions across the line of control—he must do so. He said he would do so. We and others are making it clear to him that he must live up to his word.

Al Qaida is a—they'll find weakness, and we are doing everything we can to continue to shore up our efforts in—on the Pakistani-Afghan border. And they shouldn't think they're going to gain any advantage as a result of any conflict that may be—or talk of conflict between India and Pakistan, because we're still going to hunt them down.

This is a long war. You know, I was just reflecting the other day, we've only been at this for—we've haven't even been fighting this war for a year yet. And we've got a lot of work to do. And there will be moments

where the Al Qaida thinks that, you know, maybe America is not after them, and they'll feel safe and secure. And you know, they'll think they'll kind of settle into some cave somewhere. But they don't understand the intention of this administration, which is to patiently hunt these people down, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Q. Are you sending Secretary Rumsfeld next week to the region?

The President. Yes, he's going there. Deputy Secretary of State Armitage is going this week, and then Secretary Rumsfeld is going as well.

Q. This week or next, sir?

The President. Next week.

Secretary Rumsfeld. Next week.

The President. Yes, early next week.

John, last question.

Legislative Agenda/Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, a two-part, if you don't mind. One, there seems to be a sense again in the Middle East with respect to a period of treading water. CIA Director Tenet is supposed to go. I'm trying to get your sense of whether you have seen any tangible proof from the parties that they are willing to take the steps necessary to move beyond the standoff.

And you have it on the table today also, your domestic policy team—I'm wondering if you come back from the trip, if you discuss today the sense of frustration, if you will, that Congress went home for Memorial Day without acting on many of the things a few months back you had asked them to do.

The President. Well, let me address the second first. We have been pleased with how many of our initiatives have moved through the House of Representatives and been frustrated by the fact they haven't moved through the Senate.

Having said that, I was pleased that the Senate moved the trade promotion authority bill and hope when they get back that they call a conference quickly and get this bill to my desk. It's important for people who are looking for work here in America.

But there's still a lot of work to be done in the Senate. They've got to get this supplemental done quickly. It's important that we

get a supplemental out and, frankly, a supplemental that doesn't bust the budget. And we'll be looking forward to working with the Senators to explain to them that the supplemental ought to focus on emergency measures, measures that are needed to fight the war, to button up the homeland. But the supplemental shouldn't be viewed as an opportunity to load up—to load it up with special projects.

In terms of the Middle East, we are sending—we sent Ambassador Burns there yesterday; Director Tenet is going—all aimed at providing the steps necessary to provide the institutions that will create stability in a potential Palestinian state. And that's very important. That's very important because it begins to say that people are responsible. It's tangible evidence that what I said in the Rose Garden is what we mean, that people need to be responsible for their actions. Mr. Arafat needs to be responsible, and part of that responsibility is to reform a security force so that it will actually keep security in the region.

The Secretary was telling me that there was some talk of a new finance minister being promoted in the Palestinian Authority, a person that has got international standing. That is a positive development, because one of the things that worries us is spending any international aid on an authority that might not keep good books, that the money might not actually go to help the Palestinian people but might end up in somebody's pocket. And that concerns us.

So John, to answer your question, we are—we are making progress on a strategy that will put the underpinnings of a Palestinian state in place. And it's going to take a while; we recognize that. But we're going to continue to work the issue very hard.

Q. Have you seen enough from the parties to schedule the conference the Secretary wants to hold or—

The President. Well, the scheduling of a conference is a matter of making sure that the—that we find the right place and the right time to do so, and the Secretary is working on that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Pervez Musharraf

of Pakistan; William J. Burns, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and former U.S. Ambassador to Jordan; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Memorandum on Provision of \$25.5 Million To Support a Train and Equip Program in Georgia

May 30, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-20

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Provision of \$25.5 Million to Support a Train and Equip Program in Georgia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the United States, including sections 614(a)(2) and 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I hereby determine that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to provide up to \$4.5 million in fiscal year 1997 and 1998 Foreign Military Financing Funds for assistance to Georgia under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act without regard to any provision of law that might otherwise restrict provision of such funds. I further determine that an unforeseen emergency exists requiring immediate military assistance for Georgia that cannot be met under the Arms Control Export Act or any other law, and hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles and services from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of \$21 million to meet that emergency requirement. I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 31.

Remarks at a Celebration of African American Music, History, and Culture

May 31, 2002

The President. Good afternoon, and welcome to the people's house, the White House. Laura and I are so very pleased that you all came, and we're glad to see you. We had a wonderful time marking Black Music Month last year, and we had some pretty strong company—James Brown, Lionel Hampton, Shirley Caesar, the Four Tops—and we've got some great names with us today as well. And you're welcome. And we're looking forward to a fine afternoon, celebrating music loved by all the world and born right here in America.

I want to thank Laura for escorting me in today. [Laughter] I appreciate so very much our Secretary of Education, Mr. Rod Paige. Thank you for being here, Rod. He carries a heavy burden, and that is to work with school districts and folks all around our country to achieve this noble goal: Every child educated in America—I mean every child—and not one child left behind.

Dr. Bobby Jones is with us. I'm honored to welcome Bobby back. He was here for the gospel tribute, February 2002, and what a tribute that was. It was a fantastic evening.

Dr. Jones. We shouted the roof off.

The President. Yes, we did. [Laughter] I appreciate the members of the Presidential Commission on the African American Museum of History and Culture; I'll speak a little bit about that in a second. Thank you all for coming.

Afterwards, there's a reception where the Robert E. Lee High School Chorale of Midland, Texas, will be singing. And what makes that interesting and important is that's the high school Laura graduated from. [Laughter] And so did Tommy Franks.

I want to thank all the artists and record label representatives of the entertainment industry who are with us today. Thanks for being here.

Today we'll be entertained by the famed Show Choir from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. They're the bearers of one of America's oldest and finest musical legacies. We thank them for sharing their gifts, and

of course, they're welcome here to the White House.

We've also got some royalty with us, a woman known as the Queen of Gospel. For more than six decades—for more than six decades—I probably wasn't supposed to say that—[laughter]—since her first performance in Chicago's West Point Baptist Church, Albertina Walker has lifted the hearts everywhere.

I reminded Albertina that my middle name was Walker. [Laughter] She now calls me "Cousin." [Laughter] She reminded—her brother's name is George Walker. [Laughter] I call him "W." [Laughter]

But if you give this woman a song of praise, a song like "Lord, Keep Me Day By Day" or "He Keeps On Blessing Me" or "Yes, God Is Real," you'll hear it like it was meant to be sung. Not since her friend and mentor Mahalia Jackson was last recorded has the good news sounded so convincing and so sweet. We're honored you're here, "Cousin." [Laughter] Welcome to the White House.

In the history of Black music, some of the finest moments have taken place right here in this house. Among the first Black soloists to perform in the White House was the daughter of a slave; Sissieretta Jones sang ballads for three Presidents, including McKinley and Roosevelt. President Taft hosted the violinist Joseph Douglass, who was an ancestor of one of our guests today, Frederick Douglass IV. Welcome. Good to see you, sir.

The first Black choir to sing here was the Jubilee Singers from Fisk University. That happened over 120 years ago, during a time when America wasn't a very hospitable place for a lot of Americans. After all, the kids couldn't find a hotel room in which to stay. The next day they were welcomed here by President Chester A. Arthur and touched him deeply with their rendition of the old spiritual "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

The spiritual has always had that power to move—to move many Americans. And they always will. The people who first sang them and taught them to their children knew the worst of human cruelty and earthly injustice. In their songs we hear the pain of separation, the bitterness of oppression, the troubles of the world. We also hear the courage

of a soul, the strength of a faith, and the trust in God, who will right every wrong and wipe away every tear.

Over many generations, in song both mournful and joyful, the music of Black America has created sounds like no other in America. From the deep South of another era to New Orleans to Chicago to Harlem, Black musicians have set a standard for originality and authenticity.

Someone once described Louis Armstrong's music as always real and true, honest and simple and noble. The same may be said of Black music in so many forms, and the artists who compose it and play it and sing it with such style. How much richer we are to have known the voices of Nat "King" Cole and Lena Horne, Diana Ross, Duke Ellington and their orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie on the horn, superb arrangements of Quincy Jones. America's a richer place for it.

The music varies widely and keeps changing, while incredible talent keeps coming on. Yet, there is a continuous theme: Black music is the sound of experience, written, as Stevie Wonder would say, "in the key of life."

For a long time, many citizens have hoped to see a museum in Washington that conveys the experience of African Americans. I'm pleased that Congress has authorized a Presidential commission, which I take very seriously, to take us closer to the goal of building a National Museum of African American History and Culture. I hope the museum, when it's built, will remind visitors of both the suffering and the triumph, the hurt that was overcome, the barriers that are being cast away.

In the Black American experience, there has been a lot of pain, and America must recognize that. There's been progress, too, and there needs to be more. And always, there will be faith that mankind must be called to a higher calling—to be kind and just, if only he would follow what Martin Luther King, Jr., called the soul-saving music of eternity. The music and culture of Black Americans has brought great beauty into this world. Today, it brings great pride to our country. And for the contributions so many of you have made to that legacy, your fellow Americans are very grateful.

I want to thank you for being here. And it is now my honor to bring to this podium the Queen herself, Albertina Walker.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to gospel artist Bobby Jones; and Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command.

Proclamation 7568—Black Music Month, 2002

May 31, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's diverse and extraordinary musical heritage reflects the remarkable cultural and artistic history of our Nation. From gospel, blues, and jazz to rock and roll, rap, and hip-hop, our Nation's musical landscape offers an astounding array of uniquely American styles. During Black Music Month, we celebrate a critically important part of this heritage by highlighting the enduring legacy of African American musicians, singers, and composers, and urging every American to appreciate and enjoy the fabulous achievements of this highly creative community.

Early forms of black American music developed out of the work song, which had its roots in African tribal chants. Through this music, slaves shared stories, preserved history, and established a sense of community. As many African slaves in early America became Christians, they adapted their music into the songs and life of the church. These spirituals eventually evolved into a genre that remains vibrant and very meaningful today—gospel music. This great musical tradition developed under the leadership of people like Thomas Dorsey, who was known as the Father of Gospel Music. He composed many great gospel songs that have become standards, and he established the tradition of the gospel music concert.

Following emancipation, African Americans enjoyed unprecedented opportunities but also faced many new and frequently oppressive challenges. Frustrations from these

struggles for freedom and equality found expression in a style of music that came to be known as the blues. Innovative musical geniuses like W.C. Handy, Robert Johnson, the Reverend Gary Davis, and Mamie Smith were among the legendary pioneers of blues music.

As blacks migrated throughout the United States in the early 1900s, they tapped into their collective experience and creativity to develop new expressions of music. New Orleans became the center for a particularly American form of music—jazz. This novel genre combined unique rhythms and melodies with the sounds of stringed, brass, and woodwind instruments. Jazz captured the interest of 20th century America, making household names of great African American artists like Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and Miles Davis. The unparalleled brilliance of these and other great jazz musicians had an extraordinary effect upon the American musical tradition, while bringing great pleasure to millions of fans.

In the 1940s, rhythm and blues emerged, synthesizing elements from gospel, blues, and jazz; and from these styles came the birth of rock and roll. A fabulous array of artists helped to pioneer this modern musical transformation, including Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder.

As we reflect on the rich and distinctive history of so many talented artists, we celebrate the incredible contributions that black musicians have made to the history of American music and their influence on countless forms of music around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2002 as Black Music Month. I call on Americans of all backgrounds to learn more about the rich heritage of black music and how it has shaped our culture and our way of life, and urge them to take the opportunity to enjoy the great musical experiences available through the contributions of African American music.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 5.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting Designations Under the
Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act
May 31, 2002**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hereby report pursuant to section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908, 8 U.S.C. 1182 (the “Kingpin Act”), that I have designated the following foreign persons for sanctions pursuant to the Kingpin Act, and that I am imposing sanctions upon them pursuant to that Act:

Ismael Zambada Garcia
Eduardo Gonzalez Quirarte
Mario Ernesto Villanueva Madrid
Luis Fernando da Costa
Oded Tuito
Haji Ibrahim
Samuel Knowles

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Patrick Leahy, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Bob Graham, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Max Baucus, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Carl Levin, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; and Bob Stump, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 25

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from Moscow, Russia, to St. Petersburg, Russia, where the President participated in a wreath-laying ceremony with President Vladimir Putin of Russia at Piskarevskoye Cemetery. Later, President Bush and Mrs. Bush went to the State Hermitage Museum for a tour and lunch with President Putin and his wife, Lyudmila.

In the evening, the President, Mrs. Bush, President Putin, and Mrs. Putin attended a performance of "The Nutcracker" at Mariinskiy Theater and later took a White Nights boat tour on the Neva River.

May 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a service at the Kazan Cathedral in St. Petersburg and later toured the Russian Museum.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Paris, France. In the evening, the President had a working dinner with President Jacques Chirac of France at Elysee Palace.

May 27

In the morning, the President met with personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Sainte Mere Eglise, France, arriving in the afternoon. Later, they traveled to Colleville-sur-Mer, France, where the President participated in a wreath-laying ceremony with President Jacques Chirac of France at the Normandy American Cemetery.

In the evening, the President traveled to Rome, Italy, where he had meetings and a working dinner with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy at Villa Madama.

May 28

In the morning, the President met with President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy at Quirinale Palace. He then traveled to Pratica di Mare Air Force Base for NATO summit meetings.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Rome and met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. He then returned to Washington, DC.

May 29

In the morning, the President met in the Oval Office with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida to discuss environmental issues in Florida.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt at Camp David, MD, on June 7–8 to discuss developments in the Middle East and key bilateral issues.

The President declared a major disaster in the Federated States of Micronesia and ordered Federal aid to supplement national and State recovery efforts in the area struck by Typhoon Mitag on February 26–March 3.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 21 and continuing.

May 30

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. In the afternoon, he had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he dropped by a USA Freedom Corps service opportunities fair for White House staff in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The President announced his intention to appoint Fernando Caldeiro, Van Dedric Romero, and Juan Secada as members of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

The President announced his intention to designate Enedelia Schofield as Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the National Museum of African American

History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission: Renee Joslyn Amoore; Barbara Alice Franco; Harold Kenneth Skamstad, Jr.; Eric Lin Sexton; Currie Dioan Ballard; and Andrew Gene McLemore, Jr.

May 31

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health: Jane Adams; Rodolfo Arredondo; Daniel B. Fisher; Anil Godbole; Henry Troutman Harbin; Ginger Lerner-Wren; Robert Neil Postlethwait; Waltraud Ellinger Prechter; Randolph John Townsend; and Deanna Felber Yates.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Smith Bagley; William Francis McSweeney; Frank Hilton Pearl; Mark S. Weiner; Thomas Edgar Wheeler; and Albert B. Glickman.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the President's visit to Russia

Released May 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the President's visit to Europe

Fact sheet: NATO-Russia

Released May 29

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Mubarak of Egypt

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4592 and H.R. 4608

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Fact sheet: Taking Action To Preserve Florida's Environment

Released May 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on designation of drug traffickers to be subject to sanctions provided in the Kingpin Act

Fact sheet: Overview of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act

Announcement: Calling America's Graduates to Volunteer Service

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 29

H.R. 4592 / Public Law 107-183

To name the chapel located in the national cemetery in Los Angeles, California, as the "Bob Hope Veterans Chapel"

H.R. 4608 / Public Law 107-184

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Wichita, Kansas, as the “Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center”

Approved May 30

H.R. 1840 / Public Law 107-185

To extend eligibility for refugee status of unmarried sons and daughters of certain Vietnamese refugees

H.R. 4782 / Public Law 107-186

To extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until June 14, 2002

Week Ending Friday, June 7, 2002

**Proclamation 7569—National
Fishing and Boating Week, 2002**

May 31, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation's landscape contains thousands of bodies of water that offer endless opportunities for recreational boating and fishing. Every year, millions of Americans, including me, look forward to enjoying these popular pastimes.

In addition to providing opportunities for recreation, fishing and boating play important roles in our Nation's economy. They support thousands of American jobs and generate millions of dollars that go directly back to protecting and conserving resources at the local level. Since 1950, State fish and wildlife agencies have received nearly \$4 billion through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. These funds have helped to purchase over 322,000 acres for boating, fishing and fish production, and research. In addition, funding has been used to help educate the public about fish and their habitats. These measures enhance the quality of life for people of all ages and continue a vital legacy of environmental stewardship.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2 through June 8, 2002, as National Fishing and Boating Week. During this week, I encourage people of the United States to participate in the thousands of local events scheduled in communities throughout the United States, offering hands-on opportunities for families and friends to share in these recreational activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the

year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Telephone Remarks to Race for the
Cure Participants**

June 1, 2002

Ambassador Nancy Brinker. Mr. President, we are honored that you would take time out and talk to us today. Thank you, and welcome.

The President. Well, Nancy, thank you very much for your kind words, and I appreciate so very much your service to our country as Ambassador to Hungary and your service to our country as the founding chairman of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

And I've got to tell you, I'm here at West Point, getting ready to give the commencement address, and I'm honored to be here. But I kind of wish I was running today with the thousands who are there.

I want to thank all the runners for bringing hope to Americans as we fight cancer. I want to thank the survivors for your courage. I want to thank Congresswoman Sue Myrick, who is Race for the Cure honorary survivor chair.

I appreciate so very much the fact that you all recognize that you're running for a great work and a great cause, that every life saved is a mother, a daughter, or a sister restored to health. What I love most about the Komen runs is that people participate in the spirit

of generosity and kindness and love that really distinguishes America and makes us unique. You know, a lot of people go out and run to win prizes. You're running and walking to save lives. And for that, our Nation is incredibly grateful.

I recognize that we've made some advances, and I'm grateful for those, as I know you are as well. But I also know that we've got a long way to go to win this war on cancer and breast cancer. Nancy mentioned that the Federal Government is strongly committed to funding—putting dollars up for research at the NIH, which we will do and continue to do. See, I'm an optimistic person. I believe—strongly believe—in our lifetimes we will achieve a victory over cancer.

Again, I want to thank you for running. Every step you take today is critical to finding a cure for breast cancer.

S. Sgt. Tony Damon. I'm sorry, Mr. President. This is Signal.

The President. Yes—what?

Staff Sergeant Damon. I'm sorry, they dropped the call. We're going to reestablish—

The President. What are you talking about? They dropped the call?

Staff Sergeant Damon. They tried to connect you to the feed, and the feed didn't go through.

The President. You mean I haven't—they haven't heard a word yet?

Staff Sergeant Damon. I'm sorry, Mr. President, they haven't heard a word.

The President. God dang it.

[At this point, the phone line was reestablished.]

Ambassador Nancy Brinker. Welcome, Mr. President.

The President. Hey, Nancy, I am sorry that we dropped off. Let me tell all the runners and walkers how appreciative I am that you're walking and running to save lives, how appreciative I am that you show the great generosity of spirit of the American people.

I want you to know, Nancy, that the Federal Government stands on your side, that we're going to spend money to research, to find the cures necessary to defeat cancer. And I believe in our lifetime we will defeat cancer, and a large part of that success goes

to the thousands all across America who support the Komen Foundation runs and walks.

And so, on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for—you all for what you do. I'm here at West Point. I kind of wish I was running with you all today. But since I'm not, I am honored to be able to start the race.

And so the walkers, you all will start in a few minutes. But right now, if the runners will get ready, it's about time for you to start. And so in five seconds, it is my honor to start this Race for the Cure. Four, three, two, one—runners ready, and go.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 8:22 a.m. The President spoke from the Superintendent's House at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, to race participants on the Mall in Washington, DC. Staff Sergeant Tony Damon, USA, Console Controller, Army Signal Corps, assisted the President in the telephone conversation.

Commencement Address at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York

June 1, 2002

Thank you very much, General Lennox. Mr. Secretary, Governor Pataki, Members of the United States Congress, Academy staff and faculty, distinguished guests, proud family members, and graduates: I want to thank you for your welcome. Laura and I are especially honored to visit this great institution in your bicentennial year.

In every corner of America, the words "West Point" command immediate respect. This place where the Hudson River bends is more than a fine institution of learning. The United States Military Academy is the guardian of values that have shaped the soldiers who have shaped the history of the world.

A few of you have followed in the path of the perfect West Point graduate Robert E. Lee, who never received a single demerit in 4 years. Some of you followed in the path of the imperfect graduate Ulysses S. Grant, who had his fair share of demerits and said the happiest day of his life was "the day I left West Point." [Laughter] During my college years, I guess you could say I was—

[laughter]—during my college years, I guess you could say I was a Grant man. [Laughter]

You walk in the tradition of Eisenhower and MacArthur, Patton and Bradley—the commanders who saved a civilization. And you walk in the tradition of second lieutenants who did the same by fighting and dying on distant battlefields.

Graduates of this Academy have brought creativity and courage to every field of endeavor. West Point produced the chief engineer of the Panama Canal, the mind behind the Manhattan Project, the first American to walk in space. This fine institution gave us the man they say invented baseball and other young men over the years who perfected the game of football. You know this, but many in America don't—George C. Marshall, a VMI graduate, is said to have given this order: "I want an officer for a secret and dangerous mission. I want a West Point football player."

As you leave here today, I know there's one thing you'll never miss about this place: being a plebe. [Laughter] But even a plebe at West Point is made to feel he or she has some standing in the world. [Laughter] I'm told that plebes, when asked whom they outrank, are required to answer this: "Sir, the Superintendent's dog—[laughter]—the Commandant's cat, and all the admirals in the whole damn Navy." I probably won't be sharing that with the Secretary of the Navy. [Laughter]

West Point is guided by tradition, and in honor of the "Golden Children of the Corps," I will observe one of the traditions you cherish most. As the Commander in Chief, I hereby grant amnesty to all cadets who are on restriction for minor conduct offenses. [Applause] Those of you in the end zone might have cheered a little early—[laughter]—because, you see, I'm going to let General Lennox define exactly what "minor" means. [Laughter]

Every West Point class is commissioned to the Armed Forces. Some West Point classes are also commissioned by history to take part in a great new calling for their country. Speaking here to the class of 1942, 6 months after Pearl Harbor, General Marshall said, "We're determined that before the Sun sets on this terrible struggle, our flag will be rec-

ognized throughout the world as a symbol of freedom on the one hand and of overwhelming power on the other." Officers graduating that year helped fulfill that mission, defeating Japan and Germany and then reconstructing those nations as allies. West Point graduates of the 1940s saw the rise of a deadly new challenge—the challenge of imperial communism—and opposed it from Korea to Berlin to Vietnam, and in the cold war from beginning to end. And as the Sun set on their struggle, many of those West Point officers lived to see a world transformed.

History has also issued its call to your generation. In your last year, America was attacked by a ruthless and resourceful enemy. You graduate from this Academy in a time of war, taking your place in an American military that is powerful and is honorable. Our war on terror is only begun, but in Afghanistan it was begun well.

I am proud of the men and women who have fought on my orders. America is profoundly grateful for all who serve the cause of freedom and for all who have given their lives in its defense. This Nation respects and trusts our military, and we are confident in your victories to come.

This war will take many turns we cannot predict. Yet, I am certain of this: Wherever we carry it, the American flag will stand not only for our power but for freedom. Our Nation's cause has always been larger than our Nation's defense. We fight, as we always fight, for a just peace, a peace that favors human liberty. We will defend the peace against threats from terrorists and tyrants. We will preserve the peace by building good relations among the great powers. And we will extend the peace by encouraging free and open societies on every continent.

Building this just peace is America's opportunity and America's duty. From this day forward, it is your challenge as well, and we will meet this challenge together. You will wear the uniform of a great and unique country. America has no empire to extend or utopia to establish. We wish for others only what we wish for ourselves, safety from violence, the rewards of liberty, and the hope for a better life.

In defending the peace, we face a threat with no precedent. Enemies in the past needed great armies and great industrial capabilities to endanger the American people and our Nation. The attacks of September the 11th required a few hundred thousand dollars in the hands of a few dozen evil and deluded men. All of the chaos and suffering they caused came at much less than the cost of a single tank. The dangers have not passed. This Government and the American people are on watch. We are ready, because we know the terrorists have more money and more men and more plans.

The gravest danger to freedom lies at the perilous crossroads of radicalism and technology. When the spread of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons, along with ballistic missile technology—when that occurs, even weak states and small groups could attain a catastrophic power to strike great nations. Our enemies have declared this very intention and have been caught seeking these terrible weapons. They want the capability to blackmail us or to harm us or to harm our friends, and we will oppose them with all our power.

For much of the last century, America's defense relied on the cold war doctrines of deterrence and containment. In some cases, those strategies still apply, but new threats also require new thinking. Deterrence—the promise of massive retaliation against nations—means nothing against shadowy terrorist networks with no nation or citizens to defend. Containment is not possible when unbalanced dictators with weapons of mass destruction can deliver those weapons on missiles or secretly provide them to terrorist allies. We cannot defend America and our friends by hoping for the best. We cannot put our faith in the word of tyrants who solemnly sign nonproliferation treaties and then systemically break them. If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long.

Homeland defense and missile defense are part of stronger security; they're essential priorities for America. Yet, the war on terror will not be won on the defensive. We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans, and confront the worst threats before they emerge. In the world we have entered,

the only path to safety is the path of action, and this Nation will act.

Our security will require the best intelligence to reveal threats hidden in caves and growing in laboratories. Our security will require modernizing domestic agencies such as the FBI, so they're prepared to act and act quickly against danger. Our security will require transforming the military you will lead, a military that must be ready to strike at a moment's notice in any dark corner of the world. And our security will require all Americans to be forward-looking and resolute, to be ready for preemptive action when necessary to defend our liberty and to defend our lives.

The work ahead is difficult. The choices we will face are complex. We must uncover terror cells in 60 or more countries, using every tool of finance, intelligence, and law enforcement. Along with our friends and allies, we must oppose proliferation and confront regimes that sponsor terror, as each case requires. Some nations need military training to fight terror, and we'll provide it. Other nations oppose terror but tolerate the hatred that leads to terror, and that must change. We will send diplomats where they are needed, and we will send you, our soldiers, where you're needed.

All nations that decide for aggression and terror will pay a price. We will not leave the safety of America and the peace of the planet at the mercy of a few mad terrorists and tyrants. We will lift this dark threat from our country and from the world.

Because the war on terror will require resolve and patience, it will also require firm moral purpose. In this way our struggle is similar to the cold war. Now, as then, our enemies are totalitarians, holding a creed of power with no place for human dignity. Now, as then, they seek to impose a joyless conformity, to control every life and all of life.

America confronted imperial communism in many different ways, diplomatic, economic, and military. Yet, moral clarity was essential to our victory in the cold war. When leaders like John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan refused to gloss over the brutality of tyrants, they gave hope to prisoners and dissidents and exiles and rallied free nations to a great cause.

Some worry that it is somehow undiplomatic or impolite to speak the language of right and wrong. I disagree. Different circumstances require different methods but not different moralities. Moral truth is the same in every culture, in every time, and in every place. Targeting innocent civilians for murder is always and everywhere wrong. Brutality against women is always and everywhere wrong. There can be no neutrality between justice and cruelty, between the innocent and the guilty. We are in a conflict between good and evil, and America will call evil by its name. By confronting evil and lawless regimes, we do not create a problem; we reveal a problem. And we will lead the world in opposing it.

As we defend the peace, we also have an historic opportunity to preserve the peace. We have our best chance since the rise of the nation-state in the 17th century to build a world where the great powers compete in peace instead of prepare for war. The history of the last century, in particular, was dominated by a series of destructive national rivalries that left battlefields and graveyards across the Earth. Germany fought France, the Axis fought the Allies, and then the East fought the West, in proxy wars and tense standoffs, against a backdrop of nuclear Armageddon.

Competition between great nations is inevitable, but armed conflict in our world is not. More and more, civilized nations find ourselves on the same side, united by common dangers of terrorist violence and chaos. America has and intends to keep military strengths beyond challenge, thereby making the destabilizing arms races of other eras pointless and limiting rivalries to trade and other pursuits of peace.

Today, the great powers are also increasingly united by common values, instead of divided by conflicting ideologies. The United States, Japan, and our Pacific friends, and now all of Europe, share a deep commitment to human freedom, embodied in strong alliances such as NATO. And the tide of liberty is rising in many other nations.

Generations of West Point officers planned and practiced for battles with Soviet Russia. I've just returned from a new Russia, now a country reaching toward democracy

and our partner in the war against terror. Even in China, leaders are discovering that economic freedom is the only lasting source of national wealth. In time, they will find that social and political freedom is the only true source of national greatness.

When the great powers share common values, we are better able to confront serious regional conflicts together, better able to cooperate in preventing the spread of violence or economic chaos. In the past, great power rivals took sides in difficult regional problems, making divisions deeper and more complicated. Today, from the Middle East to South Asia, we are gathering broad international coalitions to increase the pressure for peace. We must build strong and great power relations when times are good to help manage crisis when times are bad. America needs partners to preserve the peace, and we will work with every nation that shares this noble goal.

And finally, America stands for more than the absence of war. We have a great opportunity to extend a just peace by replacing poverty, repression, and resentment around the world with hope of a better day. Through most of history, poverty was persistent, inescapable, and almost universal. In the last few decades, we've seen nations from Chile to South Korea build modern economies and freer societies, lifting millions of people out of despair and want. And there's no mystery to this achievement.

The 20th century ended with a single surviving model of human progress, based on nonnegotiable demands of human dignity, the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, respect for women, and private property and free speech and equal justice and religious tolerance. America cannot impose this vision, yet we can support and reward governments that make the right choices for their own people. In our development aid, in our diplomatic efforts, in our international broadcasting, and in our educational assistance, the United States will promote moderation and tolerance and human rights. And we will defend the peace that makes all progress possible.

When it comes to the common rights and needs of men and women, there is no clash of civilizations. The requirements of freedom

apply fully to Africa and Latin America and the entire Islamic world. The peoples of the Islamic nations want and deserve the same freedoms and opportunities as people in every nation. And their governments should listen to their hopes.

A truly strong nation will permit legal avenues of dissent for all groups that pursue their aspirations without violence. An advancing nation will pursue economic reform, to unleash the great entrepreneurial energy of its people. A thriving nation will respect the rights of women, because no society can prosper while denying opportunity to half its citizens. Mothers and fathers and children across the Islamic world and all the world share the same fears and aspirations: In poverty, they struggle; in tyranny, they suffer; and as we saw in Afghanistan, in liberation, they celebrate.

America has a greater objective than controlling threats and containing resentment. We will work for a just and peaceful world beyond the war on terror.

The bicentennial class of West Point now enters this drama. With all in the United States Army, you will stand between your fellow citizens and grave danger. You will help establish a peace that allows millions around the world to live in liberty and to grow in prosperity. You will face times of calm and times of crisis, and every test will find you prepared, because you're the men and women of West Point. You leave here marked by the character of this Academy, carrying with you the highest ideals of our Nation.

Toward the end of his life, Dwight Eisenhower recalled the first day he stood on the plain at West Point. "The feeling came over me," he said, "that the expression 'the United States of America' would now and henceforth mean something different than it had ever before. From here on, it would be the Nation I would be serving, not myself."

Today, your last day at West Point, you begin a life of service in a career unlike any other. You've answered a calling to hardship and purpose, to risk and honor. At the end of every day, you will know that you have faithfully done your duty. May you always bring to that duty the high standards of this great American institution. May you always

be worthy of the long gray line that stretches two centuries behind you. On behalf of the Nation, I congratulate each one of you for the commission you've earned, for the credit you bring to the United States of America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:13 a.m. in Michie Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox, Jr., USA, Superintendent, West Point Military Academy; Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White; and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York.

The President's Radio Address

June 1, 2002

Good morning. It's graduation time on many college campuses. Members of my administration are traveling around the country to challenge the class of 2002 to make serving their neighbor and their Nation a central part of their lives. Earlier today I spoke to the graduating cadets of West Point, who will provide the ultimate service to our Nation as we fight and win the war on terror.

Americans have always believed in an ethic of service. Americans serve others because their conscience demands it, because their faith teaches it, because they are grateful to their country, and because service brings rewards much deeper than material success. Government does not create this idealism, but we can do a better job of supporting and encouraging an ethic of service in America.

During my State of the Union Address last January, I asked all Americans to give at least 2 years, or 4,000 hours over their lives, to serving others. And I created the USA Freedom Corps to help Americans find volunteer opportunities. Whatever your talent, whatever your background, each of you can do something.

America needs retired doctors and nurses who can be mobilized in emergencies, volunteers to help police and fire departments, and transportation and utility workers trained to spot danger. We have created a new Citizen Corps to enable Americans to make their own neighborhoods safer.

America needs citizens working to strengthen our communities. We need more talented teachers in our troubled schools and

more mentors to love our children. Through the USA Freedom Corps and the “Citizen Service Act” introduced in Congress just over a week ago, we will expand and improve the good efforts of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to meet the needs of America’s communities. I urge Congress to act quickly on this good piece of legislation. The USA Freedom Corps is also working with the nonprofits and hospitals, houses of worship, and schools around the country that offer millions of Americans the chance to serve others.

And America needs citizens to extend the compassion of our country to every part of the world, so we are renewing the promise of the Peace Corps, doubling its volunteers over the next 5 years, and asking it to expand its efforts to foster education and development in the Islamic world. We will fight resentment and hatred with hope and progress.

Americans from every walk of life are heeding the call to service. Since my State of the Union Address, more than 45,000 Americans have asked for Peace Corps applications. More than 34,000 citizens have signed up for the new Citizen Corps initiative. Applications for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps are also up.

And service knows no age requirement. You’re never too old—or too young—to help out. One remarkable act of service came from 13-year-old Ashley Shamberger of Aloha, Oregon. A few months ago, Ashley wrote me a letter about the patriotic keychains she and her mom made and sold to raise money for the children of Afghanistan. She included a check for \$270.88, “to save more kids,” as she put it. She did all this while hospitalized with cancer. Tragically, Ashley died on the very day her letter reached the White House.

This is the character of our country. This is the soul of our people. This is the Nation we love and can honor through acts of service. If you’d like to find opportunities to serve your community, our country, or the world, as so many Americans already have, just contact usafreedomcorps.gov or call 1-877-USA-CORPS.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:35 a.m. on May 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 1. The

transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 31 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Community in Little Rock, Arkansas

June 3, 2002

Thank you all. It’s nice to be back in Arkansas. Thank you for that great hospitality. You know, when I was Governor, you used to let me come across the river sometimes—[laughter]—that is, Governor of Texas—and it’s good to be back. I’m so honored to be in this fine State with so many citizens. I’m here to give you kind of a sense about how things are going, at least from my perspective.

Before I do, I want to thank Senator Hutchinson for his hard work on behalf of the people of Arkansas, and I want to thank him for his friendship. I appreciate so very much Senator Blanche Lincoln being here as well. Thank you for coming, Senator Lincoln; I’m honored to have you here. Congressman Boozman from up north is here. Thank you for being here, John. I’m glad you’re here. I hope they’re here to get some of this update and not because they want a free ride back to Washington. [Laughter] By the way, it’s a nice way to travel, I want you to know.

I’ve known your Governor for a long time. I’m proud to call him friend. I’m really—I know you’re grateful for the job he’s doing as the Governor of this important State, and I want to thank him.

Mike’s invited me to his church today; I’m going out there to talk about the need to be compassionate for people who hurt. And I can’t wait to go. Mike, I want to thank you for the invitation for—to give me a chance to herald the great faith that exists throughout our country and the importance of faith in the lives of our citizens and the importance of faith to make sure our Nation is as strong and as decent and as hopeful in every neighborhood as is conceivably possible.

And I appreciate Tommy Thompson traveling with us today. Tommy is the Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is a friend

of mine as well. He's the former Governor of Wisconsin, who understands that welfare needs to help people help themselves. Tommy is doing a fantastic job as our Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Not on our traveling team is the most popular person in my family, the First Lady of the United States. *[Applause]* I know. The same thing happened to my dad. *[Laughter]* But Laura was recently here in Arkansas. She's talking about her passions of education and helping people. And when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian in Texas, and she didn't particularly care for politicians or politics. And here she is, First Lady of the United States—thank goodness, for the country. She's doing a great job.

The family's doing well. Barney, the dog, is in great shape. *[Laughter]* Spot, the dog who was born at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, is getting a little up in the years, but she's doing well too. She's used to the confines of the South Lawn. And I invite her every morning into the Oval Office with me to start my day. Kind of in the southern tradition, I'm an early morning person. I get there about 10 until 7 every morning, and Spot makes herself comfortable on the new carpet. *[Laughter]* That's why Barney's not invited in in the morning. *[Laughter]* But we're doing great.

And before I begin the state of our Union, or at least how I see it right now, I want to thank all of you for your prayer. Many people in this State and around our Nation give the President the greatest gift a President could receive, and that is prayer. And it's a—it's not a Republican prayer; it's not a Democrat prayer. It's a prayer that's far greater than politics, and I know that. And I want to thank you for that, and I want to thank you for praying for our Nation as well, because we've got some challenges ahead of us.

And there are some truths to the challenges we face. What's interesting is that we've been at war for 9 months. And that's a short time in the—generally, in the history of war. It seems like a long time to some. But not much time has passed, really, when you think about it. And we're making good progress, though. We are. We've got—we're learning a lot. We're learning that there are

people that hate America because of our—the fact that we love freedom. That's what we've learned.

I remember some children asking me, "How can we be attacked? Who would want to hurt America?" And the answer is, people that can't stand freedom. They hate the thought of a nation being tolerant about religion. They can't stand that we're allowed to worship freely in America. That bothers them. It bothers them that we can have good, open, and honest political discourse. It bothers them we've got a free press. It bothers them that we are the beacon to freedom, so when people look around the world for what freedom means, they look to America. And that bothers them.

We've learned that this enemy is nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers—cold-blooded killers who hijack a religion. That's what we've learned. We've learned they're pretty resourceful and pretty devious. They'll hide in a cave, thinking that we'll quit. They're willing to send youngsters to their death, while they, themselves, are taking care of their own. That's who we're dealing with. And they're patient, and they're still determined—they're still determined. They've still got an army out there. Oh, it's not the kind of army we're used to when you think about war—certainly not the armies that fought on the continent of Europe. Just—as you know, I was honored to go to Normandy. What an unbelievable sight that is, by the way. And for all the World War II vets who are here, thanks from the bottom of our collective hearts for securing our freedom.

We've learned that the new enemy, the enemy of the new wars of the 21st century—they don't have lines of defense; they kind of meld into society. They take advantages of either weakness or freedom. That's what we've learned. And it's good to know that—it's good to know that.

And they've learned some stuff about us. They've learned we're pretty tough when people come after America. They've learned that when it comes to defending our freedom, we'll defend it with all our might. That's what they've learned. They've learned that we love freedom, and it is nonnegotiable, our love for freedom.

They have learned that the United States has got a great military. They have learned that America is grateful for those who wear our—the uniform of our military. And they've also learned that this is an administration that understands, anytime we commit any of our young to battle, they deserve the best pay, the best equipment, the best training possible.

The enemy probably thought that we were such a weak society, so materialistic and self-absorbed, that when they attacked that all we would do is file a couple of lawsuits. [*Laughter*] They've learned that that's not the way we think, that we're resolved.

Much to their chagrin, they've learned that we're a patient nation, that the people of this country understand what I know, that this struggle for freedom is going to take a while. As a matter of fact, there is no—there's not a calendar that says it's got to quit by such-and-such a moment; that if things aren't wrapped up by this election or this Super Bowl or this World Series that we're just going to fold up and go on home; that we're a patient people; that the American people understand that some days there will be moments of great drama on the TV screens, and sometimes there's going to be, you know, kind of a lull in the action; and that—that we understand that.

And that's important in this war, that American people, much to the chagrin of the enemy and much to the delight of a grateful President, understand that we face a new threat, the likes of which we've never seen before, and that we will do what it takes to win the war.

If there's a cave that needs to be searched, we'll search it. If there's a country that needs to hear again and again, "You're either with us or you're against us," they'll hear it. We're on an international manhunt. And you just need to know, my fellow citizens, that even though it may not be prominent in the news, I think about defending this country every day and that we're after them, one person at a time. Anybody who thinks they're going to hurt America is going to be hunted down. The best way to defend—the best way to defend this country, the best way for me to do my most important job, which is to protect innocent Americans, is to go on the offense

and chase them down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what America is going to do.

And we learned that we've got some work to do at home, that we can do a better job of defending the American people, which we are going to do. We know we've got to do a better job on our borders, understanding who's coming into the country and who's leaving and why they're here and why they haven't left. We know that we need to do a better job of that in order to defend the homeland.

We know we've got to make sure we're ready for whatever happens. I want to thank the police and the fire and the emergency workers here in the State of Arkansas for the important job you do and let you know that part of our strategy is to make sure we've got a first-responders initiative and strategy that will make the homeland more secure. We know we need to do that, and we're doing that.

We've got to make sure that we get the best intelligence possible. In this new war against this shadowy enemy, it's very important that we gather as much intelligence as we can. We need to know what they're thinking and what they're planning on doing before they do something. That's the best way.

And we also know that at home we needed to have changed and are now changing our law enforcement agencies from—to a new strategy, one that not only chases down criminals and arrests them, but a strategy which works to prevent further attacks. So when you read about the FBI, I want you to know that the FBI is changing its culture. The FBI prior to September 11th was running down white-collar criminals—and that's good—was worrying about spies—that's good. But now they've got a more important task, and that is to prevent further attack. And so the FBI is changing, and they're doing a better job of communicating with the CIA. They're now sharing intelligence.

My point to you is that whether it be at your airports or on a border or law enforcement, the whole mission of the Federal Government, working in conjunction with the State and local governments, is to protect the American people.

The enemy also knows that I'm really serious when it comes to routing out harm before it hits America. I don't know whether that's good or bad they know that, but they're learning that. They're also learning we're the kind of team that does what we say we're going to do. So when I said the other day that I'm concerned about these countries which develop weapons of mass destruction and we know they hate America and I intend to bring the diplomatic pressure or the pressure of the world and, if need be, act, I mean it.

History has called this Nation into action. History has put the spotlight on America. History is going to write, did this country, in its position—unique position in the world, did we blink in the face of terror, or were we willing to lead the world to a more free and civilized society? And as far as I'm concerned, there's only one answer to that question, and that answer is, this great country will lead the world to a more safe and secure and free society.

No, this Nation is plenty patient and plenty tough. And we're ready—we're ready. But you know what else I've learned? That out of evil can come some incredible good. Out of evil, out of the evil done to our country, we have a chance to not only keep the peace—and I want the youngsters here to know that when you hear about fighting, it's because we want the world to be peaceful. Our goal is peace. We never have sought revenge. This great country seeks justice. And we want you to be living in a world that is peaceful, so when you grow up, you can feel freedom and be free.

But also at home, we have a chance to show, out of evil can come some incredible good. People say to me, "What can I do to join this great country in the war on terror?" And my answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. You want to fight evil, help somebody who needs some help. And those acts can be great acts, or they can be small acts, but they all add up. Our society can be saved one heart and one soul, one conscience at a time. And I recognize while one person can't do everything, one person can do something to make a difference in somebody's life.

You've seen how people have taken a look at their own lives and at their own soul since 9/11. You've seen moms and dads recognize their most important job, if they happen to have a child, is to love their children and remind them they love them. That's part of a compassionate society. There are people all across this country who are—who hear a call to help somebody. It's not a Government-issued call, really; when you think about it, it's a call of conscience and a call of heart. All the President can say, "If you want to help, please help," and I do that all the time. We've got the USA Freedom Corps, Peace Corps, ways to help—and AmeriCorps.

And today we've got with us Brenda Ross, who's a USA Freedom Corps honoree, full-time AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer. She works in making sure people who need food get food. She's working in Boys and Girls Clubs. I don't know where Brenda is, but anyway, she is part of the soldiers in the armies of compassion.

And you can join that army of compassion, too, by mentoring a child. I told you, we're going to Huckabee's church—excuse me, Governor Huckabee's church—I call him Huckabee. *[Laughter]* This is a church which is helping welfare recipients learn a skill so they can work. There's nothing more—there's no more—there's no better way to earn dignity than to work. And this church understands that.

We can fight terror by feeding people who are hungry. We can fight terror by loving the lonely. We can fight terror by insisting every child learns to read. We can fight terror by doing good, and that's happening all across America.

The great strength of this country is not really our military. The great strength of the country is the people of America. The great strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, people who are willing to serve something greater than materialism and selfishness, people who are willing to serve something greater than yourself.

You know, that really came home to me most vividly on Flight 93. Think about that: People got on an airplane; they're flying across the country; and all of a sudden the call comes and says, "Your airplane is going to be used as a weapon." And so they tell

their loved ones they love them; they said a prayer; they took the plane to the ground to save somebody else's life.

You see, it's that sense of serving something greater than yourself that we all can do—that we all can do—by showing compassion and decency and love. And as a result, we will show the world the true strength of America. We're going to keep the peace by being strong militarily and by doing our job, and we will win the war by being a compassionate, decent, honorable nation.

It is such an honor—such an honor—to be the President of such a grand country. Thanks for giving me the chance.

May God bless you all. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Statehouse Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

Remarks in a Discussion on Welfare Reform in Little Rock, Arkansas *June 3, 2002*

The President. Mike, thank you very much. I'm real fond of your Governor. I've known him for a long time. As he said, thankfully I took the hot dog out of my hand before I shook his hand. You were probably the guy yelling, "More pitching," though. [Laughter]

But it's great to be here with Mike in a State that—whose Governor works hard to find innovative ways to help people. And we're going to spend some time today talking about how best to help people go from welfare to independence and dignity. That's what we're really here to talk about.

Before I do though, I do want to say that I am working hard to secure the country. My vision is for a country that is not only more secure but also a country that is better. And so we're going to talk about the "better" part, how best to help people. I picked—the first way to start is to pick a good Cabinet. I've really done that. I'm surrounded by great people on not only the foreign policy side, on the national security side of my administration, but also on the domestic side.

Tommy Thompson was a Governor, a friend of Mike and mine, Governor of Wisconsin, and did a terrific job of heralding

education reforms and welfare reforms in his State. So I figured if a person could do a good job of helping people find work in Wisconsin, why not bring him to the Federal level? Not only is he successful as a Governor, but he also understands that Governors need flexibility and authority in order to meet the goals that we all want. And so Tommy is a person who trusts the people of Arkansas to figure out the best way to take care of the people of Arkansas. And he's doing a great job as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. So I appreciate you being here, Tommy.

I want to thank your two United States Senators for traveling with me today, Tim Hutchinson and Blanche Lincoln. I appreciate you all coming. Congressman Boozman is here as well. I want to thank him for being here. The Lieutenant Governor—there's the Lieutenant Governor; I'm glad that Governor Rockefeller is here. I want to thank the mayor for being here as well—and other elected officials. I appreciate you coming to hear this discussion, because it's an important discussion for Arkansas.

I want to thank Mark Evans. There's a lot of stories that I've already learned in one brief car ride about Pastor Evans. They're all good, by the way. [Laughter] Instead of building a house of worship, the first thing he's going to do is build a place to help people, a welfare-to-work training center. I thought that was—and in the meantime, I guess you'll have your services here.

Well, that's really important. See, I like to remind people that governments can pass out money. What government cannot do is put love in people's heart or hope in people's lives. And one of the things I feel most passionate about is how to capture this great strength of the country and help church and synagogue and mosque interface with people in need. The best welfare programs at many places are really found inside—inside houses of worship. And that's what's happening here. It's interesting, we're having this discussion on how to move people from welfare to work in a house of worship, and we're going to hear from three brave ladies here in a second about how this—this church, in this case, is helping—or two of the ladies—

helped them find dignity in their lives and hope for their families.

I want to talk a little while before we turn it over to the people that matter a heck of a lot more than me and Tommy—for that matter, Huckabee—[*laughter*]*—and that is the heroines of welfare reform. But first, the law that was passed in 1996 has been a great success. Senator Hutchinson, as a matter of fact, was on the conference committee that was a part of writing this law. It's been a huge success in America.*

It's important for Americans to understand, when they hear the talk about welfare reform, that the '96 law has made a significant difference in millions of people's lives. As a matter of fact, Tommy's releasing a report today, and he can elaborate on that a little later, that details the successes of welfare reform: 5.4 million people fewer—fewer people in poverty in 2000 than in '96. A lot of it had to do with the Nation making a concerted effort to move people from welfare to work. And so when we talk about the reauthorization, which means we've got to extend it somehow in Congress, it's important for the Congress to recognize that this has been an incredibly successful piece of social policy.

Secondly, part of the reason why it's worked so well is because of work—that there is a work requirement. In order to make sure that we continue with good welfare law and good social policy, we should not weaken the work requirement in welfare. We ought to set high standards and aim for those standards. Anything that weakens the work requirement in a welfare reauthorization bill hurts the people we're trying to help. And it's important to remember that.

One of the interesting things—you'll hear people say, "Well, there needs to be more money." Of course, that's always an argument in Washington, and I'm aware of that argument. The budget that we submitted up there has got \$17 billion. It's the same level that has been in place in the past. But what's interesting is that the caseload has declined by 50 percent. That's part of the success of the '96 law. So if you've got the same money with half the number of cases, we doubled the amount of money available to all people. And that's important for the Congress and

the appropriators to understand, that if you keep the funding level the same and the caseload is half, you've got twice the amount of money to help.

Thirdly, that it's also important to say that part of the work requirement is, you've got to work 40 hours a week. In other words, work is work. We can play like it's not work, but that doesn't help people we're trying to help. The play-like world is the world that these ladies struggled to get out of. They wanted the real world of dignity and work and to be able to raise their families. And so when I asked Congress to say 40-hour workweek, we mean that.

Now, I recognize some people need extra help. There needs to be some extra education or some extra job training, and so part of the 40-hour workweek can go to job training. As a matter of fact, 16 hours of the 40, if need be, should be set aside for job training or education purposes. And that's in the bill I've submitted and passed the House of Representatives.

And finally, it's very important that we give States maximum flexibility. The problem with Washington is, oftentimes Washington thinks on behalf of people just because some in Washington think that the only place where smart people live is in Washington. That's not really the case. [*Laughter*] There's a couple smart ones up there, but not all the brains in America are in Washington, DC. Therefore, we ought to trust the local folks. We ought to trust the Governors more. As a former Governor—and Tommy's a former Governor—we understand that the more flexibility in the welfare law or the education law, for that matter, the more likely it is we're going to achieve important social goals and social objectives.

And so the bill I've submitted that passed the House is a bill that's got adequate funding. It's got the need to—it's got high standards, and that's what we want. If you lower the bar and lower the standards, you're not going to get the results you want in society. We believe that people can achieve.

And the final ingredient that needs to happen is, is that we need to get the Faith-Based Initiative out of the United States Senate, too. It's an initiative that recognizes that—that while on the one hand we don't want

the church being the state, or the state being the church, we shouldn't discriminate against programs that come out of faith-based institutions, all aimed at helping people help themselves.

Listen, some of the best drug treatment programs and alcohol treatment programs are programs that first help change a person's heart, so they can make better choices in their lives. And so I'm—I've come to this house to herald the programs, to call upon a good law, for starters, out of Congress—out of the Senate, so we can get it to the Senate and the House, and get it to my desk, and give these Governors time to plan to help people.

But I also come here because I recognize that some of the greatest social programs in the country come out of houses of worship of all faiths—of all faiths. And so Pastor Greg, I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank you for helping to live the adage—you want to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. And I appreciate a man who not only preaches but a man who does.

Thanks for giving us a chance to be here.

[*The discussion began.*]

The President. You did great. Thank you very much. I appreciate you, Vivian. Probably would be helpful if some of the dads paid their child support, don't you think?

Participant. Yes.

The President. Pastor, you've done great. I appreciate it. Thanks.

Thank you, ladies, for sharing your stories. There's millions of stories like yours, single moms who struggle to get ahead. By the way, being a single mom is the toughest job in America. It's the toughest job.

And so long as there's pockets of hopelessness, this country must act—it must act. Anytime we find somebody who hurts, we've got to love them. I tell people, if you want to fight evil, the evil done to America, you do some good.

And the other interesting thing about what you all have done is, your example serves to help save somebody else's life. And I want to thank you for that and thank you for sharing with us and the country your great stories.

You did really well, very good job by all three of you.

I want Tommy to say a few words. Tommy is in charge of getting the law through the Senate, getting the differences between the House and the Senate reconciled and on my desk and then making sure it's implemented in the right spirit. But Tommy, do you mind saying a couple of things?

[*At this point, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson made brief remarks.*]

The President. Pastor, there's a couple of other things in the bill that might interest the people here. One of the things that we try to promote in the bill is family, and we set aside money for grant programs to States to encourage families to stay together. Now I recognize, not all families are going to stay together. But the more families we save, the more likely it is a child is going to have a good chance of making it here in the country.

And so there's a strong initiative in there to promote families, to help people who are about to get married to understand the consequences of marriage, and then to help people who are married who know they need to save their marriage, help them save that marriage. The family is an important part of the future. And that money, as far as I'm concerned, should be available for programs that work. We ought to be asking the question, what works, and get out of the process-oriented world that we sometimes find ourselves in Government. And I know that, Pastor Evans, you've got a family initiative in your church, and I want to thank you for that.

The other thing—the other part of the bill that obviously gets a lot of heat, but it's one that I think makes a lot of sense, is that we promote abstinence as well. We can argue the merits of it—whether or not it would be a part of the bill, but I tell you this: If you're interested in what works, it works 100 percent of the time. [*Laughter*]

So the bill is comprehensive in that sense, and it's all aimed at helping people—it's—that and this education reform. Listen, I want your kids to go to college, and I want your kids to get the best education possible. And we've passed a pretty good bill out of Washington. It really does empower the State of

Arkansas more than ever before. And it says, every child can learn. I mean, it starts with this premise, every child—it doesn't matter how your children are raised, what the mom does for a living—every child can learn.

It also sets high standards. And see, I'm the kind of fellow who believes in raising that bar. I believe in the best. I don't want mediocrity. I want excellence in everything we do. And so I'm confident that the bill that is being debated up there now, combined with the education bill, it's really going to make America a much more hopeful place for every single citizen, not just a few of us, not just a group of us, but every citizen. And that's really what we're aiming for.

NOTE: The discussion began at 1:05 p.m. at The Church at Rock Creek. In his remarks, the President referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, who introduced the President; Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller of Arkansas; Mark Evans, senior pastor, and Greg Kirksey, pastor, The Church at Rock Creek; and Mayor Jim Dailey of Little Rock. The discussion participants were Spring Davidson, Jeanette Cain, and Vivian Webb.

Exchange With Reporters at Fort Meade, Maryland

June 4, 2002

Intelligence Prior to September 11

The President. How are we doing?

Q. Not bad, sir. I wanted to ask you, yesterday you said in Little Rock that a better job could have been—a better job needs to be done to prevent terrorism. Does that mean, in hindsight—which, obviously, is 20/20—a better job could have been done?

The President. Well, I think there's no question that the FBI, for example, did not have as its primary mission a prevention of an attack, and now it does. In other words, the FBI was a fine law enforcement agency, chasing down white collar criminals and people that were committing crimes in America. And that's good, and that's still an important function of the FBI. But now the focus is on—the primary focus is on preventing a further attack. So the mission has changed, and that's a positive change.

In terms of whether or not the FBI and the CIA were communicating properly, I

think it is clear that they weren't, and that they—now we've addressed that issue. The CIA and the FBI are now in close communications; there's better sharing of intelligence. And one of the things that is essential to win this war is to have the best intelligence possible and, when we get the best intelligence, to be able to share it throughout our Government.

And as you've seen the reforms that both Director Tenet and Bob Mueller have put in place, a lot of those reforms had to do with how able—the two are able to talk to each other. And it's a very positive reform.

Q. If the reform had been put in place beforehand, if the FBI had been—

The President. Well, it's hard—it's hard—I haven't seen any evidence—

Q. —could the attacks have been stopped?

The President. I've seen no evidence to date that said this country could have prevented the attack.

Upcoming Visit by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

Q. Mr. President, President Mubarak told the New York Times this morning that he is proposing the idea of declaring a Palestinian state and then negotiating the hard things—borders—later. Does that make any sense to you?

The President. Well, I look forward to talking to President Mubarak. I'd rather—you know, I think it's probably wise for me to listen to what he has to say and not read it, you know, through the filter of a fine newspaper. So I'm going to look forward to my meetings with him at Camp David.

Egyptian Intelligence Prior to September 11

Q. He also—one of the things he said in that was that the Egyptian intelligence services had told the United States that they were expecting an Al Qaida attack a week before September 11th. Is there any—do you know of any reason to believe that?

The President. No, listen, there's all kinds of speculation. As I said, I have seen no evidence that would have led me to believe that we could have prevented the attacks. And

obviously, if we could have, we would have prevented the attacks.

Intelligence Community/Congressional Investigation

Q. Sir, is there any concern at all that all this finger-pointing between the FBI and the CIA is distracting them a bit from the mission at hand, preventing future terrorist attacks?

The President. Well, you know, one of the things I've said is that, for example—yes, I'm concerned about distractions from this perspective: I want the Congress to investigate, but I want a committee to investigate, not multiple committees to investigate, because I don't want to tie up our team when we're trying to fight this war on terror. So I don't want our people to be distracted.

In terms of the gossip and the finger-pointing—level three staffers trying to protect, you know, trying to protect their hide—I don't think that's of concern. That's just typical Washington, DC.

But what I am concerned about is tying up valuable assets and time and possibly jeopardizing sources of intelligence. And that's why it is very important that the Congress do investigate, but they do so in a way that doesn't jeopardize our intelligence gathering capacity. That's why they have intelligence committees on Capitol Hill, and that's the appropriate forum, as far as I am concerned, for these investigations.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you've got a lot going on foreign-policy-wise right now, the Middle East meetings later this week, the continued efforts here. Is this all moving Iraq to the back burner?

The President. Well, I think you need to read my speech that I gave at West Point. If you haven't, I'll get you——

Q. I was there, sir.

The President. Oh. I think you need to have listened to my speech I gave at West Point. [*Laughter*]

No, the war on terror is—and my strong desire to protect our homeland is of paramount importance to me. And I think people understand my position on these closed regimes that harbor and desire to have weap-

ons of mass destruction. And as I said in my speech, we'll use all the tools at our disposal to deal with these nations that hate America and hate our freedoms. And one option, of course, is the military option, but as we've said repeatedly, I have no plans on my desk at this point in time. But nevertheless, these nations that I have named need to take—they need to take America seriously. When it comes to defending our freedoms, they need to be worried about how we defend our freedom. We're very serious about this, and we expect them to change their behavior.

Global Warming

Q. Mr. President, good morning, sir. Do you plan any new initiatives on—to combat global warming?

The President. No, I've laid out that very comprehensive initiative. I read the report put out by a—put out by the bureaucracy. I do not support the Kyoto treaty. The Kyoto treaty would severely damage the United States economy, and I don't accept that. I accept the alternative we put out, that we can grow our economy and, at the same time, through technologies, improve our environment.

Morale in the Intelligence Community

Q. Sir, are you concerned about the morale in the intelligence agencies, given the criticism that's been lodged so far, and is that part of what you're going to be talking about today with the employees of the NSA?

The President. I believe morale is high. I glean that from the leaders with whom I meet on a regular basis. These—our intelligence communities understand they are on the forefront of one of the most important wars in our Nation's history. And they're—I think I'm more worried about them being overworked. These good people are putting in long, long hours.

And one of my jobs is to remind those who sacrifice on behalf of our Nation that we appreciate it a lot. And I'd rather have them sacrificing on behalf of our Nation than, you know, endless hours of testimony on congressional hill. The appropriate place to do that, of course, is the intelligence committees. And again I repeat, the reason why that's important is because we have got to guard the

methodology—methodologies of our country, of how—it's important for us to not reveal how we collect information. That's what the enemy wants, and we're fighting an enemy.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:45 a.m. in the Operations Center at the National Security Agency.

Remarks to Welfare-to-Work Graduates

June 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. Welcome. Please be seated. Well, thank you all for that warm welcome, and welcome to the people's house.

All of you here today who have gone from welfare to work really represent courage and strength. And I want to thank you for your examples of what is possible and for your stories of success. You've earned independence and the respect of your families and your communities, the respect of your President. I congratulate you—I want to congratulate you on using and utilizing your God-given talents to their fullest. So, welcome.

I want to welcome Tommy Thompson, who's the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Tommy, thank you for being here. He's a former Governor—nothing wrong with former Governors. [Laughter] But Tommy has been a leader in welfare reform, which is really a leader in helping people. He did a great job as the Governor of Wisconsin. He's doing a great job here in Washington. Thank you, Tommy.

Elaine Chao is here as well, who is the Secretary of Labor. I want to thank you for coming, Elaine, as well.

I want to thank Members of the Congress who are here. Wally, thank you for coming—Wally Herger from California, Buck McKeon of California, Michael Bilirakis of Florida. I appreciate your interest. I thank you for coming.

I want to thank Rodney Carroll, who is here. Rodney is the president and CEO of the Welfare to Work Partnership. What that means is, Rodney is really in charge of convincing corporate America to do their duty,

and that is to help people who want to find work. And Rodney's done a great job. There's—millions of people have been placed in employment because of the Welfare to Work Partnership.

And one of the really terrific companies that has responded to the call to be a responsible corporate citizen in America is UPS. And I want to thank the representatives of UPS who are here; "Big Brown," I think you call yourself now. [Laughter]

On the stage with me is Al and Ann Briscoe. They're going to have something to say if we can ever get the President to stop talking. [Laughter] But I want to welcome the Briscoes and all the welfare-to-work graduates from the States of Pennsylvania and Michigan and Connecticut and Florida. We're really glad you're here.

I want to thank the Briscoes for their willingness to share the inspiring story—stories, by the way, which we heard yesterday in Arkansas as well. These are stories that are being repeated all across the country, compelling human stories of people conquering very tough odds to succeed, to go from poverty to success and from welfare to work.

The people in this room who have overcome the obstacles have obviously known some really tough times, starting with the fact that the hardest job in America is a single mom. That's the hardest work. People have overcome incredible odds and obstacles and hurdles. But thanks to courage and determination and hard work—in many cases, prayer—you've turned your lives around, and you're strong, proud, successful women, and we want to thank you for that—and strong, proud, successful men, I might add.

The historic welfare reform passed by Congress in 1996 helped many Americans find dignity and self-respect. And that's what we're here to talk about. We're not only here to talk about the lives that have been changed but law and how to make the '96 law work better. And the '96 law worked well because of the—much of it had to do with the work requirement in the law. It basically said, you've got to work. In order to be independent and free, you've got to work, and we want to help you find work. That's what the law said.

The statistics are strong about how successful the '96 law was. At the time, however, it was quite controversial. I wasn't here. I was working with Tommy, trying to get the law passed from the perspective of a Governor. But there was one study, for example—to show you how controversial the bill was—that said, at least a million children would be cast into poverty by the welfare reform law—if it passed, if the '96 bill passed, that a million children would be thrown into poverty.

Well, whoever did that study probably is out of work—at least I hope so—[laughter]—because the truth is, there are 5.4 million fewer people in poverty today than in '96, and there are 2.8 million fewer children living in poverty than in '96. Anyway you look at it, the bill has been really successful.

The real success, though, is not found in the numbers. The real success has been found in the number of lives that have been changed. It's one thing to talk about reducing welfare rolls, and that's fine. But the most important thing is the number of lives that have been saved and enriched. That's the most important part about the '96 law and its consequences.

Maria Medellin, *de mi estado de Texas*—from the State of Texas is here, and she is one type of story. She's been working for UPS, Big Brown, now for 3 years. When she first came to UPS, she was a single mom on welfare, raising two sons. She needed extra income and benefits to support her family, so she started working at UPS for \$8.50 an hour, and then she was promoted. And now she is a recruiter; she's a boss. She's enrolled in college, and she's going to get her degree in 3 years.

Maria says this about her journey and about her struggles: "It was a challenge to overcome the statistic of being a single minority female with two children on welfare. UPS is the foundation that has allowed me to be where I am today. Being able to raise my children and provide for them is my greatest source of pride. Just showing my children that I'm strong enough and can succeed is more than enough for me."

Maria, congratulations.

And there are a lot of people with stories like Maria's. The great thing about the sub-

ject we're talking about today is, there are Marias all across America and right here in this room.

And so the fundamental question is, How can we continue this progress? What can we do to continue to make America a better place? As you know, we struggle hard to keep America secure, and we're going to. We will win the war on terror and keep us free. But as we fight for our security, we also must work to make America a better place. And where we find people who've lost hope, we must work to provide hope. And where we find pockets of despair, we must work—all of us work—to eradicate pockets of despair. And one way to continue to make sure America is a hopeful place, a better place, is to work on a new reauthorization bill for welfare that continues to make progress to help people. That's what we've got to do.

The bill in '96 is up; it kind of run out of its time. And so it's now time for Congress to come together and pass another measure. And the debate's going to be, What do we do? How do we make it? What do we do? The House has already answered the question by passing a law that really makes sure that work is still an integral part of welfare reform. Work and family are integral parts of welfare reform, I might add.

Here's what I think ought to happen: I think the Senate ought to pass a bill that has the same principles embodied in the House bill. And it says that rather than lowering standards, we need to keep high standards in America, particularly when it comes to what we expect in terms of work.

We want 70 percent of the people on welfare working by the next 5 years. That's what we want. We don't want to reduce the number of people that should be working in America, because we understand how important work is to the future of every citizen. We want to raise the standard and raise the bar. And that means 40-hour workweeks. That's what work—that's the definition of work.

Now, I recognize there are a lot of people that need help, and so within the 40-hour workweeks there are credits for education and vocational training, to help people help

themselves. A work requirement isn't punishment. A work requirement is part of liberation in our society. But in order to make sure that people are able to work, we want to make sure there is ample training and ample education, to give people the chance they want. And that's what this bill—and that's what this vision for a better welfare reform bill talks about.

And then, of course, there is the issue of money, and that's always a big debate here in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*] It seems like you can never spend enough. And so one of the things I decided to do was to be wise about how we spent—the amount of money we spent in the welfare appropriations. I thought it made sense to keep the level of welfare spending the same as it has been, which really doubles the amount of money available for States to spend, because the caseload has declined in half. So if you've got the same amount of money and the caseload has declined in half, you've got double the money available for people you're trying to help.

And that ought to be ample money for the States to help people with education, vocational training, to help people help themselves. And so I'm confident the amount of money we've got in the bill is more than adequate to meet the needs and to help meet our goals of work and money available to help—to help the 2 million families who are still on welfare rolls. And that's the goal, is to help as many as we possibly can achieve independence and dignity and work.

I think it's important for Members of Congress to talk to the people who—and listen to the people who've succeeded under the current law, who have actually become independent from Government, and what it means to their lives. They ought to listen to the Marias and the people who I've had the honor of talking to, as they decide how best to help people. They ought to listen to the stories, and they ought to be hopeful and optimistic about what is possible in America. People who are pessimistic about the future lower standards. People who are optimistic raise the standards, because we believe in the best.

I'm honored to have the Briscoes here with us today. They are exemplary of what

is possible in America. And I fully understand that laws are important; no question about it. And spending money is important; there's no question about that. But there's nothing more important than heart and courage and desire.

And so it's my honor to welcome here to the podium Mr. Allen Briscoe, who is a man who has overcome tough odds to be a great, proud dad and successful American.

Welcome.

[*At this point, Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe made brief remarks.*]

The President. So there you have it. I want to—I want to thank you all for—I want to thank you all for sharing—just a—not quite yet.

Participant. Stay?

The President. Yes, you stay right there. [*Laughter*]

Participant. Yes, sir. [*Laughter*]

The President. I want to thank you all for sharing your story with us. And we could have had some great stories here, long—we could have taken a lot of time with some of the great stories here. And I want to thank you all for coming.

This is a fabulous country in which we live. It is, and it's because the people are fabulous. For those who represent corporate America, keep doing what you're doing. You have a responsibility to the country in which you thrive. You've got a responsibility to help people; you do. Those of us in Government have a responsibility to pass good law that will help people. And for those of you who have overcome incredible obstacles, thanks for the example you've set.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former welfare recipients Alfred and Ann Briscoe. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7570—National Homeownership Month, 2002

June 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream. As President, I am committed to helping many more Americans achieve that dream. A home provides shelter and a safe place where families can prosper and children can thrive. For many Americans, their home is an important financial investment, and it can be a source of great personal pride and an important part of community stability.

Homeownership encourages personal responsibility and the values necessary for strong families. Where homeownership flourishes, neighborhoods are more stable, residents are more civic-minded, schools are better, and crime rates decline. Thanks to the resources available in our Nation, more Americans own homes today than at any time in our history. However, among African American and Hispanic families, fewer than half are homeowners. My Administration is working to provide all families with the tools and information they need to accumulate wealth and overcome barriers to homeownership.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is partnering with State and local governments, community groups, and the private sector to make the most effective use of Federal funds. Through a combination of down payment assistance, tax incentives, and education about the process and responsibilities of homeownership, we are helping thousands of Americans buy homes and pursue a better quality of life.

During National Homeownership Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about financial management and to explore homeownership opportunities in their communities. By taking this important step, individuals and families help safeguard their financial futures and contribute to the strength of our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,
President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2002 as National Homeownership Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of providing all our citizens a chance to achieve the American Dream.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7.

Proclamation 7571—National Child's Day, 2002

June 5, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Children bring joy and challenge to the lives they touch. And as our next generation of leaders, they carry with them the hope of our Nation. From the excitement of watching a toddler take a first step to the satisfaction of seeing them mature into adulthood, we are blessed to share our lives and experiences with children. Their thoughts, ideas, and unique perspectives renew our appreciation for life.

National Child's Day is a time to affirm our commitment as parents, teachers, and citizens to the health, well-being, and success of our children. Our goal must be to make sure that all children have the opportunity to learn and succeed. To achieve this, we must use the resources of our families, communities, schools, and government to ensure that no child is left behind.

My Administration is strongly committed to helping boys and girls grow up in secure families that help them reach their full potential. Families forge values where children can find fulfillment and love. And children

who are surrounded by love, support, and encouragement can develop self-esteem and have a strong foundation for life.

We are working to implement programs and initiatives that help families stay strong and intact; that support adoption efforts and mentoring programs; that protect children from abuse and neglect; and that encourage alcohol, drug, and sexual abstinence. We also are making great progress in helping all schools become places where every student is able and expected to learn.

While government can provide much to support children, it cannot provide the love a child needs. I encourage all community leaders, educators, faith-based organizations, and citizens to seek opportunities to mentor, encourage, and listen to our children. As we observe National Child's Day, we should also communicate to young people that their dreams, aspirations, happiness, and well-being are important to us and to our future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 9, 2002, as National Child's Day. I urge all Americans to work within their communities to appreciate, love, and protect all of America's children. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 7, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 10.

Remarks at the Congressional Barbecue

June 5, 2002

Welcome. Laura and I are really happy to give you all a taste of Texas. We want to thank our friends Asleep At The Wheel out

of Austin, Texas, for your fantastic music. Thank you all very much. And I want to thank our friends from Buffalo Gap, Texas, the people who brought the food. That would be Tom Perini and—[inaudible]—we want to thank them and all the people who served the food. We want to thank you all for coming tonight.

First I want to say something to the spouses and the family members who are here. Thank you for your service to the country. We appreciate your patience and we appreciate you supporting your loved ones in their important jobs of representing the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America.

The last time we were supposed to have this party was on September the 11th. And we have come together here in Washington and around the Nation for a great and noble cause, and that is to defend freedom. The defense of our freedoms here in America is not a Republican calling or a Democratic calling; it is an American calling. And I want to thank all the Members of Congress.

I want to thank you for your support here in Washington, and I want to thank you for going home to your districts and your States and explaining to our citizens, our fellow citizens, what's ahead. This country is patient, and this country is united, and this country is plenty tough when it comes to defending that which we hold dear. And a lot of it has to do with what you do when you go home, and I want to thank you for that a lot. It means a lot.

It is much easier to be the Commander in Chief when the people are pulling in the same direction. And they're pulling in the same direction, much to the chagrin of the enemy.

So it's our great pleasure to welcome you here. I know sometimes we have squabbles with the legislative branch. If only you did it the way the Vice President and I wanted you to do it, everything would be fine. [Laughter] But I admire—I admire those who serve in the Senate and the House. I admire your steadfast love of democracy, and I appreciate so very much your love of our country.

May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:48 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Perini, chuckwagon cook, Perini Ranch Steakhouse.

**Executive Order 13264—
Amendment to Executive Order
13180, Air Traffic Performance-
Based Organization**

June 4, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13180 of December 7, 2000, is amended as follows:

Section 1. The first sentence of that order is amended by deleting “, an inherently governmental function,”.

Sec. 2. Section 6 of that order is amended to read as follows: “This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, nor does it, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any right, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 4, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 6, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7.

**Address to the Nation on the
Proposed Department of
Homeland Security**

June 6, 2002

Good evening. During the next few minutes, I want to update you on the progress we are making in our war against terror and

to propose sweeping changes that will strengthen our homeland against the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks.

Nearly 9 months have passed since the day that forever changed our country. Debris from what was once the World Trade Center has been cleared away in a hundred thousand truckloads. The west side of the Pentagon looks almost as it did on September the 10th. And as children finish school and families prepare for summer vacations, for many life seems almost normal.

Yet, we are a different nation today, sadder and stronger, less innocent and more courageous, more appreciative of life, and for many who serve our country, more willing to risk life in a great cause. For those who have lost family and friends, the pain will never go away, and neither will the responsibilities that day thrust upon all of us.

America is leading the civilized world in a titanic struggle against terror. Freedom and fear are at war, and freedom is winning. Tonight over 60,000 American troops are deployed around the world in the war against terror: more than 7,000 in Afghanistan; others in the Philippines, Yemen, and the Republic of Georgia, to train local forces. Next week Afghanistan will begin selecting a representative government, even as American troops, along with our allies, still continuously raid remote Al Qaida hiding places.

Among those we have captured is a man named Abu Zubaydah, Al Qaida's chief of operations. From him and from hundreds of others, we are learning more about how the terrorists plan and operate, information crucial in anticipating and preventing future attacks.

Our coalition is strong. More than 90 nations have arrested or detained over 2,400 terrorists and their supporters. More than 180 countries have offered or are providing assistance in the war on terrorism. And our military is strong and prepared to oppose any emerging threat to the American people.

Every day in this war will not bring the drama of liberating a country. Yet, every day brings new information, a tip or arrest, another step or two or three in a relentless march to bring security to our Nation and justice to our enemies.

Every day I review a document called the threat assessment. It summarizes what our intelligence services and key law enforcement agencies have picked up about terrorist activity. Sometimes the information is very general, vague talk, bragging about future attacks. Sometimes the information is more specific, as in a recent case when an Al Qaida detainee said attacks were planned against financial institutions.

When credible intelligence warrants, appropriate law enforcement and local officials are alerted. These warnings are, unfortunately, a new reality in American life, and we have recently seen an increase in the volume of general threats. Americans should continue to do what you're doing. Go about your lives, but pay attention to your surroundings. Add your eyes and ears to the protection of our homeland.

In protecting our country, we depend on the skill of our people, the troops we send to battle, intelligence operatives who risk their lives for bits of information, law enforcement officers who sift for clues and search for suspects. We are now learning that before September the 11th, the suspicions and insights of some of our frontline agents did not get enough attention.

My administration supports the important work of the intelligence committees in Congress to review the activities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. We need to know when warnings were missed or signs unheeded, not to point the finger or blame but to make sure we correct any problems and prevent them from happening again.

Based on everything I've seen, I do not believe anyone could have prevented the horror of September the 11th. Yet, we now know that thousands of trained killers are plotting to attack us, and this terrible knowledge requires us to act differently.

If you're a frontline worker for the FBI, the CIA, some other law enforcement or intelligence agency and you see something that raises suspicions, I want you to report it immediately. I expect your supervisors to treat it with the seriousness it deserves. Information must be fully shared so we can follow every lead to find the one that may prevent tragedy.

I applaud the leaders and employees at the FBI and CIA for beginning essential reforms. They must continue to think and act differently to defeat the enemy.

The first and best way to secure America's homeland is to attack the enemy where he hides and plans, and we're doing just that. We're also taking significant steps to strengthen our homeland protections, securing cockpits, tightening our borders, stockpiling vaccines, increasing security at water treatment and nuclear powerplants.

After September the 11th, we needed to move quickly, and so I appointed Tom Ridge as my Homeland Security Adviser. As Governor Ridge has worked with all levels of government to prepare a national strategy and as we have learned more about the plans and capabilities of the terrorist network, we have concluded that our Government must be reorganized to deal more effectively with the new threats of the 21st century. So tonight I ask the Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission, securing the homeland of America and protecting the American people.

Right now as many as a hundred different Government agencies have some responsibilities for homeland security, and no one has final accountability. For example, the Coast Guard has several missions, from search and rescue to maritime treaty enforcement. It reports to the Transportation Department, whose primary responsibilities are roads, rails, bridges, and the airways. The Customs Service, among other duties, collects tariffs and prevents smuggling, and it is part of the Treasury Department, whose primary responsibility is fiscal policy, not security.

Tonight I propose a permanent Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security to unite essential agencies that must work more closely together: Among them, the Coast Guard, the Border Patrol, the Customs Service, Immigration officials, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Employees of this new agency will come to work every morning knowing their most important job is to protect their fellow citizens.

The Department of Homeland Security will be charged with four primary tasks: This

new agency will control our borders and prevent terrorists and explosives from entering our country; it will work with State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies; it will bring together our best scientists to develop technologies that detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and to discover the drugs and treatments to best protect our citizens; and this new Department will review intelligence and law enforcement information from all agencies of Government and produce a single daily picture of threats against our homeland. Analysts will be responsible for imagining the worst and planning to counter it.

The reason to create this Department is not to create the size of Government but to increase its focus and effectiveness. The staff of this new Department will be largely drawn from the agencies we are combining. By ending duplication and overlap, we will spend less on overhead and more on protecting America. This reorganization will give the good people of our Government their best opportunity to succeed by organizing our resources in a way that is thorough and unified.

What I am proposing tonight is the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s. During his Presidency, Harry Truman recognized that our Nation's fragmented defenses had to be reorganized to win the cold war. He proposed uniting our military forces under a single Department of Defense and creating the National Security Council to bring together defense, intelligence, and diplomacy. Truman's reforms are still helping us to fight terror abroad, and now we need similar dramatic reforms to secure our people at home.

Only the United States Congress can create a new department of Government. So tonight I ask for your help in encouraging your Representatives to support my plan. We face an urgent need, and we must move quickly, this year, before the end of the congressional session. All in our Government have learned a great deal since September the 11th, and we must act on every lesson. We are stronger and better prepared tonight than we were on that terrible morning, and with your help and the support of the Congress, we will be stronger still.

History has called our Nation into action. History has placed a great challenge before us: Will America, with our unique position and power, blink in the face of terror, or will we lead to a freer, more civilized world? There's only one answer: This great country will lead the world to safety, security, peace, and freedom.

Thank you for listening. Good night, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

June 7, 2002

Department of Homeland Security

The President. I want to welcome Members of the Senate and the House, members of both political parties, to the Cabinet Room this morning to discuss how best to implement the strategy that I talked about last night, that other Members of Congress have been talking about for awhile, and that is the development of the Department of Homeland Security.

We've got a lot of work to do to get this Department implemented. There's going to be a lot of turf protection in the Congress. But I'm convinced that by working together, that we can do what's right for America, and I believe we can get something done.

To this end, I'm going to direct Tom Ridge to testify before Congress about the need for the establishment of this Cabinet agency. I feel strongly that he is the—he can represent the interests of the administration on the Hill, and he can bring our message to the Hill.

And I look forward to working with Senators Lieberman and Specter and Members of the House to get this important legislation passed. Obviously, the sooner the debate begins, the sooner the passage of this bill can happen. And that's good for the country.

Again, I want to thank the Members who are here. I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue. Thank you for your willingness to speak out about the importance of protecting our homeland.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]?²

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Thank you. If I could look ahead the next couple days, it's been a couple months now since you asked all the parties to step up in the Middle East, and there are still suicide bombings, still the incursions by the Israelis. Is there any hope for any progress in the next couple days with the President of Egypt and the Prime Minister of Israel?

The President. Yes, I mean, we're going to have good discussions, and that's always important. George Tenet has just come back from the Middle East. Ambassador Burns is coming back from the Middle East. There's been consultation with all the parties. And after my meetings with President Mubarak and Prime Minister Sharon, I'll talk to our country about how I think we should move forward.

Progress is being made. The Arab world now understands they need to be involved in pushing for peace and fighting against the terrorist actions that have—that make it very difficult to achieve a peace.

I still am disappointed in Mr. Arafat's leadership. He needs to cut off the terrorist activities.

Q. So you're talking about a speech on the Middle East?

The President. Well, I don't know if it'll be a speech. It may be a discussion. It could be a paper. I haven't decided the forum.

Q. But you'll lay out a new vision?

The President. No. I'm going to lay out—listen, if you're interested to know what I think, go back to the April 4th speech.

Department of Homeland Security

Q. Mr. President, how are you going to deal with some of the turf battles that come up? And what led you to change your mind about a Cabinet agency?

The President. Well, first of all, I have always been—ever since we first got going, I've been exploring this idea. My mind was

never made up one way or the other. I knew I needed to act right after September the 11th, and that's why I called upon Tom to serve in the capacity in which he has served. We needed to do something very quickly right after the attack.

We've been exploring this idea for awhile. I've been listening to Members of the Congress, who have been quite articulate on the subject. And after doing a lot of work on the feasibility of setting up this Cabinet position, we decided to move forward yesterday.

Now, in terms of turf battles, there's nothing wrong with a good turf-battle fight. And one way to win that argument is to call upon the good services of effective Members of the House and the Senate. And that's what this meeting is all about; it's the beginning of winning the turf battle.

I think most Members of Congress understand the need to act. I know Members of Congress know that we're in a new type of war, and there's been precedent. As I talked about last night, Harry Truman moved—asked Congress to move, in the reforms of our war-fighting capacities, and we need to do the same thing for the homeland.

And we've got Members here—if you look around this table, we've got Members here with plenty of seniority and plenty of stroke and plenty of credibility to move this package through both the House and the Senate.

Q. Mr. President, many Americans, when they hear about this plan, may think it is a growth in the size of Government, in the bureaucracy, another layer of bureaucracy. What do you say to people who might have that concern, might be concerned that this is just a shuffle and reshuffling of the deck?

The President. Well, I would tell them that there's going to be savings by—when we combine accounting units and savings when we combine people in place to worry about administration. You see, when you combine agencies that are scattered throughout the Government, there are inherent savings, which means that we're going to be able to have more money on the frontline of our homeland security.

There is—one of the things that's important about Government is that there be accountability within Government. And as I

mentioned last night, there's over 100 different agencies involved in homeland security. In other words, the ability to protect the homeland is scattered throughout, so there really is no accountability.

I mentioned the example of Customs. You know, they collect tariffs, but they report to the Secretary of Treasury, who really isn't in charge of homeland security. And so the idea is to configure those existing agencies into a—that are responsible for pieces of our security into one agency, so that accountability is clear.

And obviously—Harry Truman said, “The buck stops here,” in the White House. I understand that. But if that's the case, I want to make sure that accountability to me is clear, that we've aligned responsibility and authority. And so this is a very important reorganization to—it'll enable all of us to tell the American people that we're doing everything in our power to protect the homeland.

Q. Mr. President, we were told yesterday that this would lead to no substantial changes at the FBI and the CIA. Since those are the two agencies under the most scrutiny right now, how can Americans rest assured that this reorganization will really do anything to address the root intelligence failures behind the September 11th attacks?

The President. Well, first of all, the FBI and the CIA are changing. They understand that there have been gaps in intelligence sharing. If you listen to the testimony of FBI Director Mueller, you will understand that the FBI is making changes.

Now, FBI Mueller came to work one week before September the 11th. He'd been here one week on duty. And he has taken the testimony of the lady, the FBI woman out of Minneapolis, very seriously. He's looked at the report from Arizona. And he's reacted with reform.

The CIA and the FBI—I've said this in many, many speeches—that is, if you were paying attention to them—that the CIA and the FBI now talk like they've never talked before. In other words, we've learned lessons from what took place prior to September the 11th. And so the reforms, they're already going on, and they're making great progress and communicating in a much more seamless

way, in a much more—in a way that will help protect the homeland.

Thank you all.

Death of Martin Burnham

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Yes, one question. I want to answer this. Yes?

Q. Are you satisfied that the Philippine troops did all they could in the rescue attempt of the Burnhams? And have you contacted their family here at home?

The President. First, let me say how sad we are that Martin Burnham lost his life, and I will call his parents. I'm pleased that Mrs. Burnham's alive; that's good.

I talked to President Arroyo of the Philippines. She told me that she had called the Burnham parents, and I thanked her for reaching out. She assured me that the Philippine Government would hold the terrorist group accountable for how they treated these Americans, that justice would be done.

We are obviously going to look at all the particulars and the facts, and the State Department will be talking about that later on today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:31 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Minneapolis, MN, FBI Agent Coleen Rowley; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. He also referred to Martin Burnham, an American missionary who had been held hostage in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and was killed June 7 during a rescue attempt; his wife, Gracia, who was held hostage with Mr. Burnham but survived the rescue; and Mr. Burnham's parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham.

Remarks at the World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa

June 7, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. David, thanks for your kind remarks. It's a great honor to be here. It's a great pleasure to get out of Washington. [Laughter] It feels like I'm kind of getting closer to home, to be with people who make their living on the land. I'm honored to be

with the good folks who supply our country with food and the good folks who live the values of the farm.

I am honored to be traveling today with Tom Ridge. I gave a speech last night to the Nation that talked about the need to make sure we do everything we can to secure the homeland. And Tom—I convinced him to leave the Governor's—the statehouse of Pennsylvania to join me in Washington, and he's done a really good job, really good job.

I want to thank some of my friends who flew down from Washington with me. I don't know if they wanted a free ride or not, but they came. [Laughter] You know how Senator Grassley is. [Laughter] Congressman Ganske, Leach, and Latham also came down with me, and I was honored to travel with them. I appreciate their friendship. We spent a lot of time talking about the farm. Any time you're around people from Iowa, at least the congressional delegation, they're always talking about the farm, and that's good. I'm told Senator Harkin is here. Thank you for coming, Senator. I appreciate you being here. Congressman Leonard Boswell is here. Thank you for coming, Congressman. I'm honored you're here. The Lieutenant Governor, Sally Pederson, is here; Governor, thank you for being here. I'm honored you came.

I've got one regret. The traveling team wasn't complete. Unfortunately, my wife didn't come with me.

[At this point, the audience groaned.]

The President. Yes, I agree with you. [Laughter] You know, I'm really proud of her. The country has gotten to know Laura like I have gotten to know her. People now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are still confused as to why she said yes. [Laughter] But she has been a great comfort to our Nation and a great love of my life.

I remember—I remember campaigning in Chicago, and one of the reporters said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Only—only in times of war, in times of economic insecurity as a result of a recession, or in times of national emergency." Never did I dream we'd have a trifecta. [Laughter]

But I want you to know we are dealing with these issues in a way that I hope makes you proud that we're dealing with the issues. I'm doing everything I can to put the interests of the American people ahead of politics. I'm doing everything I can—everything I can to address these issues in a way that solves problems. So for example, on the issue of economic security, I went at it in a way—the only way I knew how, which is in a straightforward, plain-spoken way.

I said, the best way to make sure we've got a strong farm economy and to make sure our economy recovers from the recession is to let people keep their own money. I believe that when you let a person keep his own—his or her own money, they're going to spend it. And when they spend it, it increases demands for goods and services. And with an increase of demand for goods and services, somebody has got to produce that good and service. And when they produce it, it means somebody's going to find work.

It was one year ago today, I had the honor of signing the tax relief bill that Chairman Chuck Grassley—then-Chairman Grassley—shepherded—helped shepherd through the United States Senate. It was the right public policy at the right time for the United States of America. And today I'm told that there are some statistics coming out that shows that the unemployment rate in America is dropping. People are getting back to work. My attitude is, I don't pay attention to the numbers, however. If a person's looking for work and can't find work, I'm worried about it. And so long as there are people looking for work who can't find work, we're going to continue doing the right thing in Washington to stimulate job creation.

Now, part of that tax relief package was something really important for the future of the country and for the future of your families. Finally, the United States Congress realized how unfair the death tax is to the people who make a living on the farm, and finally, we repealed the death tax. Now—but because of a quirk in the law, that repeal isn't permanent. It's hard for me to explain why. They repeal it but didn't repeal it. And so what I want you to do is work with Members of the United States Senate so that they do what they did in the House, which is to make

the repeal of the death tax permanent. It makes no sense to tax a person's assets twice, and it makes no sense to have a tax that drives people off the farm. For the good of American agriculture, let's make sure that death tax is forever buried and forever done away with.

For the good of the economy and for economic security, they need to get me an energy bill, an energy bill that encourages conservation, an energy bill that encourages reasonable, environmentally sound exploration, and an energy bill—and an energy bill that promotes renewable sources of energy such as ethanol and biodiesel.

When I first came to Iowa to ask for the support of the people here, and I talked about ethanol, people's eyes tended to glaze over at times because they said, "Well, this guy's from Texas. He can't possibly mean what he says about ethanol." First, I hope I proved them wrong. And secondly, you've got to understand, it's in our Nation's national interest; it is in our national interest to have more forms of energy produced at home so we're less reliant upon foreign sources of energy.

In order to make sure this economy is strong, we've got to make sure that the agricultural sector of our economy is strong. See, I understand that. I was from a—the Governor of the second largest agricultural State in the Union. I understand farm economics. I understand the need to have a hopeful economy. And I understand the need to be able to grow more—to grow more food than we need, for the national security of the country as well.

But I also understand, when there's oversupply, it's a problem. And one of the ways to deal with oversupply is to sell Iowa pork in foreign markets. I need the trade promotion authority. It is time to quit playing politics with trade promotion. It's time for the House and the Senate to get together and get that bill on my desk. And my promise to you all is this: We're not going to treat agriculture as some second-class citizen when it comes to international trade agreements.

I understand the importance of agriculture for our economy. I understand the importance of agriculture for job creation. And I

understand the need to fight for foreign markets so that when we're good at something, we benefit. And we're good at growing hogs, and we ought to be selling our hogs all across the world.

And the farm bill I signed recognizes the importance of trade. To put it in fancy Washington talk, it's what we call WTO-compliant. It means we've honored our trade agreements when it comes to agriculture. But it also recognizes, there needs to be a safety net for the American farmer. And it also recognizes the need to promote conservation in America through the EQIP program, for example. I signed a good farm bill. It's good for the American farmer, and it's good for the United States of America.

And finally, to work on the economic security of this country, we need terrorism insurance. There's a lot of construction programs or projects that aren't going forward because people can't get the right kind of insurance for fear of a terrorist attack. And Congress has got to act, for the good of the working people, for the good of people who are building skyscrapers and construction projects all across America. The United States Congress needs to get to my desk a bill to make sure we've got terrorism insurance all across the United States of America. If we're interested in economic security, this is a good step in that right direction. This is a step in a direction that will help people find work when it comes to building plants and equipment. The economy's getting better, but I'm not going to rest until everybody can find work.

The other big challenge we have is to make sure our homeland is secure. As I mentioned last night, when I get into the Oval Office every morning, I read what they call a threat assessment. By the way, I do have a ritual every morning. I'm still getting Laura the coffee. I hate to put the pressure on you guys, but—[laughter]—there I was this morning. I'm kind of on a farmer's schedule. We're up early. In comes the coffee. I don't spend a lot of time on the editorial pages, I want you to know. [Laughter] And then I'd walk the dogs, and it's a moment of high drama for the dogs. They're looking forward to getting out of the confines of the White House. Spot the dog is pretty comfortable there. After all, she was born when my dad was

the President, born right there at the White House. And so she's—second time around, feels—understands where the hedges are. [Laughter] And Barney, 1½-year-old Scottish terrier, he's a feisty little guy. He doesn't spend a lot of time in the White House—I mean, in the Oval Office. After all, we've got a new rug in there. [Laughter]

So off goes Barney in one direction, and Spot and I go in the Oval Office. And I settle in to read this threat assessment, and it reminds me, on a daily basis, my most important job is to protect America from attack. We're constantly asking inside the White House, What can we do? What do we need to do to protect innocent Americans? And the reason we're having to do that is because we face a formidable enemy, an enemy which hates America because we stand for freedom. The problem is, they're going to be on the losing side because we're more formidable, because we love freedom.

I don't know what went through their mind when they attacked us. They must have thought we were so materialistic and so weak and so self-absorbed that all we would do is file a couple of lawsuits. They found out we're a little different than that.

And the first thing we've got to do is to make sure we do everything at home to protect the people. And that's why last night, on national TV, I proposed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, a new Cabinet-level position that will consolidate the essential functions of securing our homeland into one agency.

See, there's now over 100 different entities—agencies that deal with the homeland, which makes it kind of hard to hold anybody accountable. I believe in accountability in Government. After all, you will hold me accountable, and therefore, it's important to align authority and responsibility, to create accountability.

Last night I used a couple of examples. You know, I said that the Coast Guard's—obviously—job is to patrol the coast, but they report to the Transportation Department. And the Transportation Department's primary function is not the security of the country. The Customs reports to the head of the Treasury. The main job of the Treasury is not the security of the country. It's time for

us to consolidate, not to increase the size of Government but to increase the efficiency of your Government, so we can do the job you expect us to do.

This is going to be a tough battle because we're going to be stepping on some people's toes. I understand that. You see, when you take power away from one person in Washington, it tends to make them nervous. So we're just going to have to keep the pressure on the people in the United States Congress to do the right thing. I believe it is going to happen.

This morning we had a group of Senators and House Members from both parties—Joe Lieberman was there; Arlen Specter was there—talking about how to get this bill started in Congress and through Congress as quickly as possible. And so I'm confident it's going to happen, particularly when the American people understand it is in our national interests that we bring these agencies under one—under one head, so that we can do everything in our power—and I mean everything in our power—to keep you all safe.

But the best way to keep you safe, the best way to protect the homeland, is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

I see some youngsters out there. I want you to understand that the goal of this country is to have peace. The goal of the United States is to remain strong and tough so that you can grow up in a peaceful world. That's my hope. And it's not just you growing up in a peaceful world; it is children all around the world growing up in a peaceful world.

But so long as there are people out there that want to harm us because of that vision, because we love freedom, because we worship freely, because we're free to speak our mind, the United States of America has an obligation to lead. The United States of America has an obligation to lead a coalition to bring people to justice. And so long as I'm the President of the United States, that is precisely what this great Nation is going to do.

This is a new kind of war. We're not used to this kind of war in America. First of all, we weren't used to the fact that anybody could come into our country and kill thousands of innocent people. We've got to get

used to the fact that they want to come again. That's what we have to get used to. But we've also got to get used to the fact that we're fighting an enemy that's willing to send youngsters to their suicide, to the death by suicide, and they, themselves, hide in a cave. And so it's going to require this country to be determined and strong and patient. And that's exactly how the country feels. And for that, I'm grateful. And for that, the enemy is nervous.

You see, the world looks at us right now. They say, "Well, this great bastion of freedom—how are we going to react? As time goes between September the 11th and now, what's going to happen to the United States? How strong are they? How much are they willing to defend their country? What are they really like?" And that's why it's important for us to remain tough and strong. If we blink, the world's going to go to sleep, and I understand that. In order to defend freedom, we've got to have the world by our side. And that's what's going to happen, folks—that's just exactly what's going to happen.

There is no cave dark enough and deep enough to prevent us from chasing down these killers. And so one by one, this great and steady and strong United States of America is going to liberate the world from people who would destroy civilization as we know it. It's the right course of action. History has called our Nation into action. History has given us a chance, and it's a chance I intend to seize.

I believe—I firmly believe, out of the evil done to the country will come some great good; I do. I believe that over time, we can achieve peace in places where there's never been a hope for peace. I believe by being strong and diligent, by speaking out against right from wrong, by calling evil what it is, we can lead the world to a more peaceful tomorrow.

And I also know this about America: Out of the evil done to our country can come some incredible good right here in Iowa, and all across the country. People ask me all the time, "What can I do to help America? How can I participate in this war against terror?" Well, if you're interested, really interested, you can call up—dial up USA Freedom

Corps on the Internet to find out. But you don't need to do that. If you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. If you're interested in fighting evil, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

Sometimes the acts of kindness are noticeable, and sometimes they're not. Walking across the street to a shut-in, saying, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" is part of loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentoring a child is an incredibly important part of defining America for what we are, which is a country of goodness and decency.

Today at the airport I met a young lady named Annie Wignall. She's the founder of Care Bags Foundation. Young lady—where are you, Annie? Stand up. *[Applause]* Annie started this foundation on her own. She just decided she's going to do something to make a difference in somebody's life. It collects and distributes clothes, toys, and personal care items to children who are victims of abuse or neglect. Annie is a soldier in the army of compassion. Annie sets a good example for all of us. One person can't do everything, but one person can do something to make somebody's life better.

So my call to my fellow Americans is that on the one hand we're tough, to keep the peace. But on the other hand, I know we can rise to the challenge of showing the world that in the face of the incredible evil done to America can come some great good. And it starts right with you. Every act of individual kindness and compassion, the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion, will show the enemy and the world the true face of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for letting me come by. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. in the 4-H building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to David Roper, president, National Pork Producers Council, who introduced the President. He also referred to EQIP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program which is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 1

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to West Point, NY, and later, he returned to Camp David.

June 2

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR, where he met with AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer Brenda Ross. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to the White House on June 10 to discuss the situation in the Middle East and to review key bilateral issues.

June 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Fort Meade, MD, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with bipartisan Members of the Senate to discuss welfare reauthorization.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard L. Baltimore III to be Ambassador to Oman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gail Dennise Thomas Mathieu to be Ambassador to Niger.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald C. Johnson to be Ambassador to Cape Verde.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jimmy Kolker to be Ambassador to Uganda.

The President announced his intention to nominate Martin George Brennan to be Ambassador to Zambia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vicki Huddleston to be Ambassador to Mali.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul William Speltz to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carolyn W. Merritt to be Chairperson and member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

June 5

In the morning, the President met with Senators Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Richard G. Lugar to discuss the President's recent visit to Europe and urge them to bring the Treaty of Moscow to a vote for ratification by the Senate. Also in the morning, the President met with Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, USAFR, Director of the Air National Guard.

During the day, the President had telephone conversations with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India to urge them to take steps that will ease tensions in the region and reduce the risk of war.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Klosson to be Ambassador to Cyprus.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry Leon Palmer to be Ambassador to Honduras.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Irvin Gadsden to be Ambassador to Iceland.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Randle Hamilton to be Ambassador to Guatemala.

The President announced his intention to nominate Randolph Bell for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah Doyle McWhinney to be a Director on the Board of Directors for the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (securities industry representative).

The President announced his intention to nominate William H. Campbell to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Management.

June 6

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then met with the Homeland Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Ivica Racan of Croatia.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the India-Pakistan situation, nonproliferation cooperation, and other issues.

June 7

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Rudolf Schuster of Slovakia. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines concerning the death of Martin Burnham, an American missionary who had been held hostage in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and was killed earlier in the day during a rescue attempt. The President also had a telephone conversation with Mr. Burnham's parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham, to express his condolences. Later, he traveled to Des Moines, IA, where he met with eighth-grader Annie Wignall, who founded the Care Bags Foundation to aid children who are victims of abuse or neglect.

In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

In the evening, the President hosted a dinner for President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Aaron Ray to be Ambassador to Cambodia.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health: Stephen Wright Mayberg, Nancy Carter Speck, Larke Nahme Huang, and Norwood Wilbert Knight-Richardson.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 4

Richard L. Baltimore III,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman.

Martin George Brennan,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

Vicki Huddleston,
of Arizona, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Donald C. Johnson,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cape Verde.

Jimmy Kolker,
of Missouri, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uganda.

Gail Dennise Thomas Mathieu,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Niger.

Submitted June 5

Randolph Bell,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

James Irvin Gadsden,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iceland.

John Randle Hamilton,
of North Carolina, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Michael Klosson,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Carolyn W. Merritt,
of Illinois, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Paul L. Hill, Jr.

Carolyn W. Merritt,
of Illinois, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Paul L. Hill, Jr.

Larry Leon Palmer,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras.

Paul William Speltz,
of Texas, to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, vice N. Cinnamon Dornsife, resigned.

Submitted June 6

William H. Campbell,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management), vice Edward A. Powell, Jr., resigned.

Peter J. Hurtgen,
of Maryland, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director, vice Charles Richard Barnes, resigned.

Deborah Doyle McWhinney,
of California, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2004, vice Albert James Dwoskin, term expired.

Alejandro Modesto Sanchez,
of Florida, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2002, vice Sheryl R. Marshall.

Alejandro Modesto Sanchez,
of Florida, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2006 (reappointment).

Andrew Saul,
of New York, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2004, vice James H. Atkins.

Gordon Whiting,
of New York, to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2006, vice Don Harrell, term expiring.

Submitted June 7

Mark Moki Hanohano,
of Hawaii, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Hawaii for the term of 4 years, vice Howard Hikaru Tagomori.

Michael Lee Kline,
of Washington, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Washington for the term of 4 years, vice G. Ronald Dashiell, term expired.

Charlotte A. Lane,
of West Virginia, to be a member of the U.S.
International Trade Commission for a term
expiring December 16, 2009, vice Dennis M.
Devaney.

Carolyn Y. Peoples,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Housing and Urban Development, vice Eva
M. Plaza, resigned.

Charles Aaron Ray,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior For-
eign Service, class of Counselor, to be Am-
bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America to the King-
dom of Cambodia.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released June 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press
Secretary Scott McClellan and Health and
Human Services Secretary Tommy G.
Thompson

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Fact sheet: New Report Shows That Welfare
Reform Really Works

Released June 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Golden Ju-
bilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Released June 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the
President's telephone calls to the leaders of
India and Pakistan

Released June 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on the
President's telephone conversation with
President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Advance text of the President's address to
the Nation

Excerpts of the President's address to the
Nation

Fact sheet: The Department of Homeland
Security

Released June 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Mar-
shals for the District of Hawaii and the East-
ern District of Washington

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were
received by the Office of the Federal Register
during the period covered by this issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 8, 2002

Good morning. Nearly 9 months have passed since September the 11th, and America is leading the world in a titanic struggle against terror. The first and best way to secure America's homeland is to attack the enemy where he hides and plans, and we are doing just that.

We have also concluded that our Government must be reorganized to deal most effectively with the new threats of the 21st century, so I have asked the Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security, with an overriding and urgent mission, securing the American homeland and protecting the American people.

The Department of Homeland Security will unite essential agencies that must work more closely together, among them the Coast Guard and the Border Patrol, the Customs Service, Immigration officials, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Employees of this new agency will come to work every morning knowing that their most important job is to protect their fellow citizens.

The Department of Homeland Security will be charged with four primary tasks: This new agency will control our borders and prevent terrorists and explosives from entering our country; it will work with State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies; it will bring together our best scientists to develop technologies that detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and to discover the drugs and treatments to best protect our citizens; and this new Department will review intelligence and law enforcement information from all agencies of Government and produce a single daily picture of threats against our homeland. Analysts will be responsible for imagining the worst and planning to counter it.

What I am proposing is the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s. During his Presidency, Harry Truman recognized that our Nation's fragmented defenses had to be reorganized to win the cold war. He proposed uniting our military forces under a single Depart-

ment of Defense and creating the National Security Council to bring together defense, intelligence, and diplomacy. President Truman's reforms are still helping us to fight terror abroad, and now we need similar dramatic reforms to secure our people at home.

Only the United States Congress can create a new department of Government, so I'm asking for your help in encouraging your Representatives to support my plan. We face an urgent need, and we must move quickly, this year, before the end of the congressional session.

All in our Government have learned a great deal since September the 11th, and we must act on every lesson. We are stronger and better prepared today than we were on that terrible morning. And with your help and the support of the Congress, we will be stronger still.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:35 a.m. on June 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt at Camp David, Maryland

June 8, 2002

President Bush Mr. President, thank you. Welcome to Camp David. It is a joy for me and Laura to have you here at this beautiful part of our country, a place where we like to come and relax and a place where we like to welcome our friends.

We had a—the President and I had a good dinner last night. We talked a lot about our mutual concerns, opportunities to make the world a more peaceful place. And we got up and had a good private visit and then met with our delegations.

First, I want to thank the President of Egypt for his country's strong support in our war against terror. I know there's been a lot of focus on, obviously, the Middle East, and I'll mention that in a second, but we're still

in a war against people who want to harm America and people who want to harm Egypt. And we've had—we've got a good friend, Americans have a good friend, when it comes to this war on terror, in Egypt.

The President understands that we've got a long way to go in order to be successful. He's now been told again by me that my most important job is to secure our homeland, and this country is plenty tough and plenty patient and plenty determined to achieve that objective.

Obviously, we spent time talking about the Middle East, and we share a common vision of two states living side by side in peace. And I appreciated so very much his—listening to his ideas as to how to achieve that objective, that grand goal. The world—the Palestinians hurt, and I know that. And my concern is for the Palestinian people. And my view is, is that if the Palestinian people have a government that is transparent and open and willing to serve the people, Israel will be better off, Egypt will be better off, America will be better off, and we're more likely to achieve peace. And we discussed how to achieve those objectives.

The President of Egypt has had a lot of experience, and I appreciate his experience, and I appreciate his advice. Anytime he is willing to give it, I'm willing to listen. And so, Mr. President, I want to thank you for your time, and I appreciate your friendship, and welcome you to Camp David.

President Mubarak. Thank you very much for that. I will deliver my speech in Arabic language.

President Bush. He's going to speak in Arabic. That's good. The American press—

President Mubarak. I would like to thank President Bush for his welcoming remarks, which reflects the deep friendship between us. During our stay at Camp David here, I conducted extensive discussions with President Bush on a range of issues of mutual concern, most important of which was the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, and especially the Palestinian-Israeli track and its negative impact on regional and international security in general.

There is no doubt that the peace process in the Middle East is passing through a crit-

ical junction which requires us to exert all possible efforts on the political and security tracks, to rebuild the confidence between the parties, on one hand, and to relaunch a serious political negotiations aimed at final settlement on the other.

While Egypt's leading quest for peace in the Middle East has achieved its objectives here at Camp David 24 years ago, we have come back together today fully committed to exert our maximum efforts once again, so that peace and security may prevail in the Middle East region. And I must affirm here that your personal role, Mr. President, and the role of the United States today remains as important as was America's contribution towards reaching the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel more than two decades ago. And we look forward to the continuation of the effective role.

The entire international community, ladies and gentlemen, has supported the courageous vision of peace in the Middle East put forward by President Bush in his speech before the United Nations last fall. This vision was adopted by the Security Council in its Resolution 1397, which affirmed that peace in the Middle East must be based on two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side. We in Egypt and the entire Arab world support this vision and strongly believe that it represents the only way to achieve progress towards the settlement of the conflict.

Now it is time to move to implement our common vision in an effective and systematic way. And we have a strong foundation to implement that vision, and that is represented in the principles adopted by the Madrid peace conference and supported by the initiative adopted by the Arab League summit conference in Beirut, which affirmed Arab rights while responding to all Israeli concerns. These are the terms of references that should govern all future efforts.

For us to be able to achieve this vision, the confidence that was lost between the two parties during the previous period must be rebuilt as we embark on serious political negotiations that will contribute to the realization of our objectives. In this context, Israel must: End the siege imposed on the Palestinian people and withdraw its forces to positions occupied on September 28, 2000; and

halt assassinations and the repeated incursions in the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority; and immediately halt all settlement activities in the occupied territories, including the illegal confiscation of land and expansion of settlements under the pretext of natural growth or any other consideration.

At the same time, the Palestinian Authority must continue to intensify its efforts towards restructuring in a way that facilitates the better performance of its functions based on the principles of transparency and trust, in preparation for the establishment of its sovereign, independent state. The Palestinian Authority must continue in its firm implementation of President Arafat's decisive commitment to halt the violence and intensify the security cooperation and coordination under the supervision of the United States.

It also falls upon all of us, as partners in peace, to work towards alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people, through economic and humanitarian assistance, so as to remove the feeling of despair that stands in the way of reaching the desired settlement.

Mr. President, Egypt and the Arab states have affirmed their condemnation and rejection of the use of force and violence against civilians. Egypt has also affirmed its commitment to continue its major role in the search for peace. At the same time, the United States has affirmed, by putting forward this clear vision for peace, its commitment to effectively play its role in its capacity as the main sponsor of the peace process.

We look forward to a strong American engagement in the coming phase to implement this vision, in the context of an agreed time-frame and through negotiations on a permanent settlement that should lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the entire West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem. For the settlement to be just and comprehensive, Israel must withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied during 1967, including Syrian and Lebanese territories.

While pursuing our efforts, it must be kept in mind that there are forces that lack the conviction of our joint vision and will continue to obstruct our efforts to move towards a final and a comprehensive settlement. The way to confront the enemies of peace is to

move forward with courage and determination to renew hope to the Palestinians and Israeli peoples in the future in which prosperity and stability prevail and away from the menace of violence and confrontation.

My meeting here today with President Bush has reaffirmed our joint determination to revive the hopes of peace through the longstanding partnership between our two countries and through which we have and will continue together to reach historic achievements on the path of peace between Arabs and Israelis for the benefit of the peoples of the region and also for the benefit of regional and international stability.

The depth of Egyptian-American relations represents one of the essential cornerstones in our joint pursuit of peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, we discussed today means to strengthen our bilateral ties, including our trade and economic relations, so as to reinforce Egypt's ability to implement its plans for economic reform and to guide us toward a more balanced trade relationship between us.

Our meeting today coincides with a visit by the United States Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick, to Egypt, to meet with his counterparts on the Egyptian side, which I hope that it will result in tangible progress in furthering our relationships to new heights.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead to chart the correct path on the road to peace, so that we can complete together the implementation of the mission that we have started together here at Camp David more than 20 years ago to achieve just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. I am confident that our joint efforts, supported by a solid determination, will lead us to achieve this goal in the near future.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Q. President Bush—

President Bush. Hold on a second, please. We'll answer two questions apiece, two from the American side, two from the Egyptian side. I'm going to call on the American first. If you don't mind, contain your questions to one of us, if that's possible. And

we'll start with Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], who I know—I know will adhere to that rule. [Laughter]

Ron Fournier.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Thank you.

Timetable for a Palestinian State

Q. Do you agree with President Mubarak that there needs to be a deadline for a Palestinian state to give the Palestinian people hope? And on the other hand, I want to know if President Mubarak—the reforms of the Palestinian Authority that you say—that President Bush says will give the Israelis hope, can they be done with Arafat still in charge?

President Bush. See, it's hard to reform the press. [Laughter] It may be harder to reform the press than to implement the needed reforms in the Palestinian territories. Your first question was?

Q. Do you agree with President Mubarak that there needs to be a deadline—

President Bush. Yes. Here's the timetable I have in mind. We need to start immediately in building the institutions necessary for the emergence of a Palestinian state which, on the one hand, will give hope to the Palestinian people and, on the other hand, say to the world, including the neighborhood, that there is a chance to defeat—to live in peace, to defeat terror. And that's important.

I also agree with the President of Egypt that, as we discussed the development of institutions necessary to provide hope and security in the region, that we've got to be talking about a political—have a political dialog. Part of the consultation process that we are having is to determine what's feasible in terms of that political dialog, what's feasible in terms of the timetable that a lot of people are anxious to talk about. We're not ready to lay down a specific calendar, except for the fact we need to get started quickly, soon, so that we can seize the moment.

And one of the things I'm most appreciative about, about the—about the progress made to date is, people now understand they have responsibilities. As I said in my April 4th speech, I talked about the responsibilities necessary to achieve a vision of peace. And President Mubarak has shown that he is ac-

cepting responsibility. He's very much involved in this process, and he's very much anxious that we work together to achieve that which is necessary and, to put it in his words, to come up with an effective and systematic way to get to the vision that we've—that I've outlined.

President Mubarak. What's your second question, please?

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. I just want to know whether those Palestinian reforms that President Bush says have to happen first, can they be done, sir, in your opinion, by Yasser Arafat?

President Mubarak. Look, we should give this man a chance. We are working very hard in cooperation with the United States for the reform in the Palestinian Authority. Such a chance will prove that he is going to deliver or not. If he's going to deliver, I think everybody will support him. If he's not going to deliver, his people will tell him that.

Q. President Bush—

President Bush. The President gets to decide what member from the Egyptian press corps—

President Mubarak. Yes.

Q. President Bush—

President Bush. Good going. He selected you. [Laughter]

Israeli Settlements

Q. Right. Nihal Saad, from Egyptian Television. Thank you for giving me the floor. It has been the stand of successive American administrations that the settlements, the Israeli settlements, is an obstacle to peace. But ever since Prime Minister Sharon came to office, there has been a steep increase in the settlements by almost 40 percent. Now, what is the stand of your administration concerning the settlement building, and what message would you tell the Israeli Government concerning that issue?

President Bush. Well, on April 4th I delivered the speech that I'm talking about, that I would hope you'd review what I said. I said, all parties have got responsibilities to achieve peace, including the Israelis. And Israel must work to create the conditions necessary to achieve peace. And my position hasn't changed since that speech.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters].

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Thank you. Mr. President—President Bush, are you confident you will get support from Arab leaders for reaching beyond Yasser Arafat to other Palestinian representatives?

President Bush. Look, Adam, here's what I'm confident about. I'm confident about the—Arab leaders understand the need for us to develop the institutions necessary for a peaceful and hopeful state to emerge.

Chairman Arafat, as far as I'm concerned, is not the issue. The issue is whether or not the Palestinian people can have a hopeful future. I have constantly said I am disappointed in his leadership. I think he's let the Palestinian people down. And so, therefore, my focus is on the reforms necessary to help the Palestinians.

The President believes that the Chairman—if you notice, he didn't say he's going to deliver—should be given a chance to deliver. And that's an interesting point of view. I also happen to believe that there is plenty of talent in—amongst the Palestinians, and that if we develop the institutions necessary for the development of a state, that talent will emerge.

The issue is bigger than one person. The issue is an issue that really deals with people who suffer and people who have no hope. And I believe—I believe it is in the Palestinians' interest to have an independent state, at peace with its neighbor, and I believe it's in Israel's interest. Otherwise, I would not have taken this position.

Last question.

Halting Middle East Violence

Q. President Mubarak—my question is addressed for President Mubarak. And I want to have a comment from Mr. President Bush, if you please. My name is Hanaa Simery, from the Egyptian Television, and my question is, is it realistic to ask for a complete halt of violence between the Palestinians and Israelis as a precondition for resuming any political negotiations?

President Mubarak. Me or you?

President Bush. I don't care. Who would you like to answer it?

Q. Both of you.

President Bush. Both of us, okay.

President Mubarak. Both of us, on the same question. All right—

President Bush. Maybe we'll give the same answer. [Laughter]

President Mubarak. I think we have the experience, since the Prime Minister took office, that he will never start the negotiation unless violence could come to an end—even that before Prime Minister Sharon. Till now violence didn't stop, and I don't think the violence will come to an end unless the people feel that there is hope for peace and there is something to show that peace is coming. If they didn't feel that, they will not stop violence; it will continue forever.

President Bush. My attitude about violence is this: People have responsibilities to do everything they can to stop violence. Chairman Arafat must do everything in his power to stop the violence, to stop the attacks on Israel—I mean everything. And that includes reforming the security forces so that they are—their primary function is to deal with violence.

The Arab world must work hard to defeat terror and violence. My opening comments were sincere about the President of Egypt; he's working hard to defeat violence and terror. And so the one thing I'm certain of is that we've all got to focus a lot of energy and attention on stopping violence, not only in the Middle East but all around the world.

See, there are terrorists who would love to destroy any peace process, and we have the responsibility to prevent them from doing so. And that means working all the time to stop it from happening. There are people who hate freedom, and they'll use terror to destroy innocent lives to achieve evil objectives.

And all of us—that's what I'm certain about—all of us must work—I'm certain if we don't work together and assume our responsibilities, it's going to be hard to win the war on terror. I'm certain if we stay focused and tough and resolute, we can win the war on terror. And as we remain tough, we're going to be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where people have kind of said there's no chance for peace, and it's not just

in the Middle East—not just in the Middle East.

Thank you all very much for coming.

President Mubarak. Good job. Thank you.

President Bush. Good job.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:32 a.m. outside Holly Cabin. President Mubarak's opening remarks were in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. President Mubarak referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

June 10, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome back Israel's Prime Minister to the Oval Office. Every time the Prime Minister comes, we have a very frank and good exchange. Today we talked about how to achieve peace in the Middle East. I reiterated my strong view that we need to work toward two states living side by side in peace. And we talked about how to achieve this—how to achieve security and peace and economic hope for all people in the region.

I appreciate so very much the Prime Minister's coming and willingness to share his views about his country's future. Every time he comes, I learn a lot. And I want to thank you for coming, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you.

President Bush. Do you want to say a few things?

Prime Minister Sharon. Yes. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having me again here. I think it was a very interesting and fruitful talks about reaching a peace in the Middle East. Israel is a peace-seeking country. We believe in peace; we are committed to peace.

Of course, in order to achieve peace in the Middle East, first of all we have to have security; it should be a full cessation of terror hostilities and incitement. And of course, we must have a partner for negotiations. At the present time, we don't see yet a partner. We

hope it'll be a partner there with whom we'll be able to move forward, first to achieve a doable peace in the area and second, of course, to provide security to the citizens of our countries.

And of course, one of the most important things is how really to take on the necessary steps to make the life of the Palestinians and other nations in the region better than they are now. These are, I would say, were the main subject of our talks today.

Again, thank you so much.

President Bush. You bet.

Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Yes, sir.

President Bush. And then we'll alternate.

Israeli Position on Resumption of the Peace Process

Q. I have a question to you, sir.

President Bush. That's good. That's a—that's a reform.

Q. Is Israel hurting the peace process with repeated incursions and by ruling out, even as you're trying to jump-start the peace process, a withdrawal to the country's 1967 borders?

President Bush. There are people in the Middle East who want to use terror as a way to disrail—derail any peace process. And we've got to work together to create the conditions that prevent a few from stopping what most people in the region want, which is peace.

Israel has a right to defend herself. And at the same time, as Israel does so, the Prime Minister is willing to discuss the conditions necessary to achieve what we want, which is a secure region and a hopeful region. And that's why we discussed reforms necessary for the—that would enable a Palestinian Authority to emerge, which could give great confidence to two people, the Israelis and, as important, the Palestinians. And that's important.

And so we're going to continue to work together, along with other Arab—along with some of the Arab leaders, to fight off terror, to prevent the few from dictating against the will of the many in the region.

**Chairman Yasser Arafat of the
Palestinian Authority**

Q. [*Inaudible*—of Israel Channel Two. Mr. President, there's a wide concern within the Israel Government that, after the next terror bombs, there should be an expelling of Arafat from the region. What do you think about it? Do you think it's fruitful—a fruitful move that will, as you said, would merge the terrorists and the Palestinian side? Or it's a destructive move that will hurt the peace process?

President Bush. I don't think Mr. Arafat is the issue.

Q. He is the issue—

President Bush. Excuse me for a minute. Let me start over. I don't think Mr. Arafat is the issue. I think the issue is the Palestinian people. And as I have expressed, myself, I am disappointed that he has not led in such a way that the Palestinian people have hope and confidence. And so, therefore, what we've got to do is work to put institutions in place which will allow for a government to develop which will bring confidence not only to Israelis but the Palestinians.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Arrest of Abdullah al Muhajir

Q. Mr. President, sir, what can you tell us about this dirty-bomb plot? Is there still a threat? And if this had happened, was Washington, DC, the target?

President Bush. I can tell you that we have a man detained who is a threat to the country and that, thanks to the vigilance of our intelligence gathering and law enforcement, he is now off the streets, where he should be. And I'll let the Defense Department, Justice Department comment on the specifics.

Regional Ministerial Peace Summit

Q. [*Inaudible*—Radio. Mr. President, I would like to hear your view about the regional summit we all discussed. Do you think that this regional summit should be based on the Security Council Number 1397, calling to establish a Palestinian state, which you mention in your vision? Or do you think it just should be based on the 242 and 338 Resolution that we all know about?

President Bush. Look, I think—here's the thing: I think that we need to have a—well, first of all, let's get the summit in context. You're talking about the proposed summit this summer, a ministerial summit of people that come together to work toward the conditions necessary to establish a peace. See, the conditions aren't even there yet—that's because no one has confidence in the emerging Palestinian government.

And so, first things first, and that is, what institutions are necessary to give the Palestinian people hope and to give the Israelis confidence that the emerging government will be someone with whom they can deal? And that's going to require security steps, transparency when it comes to economic matters, anticorruption devices, rule of law enforced by a court system.

Now, it is very important for people to understand that as these steps are taken, as this—people work together to achieve the institutions necessary for peace, that there is a political process on the horizon as well. But the ministerial meetings that the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, suggested are all aimed at achieving—working toward the foundation necessary for there to be confidence and eventual peace.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Abdullah al Muhajir, formerly known as Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen and suspected terrorist who was arrested on May 8 in Chicago, IL.

**Remarks at the International
Democratic Union Leaders Dinner**

June 10, 2002

If I may have your attention for a minute, please. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the International Democratic Union's members and its new chairman, Prime Minister of Australia John Howard. And it's my pleasure to thank the outgoing chairman, William Hague, for his outstanding leadership.

With us this evening are IDU members from 40 nations, including five current heads of state or government, and nine former

heads of state or government. The presence of so many distinguished world leaders is a remarkable testament to the power and attractiveness of our ideas.

More than a century ago, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir William Harcourt, declared, "We're all socialists now." [Laughter] Today, it's fair to say, we're all democratic capitalists now. The democratic capitalists' vision of a free and just and compassionate society has captured the imagination of the world. Free markets, free governments, and free societies are not American ideas; they're not European or Western ideas; they're universal ideas. And they inspire all the member parties of the International Democratic Union.

The historical record is clear: Economic systems that put freedom first have achieved greater levels of equality and well-being than systems that seek to strengthen the power of the state and stifle economic liberty. That's the record. But while the ideas the IDU stands for have made unprecedented gains, the free societies we love face unprecedented threats.

We face coldblooded killers that hate the freedoms we cherish, and with the spread of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons, along with ballistic missile technology, freedom's enemies could attain catastrophic power. And there's no doubt that they would use that power to attack us and to attack the values we uphold.

It is our commitment to freedom and human dignity and the strong belief that each individual matters that sets our enemies against us and draws our friends together in a great coalition of liberty. We will oppose the new totalitarians with all our power. We will hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

And we must never hate—hesitate to speak for what we believe. We believe we fight an enemy that is barbaric and that is evil. We believe targeting innocent civilians for murder is always and everywhere wrong; and political, social, and economic freedoms are always and everywhere right.

The war on terror will be long and it will be dangerous. It will require us to be patient and steadfast and clear about what we're fighting for. We fight for the nonnegotiable

demands of human dignity: The rule of law; limits on the power of the state; respect for women; respect for private property; and free speech and equal justice and religious tolerance.

And so I'd like you to join me in a toast for the ideas which we all share, and for the great hope to replace poverty and repression and resentment with the promise of a better day for everyone who inhabits this Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:03 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Commodity Credit Corporation

June 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 4, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 11.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee

June 6, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 108(b) of Public Law 98-373 (15 U.S.C. 4107(b)), I transmit herewith the Ninth Biennial Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (February 1, 2000, to January 31, 2002).

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 11.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the
Corporation for Public Broadcasting**
June 6, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Law 102–356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for calendar year 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 11. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Congressional Leaders and an
Exchange With Reporters**

June 11, 2002

Department of Homeland Security

The President. It's my honor to welcome the leadership of the Congress here to the—to the Cabinet Room to discuss the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. We've had a really good discussion about the need to move forward with this idea.

I'll let the leaders speak for themselves later on, but I—what I've heard is, there's a commitment to get this done in a way that takes any partisanship out of the issue and at the same time strives for a date certain—Congressman Gephardt suggested that we can get this done, or should try to get this done, by September the 11th. The Speaker spoke out about the need to work toward getting it done as soon as possible, as did Senator Daschle and Senator Lott.

And my message here is, we want to work as closely as we can with the Congress to achieve this significant change and to leave behind a legacy for future Presidents and future Congresses, the legacy of a department

that will work in close coordination to secure the homeland.

We're in for a long struggle in this war on terror, and there are people that still want to harm America. And we have an obligation to our citizens to work together to do everything we can to protect the people. That commitment is shared by Republican and Democrat alike. And I'm thankful for the leadership that the Members here have shown, and I'm thankful for the good ideas that have been shared with our administration as we developed our vision of the Department of Homeland Security.

I'll answer a couple of questions, then we've got to get going. Yes, Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Abdullah al Muhajir/Dirty Bomb

Q. Sir, in the reporting on yesterday's belatedly announced arrest of Jose Padilla, it's come out that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has 107 radiation sources missing or stolen just since March 31st. Do you have any reason to believe that those samples or sources are not in Al Qaida or terrorist hands?

The President. We will run down every lead, every hint. This guy Padilla's a bad guy, and he is where he needs to be, detained.

Q. Mr. President, given the conspiratorial nature necessary to make a dirty bomb or any such device, can we anticipate from you any announcements related to this case, any additional arrests, any additional people in custody or in—

The President. As we run down these killers or would-be killers, we'll let you know. And this guy Padilla is one of many who we've arrested. As I said in the speech to West Point, the coalition we put together has hauled in over 2,400 people, and you can call it 2,401 now.

And there's—there's just a full-scale man-hunt on. And Padilla's where he needs to be.

David [David Gregory, NBC News].

Domestic Reaction to Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, do you feel like the American people have grown complacent at all about the threat we face? And do you feel like the apprehension of Padilla is something of a wake-up call? And should it be?

The President. First of all, the American people are not complacent. They're patient, tough, determined, and they recognize we're fighting the first battle of the new wars of the 21st century. The Members of Congress are certainly not complacent. They are—they reflect their States or their constituencies, and they know we've got a battle on our hands.

I'm real proud of the American people. I'm proud of how the American people have responded. I'm proud of how strong the American people are, and I appreciate the compassion of the American people too.

Last question. Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Situation in South Asia

Q. New subject—is the threat of war between India and Pakistan over, do you think? And what's the next step?

The President. Well, we've made progress in defusing a very tense situation. And I want to thank all the countries who have been—which have been sending representatives to India and Pakistan to try to persuade both leaders that it's—war would be a disaster.

And so the situation is getting better. But so long as there's troops amassed and people are still hostile toward each other, there's always a threat that something could happen. But I'm pleased with the progress we've made, and we'll continue to work the issue.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Abdullah al Muhajir, formerly known as Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen and suspected terrorist who was arrested on May 8 in Chicago, IL.

Satellite Remarks to the Southern Baptist Convention

June 11, 2002

Thank you all very much. Dr. Merritt, thanks so much. It's good to be able to see you via video. I want to thank you for coming to the White House right after September the 11th, and thank you for such a kind introduction. I appreciate your friendship. And I'm honored to join all of you for the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention annual meet-

ing. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to address you on this most special occasion.

As you gather this week in St. Louis, you'll choose a new president, and you will renew old and honorable commitments. Three centuries ago, there were fewer than 500 Baptists in America. Today, there are almost 16 million members of the Southern Baptist Convention. From your denomination have come Presidents like Harry Truman and preachers like Roger Williams and Billy Graham, a man who has played such an important role in nurturing my faith.

Baptists have had an extraordinary influence on American history. They were among the earliest champions of religious tolerance and freedom. Baptists have long upheld the ideal of a free church in a free state. And from the beginning, they believed that forcing a person to worship against his will violated the principles of both Christianity and civility.

What I found interesting is, the Baptist form of church government was a model of democracy even before the founding of America. And Baptists understood the deep truth of what Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "The church is not the master or the servant of the state but rather the conscience of the state."

Since the earliest days of our Republic, Baptists have been guardians of the separation of church and state, preserving the integrity of both. Yet, you have never believed in separating religious faith from political life. Baptists believe as America's Founders did, that religious faith is the moral anchor of American life.

Throughout history, people of faith have often been our Nation's voice of conscience. We all know that men and women can be good without faith, and we also know that faith is an incredibly important source of goodness in our country.

True faith is never isolated from the rest of life, and faith without works is dead. Our democratic Government is one way to promote social justice and the common good, which is why the Southern Baptist Convention has become a powerful voice for some of the great issues of our time.

You and I share common commitments. We believe in fostering a culture of life and

that marriage and family are sacred institutions that should be preserved and strengthened. We believe that a life is a creation, not a commodity, and that our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured by human cloning.

We believe that protecting human dignity and promoting human rights should be at the center of America's foreign policy. We believe that our Government should view the good people who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals. We believe that the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because they are religious must come to an end.

Faith teaches us to respect those with whom we disagree. It teaches us to tolerate one another, and it teaches us that the proper way to treat human beings created in the divine image is with civility. Yet, you also know that civility does not require us to abandon deeply held beliefs. Civility and firm resolve can live easily with one another.

Faith teaches us that God has a special concern for the poor and that faith proves itself through actions and sacrifice, through acts of kindness and caring for those in need. For some people, Jesus' admonition to care "for the least of these" is an admirable moral teaching; for many Baptists, it is a way of life.

Faith is also a source of comfort during times of grief. We saw this in the aftermath of the attacks on September the 11th. Millions of Americans turned to prayer for wisdom and resolve, for compassion and courage, and for grace and mercy. And in these moments of prayer, we are reminded of important truths, that suffering is temporary, that hope is eternal, and that the ruthless will not inherit the earth. Our faith teaches us that while weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning. And while faith will not make our path easy, it will give us strength for the journey ahead.

Many of you have prayed for my family and me. We have felt sustained and uplifted by your prayers. Laura and I are incredibly grateful to you for those prayers. We consider your prayers to be a most precious gift.

I want to thank you all for your good works. You're believers, and you're patriots,

faithful followers of God and good citizens of America. And one day, I believe that it will be said of you, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. from Room 459 at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building to the meeting in St. Louis, MO. In his remarks, he referred to James Merritt, president, Southern Baptist Convention.

Remarks at Oak Park High School in Kansas City, Missouri

June 11, 2002

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thanks for that great Missouri welcome. I'm honored to be back here, to talk about how we're doing and what we're doing to make sure that America is safe and secure and America's a promising place for everybody who lives here.

I'm traveling in pretty good company today. I've asked—I had asked two of my Governors friends to join me in Washington, DC, to serve our Nation. And thankfully, they both agreed. First, the former Governor of New Jersey, now the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, a fine lady, a person doing an excellent job on behalf of all America, Christie Todd Whitman. And the former Governor of Pennsylvania, a man who, right after the attacks on our country, agreed to leave his job and come and serve as the adviser on homeland security, the first such adviser, a guy who has worked endless hours to make sure America is as safe as can possibly be, and that's my friend Tom Ridge.

I want to thank Members of the United States Congress who are here today, some of whom flew down on Air Force One. I'm not suggesting they like a free flight. [*Laughter*] But it was good to have them on the plane: Senator Kit Bond, from the State of Missouri—where are you, Kit—thank you. Congressman from this area, Sam Graves—Sam, thank you for being here. [*Applause*] Sounds like Sam has got a lot of his cousins here. [*Laughter*] Kenny Hulshof as well,

from the State of Missouri—Kenny, thank you for being here. I appreciate it.

The next fellow's not from this area, although he claims he was born in Kansas City. He's a Congressman from California, chairman of the Rules Committee, David Dreier. Thank you for coming, David. Former Congressman Jim Talent has joined us today. I'm glad you're here, Jim. Thank you for coming. And the mayor of Kansas City, Madam Mayor Kay Barnes, is here. Thank you for coming, Madam Mayor. I'm honored you're here.

I also want to thank the school officials. Mr. Principal, thank you for opening up this beautiful high school. I appreciate you giving us a chance to come by and share some thoughts with my fellow citizens.

You know, I don't know what went through the minds of the enemy when they hit us. I can't imagine what they were thinking; what kind of thought process did they have? I guess they thought America was so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so selfish that all we would do after the attack was maybe file a lawsuit or two. They didn't understand that we love freedom, and if somebody tries to take our freedoms away or if somebody tries to frighten us because of our freedoms, we'll respond. And I'm proud to report this mighty Nation has responded. We are fierce, and we're tough when it comes to defending our values.

I see a lot of you have brought your children; I want to thank you for that. And I want you, as moms and dads and as grandparents, to make sure you tell your children that we fight not to seek revenge but we do so because we seek justice and that the overriding ambition of this country is to achieve long-lasting peace.

It's important our fellow citizens of all ages understand the goal and vision of a strong and tough America is a more peaceful world, that we long for chance for our own children and children all across the globe to grow up in societies which tolerate people based on—and don't prejudice—based upon people's religious beliefs, that we honor—we honor freedom of religion; we respect other people's opinions; we honor the notion of being able to speak freely with political discourse. That's what we honor.

It's important that when our children read about military movements or arrests, that it's all done with a clear understanding that this is a peaceful nation and that we long for a freer day for everybody around the globe.

Our country is—I like to use the word “tough,” because we are. We are; we're a tough country. We've got a great military. And for those of you who have got relatives in the military, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation and thank them on behalf of a grateful nation as well.

We're also a patient nation. The American people understand that this is a new type of war. After all, we were attacked. We lost thousands of innocent citizens. Old wars used to be battle lines and tanks moving here and equipment moving there and logistics. New wars are wars fought against shadowy enemies, people who hide in caves and then are willing to send youngsters to their death. And that kind of war's going to require patience and resolve. It's going to require us gathering the best intelligence we possibly can. It requires our great Nation to assemble a vast coalition of freedom-loving people to join us as we're seeking these killers one by one. It requires us cutting off their money. One of the things that the terrorists and the enemy can't stand is to have their money dried up. They operate on money as well as they do on hate, and we're working with the financial institutions all over the world.

We've got over 60,000 American troops around the world fighting terror—a bunch of them in Afghanistan now. Not only are they in Afghanistan to fight terror, they're also there to bring some order into a chaotic society. One of the things I was most proud of is that when we sent our troops, they arrived in Afghanistan; they weren't there to conquer a country; they went in to liberate a country from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. And thanks to the United States and our coalition, young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives.

This is an unusual kind of war because it sometimes will show up on your TV screens, and sometimes it won't. Sometimes there will be moments of high drama, and of course, good reporters will be going—all kinds of

hyperventilating about this action or that action. *[Laughter]* And sometimes you won't see a thing.

Interestingly enough, we've rounded up and detained over 2,400 terrorists, and that's good. It's not just us; our friends have as well. We're making progress. You probably read in the newspaper; the number's now 2,401.

And it's not very dramatic at times when that happens. But you need to know that we're steady and strong on the subject of keeping America free. I'm going to talk about homeland security, but the best way to secure our homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that is what we're going to do.

It also is a new kind of war, because we're going to be confronted with the notion that these shadowy terrorists could hook up with a nation that has got weapons of mass destruction, the nations that I labeled "axis of evil," people who in one case have gassed their own people with a weapon of mass destruction, people who aren't afraid to use these weapons, people who hate America because of our freedoms. And I've made it clear that we will use all tools at our disposal. But one thing we are going to do is defend the American people and make sure that these terrorist networks don't hook up with these nations that harbor bad designs on us and at the same time develop the worst kind of weapons.

We owe it to our children to defend freedom. We owe it to our children to defend what we believe in, and we owe it to the world to speak clearly: Murder of innocent people is always wrong; societies which mistreat women are always wrong; religious intolerance is always wrong. And this country has a duty to speak out loud and clear. And when we see evil—I know it may hurt some people's feelings; it may not be what they call diplomatically correct—but I'm calling evil for what it is. Evil is evil, and we will fight it with all our might.

I recognize the best way to defend our homeland is to go on the offense, and we're going to. But we've got to do a pretty good job on defense as well. And that's why I've called for the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, a new Cabinet agency. And I'd like to explain why I did so.

Right now, there are over 100 agencies responsible for a part of homeland security—100 different entities at the Federal level. Now, I'm a person who believes in accountability. One reason I believe in accountability is because I understand who the American people are going to hold accountable if something happens—*[laughter]*—me. *[Laughter]* And therefore, I'm the kind of fellow who likes to pick up the phone, and say, "How are we doing? How are we doing on implementing the strategy?" I don't like the idea of calling 100 different agencies. I like to call one, and say, "Here is the strategy, and what are you doing about it? And if you're not doing something about it, I expect you to. And if you don't, I'm going to find somebody else that will do something about it."

We've got to have accountability. In order to get good results, it's important to hold people accountable and align authority and responsibility. And so that's part of my thinking, is to take the functions and put them under one—in one Cabinet agency. The idea, of course, is not to grow the size of Government. I ran on making sure we didn't grow the size of Government. The idea is to make Government more effective and more efficient so we can do our job.

Within this Cabinet Department, we're going to have four basic functions. One are borders. We've got to do a better job of protecting the borders of the United States. We need to know who's coming in and why they're not going out. *[Laughter]* We need to know what they're here for and how long they say they're going to be here for. And that requires a management plan and focus and technology. And I'll be honest with you, we've got a long way to go to make sure that what they call the INS is working the way we want it to work. But we've got the strategy; we know what we need to do.

Secondly, we've got to support our first responders, the fire police and fire and emergency medical squads, not only here in Kansas City but all across the country. We need to help them with their strategy of responding if need be.

Thirdly, we've got to develop detection capability to be able to detect weapons of mass destruction, chemical, nuclear, biological weapons, and if they ever were to be used,

figure out what to do about it. We've got to have a strategy to deal with bioterrorism, for example, here in America.

And finally, we must have the capacity to analyze all sources of intelligence so that we can imagine the worst and plan for it, so we can figure out how best to deal with the new threats that face America. And those are the four major categories.

And people say, "Well, can you give me some examples of why it's necessary?" Well, I'll give you a couple. The Customs Department: Their job is to collect tariffs and to worry about people bringing things into our country, and yet they work for the Treasury Department. Well, the Treasury Department's job is to worry about fiscal matters, not the security of the homeland.

Or how about the Coast Guard? The Coast Guard can do a good job of patrolling our borders, and they do. The Coast Guard is a fine outfit. But guess who they report to? The Transportation Department. The Transportation Department is worried about highways and airplanes and railroads. And so, in order to make sure that we had a strategy that works and a focus that is intense, it's important to have these agencies that have got responsibility to defend our homeland under one leader, under one Department. In other words, we've aligned functions, and that, in itself, will help change cultures within agencies. And that's an important aspect of making sure we defend our homeland. We've got to make sure agencies that have not been focused on defending the homeland change the culture, so that they do a more effective job of doing so.

And I'll give you one example of where things have changed in a positive direction, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI. And we've been reading a lot about the FBI lately. And I appreciate those who come forward and make suggestions as to how to better protect the homeland. But I wasn't surprised that the FBI wasn't fully prepared for the war against terror, because, after all, the FBI's major job up until September the 11th was to make cases against people who committed crimes already in America—white-collar crimes, spies. They really weren't focused on preventing attacks.

And so we needed to change the culture. The FBI man running it now, a guy named Robert Mueller, came on one week before September the 11th. That's when he started his job. He's had his hands full. [Laughter] But he's a good man. He knows what to do. And he discovered that we needed to change the attitude, the focus, the culture within the FBI, so that its major function now is to think about how best to prevent attack, is to chase down every lead, to run down every hint, to follow every possible—every possible terrorist activity and find out what they're up to, so that we can keep America safe. And it's happening—it's happening.

Now, that's not to say they're still not going to have an important law enforcement function; they're not going to do what they used to do in the past. They are, of course. But the attitude in America has got to change, because we've got a new problem we're faced with. It's an enemy that—who is very tough and smart and determined. They're not as tough and smart and determined as we are, however.

The other thing we are doing a better job of is having the CIA, which collects information overseas, coordinate with the FBI. That's part of how you restructure agencies in order to better protect America. It used to be they didn't talk very much. There was kind of a—I guess a structural problem. You just need to know we've changed that. We've changed it.

It started, I guess, many ways with—every morning I meet with George Tenet, who's the head of the CIA, and then after I named Bob Mueller, right after September 11th, he comes in every day as well. There's nothing like having face-to-face discussions with agency heads to determine how we're doing and whether or not people are talking to each other. And they are. And they are, and that's important. It's important that we link up the two.

And this new capacity at the homeland—Department of Homeland Security is going to be also important, where we'll have people whose job it is to analyze everything we see and assess everything we hear. And it's to make sure it's all in one area, so we can get a clearer picture of what may or may not be happening to America.

As well, it is important for us to trust the local folks, to do a better job at recognizing in Washington we don't have all the smarts, that we want to work with the mayors, people at the local level. We want to hear from the police and fire. We just came from one of the water treatment plants here in the area, and we're pleased to see how secure the plant is. Christie Todd was telling me, however, that we're going to eventually have grant money for water treatment facilities all around the country, to encourage them to make sure that any—there's a full assessment of the plant, to address any vulnerability that may exist. This one didn't appear very vulnerable, I want you to know. So I was looking—I was pleased to take a big gulp of water when I arrived here. *[Laughter]*

But I want you to know we're making progress. We've got a good strategy, we do. It's going to be an interesting challenge to see if Congress responds.

I had a good meeting today with Speaker Hastert and Representative Gephardt from Missouri, as well as Senator Daschle and Senator Lott and all the leadership from both parties. And in our discussions, I made it clear to them that I don't view this as a political issue. I don't view it as a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. I think loving America is an American issue. It's important to elevate this debate way beyond political parties, and I was pleased with the meeting. I was pleased with the spirit of the meeting.

You know, sometimes there's a not-invented-here attitude in Washington. I don't care who gets the credit for putting this thing in. I just want it done right, and I want it done on behalf of the American people as quickly as possible.

It may seem kind of easy, but here's the problem. There's a lot of people—there's 100 different agencies involved with homeland security. It means there's a lot of people in the Congress and in the Senate who have got jurisdiction over those agencies. In other words, that's what they call "turf," and people like to defend their turf. And so, all of a sudden, when you're saying, "Well, you know, Mr. Chairman, we're going to have to take this away from you and put it in a single agency. You don't get to fund it anymore," it kind of makes the chairman nervous.

So what I'd like—I need the help of the American people to remind the turf fighters not to be nervous, because we're talking about doing what's right for America.

I believe we can get it done; I really do. But I want your help—need to talk to the Members and the Senators. Just let them know that you appreciate—you appreciate their efforts, their concerns about the homeland, but you hope that they will join the White House and work hard together to do what's right for the American people. I sincerely think this is right. Otherwise I wouldn't have proposed it.

You know, I am an optimistic guy. I believe—I believe this country—I know this country is a fabulous country, but I believe we've got great days ahead of us. I believe that by being strong and tough, that we can achieve peace. I believe that. I sincerely, honestly believe it. And not only do I believe we can bring peace for America, I believe we can bring peace to parts of the world that may not seem like there ever is going to be peace.

This country has got a great chance to lead the world toward a more peaceful tomorrow. I know they're watching us pretty carefully—that is, the other leaders and other countries. If America blinks, they'll probably go to sleep. We're not blinking. We're not blinking. America understands that history has really called us to action. Out of the evil is going to come some good, and it's going to be peace. And out of the evil is going to come some good at home too. I believe that as well.

You know, people ask me, they say, "What can I do to help, Mr. President? What can I do to be a part of this war on terror?" And my answer is, if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to do some good, mentor a child; teach a child to read; walk across the street and say to a shut-in, "What can I do to help you?" A simple act like that is all part of doing some good here in America.

And it's happening in this country. It really is. You know why? The great strength of America is the people. The great strength is the American people, because not only are we tough, like I said; we're also a compassionate people. We care deeply about neighbors in need.

You see, out of the evil will not only come peace, but out of the evil I believe that we have a chance to address hopelessness and despair which exists in some neighborhoods in this great country. It just sure does. And we've got to do it. We've got to do it with better education systems. We've got to welcome faith-based programs into the compassionate delivery of welfare and help, because after all, faith-based programs exist because of a universal call to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

We've got—if you're interested in helping, we've got a program called the USA Freedom Corps. You can get right on the Internet and find out what's available. There's some fantastic ways to help, and you can become a soldier in the army of compassion.

We've got one such soldier today, Denny Barnett. Where are you, Denny? Denny is somewhere here. There he is. Denny, thank you for coming. Denny is—was out at the airport to meet me, and I want to thank him for coming. He drew the short straw. He was going to be with Laura in Salt Lake City, Utah. Instead he got stuck with me. [*Laughter*] But Denny is—works for the Partnership for Children. He has been a soul who has spent his life, his adult life, helping in his church, working with the Boy Scouts, works for Habitat for Humanity, is a soldier in the army of compassion. It doesn't require a Government law or Government edict to get Denny to work; he just followed his heart and, as a result, is part of making society a better place.

You see, one person can't do everything in America, but one person can do something. And our society, folks, changes one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. That's how we change America, and it's happening in this country. Out of the evil is coming good. Out of the evil, America is taking a good hard look at what's important. There's moms and dads taking an assessment of their—of what's important in their life, and that is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

You know, we live in a fast-paced society, no question about it. But people are beginning to understand that a full life is one in which you serve something greater than yourself in life, that to have a full and com-

plete life, you do more than just worry about yourself. You help a neighbor in need. You do something to make a country you love stronger.

I guess that example came home most vividly when men and women on Flight 93 realized that their airplane was going to be used as a weapon, called their families, told them they loved them, said a prayer, said, "Let's roll," and sacrificed themselves for something greater. They served their country. What a great example. What a great example for others to see. All of us are sad it happened, but all of us can use the example of serving something greater than yourself to help fight this war against terror.

You know, there is no question in my mind that this great country is going to show the world what we're made out of. This great country will show the world that we fight for what we believe, as we seek justice. And this great country will show the world the true compassion and decency of a great nation.

Thanks for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to John Krueger, principal, Oak Park High School.

Statement on Senate Action To Extend the Debt Limit

June 11, 2002

I commend the Senate for passing an extension of the debt limit. We must ensure that we have the resources to wage the war against terror, to protect retirees, and to meet our Government's other obligations. Today's strong bipartisan vote is important progress toward achieving this goal.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate James M. Talent in Kansas City

June 11, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Well, thanks for that most generous welcome. It's an honor to be here, back to the great State of Missouri. I'm here tonight for one reason: I urge the good folks of Missouri to send this good man to the United States Senate.

I want to thank all of you all for making this evening, I'm told, an historic evening. It's incredibly successful. I want to thank the good folks at the head table, who worked hard to send a clear message to others in the State of Missouri that Jim Talent's got great support all across the State. I particularly want to thank those who man the phones and stuff the envelopes, the grass-roots workers that make an incredible difference on every election day.

I understand this is the height of barbecue season. *[Laughter]* I know a little something about barbecue. *[Laughter]* We kind of think Texas barbecue is pretty good. *[Laughter]* But we had a barbecue recently on the lawn there at the White House. It was a magnificent event. We were able to invite Republicans and Democrats from the United States Congress, but one person was missing. So the next time I give a barbecue, we might just decide to have barbecue from this part of the world, as we eat barbecue with the next United States Senator, Jim Talent.

I want to thank Brenda Talent for joining her husband in this great journey to serve the people of Missouri. I know what it's like to marry somebody above myself. *[Laughter]* I regret that Laura is not here today. She is out in the western part of our country. She was in Idaho and then Utah, going to go out to California later on today. And then she and I are going to team up or meet back up in Crawford, Texas, for the weekend. I've got to get some culture here one of these days, so I'm going back to Crawford. *[Laughter]*

But you know, when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian, and the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics or politicians. *[Laughter]* But the people of this country are beginning to understand why I asked her to marry me. She's a class act. A lot of people are still scratching their heads wondering why she said, yes. *[Laughter]* But we're doing great. A lot of you out there have prayed for my family. I want to thank you for the precious gift of the prayers of the people, and we feel strong and confident.

I traveled here today with some fine folks in my administration: Governor Tom Ridge, who is Director of the Homeland Security;

former Governor of the State of New Jersey, who's now the Administrator of the EPA, Christie Todd Whitman, is with us.

Christie made a really good suggestion for our family right before the end of the campaign in 2000. She suggested that I buy Laura a birthday present. It's a pretty good suggestion, actually. *[Laughter]* I had forgotten. *[Laughter]* And it turned out that the gift was Barney, the Scottish terrier. Little Barney is a fabulous little guy. He's the son I never had. *[Laughter]* In that he's only 1½, he really doesn't spend much time in the Oval Office. After all, we've got a new rug in there. *[Laughter]* But it's the chance for me publicly to thank Governor Whitman for her fine suggestion and a great addition to our family.

Our family is also complete when we talk about Spot the dog. Spot was born at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, and Spot gets to come in the Oval Office on a regular basis.

It is such an honor to walk into the Oval Office, dog or no dog. *[Laughter]* And I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to serve this great country.

I particularly want to thank Ann Wagner for her good work for the Republican Party in Missouri as well as the national committee.

I want to thank you all for raising a man who is doing a fantastic job for the country, and that is the Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft. I appreciate so very much your senior Senator, Kit Bond, who is traveling with me today. I want to thank you, Senator, for your leadership. Sam Graves, and Kenny Hulshof of the State of Missouri is with us as well, and I thank you all for being here. If you see them leaving after my speech, it's because they want a free ride. *[Laughter]* It's not a bad way to travel, I might add. *[Laughter]*

We've also got a Congressman from the great State of California with us. He's the chairman of the Rules Committee, a close friend. He's doing a fine job for America, David Dreier. Thank you for coming, David.

And then, of course, there's the Governor of Kansas. I'm surprised you all let him across the State line. *[Laughter]* But he's a good friend. He's done a fabulous job. He's

brought a lot of dignity to the Governor's office in the State of Kansas. And that's Bill Graves.

And finally, I'm proud of your secretary of state of Missouri, Matt Blunt. Matt was a Naval Reserve officer who just returned from Operation Enduring Freedom. And I want to thank you for your service, Matt.

Jim Talent's an easy man to support. I like his values. I like the fact that he makes his family a priority. I like the fact that he loves his country more than himself. I like the fact that he's an experienced man. He served in the United States Congress, and when he served in the Congress, he served with distinction. You all may remember he was on the House Armed Services Committee. He believed we needed a strong military prior to September the 11th.

I also appreciate the fact that he understands the significant role small business plays in our society. It's really important that our small-business sector be vibrant and strong, that there be less regulations on the small-business person, there be less taxation on the small business-person, and that we think aggressively about how to make sure small businesses can take care of their own, can help their employees. That's why his support of the association health plans makes so much sense. It's so logical. We need a logical mind, a can-do fellow in the United States Senate representing that junior seat.

I want to thank Jim as well for understanding the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur and small-business owner can flourish. And that is why it was vitally important that we cut the taxes on the working people in America.

Occasionally you hear the voices up there in Washington saying, "Oh, the tax cut didn't mean anything." The tax cut meant a lot. When you let people keep more of their own money, it increases demand. And when you increase demand for goods and services, somebody is going to provide the goods and services. And when somebody provides the goods and services, it means somebody can find work. This tax cut came at the right time for America, and we need to make it permanent. And Jim Talent will be a vote I can

count on when it comes to cutting the taxes on the American people.

He understands that if you're good at something, you ought to promote it. We're good at agriculture in America. We're good at high tech in America. And we ought to be selling our products not only at home but overseas. I need trade promotion authority, and I need a vote in the United States Congress that will give me trade promotion authority, for the good of American workers.

One of the debates we're going to have in Washington right now, and it may spill over when he's the Senator, is welfare reform. The 1996 law that Jim was integrally a part of has made a significant difference in the lives of millions of Americans. It has freed people from dependency upon Government. It has encouraged people to find dignity in their lives through work. And whatever we do, for the good of the American people, we must not—we must not—water down any welfare reform reauthorization. We must insist upon work and family, for the good of the American people.

The next logical step for welfare reform is to unleash the great compassion of America, is to encourage faith-based and community programs to be an integral part of helping people help themselves. Jim Talent understands that Government should not discriminate against programs based in religious institutions. We ought to welcome those programs, for the good of people whose lives we're trying to save and whose lives need additional hope.

So I look forward to having him in the United States Congress, and I look forward to working with him to help us do our most important job, which is to secure our homeland, which is to do everything we can to protect the American people.

I was telling you, I took Spot there in the Oval Office. I sit at the desk, by the way, where the Roosevelts sat. Since I'm a President, I can—Ted and Franklin—[laughter]—Kennedy sat, Reagan sat. I go in this magnificent office, which is really a shrine to the great democratic traditions of our country, and I read an assessment from our intelligence services about the plans of the enemy. And it reminds me every day of two things: One, that we face nothing but a bunch

of coldblooded killers, is the best way I can describe them; and that all of us must work together to protect the innocent people of America.

And that's why last week I proposed a reorganization of agencies all throughout our Government into one Cabinet, called the Department of Homeland Security. My intention, of course, is not to create more Government. As a matter of fact, I ran—I said, "Give me a chance. I won't create more Government." My intention is to make Government work.

There are over 100 different agencies involved with protecting our homeland, agencies scattered throughout the Federal bureaucracy, which means it's kind of hard to determine who's responsible, who is accountable for the protection of the American people. And so, for the good of our country, I've called upon Congress to reorganize Government in a way that allows us all to more effectively deal with the true threats that face America.

This agency will be charged with enforcing our border. Listen, we need to know who's coming into the country. We need to know long they intend to stay. We need to know whether or not they've left like they said they were going to do.

We need to make sure that we can respond to any bioterrorist attack, we need to be wise about what can happen and, if it does happen, what to do about it. We need to reorganize so that we've got the capacity to deal effectively with local governments, particularly our first-responders, the brave police and fire and EMS crews that serve the public with such distinction.

And we need to make sure that any intelligence gathered is analyzed properly so that we can anticipate threats, so we get a better feel for what may be happening in America and then devise a plan to deal with it.

People say, "Well, gosh, that sounds pretty simple to get done." The problem is, we're dealing with some in Congress who guard what they call "turf." They don't like the thought of losing jurisdiction over one of the 100 groups. They don't like the idea of perhaps the appropriations process being taken away from them. But for the good of the country, the United States Congress needs

to put political partisanship aside. They need to put turf battles aside and do what's right to secure the homeland.

Let me share a couple of examples about what I'm talking about. The Coast Guard is an incredibly important part of our—of securing our border. The Coast Guard is—and they do a great job, by the way, and they've got a lot of tasks. But there's nothing more important than border security. And yet the Coast Guard reports to the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department's primary function is railroads and airplanes and highways, not the security of the United States. The Customs Department needs to be an integral part of enforcing our border, and yet the Customs Department reports to the Secretary of Treasury. His job isn't homeland security; his job is fiscal policy in the United States.

For the good of the American people, we need to align the responsibilities, align authority and responsibility so that I can hold somebody to account, because I can assure you, the American people are going to hold me to account.

I know you hear about all these threats, but you need to know we're doing everything we can possibly do to prevent the enemy from hitting us. Prior to September the 11th, the FBI, for example, was focused on law enforcement, and that's good. We want them to be focused on law enforcement. But the culture is changed. We've made—a lady came before it the other day and brought some pretty good evidence, evidence that we needed to look at to make sure that if there's any gaps, we deal with them.

And now Director Mueller, who was on the job one week prior to September the 11th, by the way, comes to my office every morning, reporting in to me about what the FBI is doing to prevent attack. The culture is shifting in Washington, DC, and that's incredibly positive for the American people. We've got a lot of work to do—we've got a lot of work to do, but we're making good progress.

But you need to know how I think. The best way to secure the homeland of our country is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what the United States is going to do.

I submitted a budget that prioritizes our national defense. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President of the United States. I did so for two reasons: One, any time we put our young into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible; and two, it's a signal to the American people, our allies, and as importantly, to the enemy, that the United States of America is in this war for the long pull. There is not a calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a moment, you're going to quit. That's not what somebody does when it comes to defending that which we hold dear, and this country loves freedom.

I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They must have said, "Well, you know, these people in America are soft; they're so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so basically weak that all the great country might do is file a couple of lawsuits." [Laughter] They were wrong. If anybody attacks our freedom, if anybody thinks the United States of America will blink in the face of terrorist activity, they have significantly, significantly underestimated the will of the American people.

This is a war unlike any we've ever had. There's not great columns of equipment moving across a country. There's not vast industrial complexes manufacturing weapons to be used in these armies. We fight a shadowy group of killers who like to hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicide. They think they can hide from our country and our coalition, but because we're patient and steadfast and brave and determined, there is no cave deep enough for people who want to harm America and take away our freedoms.

The enemy has suffered a significant defeat in the first battle in the first war of the 21st century, and that was in Afghanistan. It is important for you all to tell the young ones in America, when you have a chance, that this great country of ours does not seek revenge. America seeks justice. And I ask you to point out to the young ones that when we went into Afghanistan, we arrived not as conquerors but as liberators. As a result of the United States and our friends and allies,

young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan. By freeing the Afghan people from the clutches of the most barbaric regime in modern history, we have liberated people, for the good of the people of Afghanistan.

Sometimes the American people will see progress on their TV screens, and sometimes you won't. In my speech the other night, I informed the American people that we've—we and our friends have arrested and detained over 2,400 terrorists. As you read in the newspaper, we now need to make that 2,401.

We're upholding the doctrine that says either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. Either you love freedom, or you stand against the United States of America. No matter where these killers light, the United States and our friends and allies will bring them to justice, no matter how long it takes, because history has called us into action. History has given us the opportunity to defend freedom, and that's precisely what we're going to do.

And freedom is not only at risk as a result of one terrorist network; freedom's at risk because of terrorist networks around the world. And freedom is at risk with the thought that Al Qaida or an Al-Qaida-type organization could mate up or team up with one of these nations which develops weapons of mass destruction.

That's a nightmare scenario to think about. Think about the fact that people hate our freedoms, hate the fact that we are tolerant of religion, hate the fact that we speak our minds freely, and they develop the capacity to deliver a horrible weapon via ballistic missiles that could change the dynamic of the ability for us to keep peace. It could cause people to blanch, to blink in the face of such a threat. I'm a patient man. I'll use all the tools at our disposal. But we will not let the world's worst leaders hold America and our friends and allies hostage with the world's worst weapons.

Ann mentioned I'm an optimistic fellow, and I am. I believe that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. You also need to tell people that we fight for peace. That's what we fight for. I long for a peaceful world. And I believe that if

America continues to lead with steadfast purpose and strong resolve, that we not only can achieve peace for the American people, but we can achieve peace in places around the world that have seemingly no hope for peace. It's important for us to keep peace in mind.

And at home, I believe that we're a better country as a result of the evil done to us, because I believe Americans have heard the call that if you want to join the fight against evil, do some good; love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help?" My answer is, mentor a child. If you want to fight evil, tell somebody you love them. Show somebody your compassion. Join your church or synagogue and mosque's programs to feed the hungry.

It is important in this Nation for us to recognize there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. And I believe that through compassion and love, we can save those people and show them America is meant for them. I recognize one person can't do everything, but I want you to know, one person can do something. One person can be a part of saving America, one soul, one conscience, one heart at a time. The American people are responding, because our people are deeply kind and compassionate people. People all across the country are taking responsibility for their lives.

I believe out of the evil done to America, there's a good chance we'll change our culture from one which has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a new culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life." If you're a mom and a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and with all your soul. If you're a responsible citizen of Kansas City, you have the responsibility to help somebody in need. If you run a company in corporate America, you have a responsibility to disclose all your assets and all your liabilities. You have a responsibility to your employees, and you have a responsibility to your shareholders.

And the reason I believe this is happening, because I believe Americans realize serving something greater than yourself in life helps complete life. Serving something greater

than your own self-interests is part of what a full life is all about. And it's happening across America; it is.

I think perhaps the most significant moment after 9/11, or during 9/11, was Flight 93. We had people on an airplane, flying across our country. They thought they were on a business trip, or traveling—thought it was a normal day. They were told on their cell phones that the enemy was using airplanes as a weapon. They realized that the hijacked plane they were on was going to be used to kill, and they decided to serve something greater than themselves. In this case, they served their country. They said a prayer, they told their loved ones they loved them, and they drove a plane into the ground. It is a sign to me that the great courage and heart of America is alive and strong.

And all of us must use that example of serving something greater than themselves as we join this war against evil. And by so doing, out of the evil will come incredible good for America. People will realize the greatness of our country. People will realize there's hope where there is no hope, light where there seems to be darkness. And it's going to happen in this country, no doubt in my mind, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it is a huge honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Marriott Kansas City Downtown. In his remarks, he referred to Ann Wagner, chairman, Missouri Republican Party, and cochairman, Republican National Committee; and Gov. Bill Graves of Kansas.

Remarks on Signing the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

June 12, 2002

The President. Good afternoon, and thank you all for coming.

On September the 11th, the world learned how evil men can use airplanes as weapons of terror. Shortly thereafter, we learned how

evil people can use microscopic spores as weapons of terror. Bioterrorism is a real threat to our country. It's a threat to every nation that loves freedom. Terrorist groups seek biological weapons. We know some rogue states already have them.

It's important that we confront these real threats to our country and prepare for future emergencies. Protecting our citizens against bioterrorism is an urgent duty of American—American governments. We must develop the learning, the technology, and the health care delivery systems that will allow us to respond to attacks with state-of-the-art medical care throughout our entire country.

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here today, members of both parties who have worked together on this bill. I appreciate Governor Tom Ridge's hard work, Tommy Thompson and your staff's hard work on this bill. I want to thank Tony Principi and Christie Todd Whitman from the Veterans Department as well as the EPA for being here and working on this bill.

I appreciate very much Senator Ted Kennedy, the Chairman of the Senate Health and Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for working with Bill Frist. I want to thank the other cosponsors from the committee who are here. I appreciate Members of the House Billy Tauzin and John Dingell for combining their talents and experience and energy to get the bill done. I want to thank Mike Bilirakis, Judd Gregg, who isn't here, and all the other Members of the Congress, to show the American people that when people of both parties work together they can do good work on behalf of our country.

I want to thank Elias Zerhouni, who is the Director of the National Institution of Health, who is here with us today—I appreciate you being here, Elias; Dr. Les Crawford, who is the Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; as well as Dr. David Fleming, who is the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I want to thank you all for being here as well.

Biological weapons are potentially the most dangerous weapons in the world. Last fall's anthrax attacks were an incredible tragedy to a lot of people in America, and it sent

a warning that we needed and have heeded. We must be better prepared to prevent, identify, and respond. And this bill I'm signing today will help a lot in this essential effort.

First, the bill will enhance our ability to prevent and detect bioterrorist attacks. We must and we will improve inspections of food entering our ports and give officials better tools to contain attacks on our food supply. We'll have new authority to track biological materials anywhere in the United States.

Second, the bill will strengthen the communications networks that link our health care providers with public health authorities. Biological attacks can be carried out quietly. Our health care professionals are likely to be the first to recognize that there has been an attack. The speed with which they detect and respond to a threat to public health could be the difference between containment and catastrophe.

Thirdly, the bill will strengthen the ability of our health care system to expedite treatments across our country. It will provide our State and local health authorities with resources and tools needed to do their job. And this bill will further develop our stockpiles of smallpox vaccines.

Finally, the bill will help us develop better medicines for the future. It reauthorizes and improves the Prescription Drug User Fee Act.* This will make new lifesaving drugs and therapies available more quickly and will help ensure the safety and effectiveness of the treatments. We'll also be able to use the combined research expertise of the Government and the private sector to improve our vaccines, our medicines, and our diagnostic tests.

Strengthening our protections against bioterror is part of a larger effort to deal with the new threats of the 21st century. If we're going to succeed, we need to reorganize our Government. And that's why I look forward to working with Congress to create the Department of Homeland Security, to make sure we align authority and responsibility, to make sure that we have an effective response to the enemy that still wants to hit America.

* White House correction.

This bill today I sign is a part of the process of doing our duty to protect innocent Americans from an enemy that hates America. I'm proud to sign the bill, and I'm proud to welcome the bill's sponsors here to the Rose Garden.

Thank you all very much.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

The President. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 3448, approved June 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107-188.

Remarks at a Meeting of the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council

June 12, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for taking on this assignment. Joe, thank you for your being Chairman. And Bill Webster, we've got a lot of talented folks around this table. And I want to thank you for agreeing to help our Nation.

We're under attack; that's the way it is. The more we love freedom, the more we espouse values that are decent and honorable, the more we welcome religion in our society, open political discourse, the more this enemy is going to try to hit us. And we've got two courses of action. One is to run them down, wherever they try to hide, and bring them to justice. That's precisely what we're going to do.

These people are the kind of people that—they try to find a soft spot around the world and burrow in and plot and plan. And we're just going to have to enforce the doctrine: Either you're with us, or against us; either you join the coalition of freedom, or you're on the other side of the fence.

And we're making good progress; we really are. The other night when I announced this Department of Homeland Security, I made mention of the fact that our coalition has hauled in about 2,400 of these terrorists, these killers. The problem is there's still quite a number of them still out there.

We're using our military—we've got a great military, by the way. I'm really proud

of the men and women who wear our uniform, and our Nation stands squarely with our military. We're using diplomatic pressure. That's an important tool. We're cutting off their money. That's—we've been fairly effective at cutting off their money. We can all do a little better job of denying them the funds they need. They don't need a lot of money, but they do need money to conduct their attacks.

We're sharing intelligence. I know many members of this committee have been very much involved in the intelligence gathering capacity of America, and we're doing a better job of finding our weaknesses here at home and working on the weaknesses. The CIA and the FBI now are doing a much better job today than they had been prior to September the 11th of sharing information across these—what were once formidable jurisdictional boundaries. The culture of our agencies have changed since the war. The FBI has got a—has got a new job, which is to prevent attack, and that's now their primary focus. And Bob Mueller is doing a good job of recognizing the cultural shift that needs to take place, of taking input, listening to people, and responding.

So we're making progress; we really are. But until we rout out every terrorist cell and every terrorist, until attitudes change about freedom in America, we've got to protect our homeland in a new way. And I want to thank you all for agreeing to help us. You're breaking new ground, and you're going to help us leave a legacy, so that future Presidents, future administrations, and future Congress can deal more effectively with how to do the most important job any elected official has, which is to protect innocent life.

As you know, I called for the Department of Homeland Security. Obviously, I wouldn't have done so if I didn't think it was the absolute right thing to do. I think it's important to focus the mission, through reorganization. I know it's going to make—help us be more effective here at home.

I also recognize how tough the chore is going to be. I mean, after all, we are asking people in Congress to give up turf, as they say, give up a little power. And I'm under no illusions that asking folks to give up power can be a difficult assignment. So one of the

things I'll do is remind the Members of Congress that this is not a political issue, that protecting America is an American issue, it's a duty we all have, and that I vow not to play politics with doing what's right.

I'll also remind the Congress that I am going to speak to the American people about this issue. Once I propose it, I'm going to take my case beyond Washington to the true influence—the real influence peddlers of America; that's the American people, the people who work every day and who've got the capacity to inform their Members of Congress or the Senate their opinion. And that's what I'm going to continue to do.

I'm going to continue to speak as plainly as I can about the need for this Department, assuring the American people that we're not interested in increasing the size and scope of the Federal Government, we're interested in efficiency. We want an organization that can work closely with local leaders such as my Mayor, Mayor Williams. We want to be able to respond better if something were to occur. We want to know how better to enforce our borders. We want to know when they're coming in the country and if they're overstaying their visas. We need to know that, in America, under this new—the new threats under which we live.

We've got to—I signed a bioterrorism bill today. I want to thank you all for coming for the signing ceremony. I saw Jim Schlesinger there, and I'm sure you're glad I cut my remarks in half, because the temperature seemed to be—[laughter]—seemed to be a little warm out there. But the idea is to better coordinate our capacity to detect weapons of mass destruction and respond to them if they occur.

And finally, we need an analytical capacity within a department that can take all the intelligence that's gathered, not only by the FBI or the CIA but all throughout our Government, and analyze it so we have a better feel for what the terrorists might be thinking and then how to respond.

And you all can play a very useful role in this—in this process. You bring a lot of heft and a lot of experience and a lot of know-how. You can definitely help us understand how best to coordinate Government activities with the private sector, and that's essential,

that we team up to do everything we need to do to protect America.

So I want to thank you for your service. I want you to know this administration is totally committed to protecting the people. Many of you are aware of the President's briefing he gets, sees—or knows what the President reads. And they're still out there; these people—you know, these killers, they're still lurking around. But they picked on a—they picked on a group of people who are plenty determined, and that's the American people.

We've got a fabulous nation. And we're tough, and we're determined, and we're united, and we're strong. And at the same time, we're showing the world that we're a compassionate nation as well. We won the first battle, or we're winning the first battle in the war of the 21st century, which was in Afghanistan. And we went into that country not as conquerors but as liberators. And I'm proud of our Nation, and I'm proud of your service to our Nation. And I want to thank you all for giving us your time.

God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. in the Indian Treaty Room in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph J. Grano, Jr., Chair, William H. Webster, Vice Chair, and James R. Schlesinger and Washington, DC, Mayor Anthony A. Williams, members, President's Homeland Security Advisory Council. H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, approved June 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107-188.

Remarks on Presenting the National Medals of Science and Technology *June 12, 2002*

Please be seated. Thank you all very much, and welcome to the White House. It is a—it's an honor to be with so many incredibly bright and innovative people.

I want to welcome the winners. I want to welcome your family members. I want to welcome your friends, and I want to welcome those of us who are just happy to be in your presence. [Laughter] The science and technology leaders here today have turned genius

and persistence into knowledge and technology that will shape lives for decades to come. And that must make you feel pretty darn good.

Our honorees are the prophets of a better age, seeing the future before a lot of folks don't see the present. They have earned these medals, and as they do so, they earn the thanks of their fellow Americans.

I want to thank the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, who will be here to administer—who is here to administer the National Medal of Technology. I want to thank Secretary Rod Paige, the Secretary of Education. I want to thank the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dr. John Marburger, for the fine job he is doing on behalf of the country. John, thank you for coming.

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I appreciate you all being here to cheer on the recipients from your districts.

The medals we present today are the highest honors—the highest honors—a President can bestow in the fields of science and technology. And today's honorees have earned this recognition with their tireless work. Some of the honorees are learning how to battle cancer with new therapies. Others are advancing our understanding of the Earth and the Sun. Others are creating new methods for analyzing data. All of our honorees and their colleagues throughout the United States are asking questions whose answers will improve lives, not only here at home but around the world.

Science and—scientific and technological research are a high calling for any individual. And promoting research is an important role of our Federal Government. I'm pleased that this year's budget includes the most research and development funding in the history of our country. We'll continue to support science and technology because innovation makes America stronger. Innovation helps Americans to live longer, healthier, and happier lives. Innovation helps our economy grow and helps people find work. Innovation strengthens our national defense and our homeland security, and we need a strong national defense and homeland security as we

fight people who hate America because we're free.

President Franklin Roosevelt's science adviser was a fellow named Vannevar Bush. He doesn't claim me, and I don't claim him. *[Laughter]* But here's what he says. He said, "Without scientific progress, the national health would deteriorate. Without scientific progress, we could not hope for improvement in our standard of living or an increased number of jobs for our citizens. Without scientific progress, we could not have maintained our liberties against tyranny." What Vannevar Bush said back then is true today.

Scientists and researchers do vital work, and they oftentimes do it outside the limelight. It's a good thing to shine the light here in the White House. Their influence extends beyond laboratories. It reaches into hospitals and homes and classrooms. And as importantly, your work inspires young Americans who study past scientific breakthroughs in order to chart their own paths of discovery.

The world of our children will be shaped by the people we honor today. On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank you for your lifelong commitment to making our world a better place.

In a few moments, Secretary Evans will help me present the National Medals of Technology, but first I ask Dr. Marburger to come to the stage to assist me with the presentation of the 2001 National Medals of Science.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on Senate Failure To Permanently Repeal the Death Tax

June 12, 2002

Today's failure by the Senate to permanently repeal the death tax is a disappointment to the American people. It is wrong that, as a result of a quirk in the law, millions of Americans will be subject to the death tax beginning at the end of the decade. The Congress must fix this unfair tax and provide families with certainty so they can plan for the future.

Proclamation 7573—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2002

June 7, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The American flag is a beacon of hope, a symbol of enduring freedom, and an emblem of unity. Many have given their lives in its defense, and countless men and women have worked to ensure that Old Glory continues to stand for the ideals of freedom, justice, and equal opportunity for all. Our flag symbolizes the purpose and resolve of our Nation, first expressed by our Founders who triumphed against great odds to establish this country.

Today, as we face the challenges of a new era, our flag reminds us that freedom will prevail over oppression and that good will overcome evil. Following the attacks of September 11, Americans embraced a renewed sense of the meaning and purpose of our flag. The unforgettable images of our Nation's colors flying defiantly over the debris of the World Trade Center inspired our country with a healing hope, uniting our people in purpose and consoling those who had suffered great loss. At the Pentagon, an American flag was hung from the building's damaged walls, expressing our collective resolve to rebuild and move forward. And earlier this year, during the Opening Ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Americans, joined by peace-loving people from around the world, paid tribute to the tattered flag that had been recovered from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

As we reflect on what our flag represents, we recall the words of President Woodrow Wilson, who said just weeks before the onset of World War I: "My dream is that, as the years go on and the world knows more and more of America, it . . . will turn to America for those moral inspirations which lie at the basis of all freedom . . . that America will come into the full light of the day when all shall know that she puts human rights above all other rights, and that her flag is the flag, not only of America, but of humanity."

The flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write our National Anthem 188 years ago still energizes and inspires the American spirit. Since September 11, we have seen our Nation's flag appear everywhere—on cars and clothing, houses and hard hats—showing our country's commitment to always remember those who lost their lives and to remain unrelenting in the pursuit of justice.

Today, in Afghanistan and around the world, brave men and women are serving under our flag, fighting to preserve freedom and win the war against terrorism. All Americans are profoundly grateful for their service and their sacrifice. We also recognize and commend the contributions of our veterans who have bravely defended our Nation's founding principles throughout our history. The image of six marines raising the flag on the top of Mount Suribachi at Iwo Jima will always remind us that the struggle for liberty is a story of courage, sacrifice, and commitment to the unshakeable belief in freedom's promise.

On Flag Day, we remember the struggles and successes for which our flag stands. And we look to the flag as an everlasting symbol of our commitment to a world of peace, a Nation of principle, and a people of unity.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the Flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the President annually issue a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2002, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 9, 2002, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all

Federal Government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Business Leaders

June 13, 2002

Corporate Responsibility

The President. Thank you all for coming. And I want to thank the—some of our country's great corporate leaders for joining us in helping to save people's lives.

These leaders create value for their company, but they're also willing to work to create values in America. And for that, the country is better off.

You know, there's been a lot of talk about corporate responsibility here in America, and there needs to be. People who run their businesses need to do so in a way that treats their employees with respect and treats the communities in which they live with respect as well. And that's precisely what is happening as—with these companies. These leaders understand that there is more to just a balance sheet. They understand that value comes from encouraging their employees to make a difference in somebody's lives.

It's my honor to herald some of the—some of the really true leaders in our country, and I want to thank them for coming. I want to thank you all for your vision. I want to thank you for agreeing to work to expand the circle of corporate America that's willing to commit itself to improving our Nation so that pockets of despair become places of light and hope.

Steve Case is going to say a few comments, and Michael.

[At this point, Stephen Case, chairman, AOL Time Warner, Inc., and Michael Eisner, chairman and chief executive officer, the Walt Disney Co., made brief remarks.]

Q. A few business-related questions, sir? Sir, could we get a business-related question in this morning?

The President. I'll see you this afternoon.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and an Exchange With Reporters

June 13, 2002

President Bush. We're going to have an opening statement; the Prime Minister will. I will call upon an American reporter. The Prime Minister will call upon an Australian reporter. I will then call upon an American reporter. The Prime Minister will finish by calling on an Australian reporter.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you.

President Bush. The United States has got a great friend in Australia, and I've got a personal friend in the Prime Minister. And I want to thank you for your steadfast support when it comes to fighting terror.

I reminded the people here in the meeting that the last time the Prime Minister and I visited here in America was on September the 10th, and our world was changed forever the next day. I found it really interesting that one of our best friends was with the President of the United States the day before the attack. And our best friend will be with us

at the end of this war, too, and that's really comforting to know.

I look forward to working with you on a variety of issues. I look forward to coming to your country one day. The Prime Minister invited me to go down to Australia. I'd love to go. But I want to welcome you very much—an honor to call you friend.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you very much, Mr. President. There is something rather poignant about us meeting again in this Oval Office and remembering the last time was the 10th of September. I said to the Congress yesterday that America had no better friend anywhere in the world than Australia. I want to put on record the admiration of the Australian people for the tremendous leadership that you've displayed, Mr. President, over the past 9 months.

Australia is a firm and faithful friend, and we are in there with you in the fight against terror. It still has a long way to go, and I think it's very important that the people don't imagine that the fight is anywhere near complete. And there will be a lot of commitment on our part, and we do respect and admire the contribution that you're making as the leader of the world's response.

And personally, can I thank you very warmly for your welcome and that of your administration. It was a real honor to address the other part of the United States Government yesterday and to talk to some of the Congressmen and to understand the processes of your form of democracy. We each have our own challenges. You have yours; I have mine. [*Laughter*]

But it's great to be here. And I said yesterday that Americans and Australians like each other and they find it easy to relate to each other. And I've certainly found that, at a personal level, with you, Mr. President. And thank you very much.

President Bush. Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Future Palestinian State

Q. Mr. President, Secretary of State Powell has been talking to Arab and Middle Eastern media in recent days about you very soon having a timeline for Palestinian statehood. And he's also raised the possibility of a provisional or temporary Palestinian state to get

the ball moving. Do those statements reflect your views? And how soon could we anticipate something from this?

President Bush. I'm—listen, I'm listening to a lot of opinion. I met today with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia. The Prime Minister and I talked about the subject. And I think it's probably wise for people not to spend a lot of time speculating.

I'm going to lay out my vision at some point in time. It's going to be a vision that will help lead toward two states living side by side. People are going to have to be—in order to achieve that vision, people are going to have to take responsibility. Israelis are going to have to be responsible; Palestinians are going to have to be responsible; the Arab world is going to have to assume responsibility to achieve this vision.

And there's one thing for certain that I strongly believe, and that is that we must build the institutions necessary for the evolution of a Palestinian state which can live peacefully in the region and provide hope for the suffering Palestinian people.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Howard. [*Inaudible*]

Iraq

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, Vice President Dick Cheney has said in recent days that the problem of Iraq requires a direct response from both the United States and its allies. I just wonder whether you discussed that issue, whether, Mr. President, there was any timeline on what you would require from Australia?

Prime Minister Howard. Well, we discussed it. I think what's been said by the administration earlier on this was repeated. Clearly, Iraq's behavior has been—in relation to the weapons of mass destruction—has been offensive to many countries, including the United States and Australia. But the question of any action by the United States is a matter for the United States. And I've indicated before in Australia, and I repeat now, that if there are any approaches made to Australia, we'd consider them in the circumstances, at the time, if they occur.

President Bush. Yes, I told the Prime Minister there are no war plans on my desk. I haven't changed my opinion about Saddam

Hussein, however. He is—this is a person who gassed his own people and possesses weapons of mass destruction. And so, as I told the American people and I told John, we'll use all tools at our disposal to deal with him. And of course, before there is any action—military action—I would closely consult with our close friend. But there are no plans on my desk right now.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

New Source Review

Q. Mr. President, on the New Source Review changes that were announced by the EPA today, environmental groups say that this is a giveaway to industry that will actually increase pollution at these dirtiest powerplants. One former member of the EPA who joined that organization under “Bush 41” said today that the new rules are disgraceful, sir. And I’m wondering what your opinion is.

President Bush. They’re absolutely wrong. The New Source Review reforms, coupled with the clear skies legislation, will reduce pollution by approximately 70 percent. This administration is committed to clean air, and we’re going to work vigorously to achieve clean air.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Mr. President, if Congress gives you trade approval, will a trade deal be a priority with Australia? And will Australian farmers get better access to American markets?

President Bush. Yes. I talked to John about the importance of trade. The qualifier was, if Congress were to give me trade promotion authority; I appreciate you qualifying it that way. I urge Congress to give me trade promotion authority, so—

Prime Minister Howard. So do I. [Laughter]

President Bush. —so we can have fruitful discussions with our friend. But first things first. And as you know, a bill passed the House, and one passed the Senate. And now it’s time for them to get together and get the bill to me. And I would—more than willing to ask my man Zoellick to talk to the Australians, but only until and after we get TPA.

Listen, thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:41 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick.

Remarks to the 21st Century High Tech Forum

June 13, 2002

Thank you all. So I give Kvamme a salary, and he leads a standing ovation. Thank you. [Laughter]

Thank you all very much. I’m honored you’re here. I particularly want to thank our panelists for sharing their wisdom. And I want to thank you all for taking time to come and visit about how to make sure our Nation is secure and strong and hopeful. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here, Don Evans and Elaine Chao. I want to thank John Marburger for being here as well.

You know, we—these are extraordinary times. I remember campaigning, and somebody said, “Would you ever deficit spend?” I said, “Only if there was a war or a recession or a national emergency.” [Laughter] I didn’t think we were going to get the trifecta. [Laughter] But there’s no doubt in my mind we can and will solve all three. And one of the keys to recovery on the economic side is a strong and vibrant high-tech industry. I know that; I understand the importance of productivity gains and what it means for average Americans.

My attitude is, as long as somebody’s not working, we’ve got a problem. I know people here in Washington like to look at statistics, and that’s fine. But so long as somebody wants to work and can’t find work, people in Government need to think about ways to expand economic opportunity. And one way to do so is to make sure that our country is still on the cutting edge of productivity gains.

There’s a practical application to high tech, by the way, one that’s really come home to roost recently. And that is, you know, when it comes to the defense of our country, our high-tech gains have made a enormous difference.

Let me take a step back. We fight an enemy which is cruel and heartless and relentless. You just need to know that. And even though we've made some progress—and we have; as I said the other night, we and our friends have hauled in about 2,400 of them. There's still a lot of them out there, which means this country is in for a long war. Particularly—and it's necessary because we're defending freedom. That's what you've got to know. And it's real, and we're going to have to deal with it.

And we can deal with it diplomatically, which we'll do. We've got a great coalition we've put together, and we'll keep the coalition together. We'll share intelligence, which we will continue to do, to make sure that we can find these killers wherever they try to hide. And at the same time, we'll continue to fight a guerilla war with conventional means, because we're the best in the world with high technology.

The first battle in the war—first war of the 21st century—was in Afghanistan, as you know. And a lot of people said, “Well, it's impossible to fight that war there because of past experiences.” And of course, we were somewhat mindful of history. And yet what people didn't realize was that because of precision-guided weapons, we were really accurate, which was bad news for the enemy, good news for the civilian population and coalition forces.

We fly a Predator airplane. Probably some of you all designed the programming and all the materials that make it work. We fly a Predator airplane now that has got the capacity on a real-time basis to send signals back to the United States about what's going on on the ground. It can fly at night; it flies at day. It gives people a pretty good look about what the enemy may or may not be doing. This Predator saves time, saves lives, is an incredibly important part of fighting a guerilla war with conventional means. It means our targeting is a heck of a lot more accurate. It means the information that the people in the field receive is timely and real and fast, thanks to the high-tech industry of America.

Our high-tech advantage will make it easier for us to keep the peace. We talk about weapons of war, but I want you to know, they are used to keep the peace. That's the dream

of this administration, is to make the world more peaceful. And we're going to have to continue to use high-tech means and high-tech equipment to chase the killers down one by one.

It is fortuitous that America is on the cutting edge of high technology at this time in history, because of the nature of the war. In the old days, there would be columns of tanks and artillery moving here and airplanes flying there. And now we're facing sophisticated killers who hide in caves, who communicate in shadowy ways, and who are plenty lethal. And we're going to win the war because of our resolve and our determination and our love for freedom, but we're also going to win the war thanks to the incredible technology and technological breakthroughs that we have achieved here in America.

And we're going to win—protect our homeland in a better way as well, because of technology. And that's important for Americans to know. Listen, I fully—you probably can tell by now, I believe the best defense is a good offense. So we're going after them. But in the meantime, we've got to do a better job of securing the homeland.

And I can envision a lot of new technologies that enable us to communicate with first responders and to be able to communicate between the Federal and State and local governments. As you probably have read, we've had a—we need to do a better job of gathering intelligence and sharing intelligence between different agencies of our Government. All of this is going to require, by the way, in order to do so, new technologies within the FBI and the CIA and the ability to communicate with each other and the ability to filter out what information should go from one agency to the next—all aimed at protecting the homeland.

And so when you hear me talk about homeland security and the new Department of Homeland Security, it's—one of the missions is going to be to make sure it's a modern agency that actually functions the way modern corporate America functions. And that's one reason why I have asked for the Congress to put all the agencies under one head. I mean, this is 100 different groups here in Washington trying to defend the homeland.

You can imagine, there's not a lot of accountability when they're scattered all over DC. And I'd like to streamline this agency, not to create bigger Government but to create a Government that will actually work and work in a way that protects the homeland.

We've got a lot of work to do, but I'm confident if we're wise about how we use technologies and the advantages of e-government, that the country will be more secure.

So I want to thank you for your contributions to national defense. You probably never dreamt, by the way, a year and a half ago or 2 years ago that a President of the United States would be addressing a high-tech conference, thanking you for your contributions to the defense of the United States and the defense of our homeland. But that's the realities of the new world. And fortunately, our country has been smart about how we have—how our economy has developed.

I was interested to read that our Government plans to spend \$53 billion on information technology next year. Now, if you're one of the recipients of that \$53 billion, make sure that the product actually works, please. [Laughter] It is important. It's important to make sure Government functions better, but more importantly, it will help our taxpayers have better response to democracy and get better information more quickly. And so I'm pleased that we're working on e-government. I just urge people to focus on results and not process.

The other thing that I want you all to understand is I think I've got a pretty clear vision of the role of Government, and it's not to create wealth. That's not the role of the Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people who've got a good idea and are willing to work for it can make a living and expand their businesses and employ people.

I've met many of you before, and I told you if you gave me a chance to be here in Washington, I would work to cut taxes. Fortunately, I kept my promise, and it was good for the American economy that I did so and that the Congress acted. The tax relief came at the right time.

Now, some don't subscribe to that theory here in Washington, but they read a different economic textbook than I do. Their view is,

we ought to not lower taxes in times of recession. In essence, their view is, we ought to keep as much money in Washington, DC, as possible. That doesn't lead to economic recovery. My view is—and you know what it is, which is if you let people keep more of their own money, they'll spend it. And when they spend it, they're going to demand a good and service, and then somebody's got to provide the good and service. This tax cut was the right thing to do.

It's important that the Congress now make the tax cuts permanent. I saw we had a little setback when the Senate unwisely didn't make the elimination of the death tax permanent. The death tax is a bad tax. It's a bad tax for entrepreneurial America. It's a bad tax for people from all walks of life. It's a bad tax if you're worried about urban sprawl. It's a bad tax if you're a farmer or a rancher. And yet, they don't want to make it permanent. I don't know why. I guess it's politics. I think the reason why you make tax relief permanent is because it is important that there be predictability in the Tax Code.

The other thing that was interesting about this tax relief package is that most small businesses in America, a lot of startups are unincorporated businesses or limited partnerships. They pay tax—the people involved with the corporation pay tax on the personal income tax level. And by cutting taxes on everybody who pays taxes, it is a stimulus to economic vitality in many sectors of our economy in which we want there to be economic vitality, particularly in the minority sectors where business ownership is increasing dramatically. Tax relief was good for the entrepreneurial spirit of America.

In order to enhance the ability for people to make a living, we must open up markets around the world. We've had a battle here on trade. There are people who don't believe in free trade. There are people who believe that kind of walling off America from the world would lead to more job growth. I completely disagree. The more we trade, the more jobs there will be in America. The more we are willing to sell our markets and work where we've got a competitive advantage, the better off the workforce will be, the more likely it is an entrepreneur will be able to succeed. And so I have worked hard to get

Congress to pass what they call trade promotion authority, which will give me the ability to negotiate trade treaties. And we're making progress.

Now, I'd like your help to convince both the Members of the Senate and the House to reconcile their differences in the conference committee and get me a trade promotion authority as quickly as possible. And with that trade promotion authority, not only will I work to expand free trade throughout our hemisphere—my attitude is, good foreign policy starts with a neighborhood which is democratic, free, prosperous, and strong—but I will work in other parts of the world to open up markets, markets for high-tech products, markets for our agricultural people. And I'll be aggressive at it; I will. And if I find unfair trade practices, by the way, I'm going to enforce the law, the laws on the books. And so I want to thank you for your support on trade promotion authority.

We're also working to reform the Export Administration Act, known as the EAA. We've got a bill out of the Senate; we're working to get a bill out of the House. And I want you all to understand—you've probably been told this already, but I want to tell you what else we've done. We've raised the control limits for computer systems, and I'm eliminating outmoded controls on computer chips. The idea is to understand the difference between national security and free trade. And I think we've brought some common sense to this issue.

One of the things I spent a lot of time listening about was education. And many of you all have been very much involved in education reform, and I want to thank you for that. And the bill we passed is a good bill. It really is, because it sets high standards. It refuses to accept the fact that—we challenge the idea that certain kids can't learn—let me just put it to you that way.

It's easy to quit on kids. It's easy to say, "Well, there's a certain group of kids that can't learn, so why don't we just shuffle them through the system?" And for the first time, the Federal Government said, "In return for Federal money, you must measure. You must show us." Some people were squawking about that because they didn't want to be held accountable. You know, if you believe

every child can learn, then you have no problem saying, "Show us if every child is learning." And so we've done that, and it's a good—it's a really, really interesting reform.

I know many of you are involved with the reform movement in your respective States, whatever that may mean, charter schools or choice programs. The best way to stimulate reform is to demand accountability. It's hard to cover up failure, and it's hard to justify failure.

The bill also passes power out of Washington. It really does a pretty darn good job of aligning authority and responsibility at local levels. So I'm proud of the piece of legislation, and we'll continue to stay focused on education.

We're also spending a lot of money on research and development, which I believe is a legitimate Federal function. We spend a lot of money at the NIH, which is good for health care in America, and we're spending over about \$100 billion in research and development for your fields.

And one of the things I hope Congress joins me on is making the R&D tax credit permanent as well. You see, research has made a huge difference for product development. And I like to remind our fellow Americans that research—expending their research—their tax dollars on research will yield the interesting jobs, interesting opportunities.

And so—which really leads me to an interesting question that I know is on your mind, and that is broadband technology. This country must be aggressive about the expansion of broadband; we have to.

I used to travel around our State of Texas a lot. I saw some really innovative health programs. I remember going to the Texas Tech Medical Center and seeing a fellow have his ear examined by a nurse practitioner in—I think it was Alpine, Texas. And the picture was clear, and the specialist was able to diagnose the disease.

We have virtual classrooms in Texas, virtual school districts in Texas, where we've hooked up a fairly wealthy school district with rural or poor school districts. It made a huge difference. It would have been a heck of a lot better had there been broadband

technology, however, to make the process move a lot quicker.

I get—when I'm down at Crawford, I'm in constant contact with our administration. We've got secure teleconferencing capacity there. And it's pretty good. It can be better. *[Laughter]* It can be more real-time. It's an important part of life, and it's time for us to be—time for us to move, move with an agenda.

Hopefully, we're doing a pretty good job of working to eliminate hurdles and barriers to get broadband implemented. I've fought off—or worked with Congress, is a better way to put it—*[laughter]*—to prevent access taxes on the Internet. It ought to be a tax-free environment in order to encourage use. And of course, a lot of the action is going to come through the FCC. I know that, and you know that. And I'm confident that the Chairman and the Board is focusing on policies that will bring high-speed Internet service, will create competition, will keep the consumers in mind, but to understand the—kind of the economic vitality that will occur when broadband is more fully accessible.

And so I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk about how to make America safer and more prosperous. But I also want to spend some time talking about another important subject, and that's how to make America a better place.

On my wall, there's a painting that says—where the painter, a guy named Tom Lee—he's a friend—he says, "Sarah and I lived on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that has gone." I have that on the wall because it's a fine Texan who wrote it, and the painting is a beautiful painting. But that's how I see things.

I believe that a tough and strong America will lead to peace. And I think we're going to be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where people don't believe peace is possible. I believe that. And it's going to require a kind of patient, steadfast strength. And the good news is, our country is patient and steadfast and strong. We really are.

I also believe that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good, particularly as our fellow Americans love

their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. And we spent time today talking about how people in corporate America can lend a hand about attacking pockets of hopelessness and despair which exist in America.

If you run your business, encourage your employees through wise incentives to mentor a child or to build a home, to give time consistently to loving your neighbor. It is a central part of making America a complete and whole country. It is a key ingredient to winning the war against terror. We can fight evil with military might and weapons devised by a high-tech world. As significantly, we can fight evil by doing acts of kindness and decency.

Out of this evil will come, I believe, a culture which is going to herald personal responsibility and shift the culture of some of our generation, which has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it. And if you've got a problem, it's somebody else's"—where each of us are responsible for the decisions. We're responsible for loving our children, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad. You're responsible for the misery in the community in which you may live—of doing something about it. If you're running your company, by the way, you're responsible for fully disclosing your assets and your liabilities. And that's what—and it's happening—it's happening.

The enemy hit us. They must have thought we were so weak and self-absorbed, so materialistic, that all we would do was file a couple of lawsuits, if you know what I mean. *[Laughter]* Instead, they found that this mighty Nation will defend our freedom at all cost. And this mighty Nation is going to show the world the true heart of a great country.

Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:28 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to E. Floyd Kvasne, Co-chair, and Office of Science and Technology Director John H. Marburger III, Chair, President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

Statement on Formal Withdrawal From the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

June 13, 2002

Six months ago, I announced that the United States was withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, and today that withdrawal formally takes effect. With the treaty now behind us, our task is to develop and deploy effective defenses against limited missile attacks. As the events of September 11 made clear, we no longer live in the cold war world for which the ABM Treaty was designed. We now face new threats, from terrorists who seek to destroy our civilization by any means available to rogue states armed with weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles. Defending the American people against these threats is my highest priority as Commander in Chief.

The new strategic challenges of the 21st century require us to think differently. But they also require us to act. I call on the Congress to approve the full amount of the funding I have requested in my budget for missile defense. This will permit the United States to work closely with all nations committed to freedom to pursue the policies and capabilities needed to make the world a safer place for generations to come.

I am committed to deploying a missile defense system as soon as possible to protect the American people and our deployed forces against the growing missile threats we face. Because these threats also endanger our allies and friends around the world, it is essential that we work together to defend against them, an important task which the ABM Treaty prohibited. The United States will deepen our dialog and cooperation with other nations on missile defenses.

Last month, President Vladimir Putin and I agreed that Russia and the United States would look for ways to cooperate on missile defenses, including expanding military exercises, sharing early warning data, and exploring potential joint research and development of missile defense technologies. Over the past year, our countries have worked hard to overcome the legacy of the cold war and to dismantle its structures. The United States and Russia are building a new relationship

based on common interests and, increasingly, common values. Under the Treaty of Moscow, the nuclear arsenals of our nations will be reduced to their lowest levels in decades. Cooperation on missile defense will also make an important contribution to furthering the relationship we both seek.

Commencement Address at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio

June 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate that very warm welcome. President Kirwan, thank you for inviting me. Governor Taft, Chairman Patterson, distinguished members of the Ohio State faculty, trustees, family members, distinguished guests, and most importantly, members of the mighty class of 2002. Congratulations. You've earned a degree at a great American institution, and you have every right to be proud.

I want to congratulate your parents. Many of you have written your last tuition check. *[Laughter]* That must be nice. I'm still writing them. *[Laughter]* You've given so much encouragement and support to your children, and their gratitude will only increase over the years. I also commend Ohio State's fine faculty, which has done so much to shape the minds and hopes of the graduating class.

One more word of congratulations is in order. Today I had the honor of meeting Coach Jim Tressel—most polite of him to share with me the really fine experience that the Buckeyes had up in Ann Arbor this year.

And I appreciate so very much the honorary degree you're conferring upon me today. I'm delighted that George Steinbrenner is receiving one as well. I guess we're both being honored as legends of baseball—*[laughter]*—legends, at least, in our own minds. *[Laughter]*

I am now the only person standing between you and your diploma. The tradition of commencement addresses is to be brief and forgotten. I assure you that this speech will be shorter than it seems.

Your senior year was special in your life, and the months since last September have been extraordinary in our country's history. On a Tuesday morning, America went from

a feeling of security to one of vulnerability, from peace to war, from a time of calm to a great and noble cause. We're called to defend liberty against tyranny and terror. We've answered that call. We will bring security to our people and justice to our enemies.

In the last 9 months, we've seen the true character of our country. We learned of firefighters who wrote their Social Security numbers on their arms with felt tip pens, to mark and identify their bodies, and then rushed into burning buildings. We learned of the desperate courage of passengers on Flight 93, average citizens who led the first counter-attack in the war on terror. We watched the searchers, month after month, fulfill their grim duty and New Yorkers line the streets to cheer them on their way to work each morning. And in these events, we relearned something large and important: The achievements that last and count in life come through sacrifice and compassion and service.

Some believe this lesson in service is fading as distance grows from the shock of September the 11th, that the good we have witnessed is shallow and temporary. Your generation will respond to these skeptics, one way or another. You will determine whether our new ethic of responsibility is the break of a wave or the rise of a tide. You will determine whether we become a culture of selfishness and look inward or whether we will embrace a culture of service and look outward.

Because this decision is in your hands, I'm confident of the outcome. Your class and your generation understand the need for personal responsibility, so you will make a culture of service a permanent part of American life. After all, nearly 70 percent of your class volunteers in some form, from Habitat for Humanity to Big Brothers and Big Sisters to OhioReads. Ohio State has been a leading source of Peace Corps volunteers since 1961. I honor the 29 ROTC members in today's graduating class for their spirit of service and idealism.

I hope each of you—I hope each of you will help build this culture of service, for three important reasons: Service is important to your neighbors; service is important to your character; and service is important to your country.

First, your idealism is needed in America. In the shadow of our Nation's prosperity, too many children grow up without love and guidance. Too many women are abandoned and abused. Too many men are addicted and illiterate, and too many elderly Americans live in loneliness. These Americans are not strangers; they are fellow citizens, not problems but priorities. They are as much a part of the American community as you and I, and they deserve better from this country.

Government has essential responsibilities: Fighting wars and fighting crime; protecting the homeland and enforcing civil rights laws; educating the young and providing for the old; giving people tools to improve their lives; helping the disabled and those in need. But you have responsibilities as well. Some Government needs—some needs Government cannot fulfill, the need for kindness and for understanding and for love. A person in crisis often needs more than a program or a check. He needs a friend, and that friend can be you. We are commanded by God and called by our conscience to love others as we want to be loved ourselves. Let us answer that call with every day we are given.

Second, service is important in your own life, in your own character. No one can tell you how to live or what cause to serve, but everyone needs some cause larger than his or her own profit. Apathy has no adventures. Cynicism leaves no monuments. And a person who is not responsible for others is a person who is truly alone.

By sharing the pain of a friend or bearing the hopes of a child or defending the liberty of your fellow citizens, you will gain satisfaction that cannot be gained in any other way. Service is not a chain or a chore. It gives direction to your gifts and purpose to your freedom.

Lyndsey Holben is an OSU sophomore majoring in business. When she was in high school, Lyndsey had a friend and a classmate who died from an illness, and Lyndsey decided she wanted to work with children who suffer from life-threatening diseases. Today, Lyndsey is a leader among volunteers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Here's what she had to say: "It's hard enough to put a smile on someone's face but especially someone who is hurting. Even if that's all you can do,

that is something, and there is no better feeling in the world.” Lyndsey and others here today have learned that every life of service is a life of significance.

Third, we serve others because we’re Americans, and we want to do something for the country we love. Our Nation is the greatest force for good in history, and we show our gratitude by doing our duty.

Patriotism is expressed by flying the flag, but it is more. Patriotism means we share a single country. In all our diversity, each of us has a bond with every other American. Patriotism is proven in our concern for others, a willingness to sacrifice for people we may never have met or seen. Patriotism is our obligation to those who have gone before us, to those who will follow us, and to those who have died for us.

In March of this year, Army Ranger Marc Anderson died in Afghanistan, trying to rescue a Navy SEAL. Marc and five others gave their lives in fulfilling the Ranger creed: “I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy.”

Marc, from Westerville, Ohio, was a remarkable man. Instead of pursuing a career that might have made him wealthy, Marc decided to be a math teacher in a high school in a tough neighborhood. He was a mentor, a tutor, and the best teacher many students ever had. After September the 11th, Marc joined the fight against terrorism. “I’m trained, and I’m ready,” he wrote to his friends. Before Marc left for Afghanistan, he arranged for part of his life insurance to pay for one of his former students to attend college. Today, that student, Jennifer Massing, plans to go to the University of Florida to study architecture.

Marc Anderson considered this country great enough to die for. Surely it is great enough to live for. And we live for America by serving others. And as we serve others, this challenge can only be answered in individual hearts. Service in America is not a matter of coercion; it is a matter of conscience. So today I’m making an appeal to your conscience, for the sake of our country.

America needs more than taxpayers, speculators, and occasional voters. America needs full-time citizens. America needs men and women who respond to the call of duty, who

stand up for the weak, who speak up for their beliefs, who sacrifice for a greater good. America needs your energy and your leadership and your ambition. And through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency, we will change America one soul at a time, and we will build a culture of service.

I have asked all Americans to commit at least 2 years—4,000 hours over a lifetime—to the service of our neighbors and our Nation. My administration created what we call the USA Freedom Corps to help Americans find service opportunities at home and abroad. We’re doubling the size of the Peace Corps. We’ll increase AmeriCorps by 50 percent. We’ve created Citizen Corps to help protect the homeland.

And today I’m announcing an historic partnership. We are bringing together the broadest group of service organizations ever assembled to create the USA Freedom Corps Network. The USA Freedom Corps Network includes America’s Promise, the Points of Light Foundation, the United Way, VolunteerMatch, SERVENet, and many other organizations—will be the most comprehensive clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities ever assembled. This network will enable you to find volunteer opportunities within your neighborhoods and communities and in countries around the globe.

One of the main reasons people give for not volunteering is that no one has asked them to do so. Another reason: They don’t know where to start. Well, today I’m asking each of you to serve your country, and through the USA Freedom Corps Network, you’ve got a place to start. All that remains is for you to answer the call to service. I hope you do, and I believe you will.

A life of service isn’t always easy. It involves sacrifices, and I understand many other things will lay claim to your time and to your attention. In serving, however, you will give help and hope to others. You will—your own life will gain greater purpose and deeper meaning. You will show your love and allegiance to the United States, which remains what it has always been, a citadel of freedom, a land of mercy, the last, best hope of man on Earth.

And so to the graduates of Ohio State University: Congratulations on your achievement. I want to thank you for this honorary degree. I leave here a proud member of the class of 2002. I leave here confident that you will serve our country and a cause greater than self. May God bless you and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in Ohio Stadium, after receiving an honorary doctorate in public administration. In his remarks, he referred to William E. Kirwan, president, James F. Patterson, chairman of the board of trustees, and Jim Tressel, head football coach, Ohio State University; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, New York Yankees.

Statement on Signing the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002

June 14, 2002

I have today signed into law S. 1372, the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002. This legislation will ensure the continued effective operation of the Export-Import Bank, which helps advance U.S. trade policy, facilitate the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, and create jobs here at home.

The executive branch shall carry out section 7(b) of the bill, which relates to certain small businesses, in a manner consistent with the requirements of equal protection under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Subsections 10(a) and 10(b)(2) of the bill purport to require the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate with foreign countries and international organizations to achieve particular purposes and to require the Secretary to submit a report to congressional committees on the contents of negotiations and certain related executive deliberations. These provisions interfere with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, supervise the unitary executive branch, and withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the executive, or the performance of the executive's constitutional duties.

Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe these provisions as precatory rather than mandatory.

The executive branch shall construe the reference to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948," added to section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Export-Import Bank Act by section 15 of the bill, as only providing examples of types of human rights that the President may wish to consider in making a determination under section 2(b)(1)(B) and not as giving the Universal Declaration the force of U.S. law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 14, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1372, approved June 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107-189. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 9

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

June 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

June 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Gracia Burnham to express his condolences concerning the death of her husband, Martin Burnham, an American missionary who had been held hostage in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and was killed June 7 during a rescue attempt.

Also in the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado, to discuss the wildfires in Colorado, and with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Kansas City, MO, where he toured a water treatment facility. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council: Joseph J. Grano, Jr. (Chair); William H. Webster (Vice Chair); Richard A. Andrews; Kathleen M. Bader; Jared Cohon; Gov. Michael O. Leavitt of Utah; James T. Moore; James R. Schlesinger; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Ruth David; Paul Bremer III; Lydia Waters Thomas; Steven Young; David Arthur Bell; Sidney Taurel; and Lee Herbert Hamilton.

June 12

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss agriculture and trade, the situation in the Middle East, and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with congressional committee chairmen and ranking members to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

June 13

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Also in the morning, in the Oval Office, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and the crew of the space shuttle *Atlantis*.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Anthony Holmes to be Ambassador to Burkina Faso.

The President announced his intention to nominate W. Scott Railton to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Earl A. Powell III to be a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy C. Pellett to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rebecca Dye to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donna N. Williams and William A. Schambra to be members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 28–June 7.

June 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Columbus, OH.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situations in South Asia and the Middle East and upcoming G-8 meetings in Canada. He also had a telephone conversation with Hamid Karzai to congratulate him on his election as head of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, where he visited a summer enrichment camp at the headquarters of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans. In the evening, he attended a reception for Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. He then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Aurelia E. Brazeal to be Ambassador to Ethiopia.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joseph B. Gildenhorn to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Upon appointment, he will be designated as Chair.

The President announced his designation of Deanna Tanner Okun as Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his designation of Jennifer Anne Hillman as Vice Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on June 9 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 11

Fern Flanagan Saddler,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Patricia A. Wynn, retired.

Submitted June 13

Robert J. Battista,
of Michigan, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring August 27, 2006, vice Peter J. Hurtgen.

Rebecca Dye,
of North Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2005, vice John A. Moran, term expired.

Earl A. Powell III,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Townsend D. Wolfe III, term expired.

William A. Schambra,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2006, vice Carol W. Kinsley, term expired.

Donna N. Williams,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2006, vice Robert B. Rogers, term expired.

Submitted June 14

Aurelia E. Brazeal,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Cheryl Feldman Halpern,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2008, vice Heidi H. Schulman, term expired.

J. Anthony Holmes,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Burkina Faso.

Nancy C. Pellett,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration for a term expiring May 31, 2008, vice Ann Jorgensen, term expired.

W. Scott Railton,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2007, vice Gary L. Visscher, term expired.

Withdrawn June 14

Cheryl Feldman Halpern,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the remainder of the term expiring January 31, 2004, vice Diane D. Blair, which was sent to the Senate on November 9, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation 2002 Service to America Summit

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3167

Released June 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released June 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released June 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Fact sheet: Businesses Strengthening America: Corporate Leaders Plan for Answering the President's Call to Service

Announcement: Businesses Strengthening America: Answers to the Call

Released June 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 10

H.R. 3167 / Public Law 107–187
Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2002

Approved June 12

H.R. 3448 / Public Law 107–188
Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

Approved June 14

S. 1372 / Public Law 107–189
Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, June 21, 2002

**Remarks During a Visit to the
Headquarters of the Association for
the Advancement of Mexican
Americans in Houston, Texas**

June 14, 2002

Let me say a couple of words. I know you're anxiously awaiting them. First, it's great to be back in Texas. I'm proud to be here with my friend the Governor and Congressman Green.

Before I talk about service, I want to say something about Karachi. We fight an enemy that are radical killers; that's what they are. You know, they claim they're religious people, and they blow up Muslims. They have no regard for individual life.

Our hearts go out to the—our citizens and those affected by the bombings that took place. Our prayers are with their families, are with the families of the people in Pakistan as well.

But these people, if they think they're going to intimidate the United States, they do not understand the United States of America. And we will continue to hunt them down and seek justice.

Secondly, as we make America more secure, we've got to make it a better place. Today is Flag Day. We can talk about patriotism, but a true patriot is one not only who salutes the flag, but a true patriot is one who serves the community in which they live.

So I want to thank AAMA for its great work in Houston and now, I understand, the valley. I want to thank the visionaries who put together this charter school. I want to thank AmeriCorps for being a part of the after-school program. I want to thank the mentors for understanding that out of evil done to America and out of the evil continuing to be done to others around the world can come some incredible good. And the good that can happen is, children can realize the great American Dream—start right here, learn to read, go to college, and can succeed

in America; that where there may be hopelessness and despair, love and compassion will overcome it.

And so I want to thank you all for letting me come by. Thank you for reading so well, and see you in college.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Headquarters Summer Enrichment Camp. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Proclamation 7574—Father's Day,
2002**

June 14, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his or her child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance.

As we observe Father's Day, our Nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children.

Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition.

Responsible fatherhood is important to a healthy and civil society. Numerous studies confirm that children whose fathers are

present and involved in their lives are more likely to develop into prosperous and healthy adults. Children learn by example; and they need their father's presence as examples of virtue in their daily lives. A child's sense of security can be greatly enhanced by seeing his parents in a loving and faithful marriage.

My Administration strongly supports initiatives to strengthen fatherhood, promote stable families, and increase the ease of adoptions. We must also continue to enlist the help of citizens and community groups who reach out to fatherless or neglected children through mentoring and other acts of compassion.

On this Father's Day, we acknowledge and honor the love of our own fathers. I encourage all fathers to commit themselves to the continuing love and care of their children and their families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 16, 2002, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express love, admiration, and thanks to their fathers for their contributions to our lives and to society. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., June 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Governor Rick Perry of Texas in Houston

June 14, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. It's another reason I'm glad to be home—[*laughter*]*—that, plus getting a little culture. [Laughter]* I can't tell you how great it is to see so many friends. I want to thank you for your prayers, for your friendship. I want to thank you for helping Laura and me serve our country.

I'm here today to talk about a man who—there's no doubt in my mind—is not only going to win in November but do a fine, fine job on behalf of the Texas people. We've shared a lot. We have both been Governors. And we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Anita Perry, the first lady of the State of Texas, and she's bringing a lot of class to the office.

I'm sorry Laura isn't here with me. She's in Crawford.

Audience member. We are, too.

The President. Well, I'm sure you are. I can understand that. [*Laughter*] You probably wish she was speaking. [*Laughter*]

It's hard to believe that a public school librarian who didn't particularly care about politics or politicians—[*laughter*]*—is now the First Lady of this great country, and she's doing a magnificent job.*

I'm really proud of her. Of course she, like my mother, is still telling me what to do. [*Laughter*] Marjorie, I'm of course listening. [*Laughter*] But we're doing great. We really are. Our family's strong. Our spirit is strong. Our love for our country has never been greater.

I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. I particularly want to say something about the next attorney general, Greg Abbott. Greg, I want to thank you for your—[*applause*]. I want to thank Henry Bonilla for being here and for his work on behalf of our party and the Victory Committee. I want to thank Justices Jefferson and Rodriguez, who are here with us tonight.

I know there's all kinds of candidates—Judge Carter, who's running in the 31st Congressional District this year. I know my

friend—thank you, Judge. I know my friend Tommy Craddick is here. And members of the statehouse, both Republicans and Democrats, are here tonight, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I want to thank you all for supporting Rick. I want to thank you for contributing your money and, as importantly, thank you for contributing your time.

I see a lot of what they call grassroots activists here. I tell you, I know I could never have won the Governor's race and/or the Presidency without those of you who man the phones and sign the envelopes and lick them and mail them and do all the hard work. And so on behalf of grateful candidates, thanks for what you have done and thanks for what you're going to do come November.

I appreciate Rick's record. I want to talk a little bit about education. It is a passion of mine, and it's a passion of Rick's. It is absolutely essential that at all levels of government we have people who are willing to raise standards for every child. It is absolutely essential for the good of the State of Texas that we have a Governor who believes every child can learn, somebody who doesn't lower the bar. See, if you lower the standards, if you expect mediocrity, you'll get mediocrity, and that's not good enough for the State of Texas.

As Rick mentioned, we reformed the education code out of the Federal Government. It mirrors what Rick is doing here in Texas. Let me explain it to you right quick. It says that if you receive money from the taxpayers, you've got to measure. If you get help from the Federal Government or the State Government, you've got to show the taxpayers but more importantly the parents whether or not the children all across the State of Texas are learning. And if they're learning, we'll praise the teachers. If they're meeting standards, if they're meeting expectations, there will be all kinds of praise for the hard-working teachers all across the country and in the State of Texas.

But when we find children who aren't learning, children who can't read, we've got to address the problems early, before it's too late. You see, every child is important in the State of Texas. Every child matters. And you can't tell whether or not children are learning

to read and write and add and subtract unless you have the courage to hold people accountable.

Texas must not go backwards. Texas must continue to have strong accountability systems, so that this business about just shuffling children through the system stops. You see, it's easy to quit on a young, black child. It's easy to say, "That person can't learn. Let's just move them through." It's easy to quit on somebody whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It's easy to quit. But by having accountability and local control of schools, we measure each child, because each child counts. You cannot possibly fix the problem unless you know the problem exists.

Education is the number one priority for this Governor. And it's the number one priority for the State of Texas, and that's as it should be. And we're making progress. We are. One of the things I love about Rick is, his vision of Texas includes everybody, not just a few. His vision of Texas says every child counts, and no child will be left behind in the great State of Texas.

One of the big initiatives in Washington, DC, is the reauthorization of welfare. One of the great successes in our country has been the 1996 welfare reform bill. And it basically said that we can do better than dependency upon Government, that we can free people by insisting upon work and by helping those learn how to work. It gives me great confidence to know that Rick is going to be the Governor of Texas as we talk about reauthorization. The cornerstone of helping people is to help them find the dignity of a job. And with Rick Perry as Governor, I'm confident that that dignity will spread throughout all parts of the great State of Texas.

I appreciate a man who understands there needs to be fiscal sanity when it comes to spending money, spending your money. And Rick saved the State \$500 million as a result of some bold actions he took. And as you know, the economy kind of slowed down a little bit, and thankfully, you had a Governor who is willing to make the tough fiscal choices that's going to stand Texas in good stead in the years to come. I appreciate your courage, Rick, and I appreciate your leadership.

But the thing I appreciate most is your integrity and your values, the fact that you make your family your top priority. I love the fact that you love your wife, and you love your kids. You know, we were going down the Gulf Freeway today. *[Laughter]* Traffic wasn't all that bad, by the way. *[Laughter]* If you got stuck in one of the exits, I apologize. *[Laughter]* We spent more time talking about our family. I appreciate a Governor who wanted to share with me the hopes and aspirations of his children. It's important for the State of Texas to have somebody in the Governor's office whose got his priorities absolutely straight, faith and family and the great State of Texas.

You know, when I was one time campaigning in Chicago, a reporter said, "Would you ever have a deficit?" And I said, "I can't imagine it, but there would be one if we had a war or a national emergency or a recession." *[Laughter]* Never did I dream we'd get the trifecta. *[Laughter]* But I want you to know we're making progress on all three fronts. I'm concerned about the economic security of the American people. I know there's a lot of focus on statistics—this number comes out or that number comes out. Here's my attitude: So long as somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we have a problem. And my focus is going to be to continue to expand the job base of this country so people can find work.

We made a pretty good start when we cut the taxes on the working people. And it came at exactly the right time. There's a school of thought in Washington that says, if you take more of the people's money, the economy will benefit. I don't read the same textbook. *[Laughter]* My attitude is, when times are slow, you let people have their own money. And when they keep their own money, they spend it. And when they spend their own money, they demand a good and service. And when you demand a good and service, somebody's going to provide the good and service, which means somebody's going to be able to work. This tax cut happened at the right time, and we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

In order to make sure people can find jobs and can work in America, we need an energy policy. We need an energy policy that, on

the one hand, encourages conservation and makes sure that we promote renewable sources of energy, an energy policy that promotes the new technologies that are coming on line. But we need an energy policy as well that encourages exploration for oil and gas in the United States of America.

The nay-sayers and the skeptics, you know, challenge that policy. They don't understand the technologies now available that allow us to provide domestic energy and at the same time protect our environment. But let me put it to you this way: For the sake of economic security, we need a sound energy policy. And for the sake of national security, we must become less reliant on foreign sources of energy. Some of those sources don't particularly care about America, I might add.

This Congress needs to give me a trade bill so I can open up markets for Texas agricultural products, for high-tech products. Listen, if you're good at something—and we're good at a lot of things when it comes to our economy—we ought to be selling them to people around the world. This country ought to be feeding the people of the world. I need trade promotion authority from the United States Congress for the good of the job creation.

We're making progress on economic security. And we've got a long way to go. But I just want you to know, so long as somebody can't find work that wants to work, I'm working.

And we've got a lot to do on homeland security as well. I want you to know what I think about the people that we're fighting. They are nothing but coldblooded killers. There was a bombing in Karachi. Innocent people lost their lives. Most of the innocent people were Muslims. These people, these terrorists, these killers have hijacked a noble religion, but the world is seeing what they're made out of, what they're like. They do not value individual life. And for the good of freedom and for the good of America and our allies and friends, we're going to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

We've made some progress. The other night when I announced this Department of Homeland Security, I laid out a statistic that

said we've rounded up about 2,400 of them so far—make it 2,401.

Audience member. That's right.

The President. And that's good. And that's good, except there's still a lot of them out there. And so it is—it is my most important job to do everything in my power to prevent the enemy from taking innocent life again.

We've got over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, involved with homeland security. They're scattered all throughout the bureaucracy. As you can imagine, it makes it kind of tough to get an efficient plan in place. And so I've asked the Congress to make the most impressive and far-reaching reorganization since Harry Truman reorganized the Defense Department.

I want it all under one—one authority. I want to align authority and responsibility. I want it to be said that, as a result of reorganizing Government, our country is better prepared to enforce our border, to respond to emergency; our country is better prepared to respond to bioterrorism. We need the capacity to analyze the information we're getting to predict what might happen so that we can react.

Now, this isn't going to be as easy as it seems, reorganizing Government. After all, there's a lot of turf in Washington, DC, and people are guarding their turf. There's an appropriation chairman here, a ranking member there that likes the idea of deciding how much money goes to this agency or another. For the good of the American people, I call upon Congress to think about not turf but security.

I'll never forget my first hard discussion with the Director of the FBI. I don't know if you are aware of this fact, but he came on to work one week before September the 11th, so he got right in the middle of the action pretty quickly. And he was talking to me about, you know, they're doing a pretty good job of going after this white-collar criminal and arresting this person. And I said, "That's all fine and good, and you need to keep doing it. But your most important priority now is to prevent attack. I want you running down every lead. If you've got a hint that somebody might be coming in here to do something to America, I want to know

about it, and I want you on them. I want you doing everything in your power. Your agency is vital, but your mission has—the priority of the agency—your new mission is to use the resources of the United States of America to protect the homeland."

And we're making progress. We really are. The CIA and the FBI communicate in a lot closer way these days. There's a lot better sharing of information. You've just got to know that there's a lot of hardworking people doing everything they can to protect you. But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way, is to chase these killers down one by one and bring them to justice.

We will use every tool at our disposal. We've assembled a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, and we're—and they're working. We're communicating with these folks. Every time I meet with a foreign leader, I remind him or her that our most important collective job is to win this war on terror. History has called us into action. History will look back and determine the mettle and drive and desire of all of us who have been given awesome responsibilities.

We're cutting off their money, and that's vital. It's kind of hard for them to operate unless they have cash. And although the enemy doesn't require much money, if they don't have any, it's going to be hard for them to move. So we're working with financial institutions all round the world on a regular basis to cut off their money.

Probably the most effective force we've used, of course, thus far is the United States military. For those of you who've got relatives in the military or are in the military yourselves, thanks from the bottom of my heart and our Nation's heart.

I was at West Point the other day, and I was honored to give a graduation speech where I laid out a new doctrine called preemption, which I'll describe here in a second. But I shook every hand of the graduates. Let me tell you, the military's in good shape. These are fine, fine young Americans.

I sent up to Congress the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, and I did it for two reasons, and I want to explain it to you right quickly. One, any time we commit our men and women into harm's way, they deserve

the best equipment, the best training, the best possible pay. And secondly, I submitted a significant increase, because we're in for a long war. I know some would hope the enemy would go away. They're not going away until we get them. That's a fact. The good news is, the American people are united and strong and resolved. They understand what I know, that we must defend our freedoms at all costs.

You know, I can't imagine what went through the mind of the enemy. They probably looked at America and thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic and selfish that after they killed thousands of our citizens, all we would do is file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* They and the world have seen the true character of America.

We love our freedom. We care about our children. We love our values. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that you can have honest political discourse. That's what we love. We love our lifestyle, and we will use all our might to protect it.

The threats we face go beyond just one terrorist network. The threats we face are bigger than a group of these shadowy figures who try to hide in caves and then send youngsters to their death. We face threats of weapons of mass destruction. In the past, we used to have a doctrine called containment and deterrence. You can't contain a shadowy terrorist network. You can't deter somebody who doesn't have a country. And you're not going to be able—future Presidents won't be able to deter or contain one of these nations which harbors weapons of mass destruction, nations who hate America. For the good of the American people, I will use all the resources at my disposal to make sure the world's worst regimes do not threaten, blackmail America and our friends with the world's worst weapons.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good. I've got a great painting by Tom Lee. Many of you know Tom Lee from El Paso. He passed away, unfortunately, earlier this year. And on my wall is his fantastic picture—painting, I guess you'd call it—of West Texas. And it reminds me of a quote Tom Lee said; it's something I said at our convention. He said,

"Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone."

The day I see coming for this great country is one of peace. I want you to tell your children that behind all the war rhetoric is a strong desire for peace, that I long for peace not only in America, but I think if the United States of America remains tough and vigilant and strong and steady, that we will be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where there is no hope for peace right now. I believe that. I believe that the enemy, much to their chagrin—much to their chagrin—out of the evil will come a more peaceful world. And at home, I know out of the evil will come a better America.

Today I had the honor of speaking at the Ohio State University graduation ceremonies. I told those kids, I said that patriotism is more than saluting the flag. Patriotism is service to your country. Patriotism is loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, if you want to join the war on terror, love somebody. Do some good. It's the gathering momentum of thousands of acts of kindness and generosity which will show the world the compassionate face of America and, at the same time, show the world that this country is not going to be cowed by evil people.

One person can't do everything in this society. I know that. But one person can do something to save a soul. Listen, in this great land of ours, a land of plenty, there are pockets of hopelessness and despair. There are too many children who wonder whether America is meant for them, and we're going to do something about that here in America. There are too many people addicted and sad and lonely, and we'll do something about that too. The Government can hand out checks. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or sense of purpose in their lives or love people. That's going to happen because this great country is full of loving and decent and caring souls.

I call upon you all to continue what you're doing when it comes to helping a neighbor in need. The acts don't have to be huge acts. Listen, if you just walk across the street and tell somebody shut in that you love them,

it's a part of making our society whole and complete. Mentor a child. Grab a child around the shoulders and tell them you love them and teach them how to read. It's these acts of compassion and decency which will help lay the foundation for a more hopeful America in the future.

You know, when I was campaigning for Governor and still as President, I've talked about a cultural change. I said, it's so important for us to change the culture away from that of my generation, which has said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else. That's happening in America. People understand that they are responsible for the decisions they make in life.

I believe a culture of personal responsibility is beginning to take hold, and perhaps the most important catalyst for that cultural shift is what took place on Flight 93. People were driving—flying across the country, trying to get home, and all of a sudden they realized their airplane was a weapon. And they said a prayer, and they told their loved ones goodbye, and they served a cause greater than self by driving that airplane into the ground.

It's that sense of sacrifice and courage that will serve as an example for young and old alike. It's that concept of serving something greater than you which will allow this great Nation to show the world that we will overcome evil with good.

I want to thank you all for your friendship. I repeat, I want to thank you for the greatest gift you can give a President and his wife, and that's your prayers. I want to thank you for supporting my friend, the current and next Governor of the State of Texas. I want to thank you all for coming.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:09 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marjorie Arsh, Republican Party activist; Greg Abbott, candidate for State attorney general of Texas; Justices Wallace Jefferson and Xavier Rodriguez of the Texas Supreme Court; Texas State Representative Tom Craddick; and John R. Carter, candidate for Texas' 31st Congressional District. This item was not re-

ceived in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 15, 2002

Good morning. Owning a home lies at the heart of the American Dream. A home is a foundation for families and a source of stability for communities. It serves as the foundation of many Americans' financial security. Yet today, while nearly three-quarters of all white Americans own their homes, less than half of all African Americans and Hispanic Americans are homeowners. We must begin to close this homeownership gap by dismantling the barriers that prevent minorities from owning a piece of the American Dream.

The single greatest hurdle to first-time homeownership is a high downpayment requirement that can put a home out of reach, so my administration is proposing the American Dream Downpayment Fund. When a low-income family is qualified to buy a home but comes up short on the downpayment, the American Dream Downpayment Fund will help provide the needed funds. We estimate that this fund will open the door to homeownership for 40,000 low-income families annually.

A second obstacle to minority homeownership is a lack of affordable housing. To encourage the production of single-family homes for sale in neighborhoods where affordable housing is scarce, my administration is proposing a single-family affordable housing credit. Over the next 5 years, this will provide developers nearly \$2.4 billion in tax credits for building affordable single-family housing in distressed areas. These credits will make 200,000 new homes available over its first 5 years to low-income purchasers.

A third major obstacle to minority homeownership is the complexity and difficulty of the purchasing process, so we're stepping up our efforts to better educate first-time home buyers. Consumers need to know their rights and responsibilities as home buyers. Education is the best protection for families against abusive and unscrupulous lenders. Financial education and housing counseling can help protect home buyers against abuses,

greatly improve the loan terms they are offered, and help families get through tough times with their homes intact.

Through these important initiatives, we can help thousands of American families live the kinds of lives they had once only dreamed about. But Government action isn't enough. We need to energize and engage the private sector as well. That is why I have challenged the real estate industry leaders to join with the Government, with non-profit organizations, and with private-sector financial institutions in a major nationwide effort to increase minority homeownership.

My approach to broadening homeownership focuses on empowering people to help themselves and to help one another. These important initiatives will accomplish their purpose because Americans, working together and taking responsibility for one another, will make this great country even greater.

The strength of America lies in the honor and the character and good will of its people. When we tap into that strength, we discover there is no problem that cannot be solved in this wonderful land of liberty.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:42 a.m. on June 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-23

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public

Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 24, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 25.

Remarks at St. Paul AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia

June 17, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for that wonderful Atlanta welcome. It's nice to be back in this incredibly important community.

You know, our Nation faces a lot of huge challenges. Right now we've got 60,000 troops fighting terrorism so that we can be free, all of us can be free. I appreciate so very much the resolve and unity and determination of this great land. I appreciate our military for their sacrifices. We're also doing everything we can to secure the homeland, to make sure that those who hate us won't take innocent life again.

And as we work for a more secure world, we've got to work for a better world too. And that means, as we work on our security from possible attacks by terrorists, we also work on economic security. The two securities go hand in hand. Anybody who wants a job who can't find one means we've got a problem. In Washington, they talk statistics all the time, and that's important. People who count

numbers need to make a living too. [*Laughter*] But my attitude is, if somebody can't find work and they want to work, we've got to continue to work on expanding the job base.

And part of economic security is owning your own home. Part of being a secure America is to encourage homeownership, so somebody can say, "This is my home. Welcome to my home."

Now, we've got a problem here in America that we have to address. Too many American families, too many minorities do not own a home. There is a homeownership gap in America. The difference between Anglo America and African American and Hispanic homeownership is too big. And we've got to focus the attention on this Nation to address this. And it starts with setting a goal. And so by the year 2010, we must increase minority homeowners by at least 5½ million. In order to close the homeownership gap, we've got to set a big goal for America and focus our attention and resources on that goal.

And I picked a good man to help realize that goal, in Mel Martinez. I don't know if you know Mel's story, but it's an interesting story. Mel was born in Cuba. [*Applause*] Yes, Mel brought his cousins with him—[*laughter*—all two of them, anyway. [*Laughter*] But Mel's mother and daddy—Mel's mother and dad put him on an airplane to come to America when he was a young boy, because they didn't want his son growing up in a country that wasn't free. Think about that; think about the courage of a mom or a dad and their love for freedom—love freedom so much that they would put their child in the hands of loving Americans. And Mom and Dad eventually came. And here he now sits, as a member of the President's Cabinet. What a great country we have.

My point is, Mel understands what it means to dream and then to work to realize the dreams. I've also picked a fine friend of mine from Texas named Alphonso Jackson to serve as the Deputy of HUD. And where are you, Alphonso? There he is. I appreciate you. These are can-do people. So when we set a goal, they understand their job is to work toward that goal.

I also want to thank the mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, for being here, Shirley Franklin. Thank you for coming, Madam Mayor. Much

of the success of this program is going to depend—depends upon the ability for the Federal Government to work with State and local governments. And I know the mayor has got a strong commitment to housing for all people and to end the ownership gap. Madam Mayor, thanks for coming.

I appreciate as well Johnny Isakson and John Linder, members of the Georgia congressional delegation, for coming today. Thank you all for being here. I want to thank Franklin Raines of Fannie Mae and Leland Brendsel of Freddie Mac. Thank you all for coming.

Today I had the pleasure of seeing an entrepreneur's work firsthand, an Atlanta citizen who also dreamt a dream, and that is to develop a piece of blighted property so others could benefit from her vision and hard work. Masharn Wilson is here. She is a president and CEO—Masharn is the president and CEO of her own company. Part of the economic security is not only owning a home; part of it is, if you have the entrepreneurial instincts, is to own your own business as well. So I want to appreciate you, Masharn. I appreciate your hard work.

And one other person I want to announce is a fellow named Darryl Hicks. Where are you, Darryl?

Darryl Hicks. Right here.

The President. There you are. Darryl Hicks is here. I want to—Darryl is—one of the things I remind our fellow citizens, if you're interested in defeating evil, do some good. You see, we're going to fight with our military, but we can also fight with our hearts. And a country which has been under attack can respond by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And this man right here is a fellow, Darryl Hicks, who works for Habitat for Humanity programs. He's interested in lending his heart and his talents to helping a neighbor in need. America can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, so long as we are willing to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves. I want to thank you, Darryl. I want to thank Darryl for being a soldier in the army of compassion.

And I also want to thank Reverend Dr. Thomas Bess for opening up this beautiful church. You know, one of my passions is the

Faith-Based Initiative. It is important that Congress not fear faith-based programs but welcome faith-based programs, so we can help change people's lives. I find it most interesting that we would be talking about how we help people in a church. After all, that's why churches exist.

Audience members. Um-hmm.

The President. And so I am—I want to thank the church staff for opening up this beautiful facility to the army which follows me around. [*Laughter*]

I do believe in the American Dream. I believe there is such a thing as the American Dream. And I believe those of us who have been given positions of responsibility must do everything we can to spotlight the dream and to make sure the dream shines in all neighborhoods, all throughout our country. Owning a home is a part of that dream; it just is. Right here in America, if you own your own home, you're realizing the American Dream.

You know, today I went to the—to some of the home—met some of the homeowners in these newly built homes, and all you've got to do is shake their hand and listen to their stories and watch the pride that they exhibit when they show you the kitchen and the stairs. So people like Ken Beatty, who is an environmentalist; or Al Smith, a probation officer; or Geary Jefferson, a database administrator; or Darrin West, an Atlanta police officer; Tamika Henry—Tomika Henry Cole: These are all people that I've met. They've come over here today. They showed me their home. They didn't show me somebody else's home; they showed me their home. And they are so proud to own their home, and I want to thank them for their hospitality, because it helps the American people really understand what it means.

And what we've got to do is to figure out how to make sure these stories are repeated over and over and over again in America. Three-quarters of White America owns their homes. Less than 50 percent of African Americans are part of the homeownership in America, and less than 50 percent of the Hispanics who live here in this country own their home. And that has got to change for the good of the country; it just does.

And so here are some of the ways to address the issue. First, the single greatest barrier to first-time homeownership is a high downpayment. It is really hard for many, many low-income families to make the high downpayment. And so that's why I propose and urge Congress to fully fund the American Dream Downpayment Fund. This will use money, taxpayers' money to help a qualified low-income buyer make a downpayment, and that's important.

One of the barriers to homeownership is the inability to make a downpayment. And if one of the goals is to increase homeownership, it makes sense to help people pay that downpayment. We believe that the amount of money in our budget, fully approved by Congress, will help 40,000 families every year realize the dream of owning a home. Part of the success of Park Place is that the city of Atlanta already does this. And we want to make the plan more robust. We want to make it more full all across America.

Secondly, there is a lack of affordable housing in certain neighborhoods. Too many neighborhoods, especially in inner-city America, lack affordable housing units. How can you promote homeownership if people can't afford a home?

And so what I've done is propose what we call a single-family affordable housing tax credit, to encourage the development of affordable housing in neighborhoods where housing is scarce. Over 5 years, the initiative amounts to \$2.4 billion in tax credits, and that will help. It will help a lot to build homes where people can—where when fully implemented, people will be able to say, "I own my home."

A third major barrier is the complexity and difficulty of the home buying process. There's a lot of fine print on these forms. And it bothers people; it makes them nervous. And so therefore, what Mel has agreed to do and Alphonso Jackson has agreed to do is to streamline the process, make the rules simpler, so everybody understands what they are—makes the closing much less complicated. We certainly don't want there to be a fine print preventing people from owning their home. We can change the print, and we've got to.

We've got to be wise about how we deal with the closing documents and all the regulations but also wise about how we help people understand what it means to own their home and the obligations and the opportunities. And so, therefore, education is a critical component of increasing ownership throughout America: Financial education, housing counseling, how to help people understand that there are unscrupulous lenders. And so one of the things we're going to do is, we're going to promote education, the education of owning a home, the education of buying a home throughout our society.

And we want to fully implement the Section 8 housing program, homeownership program. The program will provide vouchers that first-time home buyers can use to help pay their mortgage or apply to their downpayment. Many of the partners today, many of the people here today, many of the business leaders here today are creating a market for the mortgages where Section 8 vouchers are a source of the payment, and that's good. See, it's an underpinning of capital. It helps move capital to where we want capital to go.

And so these are important initiatives that we can do at the Federal Government. And the Federal Government, obviously, has to play an important role, and we will—we will. I mean, when I lay out a goal, I mean it. But we also have got to bring others into the process, most particularly the real estate industry. After all, the real estate industry benefits when people are encouraged to buy homes. It's in their self-interest that we encourage people to buy homes.

And so one of the things that I'm going to talk about a little bit today is how to create a sustained commitment by the private sector that will have a powerful impact. First of all, we want to make sure that we help work to expand capital available to buyers and, as I mentioned, overcome the barriers that I've delineated as well as provide the education component. In other words, this is not just a Federal responsibility.

That's why I've challenged the industry leaders all across the country to get after it for this goal, to stay focused, to make sure that we achieve a more secure America by achieving the goal of 5½ million new minor-

ity homeowners. I call it America's homeownership challenge.

And let me talk about some of the progress which we have made to date, as an example for others to follow. First of all, Government-sponsored corporations that help create our mortgage system—I introduced two of the leaders here today; they call those people Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—as well as the Federal Home Loan Banks will increase their commitment to minority markets by more than \$440 billion. I want to thank Leland and Franklin for that commitment. It's a commitment that conforms to their charters as well and also conforms to their hearts. This means they will purchase more loans made by banks to African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities, which will encourage homeownership.

Freddie Mac will launch 25 initiatives to eliminate homeownership barriers. Under one of these, consumers with poor credit will be able to get a mortgage with an interest rate that automatically goes down after a period of consistent payments.

Fannie Mae will establish 100 partnerships with faith-based organizations that will provide home buyer education and help increase homeownership for their congregations. I love the partnership.

The Enterprise Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation will increase efforts to build and rehabilitate more homes in inner cities at affordable prices by working with local community development corporations. In my home State of Texas, Enterprise helped turn the once-decaying Ideal Neighborhood of Dallas into a vibrant community by building homes that were sold to residents at affordable prices.

The National Association of Home Builders will team up with local officials, home-builder associations, and community groups in 20 of our Nation's largest housing markets, to focus on how to eliminate barriers and encourage homeownership.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation will dramatically expand financial and home buyer education efforts to 380,000 minority families.

The Neighborhood Housing Services of America will raise \$750 million to promote

homeownership initiatives in many communities.

We're beginning to use the Internet better, so that realtors all across the country will be able to call up programs all designed to help minority home buyers understand what's available, what's possible, and what to avoid. The National Realtors Association will create a central databank of affordable housing programs, which will be made available to agents, real estate agents, to help people.

So these are some of the beginnings of a national effort. And I want to thank all those who are responsible for the organizations I just named for lending your talents to this important effort for America.

You know, one of the things Presidents can do is, they can call the old conference. So I'm going to call one—[laughter]—just to make sure people understand not only are we serious but to let them check in. If they've signed up and said they're going to help, this will give everybody a chance to say, "Here's what I've done to help." It's what we call accountability.

And so this fall, we're going to have a White House conference. It is a White House conference specifically designed to address the homeownership gap. It is a White House conference that will not only say, "What have you done to date"; "Have you got any new ideas that we can share with others," as well. I'm serious about this. This is a very important initiative for all of America. See, it is a chance for us to empower people. We're not going to talk about empowering Government; we're talking about empowering people, so they have got choices over their lives.

I want to go back to where I started. I believe out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. I believe that as sure as I'm standing here. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe that we can address hopelessness and despair where hopelessness and despair exist. And listen, I understand that in this great country, there are too many people who say, "This American Dream, what does that mean? My eyes are shut to the American Dream. I don't see the dream." And we'd better make sure, for the good of the country, that the dream is vibrant and alive.

It starts with having great education systems for every single child. It means that we unleash the faith-based programs to help change people's hearts, which will help change their lives. It means we use the mighty muscle of the Federal Government in combination with State and local governments to encourage owning your own home. That's what that means. And it means—it means that each of us—each of us—have a responsibility in the great country to put something greater than ourselves—to promote something greater than ourselves.

And to me, that something greater than yourself is to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. In order to change America and to make sure the great American Dream shines in every community—every community—we must unleash the compassion and kindness of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I'm honored to be here today. I want to thank you for your interest. God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Mary Jordan Family Life Center at the church. In his remarks, he referred to Franklin D. Raines, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Fannie Mae; Leland C. Brendsel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Freddie Mac; Darryl Hicks, member, board of directors, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity; Masharn Wilson, president and chief executive officer, Infinity Development Group, LLC; and Rev. Thomas Bess, pastor, St. Paul AME Church.

Remarks on National Homeownership Month

June 18, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for that kind welcome. I'm here for a couple of reasons. First, I want to thank you all for your service to the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. I'm here to celebrate National Homeownership Month, because I believe owning a home is an essential part of economic security. And I'm concerned about the security of America.

I had the pleasure on June the 12th of speaking to the last President who visited

HUD; I wished “Number 41” a happy birthday. And I’m glad you’ve invited me here today. I really am. I first am really proud of Mel Martinez and Alphonso Jackson. I’ve known Mel for awhile. I’ve known Alphonso for a long time. There was no question in my mind that these two fine Americans would do a great job in leading this important agency.

I want to thank all those who have assumed leadership roles, who have left your States and your friends to come and serve America. And that’s important. Service to our country is an incredibly important part of being an American.

I want to thank all those who have worked here for a short time and long time, who will be here after we leave. I want to thank a man named Larry Thompson, who has worked here for—where’s Larry? Larry’s been here for 30 years. And I want to—appreciate your service, Larry, and thank you for setting such a fine example for many others inside this building who serve the country.

Let me first talk about how to make sure America is secure from a group of killers, people who hate—you know what they hate? They hate the idea that somebody can go buy a home. They hate freedom. That’s what they hate. They hate the fact that we worship freely. They don’t like the thought of Christian, Jew, and Muslim living side by side in peace. They don’t like that at all. And therefore, they—since they resent our freedoms, they feel like they should take out their resentment by destroying innocent lives. And this country will do everything we can possibly do to protect America. And that’s going to mean making sure our homeland is secure, and I appreciate the progress we’re making on setting up a Department of Homeland Security. I know it’s going to be hard for some in Congress to give up a little power here and there, but I think it’s going to happen because people realize we’re here to serve the American people, not here to serve a political party or turf in the United States Congress.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt them down one by one. And I mean, hunt them down one by one and bring

them to justice, which is precisely what America will do.

I want to thank the choir for coming, the youngsters for being here. I just want you to know that when we talk about war, we’re really talking about peace. We want there to be peace. We want people to live in peace all around the world. I mean, our vision for peace extends beyond America. We believe in peace in South Asia. We believe in peace in the Middle East. We’re going to be steadfast toward a vision that rejects terror and killing and honors peace and hope.

I also want the young to know that this country, we don’t conquer people. We liberate people, because we hold true to our values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The security of our homeland, the need to make sure that America is safe and secure while we chase peace is my number one priority for the country.

But I’ve got another priority as well. I not only want America to be safer and stronger; I want America to be better. I want America to be a better place. I worry about our economy, because there are people who can’t find work who want to work. In this town, people look at numbers all the time. You know, such and such a number dropped, or this number increased. What I worry about are hearts and souls. That’s what I worry about. And if somebody is trying to find work who can’t find work, we need to continue to expand our job base.

We also have got to understand, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of hopelessness and despair. You know, I mentioned the word “American Dream” in Atlanta. I also recognize that some people aren’t sure that dream extends to them. Some people don’t even know what the dream means. And our job—our jobs, our collective jobs, is to make sure that notion of the American Dream extends into every single neighborhood around this country.

I know this isn’t the right Department when I talk about education, but education, making sure every child is educated and no child is left behind, is part of making sure the American Dream extends to every single neighborhood in America. And we’re making progress in a practical way when it comes to educating children because you know

what? For the first time, the Federal Government says, if you receive money, you need to let us know whether the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers and praise the parents and praise the administrators. But if not, if our children can't read and write and add and subtract, instead of just hoping something changes, we're going to use the accountability system to insist upon change, so every child has a chance to realize the dream in America.

But I believe owning something is a part of the American Dream as well. I believe, when somebody owns their own home, they're realizing the American Dream. They can say, "It's my home. It's nobody else's home." And we saw that yesterday in Atlanta, when we went to the new homes of the new homeowners. And I saw with pride, firsthand, the man say, "Welcome to my home." He didn't say, "Welcome to Government's home." He didn't say, "Welcome to my neighbor's home." He said, "Welcome to my home. I own the home, and you're welcome to come in the home," and I appreciated it. He was a proud man. He was proud that he owns the property, and I was proud for him. And I want that pride to extend all throughout our country.

One of the things that we've got to do is to address problems straight on and deal with them in a way that helps us meet goals. And so I want to talk about a couple of goals and—one goal and a problem.

The goal is, everybody who wants to own a home has got a shot at doing so. The problem is we have what we call a homeownership gap in America. Three-quarters of Anglos own their homes, and yet less than 50 percent of African Americans and Hispanics own homes. That ownership gap signals that something might be wrong in the land of plenty, and we need to do something about it.

We are here in Washington, DC, to address problems. So I've set this goal for the country: We want 5.5 million more homeowners by 2010—million more minority homeowners by 2010; 5½ million families by 2010 will own a home. That is our goal. It is a realistic goal. But it's going to mean we're going to have to work hard to achieve the

goal, all of us. And by all of us, I mean not only the Federal Government but the private sector as well.

And so I want to, one, encourage you to do everything you can to work in a realistic, smart way to get this done. I repeat, we're here for a reason. And part of the reason is to make this dream extend everywhere. I'm going to do my part by setting the goal, by reminding people of the goal, by heralding the goal, and by calling people into action, both the Federal level, State level, local level, and in the private sector.

And so what are the barriers that we can deal with here in Washington? Well, probably the single barrier to first-time homeownership is high downpayments. People take a look at the downpayment, they say, "That's too high. I'm not buying." They may have the desire to buy, but they don't have the wherewithal to handle the downpayment. We can deal with that. And so I've asked Congress to fully fund an American Dream Downpayment Fund which will help a low-income family that have qualified to buy, to buy. We believe when this fund is fully funded and properly administered, which it will be under the Bush administration, that over 40,000 families a year—40,000 families a year—will be able to realize the dream we want them to be able to realize, and that's owning their own home.

The second barrier to ownership is the lack of affordable housing. There are neighborhoods in America where you just can't find a house that's affordable to purchase, and we need to deal with that problem. And the best way to do so, I think, is to set up a single family affordable housing tax credit to the tune of \$2.4 billion over the next 5 years to encourage affordable single family housing in inner-city America.

The third problem is the fact that the rules are too complex. People get discouraged by the fine print on the contracts. They take a look and say, "Well, I'm not so sure I want to sign this. There's too many words." [Laughter] "There's too many pitfalls." So one of the things that the Secretary is going to do is, he's going to simplify the closing documents and all the documents that have to deal with homeownership.

It is essential that we make it easier for people to buy a home, not harder. And in order to do so, we've got to educate folks. Some of us take homeownership for granted, but there are people—obviously, the home purchase is a significant, significant decision by our fellow Americans. We've got people who have newly arrived to our country, don't know the customs. We've got people in certain neighborhoods that just aren't really sure what it means to buy a home. And it seems like to us that it makes sense to have an outreach program, an education program that explains the whys and wherefores of buying a house, to make it easier for people to not only understand the legal implications and ramifications but to make it easier to understand how to get a good loan. There are some people out there that can fall prey to unscrupulous lenders, and we have an obligation to educate and to use our resource base to help people understand how to purchase a home and what—where the good opportunities might exist for home purchasing.

Finally, we want to make sure the Section 8 homeownership program is fully implemented. This is a program that provides vouchers for first-time home buyers which they can use for downpayments and/or mortgage payments.

So this is an ambitious start here at the Federal level. And again, I repeat, you all need to help us every way you can. But the private sector needs to help too. They need to help too. Of course, it's in their interest. If you're a realtor, it's in your interest that somebody be interested in buying a home. If you're a homebuilder, it's in your interest that somebody be interested in buying a home.

And so, therefore, I've called—yesterday I called upon the private sector to help us and help the home buyers. We need more capital in the private markets for first-time, low-income buyers. And I'm proud to report that Fannie Mae has heard the call, and as I understand, it's about \$440 billion over a period of time. They've used their influence to create that much capital available for the type of home buyer we're talking about here. It's in their charter. It now needs to be implemented. Freddie Mac is interested in help-

ing. I appreciate both of those agencies providing the underpinnings of good capital.

There's a lot of faith-based programs that want to be involved with educating people about how to buy a home. And we're going to have an active outreach from HUD.

And so this ambitious goal is going to be met. I believe it will be, just so long as we keep focused and remember that security at home is—economic security at home is just an important part of—as homeland security. And owning a home is part of that economic security. It's also a part of making sure that this country fulfills its great hope and vision.

See, I tell people—and I believe this—that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. You know, they thought they were attacking a country so weak and so feeble that we might file a lawsuit or two, and that's all we'd do. *[Laughter]* That's what they thought. We're showing them a different face of America. We're showing them that we're plenty tough. When it comes to taking—somebody trying to take away our freedoms, we're tough, and we're going to remain tough and steadfast.

But I also want people to see the deep compassion of America as well. I want the world to see the other side of our character, which is the soft side, the decent side, the loving side. I want people to know that when we talk about dreams, we mean big dreams. And when we talk about a free society, we want a society in which every citizen has the chance to advance, not just a few.

And part of the cornerstone of America is the ability for somebody, regardless of where they're from, regardless of where they were born, to say, "This is my home. I own this home. It is my piece of property. It is my part of the American experience." It is essential that we stay focused on the goal and work hard to achieve that goal. And when it's all said and done, we can look back and say, "Because of my work, because of our collective work, America is a better place. Out of evil came incredible good."

Thank you all for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his remarks, he referred

to Lawrence L. Thompson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

June 18, 2002

Terrorism insurance is critical to promoting and protecting jobs and America's economic security. I am pleased that the Senate has now passed a bill that will help give businesses access to reasonable terrorism insurance. The final terrorism insurance package must include reasonable litigation procedures so that Americans who are victimized by terrorism do not also fall victim to predatory lawsuits and punitive damages. I look forward to working with the House and Senate conferees so that I can sign responsible terrorism insurance legislation into law.

Statement on the Death of J. Carter Brown

June 18, 2002

Laura and I are saddened by the death of J. Carter Brown. Carter had a profound influence on the arts and architecture of Washington, increasing the prominence of the National Gallery of Art and presiding over some of the most significant developments to our Nation's Capital in the 20th century. He committed his life to service and will be sorely missed. We express our deepest sympathies to Carter's family.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation To Create the Department of Homeland Security

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit to the Congress proposed legislation to create a new Cabinet Department of Homeland Security.

Our Nation faces a new and changing threat unlike any we have faced before—the

global threat of terrorism. No nation is immune, and all nations must act decisively to protect against this constantly evolving threat.

We must recognize that the threat of terrorism is a permanent condition, and we must take action to protect America against the terrorists that seek to kill the innocent.

Since September 11, 2001, all levels of government and leaders from across the political spectrum have cooperated like never before. We have strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We have stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism and improved our ability to combat weapons of mass destruction. We have dramatically improved information sharing among our intelligence agencies, and we have taken new steps to protect our critical infrastructure.

Our Nation is stronger and better prepared today than it was on September 11. Yet, we can do better. I propose the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s by creating a new Department of Homeland Security. For the first time we would have a single Department whose primary mission is to secure our homeland. Soon after the Second World War, President Harry Truman recognized that our Nation's fragmented military defenses needed reorganization to help win the Cold War. President Truman proposed uniting our military forces under a single entity, now the Department of Defense, and creating the National Security Council to bring together defense, intelligence, and diplomacy. President Truman's reforms are still helping us to fight terror abroad, and today we need similar dramatic reforms to secure our people at home.

President Truman and Congress reorganized our Government to meet a very visible enemy in the Cold War. Today our Nation must once again reorganize our Government to protect against an often-invisible enemy, an enemy that hides in the shadows and an enemy that can strike with many different types of weapons. Our enemies seek to obtain the most dangerous and deadly weapons of mass destruction and use them against the innocent. While we are winning the war on

terrorism, Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations still have thousands of trained killers spread across the globe plotting attacks against America and the other nations of the civilized world.

Immediately after last fall's attack, I used my legal authority to establish the White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council to help ensure that our Federal response and protection efforts were coordinated and effective. I also directed Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge to study the Federal Government as a whole to determine if the current structure allows us to meet the threats of today while preparing for the unknown threats of tomorrow. After careful study of the current structure, coupled with the experience gained since September 11 and new information we have learned about our enemies while fighting a war, I have concluded that our Nation needs a more unified homeland security structure.

I propose to create a new Department of Homeland Security by substantially transforming the current confusing patchwork of government activities into a single department whose primary mission is to secure our homeland. My proposal builds on the strong bipartisan work on the issue of homeland security that has been conducted by Members of Congress. In designing the new Department, my Administration considered a number of homeland security organizational proposals that have emerged from outside studies, commissions, and Members of Congress.

The Need for a Department of Homeland Security

Today no Federal Government agency has homeland security as its primary mission. Responsibilities for homeland security are dispersed among more than 100 different entities of the Federal Government. America needs a unified homeland security structure that will improve protection against today's threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future.

The mission of the new Department would be to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, to reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may

occur. The Department of Homeland Security would mobilize and focus the resources of the Federal Government, State and local governments, the private sector, and the American people to accomplish its mission.

The Department of Homeland Security would make Americans safer because for the first time we would have one department dedicated to securing the homeland. One department would secure our borders, transportation sector, ports, and critical infrastructure. One department would analyze homeland security intelligence from multiple sources, synthesize it with a comprehensive assessment of America's vulnerabilities, and take action to secure our highest risk facilities and systems. One department would coordinate communications with State and local governments, private industry, and the American people about threats and preparedness. One department would coordinate our efforts to secure the American people against bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction. One department would help train and equip our first responders. One department would manage Federal emergency response activities.

Our goal is not to expand Government, but to create an agile organization that takes advantage of modern technology and management techniques to meet a new and constantly evolving threat. We can improve our homeland security by minimizing the duplication of efforts, improving coordination, and combining functions that are currently fragmented and inefficient. The new Department would allow us to have more security officers in the field working to stop terrorists and fewer resources in Washington managing duplicative activities that drain critical homeland security resources.

The Department of Homeland Security would have a clear and efficient organizational structure with four main divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection.

Border and Transportation Security

Terrorism is a global threat and we must improve our border security to help keep out

those who mean to do us harm. We must closely monitor who is coming into and out of our country to help prevent foreign terrorists from entering our country and bringing in their instruments of terror. At the same time, we must expedite the legal flow of people and goods on which our economy depends. Securing our borders and controlling entry to the United States has always been the responsibility of the Federal Government. Yet, this responsibility and the security of our transportation systems is now dispersed among several major Government organizations. Under my proposed legislation, the Department of Homeland Security would unify authority over major Federal security operations related to our borders, territorial waters, and transportation systems.

The Department would assume responsibility for the United States Coast Guard, the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (including the Border Patrol), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Transportation Security Administration. The Secretary of Homeland Security would have the authority to administer and enforce all immigration and nationality laws, including the visa issuance functions of consular officers. As a result, the Department would have sole responsibility for managing entry into the United States and protecting our transportation infrastructure. It would ensure that all aspects of border control, including the issuing of visas, are informed by a central information-sharing clearinghouse and compatible databases.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Although our top priority is preventing future attacks, we must also prepare to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may occur.

My legislative proposal requires the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the preparedness of our Nation's emergency response professionals, provide the Federal Government's response, and aid America's recovery from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. To fulfill these missions, the De-

partment of Homeland Security would incorporate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as one of its key components. The Department would administer the domestic disaster preparedness grant programs for firefighters, police, and emergency personnel currently managed by FEMA, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. In responding to an incident, the Department would manage such critical response assets as the Nuclear Emergency Search Team (from the Department of Energy) and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (from the Department of Health and Human Services). Finally, the Department of Homeland Security would integrate the Federal interagency emergency response plans into a single, comprehensive, Government-wide plan, and would work to ensure that all response personnel have the equipment and capability to communicate with each other as necessary.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures

Our enemies today seek to acquire and use the most deadly weapons known to mankind—chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.

The new Department of Homeland Security would lead the Federal Government's efforts in preparing for and responding to the full range of terrorist threats involving weapons of mass destruction. The Department would set national policy and establish guidelines for State and local governments. The Department would direct exercises for Federal, State, and local chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attack response teams and plans. The Department would consolidate and synchronize the disparate efforts of multiple Federal agencies now scattered across several departments. This would create a single office whose primary mission is the critical task of securing the United States from catastrophic terrorism.

The Department would improve America's ability to develop diagnostics, vaccines,

antibodies, antidotes, and other countermeasures against new weapons. It would consolidate and prioritize the disparate homeland security-related research and development programs currently scattered throughout the executive branch, and the Department would assist State and local public safety agencies by evaluating equipment and setting standards.

Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection

For the first time the Government would have under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, map those threats against our vulnerabilities, issue timely warnings, and take action to help secure the homeland.

The Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection division of the new Department of Homeland Security would complement the reforms on intelligence-gathering and information-sharing already underway at the FBI and the CIA. The Department would analyze information and intelligence from the FBI, CIA, and many other Federal agencies to better understand the terrorist threat to the American homeland.

The Department would comprehensively assess the vulnerability of America's key assets and critical infrastructures, including food and water systems, agriculture, health systems and emergency services, information and telecommunications, banking and finance, energy, transportation, the chemical and defense industries, postal and shipping entities, and national monuments and icons. The Department would integrate its own and others' threat analyses with its comprehensive vulnerability assessment to identify protective priorities and support protective steps to be taken by the Department, other Federal departments and agencies, State and local agencies, and the private sector. Working closely with State and local officials, other Federal agencies, and the private sector, the Department would help ensure that proper steps are taken to protect high-risk potential targets.

Other Components

In addition to these four core divisions, the submitted legislation would also transfer re-

sponsibility for the Secret Service to the Department of Homeland Security. The Secret Service, which would report directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security, would retain its primary mission to protect the President and other Government leaders. The Secret Service would, however, contribute its specialized protective expertise to the fulfillment of the Department's core mission.

Finally, under my legislation, the Department of Homeland Security would consolidate and streamline relations with the Federal Government for America's State and local governments. The new Department would contain an intergovernmental affairs office to coordinate Federal homeland security programs with State and local officials. It would give State and local officials one primary contact instead of many when it comes to matters related to training, equipment, planning, and other critical needs such as emergency response.

The consolidation of the Government's homeland security efforts as outlined in my proposed legislation can achieve great efficiencies that further enhance our security. Yet, to achieve these efficiencies, the new Secretary of Homeland Security would require considerable flexibility in procurement, integration of information technology systems, and personnel issues. My proposed legislation provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with just such flexibility and managerial authorities. I call upon the Congress to implement these measures in order to ensure that we are maximizing our ability to secure our homeland.

Continued Interagency Coordination at the White House

Even with the creation of the new Department, there will remain a strong need for a White House Office of Homeland Security. Protecting America from terrorism will remain a multidepartmental issue and will continue to require interagency coordination. Presidents will continue to require the confidential advice of a Homeland Security Advisor, and I intend for the White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council to maintain a strong role in coordinating our government-wide efforts to secure the homeland.

The Lessons of History

History teaches us that new challenges require new organizational structures. History also teaches us that critical security challenges require clear lines of responsibility and the unified effort of the U.S. Government.

President Truman said, looking at the lessons of the Second World War: “It is now time to discard obsolete organizational forms, and to provide for the future the soundest, the most effective, and the most economical kind of structure for our armed forces.” When skeptics told President Truman that this proposed reorganization was too ambitious to be enacted, he simply replied that it had to be. In the years to follow, the Congress acted upon President Truman’s recommendation, eventually laying a sound organizational foundation that enabled the United States to win the Cold War. All Americans today enjoy the inheritance of this landmark organizational reform: a unified Department of Defense that has become the most powerful force for freedom the world has ever seen.

Today America faces a threat that is wholly different from the threat we faced during the Cold War. Our terrorist enemies hide in shadows and attack civilians with whatever means of destruction they can access. But as in the Cold War, meeting this threat requires clear lines of responsibility and the unified efforts of government at all levels—Federal, State, local, and tribal—the private sector, and all Americans. America needs a homeland security establishment that can help prevent catastrophic attacks and mobilize national resources for an enduring conflict while protecting our Nation’s values and liberties.

Years from today, our world will still be fighting the threat of terrorism. It is my hope that future generations will be able to look back on the Homeland Security Act of 2002—as we now remember the National Security Act of 1947—as the solid organizational foundation for America’s triumph in a long and difficult struggle against a formidable enemy.

History has given our Nation new challenges—and important new assignments. Only the United States Congress can create

a new department of Government. We face an urgent need, and I am pleased that Congress has responded to my call to act before the end of the current congressional session with the same bipartisan spirit that allowed us to act expeditiously on legislation after September 11.

These are times that demand bipartisan action and bipartisan solutions to meet the new and changing threats we face as a Nation. I urge the Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission—securing the homeland of America and protecting the American people. Together we can meet this ambitious deadline and help ensure that the American homeland is secure against the terrorist threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released an “Analysis for the Homeland Security Act of 2002” and made available the text of the proposed legislation.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation Created by the Accumulation of Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in the Territory of the Russian Federation

June 18, 2002

On June 21, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13159 (the “Order”) blocking property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereinafter come within the possession or control of United States persons that are directly related to the implementation of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and

agreements (collectively, the “HEU Agreements”). The HEU Agreements allow for the downblending of highly enriched uranium derived from nuclear weapons to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial purposes. The Order invoked the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation.

A major national security goal of the United States is to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses (such as downblended to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial uses), subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. Pursuant to the HEU Agreements, weapons-grade uranium extracted from Russian nuclear weapons is converted to low enriched uranium for use as fuel in commercial nuclear reactors. The Order blocks and protects from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons.

The national emergency declared on June 21, 2000, must continue beyond June 21, 2002, to provide continued protection from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process for the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency

with respect to weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:19 a.m., June 19, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Russia**
June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 14, 2001, (66 FR 32207).

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and

foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Russia**

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act,

50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Remarks Announcing the
International Mother and Child
HIV Prevention Initiative**

June 19, 2002

Good morning. The global devastation of HIV/AIDS staggers the imagination and shocks the conscience. The disease has already killed over 20 million people, and it's poised to kill at least 40 million more.

In Africa, the disease clouds the future of entire nations and threatens to hold back the hopes of an entire continent. In the hardest hit countries of sub-Saharan Africa as much as one-third of the adult population is infected with HIV, and 10 percent or more of the schoolteachers will die of AIDS within 5 years.

The wasted human lives that lie behind these numbers are a call to action for every person on the planet and for every government. So today, my administration is announcing another important new initiative in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

I want to thank Secretary Powell and Secretary O'Neill for their hard work on this project. I appreciate so very much Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for he and his staff's vision and implementation, procedures for this project. I want to thank Andrew Natsios, the Administrator of USAID. I appreciate Dr. Tony Fauci, the Director of NIH, for being here as well—of the Allergy and Infectious Diseases Department. Thank you, Tony, for your hard work on this. I appreciate Senator Bill Frist and Senator Jesse

Helms for their vision on this issue. And I appreciate Jim Kolbe from the House of Representatives. Thank you all for being here today.

One of our best opportunities for progress against AIDS lies in preventing mothers from passing on the HIV virus to their children. Worldwide, close to 2,000 babies are infected with HIV every day, during pregnancy, birth, or through breast-feeding. Most of those infected will die before their fifth birthday. The ones who are not infected will grow up as orphans when their parents die of AIDS. New advances in medical treatment give us the ability to save many of these young lives. And we must, and we will.

Today I announce that my administration plans to make \$500 million available to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. This new effort, which will be funded during the next 16 months, will allow us to treat 1 million women annually and reduce mother-to-child transmission by 40 percent within 5 years or less in target countries.

I thank all the Members of Congress who supported this initiative, especially Senators Frist and Helms. Their visionary leadership on this issue will mean the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of children.

Our initiative will focus on 12 countries in Africa and others in the Caribbean where the problem is most severe and where our help can make the greatest amount of difference. We'll pursue medical strategies that have a proven track record. We'll define specific goals. We will demand effective management. When the lives of babies and mothers are at stake, the only measure of compassion is real results.

We have a three-part strategy. First, in places with stronger health care systems, we will provide voluntary testing, prevention, counseling, and a comprehensive therapy of anti-retroviral medications for both mother and child, beginning before delivery and continuing after delivery. This combination has proven extremely effective in preventing transmission of the HIV virus.

Second, in places with weaker health care systems, we'll provide testing and counseling, and we will support programs that administer a single dose of nevirapine to the mother at

the time of delivery and at least one dose to the infant shortly after birth. This therapy reduces the chances of infection by nearly 50 percent.

Third, and most importantly, we will make a major effort to improve the health care delivery systems in targeted countries. This will allow more women and babies to receive the comprehensive therapy. It will allow for better and longer treatment and care of all AIDS victims, and it will lead to better health care in general for all the country's citizens.

We'll help build better health care systems by pairing hospitals in America and hospitals in Africa, so that African hospitals can gain more expertise in administering effective AIDS programs. We'll also send volunteer medical professionals from the United States to assist and train their African counterparts. And we will recruit and pay African medical and graduate students to provide testing, treatment, and care.

This major commitment of my Government to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission is the first of this scale by any government, anywhere. In time, we will gain valuable experience, improve treatment methods, and sharpen our training strategies. Health care systems in targeted countries will get better. And this will make even more progress possible. And as we see what works, we will make more funding available.

The United States already contributes approximately \$1 billion a year to international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. In addition, we plan to spend more than \$2.5 billion on research and development for new drugs and new treatments. We've committed \$500 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other infectious diseases, and we stand ready to commit more as this fund demonstrates its success.

Today's initiative is not a substitute for any of these efforts. It is not a substitute for further U.S. contributions to the Global Fund. This initiative will complement those efforts, and it is an essential new step in our global struggle against AIDS.

Today I call on other industrialized nations and international organizations to join this crucial effort to save children from disease and death. Medical science gives us the

power to save these young lives. Conscience demands we do so.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:04 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health.

Remarks to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Legislative Conference

June 19, 2002

The President. Well, Doug, I appreciate those kind remarks. I thought you were on Air Force One because you wanted a free ride. [Laughter] But I had a good visit with Doug. I believe I'm a pretty good judge of character, and I appreciate this man's character. I'll tell you why. First, he said, "We don't agree 100 percent of the time." I remember my friend Bullock, who was the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, Democrat Lieutenant Governor, when I was the Governor of Texas. He said, "You know, if we agreed 100 percent of the time, one of us wouldn't be necessary." [Laughter] He's necessary. He's necessary in Washington, DC, on behalf of the working people.

He—you know, in this town, sometimes people don't shoot straight with you. They kind of come in and tell you something, and then they leave, and you're wondering what they said, or if they said something, whether they mean it. And Doug's a straight shooter. That's high on my list of the kind of people I like to talk to and deal with.

The other thing I like about Doug is, his vision for a better union means more skills for those who are members of the union. You see, Doug understands that through education and training, you can enhance a man's or a woman's skills. And that enables that person to more better realize their dreams. He understands the vision of a union is not only to work for jobs but to enhance the ability of members within the union to improve their lives. And I appreciate that vision of putting union members first. Doug, you're a good leader. You're a good leader.

And I want to congratulate you on opening up your new building last night, right there on Capitol Hill. I bet it was pretty well built. [Laughter]

Audience member. It's union.

The President. Yes. And I appreciate the fact that you had Ted Kennedy and Elaine Chao, the fine Secretary of Labor, there to open it up. It is a good sign of—it's a good sign as to how to—how Washington ought to deal with problems.

I'll be the first to admit there's too much politics in this town. [Laughter] There's too much putting the party ahead of the country. And I'm a proud Republican. Many of you are probably proud Democrats, but first and foremost, we're all proud Americans.

I also appreciate my friend Congressman Rob Portman for coming by this morning. I appreciate Rob's energy and enthusiasm and his drive.

I want to talk about the challenges America faces. I worry about our security. I'm worried about our homeland security. I'm worried about our national security, and I'm worried about economic security. And that's what I want to talk to you about.

First, let me talk about the homeland. I remind people that every morning I go into the Oval Office—and by the way, it is a huge honor to walk in the Oval Office. I'm never going to get tired of walking into this beautiful office that we have built for our Presidents. It's an honor that—it's hard for me to describe how—what an honor it is. But I walk in there. That's, by the way, after I get the First Lady some coffee every morning. [Laughter] I don't want to put any pressure on you guys, but—[laughter]—the President does get to set the example. [Laughter] Then take the dogs out, Spot and Barney. Spot was born in the White House in 1989 when my dad and mother were up here, so she's quite comfortable with the surroundings. Barney's new, kind of a young fellow, so he doesn't get to go in the Oval Office, though, in the mornings. We just put a new rug in there. [Laughter]

At any rate, I read threat assessments on the country. I sit at this magnificent desk—a desk, by the way, that Theodore Roosevelt used and Franklin Roosevelt used and John Kennedy used and Ronald Reagan used—

and I read threat assessments. The Sun's coming up, and the first thing I do is open up a book that says, here's what the potential threats are to our country. It reminds me on a daily basis, my most important job is to defend the homeland, to protect innocent Americans from the deaths of the killers.

People say—a lot of young people say, “Well, why America? Why would anybody want to come after us? Why would anybody want to fight a war with this Nation?” And the answer is, because we love freedom. That's why. And they hate freedom. We love the idea of people being able to worship freely in America. We love the idea of people being able to come to our country and realize dreams. We love the idea of people having free—being able to freely debate issues. We love freedom, and these coldblooded killers hate freedom. And that's why they want to come and hurt America, and we are not going to let them.

I say we're not going to let them—we're going to do everything in our power. And one of my points I want to make to you today is that we are focused, and we are buttoning up this homeland as securely as we can make it.

I proposed a new Cabinet department. I want to explain quickly why I did so. There are over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense, and they're scattered all throughout Washington. It makes it difficult to do a job if you're trying to chase down 100 different agencies, because they're in different departments.

The Coast Guard is in the Transportation Department, and that's fine, except for the fact that there's a new world in America where our number one priority is to protect the homeland, and the job of the Transportation Department is not homeland security. Or take the Customs Department. Customs is an important agency to protect the homeland. It's part of understanding what's coming into our country and whether we want it in our country or not. And yet, it's a part of the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department is not responsible for homeland security.

What we need to do is to bring these agencies under one Cabinet Secretary, organize it so that information flows freely, organize

it so there's responsibility and authority so we can have accountability, and help change cultures in agencies to the primary responsibility of the day, which is to protect the American homeland. And so I've asked Congress to do this.

Now, I understand it's going to be a difficult task. First, I appreciate the response of both Republicans and Democrats, and that's good. It's going to be a little difficult, because there is a tendency on Capitol Hill for people to what they call protect their turf. In other words, if you've got responsibility over funding one agency and that agency is going to be moved away from you, you might be somewhat resistant. And what I'd like to do is to call upon Congress—and I hope you do as well—to think first and foremost about how best to protect the homeland, not how best to protect their political turf. And I think it's going to happen. I do. And I think it's going to be able to make us—enable us to do our job in better fashion.

Along those same lines, the FBI and CIA are thinking differently. And as we have seen, they needed to think differently about how to better coordinate information, about how to understand the new threats that face us in the 21st century.

You see, a lot of Washington was all geared up for the old days of war where, you know, tanks would be moving across battlefields or army platoons would be going here. And now we're facing a new kind of enemy. These guys are killers. I mean, they're international killers. They're—these are the kind of people that are secretive, and they're plenty smart. It doesn't require a lot of money for them to operate. They send youngsters to their death, and they hide in a cave. That's how they think. And we've got to match those threats with a new way of thinking, which means we've got to do a better job of collecting and sharing intelligence.

When I first—the man I named, Mueller, Bob Mueller, who's the head of the FBI, came to work one week before September the 11th. And I told him in one of my first meetings right after September 11th, “We've got a new world, and while the job of the FBI is to chase down criminals and arrest them—you still have that job—your most important job now is to prevent, is to run down

every possible lead. If you get a hint that somebody's fixing to do something to America, you and your agents need to run them down. We need to know. We need to know who's coming into the country and why they're coming in. We need to know if they're leaving the country when they're supposed to be leaving the country. We need you running down every single hint."

And we want you, the CIA, to continue to gather information outside of the country, but make sure, if you've got a relevant piece of information, to share it with the FBI. The number one priority of this Government is to button up our homeland so that the American people can go about their lives without fearful—without fear of another attack from one of these killers. And we're making progress.

And I want to appreciate those on the frontline, the police and fire on the frontline, for working hard.

But the best way to secure the homeland—you need to know just how I think—the best way to secure our homeland is to run these killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what we will do, so long as I am the President of the United States.

It is not an easy task because, as I just described, the nature of the enemy is different than we're used to. You know, I can't imagine what was going through their minds when they attacked America. I guess and assume that they thought we were so weak, so feeble, so self-absorbed, so materialistic, that after September the 11th we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they found out America thinks differently, and they're finding out we've got a fabulous military.

Now, the budget I submitted, the defense budget I submitted—you've probably heard about this defense budget, and it is big; there's no question about it. And I'll tell you why. First of all, my attitude is, anytime we commit one of our youngsters into battle or into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. And for those of you with relatives in the military, I want you to thank them on behalf of their Commander in Chief and a grateful country and need to know they're

going to be strongly supported here in Washington, DC.

And the second reason why the defense increase is large and significant is because this is—this war is going to take a while to win. This is—just because we've routed the Taliban in Afghanistan doesn't mean the war has ended. We have got a long way to go to secure the homeland, to defend freedom, and to defeat this enemy. And it's important for the American people to understand that.

You know, sometimes there's kind of a sense that, well, so-and-so was captured, and therefore, this deal is over. That's just not the way it is. The war on terror is going to take a while. The good news for us and the bad news for the enemy is, the American people are united, are patient, are resolved to win this war. They understand the stakes, and so do I.

It's important for our country to send a very clear signal that we're in this for the long run, and that's what the budget does. It says there's no time—there's not a calendar on my desk that I flip and say, okay, it's over, you know, it's time to quit. No, it's time to quit when the homeland is secure.

And we're making progress. We really are. I mentioned the fact that we routed out the Taliban. These people were barbaric people who wouldn't even let young girls go to school. And so I can safely say to the youngsters here that your country went into Afghanistan not to conquer people but to liberate people, to give them freedom, to give people a chance to express their will, to give young girls a chance to go to school, to give women a chance to participate in government. No, we're tough when we need to be tough, but we also uphold values as we fight this war on terror, values that will not be compromised.

The war on terror is bigger than just a person or a network. The war on terror is to address the threats that will face our children in the future. And there's a major threat, and that is the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of regimes that are run by leaders that hate freedom. There's a major threat that an Al-Qaida-type organization could mate up with one of those countries that I labeled "axis of evil" and, therefore, have the capacity to have a ballistic missile

threat that could conceivably allow them to blackmail freedom-loving countries into inaction. And we've got to deal with that threat.

I'm a patient man. We use all tools at our disposal. But for the good of our children and for the good of freedom, we must not allow the world's worst regimes to threaten us and our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons.

And so I spend time making sure this coalition of freedom-loving countries is strong. And they're kind of looking at the United States, and if I blink, it's likely they'll go to sleep. So we've got to stay strong and determined to lead—to lead the world to defend our freedoms, and I'll do just that. I can assure you of that. I feel it.

And I also believe it's important for the President of the United States to speak plainly, to speak his heart, and I believe this is a struggle of good versus evil. And I don't mind calling evil by its name. And you know what's going to happen? Good will overcome evil with the leadership of the United States, and we're going to provide that leadership.

I'm also worried about the economic security of our country. This is a town where they like to talk statistics, and that's all right—you know, good employment for some of the numbers crunchers. But behind every number, there's a story. And my attitude is, so long as somebody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem, and we need to deal with it. And we need to figure out how to expand jobs.

Doug and I spent a lot of time talking about job expansion. What can the Federal Government do to create more paying jobs for people? How do we make sure the economy is vibrant so people can find work? That's my concern. And we've talked about a lot of issues. I happen to believe letting people keep more of their hard-earned dollars is a good way to create economic activity. I believe that there is a proper role for the Federal Government, but there's also a recognition that when you put more money in a woman's or man's pockets, they spend it. And when they spend it, they demand something. And when they demand something, somebody builds it for them.

And so this tax cut that we passed came at the right time in American history. It

needs to be a permanent part of the Tax Code so people can plan. You see, I believe the more money a person has—has in his or her pockets, the more likely it is they're going to be able to realize their dreams. Tax relief was the right thing to do.

And so is passing this terrorist insurance bill. And I want to thank you all and your leadership for working with us to get Congress to act, to provide terrorism insurance so that some of these big building projects can go forward in America. It's an incredibly important piece of legislation. And Doug has been on the frontlines of working with both Republicans and Democrats.

And it's a problem, and let me give you some examples. This guy Dave Creamer, who is the chairman and CEO of GMAC Commercial Mortgage—they're the lenders. People have got to borrow money to build these big projects. He's turned down more than a billion dollars of new loans this year because projects were not insured against acts of terror. To me, that's a problem we've got to address. If the concern is more jobs, and people aren't lending money because there is no insurance against acts of terror, Congress needs to deal with it. He also reports that loans are not limited to projects in New York or Los Angeles or Chicago, the big cities; they're nationwide. And you know that as well as I know that.

There's a guy who's trying to build an apartment complex. He's not going to get—he's not going to get funding for an apartment complex in the Washington/Baltimore area, a \$50-million complex that would require—that would allow for 250 construction jobs for 3 years, because he can't get a loan, because he can't get the insurance.

And so they're working on a bill. The House passed one. The Senate passed one. They need to get it to conference, and they need to get it to my desk as quickly as possible. And the bill has got to make sure that insurance companies remain engaged in covering terrorism losses—that the Government will help but not help all the way. And they've got to make sure that this bill doesn't open up all kinds of lawsuits. What we're interested in is job creation, not lawsuit creation.

We've got plenty of lawsuits all around America as it is. And so it's a—I spend time thinking about jobs, and Doug and I talk about it.

We talked about an energy bill. He supported the energy bill. I support the energy bill for two reasons: One, it will help jobs—the more infrastructure we build in America, the more jobs there will be—two, I don't particularly care for the fact that we get a lot of our energy from overseas. Over 50 percent of our energy comes from overseas, and some of the suppliers aren't real friendly to America. For the good of economic security and for the good of national security, we need a sound energy policy here in America.

I was impressed by—Doug mentioned Ground Zero. It was an honor to go there that day. And I know that you all join me, if you're not from New York, in expressing our appreciation to the Union Local 79 for their hard work in cleaning up Ground Zero. It was an unbelievable feat of dedication and hard work and focus. Jeff Zelli said, "We can rebuild now. We're on our feet already, and we're going to build something beautiful." That was his comment, the head of Union Local 79. That's how I feel. You know, we're on our feet, and we can rebuild something beautiful.

You see, I believe out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. I believe, if we're strong, we can achieve peace, and that's what I want. We fight for peace. We not only fight to defend our country and defend liberty and the values that we love, we yearn for peace. That's what—we want our kids to grow up in a peaceful world.

But I also believe here at home that there's going to be some good that comes out of the evil, starting with the fact that more of us understand the need to love a neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves, that if you're interested in fighting evil, you can do so by doing some good, by mentoring a child, by going to a shut-in's house and say, "What can I do to help you?" You see, it's those small acts of kindness that really end up defining the true character of this country.

I also believe that the culture is changing in America from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a

culture in which each of us understands we're responsible for decisions we make in life. If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a good citizen in this country, you're responsible for helping a neighbor in need, mentoring a child, extending a hand of kindness and compassion to somebody. If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible for telling the truth on the assets and liabilities on your balance sheet.

I see it in the country where this is taking place. It's a change for the better. I went to Ohio State University and gave the graduation speech last Friday; 70 percent of the graduating class at one time during their career at Ohio State had volunteered to help somebody in need. There's an ethic which I hope is coming into the hearts and souls of the country that says, we're responsible for this great Nation.

And perhaps that example was best shown us all on Flight 93. I want you to think about that moment. People flying across the country. They realized the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and served something greater than themselves in life.

I believe that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. The world is going to be more peaceful. America will be more secure. And millions of Americans understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is an important part of having a full life.

It is my honor to come and visit with you all. You're citizens, as you know, of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And I'm sure proud to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

And now it is my special privilege to declare that this conference of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is officially adjourned.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:13 a.m. in the Hall of Battles at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; and Jeff Zelli, member, Laborers Union Local 79.

**Remarks at the White House
Conference on Character and
Community**

June 19, 2002

Thank you all. Well, thanks for that warm welcome. Welcome to your house. [*Laughter*] We're glad you're here, and I really appreciate the theme of this conference and the importance of the conference.

I know you've heard from some really impressive people, and I want to thank all the speakers and students who are here. You even heard from a member of my family, and I want to thank the First Lady for doing such a great job and being so patient with the President.

The thing I appreciate is that you understand education should prepare children for jobs, and it also should prepare our children for life. I join you in wanting our children to be not only rich in skills but rich in ideals. Teaching character and citizenship to our children is a high calling. It's a really high calling. And I'm grateful for your work.

I appreciate Secretary of Education Rod Paige. Mr. Secretary, thanks—thanks for joining on this important cause. You know, here in Washington there's a lot of people who are good on theory and not so good on action, so when I picked a man to be the head of the—Secretary of Education, I wanted somebody who had been on the frontlines. Rod had been the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, and I figured that's a pretty good definition of frontlines. [*Laughter*] And he had done a great job—Mr. Secretary, and I appreciate your concern and care.

I understand Colin Powell spoke here earlier. I'm—right after this brief speech, he and I have a meeting. He is doing a fabulous job for our country too. I'm proud to call him a member of our team.

I appreciate Michelle Engler and Hope Taft for being here. Thank you both for coming. I know you all are very much involved in your State of Michigan and Ohio for not only making sure every child can read but teaching children the difference between right and wrong.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here, Wamp, Lucas, Edwards,

McIntyre, and Moore. Thank you all for coming. My Congressman—as you know, I'm a voting resident of Crawford, Texas. My Congressman, Chet Edwards, is here. I appreciate you answering my mail, Mr. Congressman. [*Laughter*] I won't write you if you don't write me. [*Laughter*]

I believe that public schools are the most important institutions in democracy, and a good education is the birthright of every American child. Every public school must be the pathway to a better life. And because public schools are America's great hope, making them work for every child is our Nation's greatest duty.

We passed good education reform here in Washington, DC. This wasn't a Republican bill. It wasn't a Democrat bill. It was an American bill. It really was. We worked together to get a good piece of legislation out. Here are the principles. It says, every child can learn. In other words, we believe in high standards. I'm one of these fellows that believes if you lower the bar, you get lousy results. If you believe in the best and raise the bar, you can get high standards.

It also says that if you receive money from the Federal Government, you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. For the first time, the Federal Government is asking the question, is every child learning? I don't mean a few children. I don't mean a group of children. I mean, is every child learning to read and write and add and subtract? And if we aren't, we must correct problems early, before it's too late.

In other words, we've had high standards. We demand excellence. We're willing to challenge failure to make sure that not one single child is left behind. And I firmly believe the reforms we put in place, when fully enacted, will make sure that no child is left behind in America.

It is more than—we've got to do more than just teach our children skills and knowledge. That's one part of education, and it's an important part—no question about it. We also want to make sure they're kind and decent, compassionate and responsible, honest and self-disciplined. Our children must learn to make a living, but even more, they must learn how to live. And that's a big responsibility.

But I love what Martin Luther King, Jr., said about this. He said, "Intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." And I want to thank you for joining that true goal of education.

Americans believe in character education because we want more for our children than apathy or cynicism. We've got higher aspirations for every child in America. We want them to understand the difference between right and wrong. We want them to live lives of integrity and idealism. Family is the first place where these values are learned. Our parents expect schools to be allies in the moral education of our children. That's what they expect, and that's what we must give them.

The lessons of the home must be reinforced by high standards in our schools. Schools should be safe and orderly. They should be decent and drug-free, and they should teach character by expecting character. They should be places where rules are set and, as importantly, where rules are enforced. And schools should also teach the basics of character to children. This is why we tripled the funding for character education in the budget I submitted to Congress.

Now, I know there's a debate about values and character. I've heard it before. As you might remember, I was the Governor of a great State at one time. I've heard every excuse why we shouldn't teach character. It always starts with religion, as to why we shouldn't teach character. Well look, we should never promote a particular religion—I agree. That's not the—that's not the reason to have character education. But we've got to recognize in our society that strong values are shared by good people of different faiths and good people who have no faith at all. These are universal values, values we share in all our diversity: Respect, tolerance, responsibility, honesty, self-restraint, family commitment, civic duty, fairness, and compassion. These are the moral landmarks that guide a successful life. And we should teach them with confidence, and we should teach them with conviction.

There are many good programs around the country that show how values can be taught in a diverse nation. I want to thank you for

sharing your wisdom on those programs. As a matter of fact, one of the useful functions of the Department of Education is to serve as a clearinghouse for good ideas, as a place where people can come and ask the question, "What works? What can I do to make a difference in somebody's lives?"

There are schools in our country where children take pledges each morning to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn—it's an interesting idea—where virtues are taught by studying the great historical figures and characters in literature and where consideration is encouraged and good manners are expected.

I think it's safe to say we're making progress in America. We're not ashamed to teach values. We recognize the importance of character. And I want to thank you all for joining here to figure out how we can do more and how we can make a continued difference in the lives of our children.

One goal of character education should be to prepare our children for community service. This conference, I understand, is focusing on community service for a good reason, helping somebody else gives purpose and meaning in life. I think it's particularly important in a day and age where some question the value system of America that we teach people to serve a neighbor—people to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

There's a question in our society as to whether or not we're so self-absorbed and materialistic that we won't fulfill our obligations as a nation. That's not the America I know, and the America I believe exists. I've seen an amazing America since September the 11th, people who recognize that serving something greater than yourself in life is an incredibly important part of life; that while, you know, focus on the stock market is, I guess, okay, but there's something more in life than just profit and loss; that somebody can profit in life by caring for a neighbor. I like to tell people, if you're interested in helping to define America, to show a side of America the world may not see, do some good, help somebody in need. And that needs to be taught to our children early in life.

I gave a speech at the Ohio State University—thank you for inviting me, Hope. And I was pleased to see that 70 percent of the graduating class of Ohio State University had at one time or another volunteered, one time or another served something greater than themselves. Perhaps the culture is changing from one that has said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else,” to a culture in which each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—responsible for loving our children, responsible for loving our neighbors, responsible for serving a nation by helping somebody in need.

The poet William Wordsworth wrote this. He said, “What we have loved, others will love, and we’ll teach them how.” And that’s what you all are here to discuss today. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for teaching them how.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michelle Engler, wife of Gov. John Engler of Michigan; and Hope Taft, wife of Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio.

Statement on the Death of Jack Buck *June 19, 2002*

I am deeply saddened by the death of Jack Buck. Jack endeared himself to sports fans throughout the country with his colorful commentary and love of America’s pastime. An honoree of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Radio Hall of Fame, Jack covered sports in St. Louis, Missouri, and across the Nation for the last 50 years. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family. He will be missed.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 19, 2002*

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

June 19 provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the ideal of freedom

and to learn more about the end of slavery. On that day in 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, with news the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. The joyous, but belated, announcement came two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

The celebration of Juneteenth has its roots in Texas, but the holiday is now observed in many parts of the country with picnics, family gatherings, parades, and community programs. The day is a fitting time to celebrate freedom from slavery and for all Americans to reflect on the rich contributions of African Americans to our Nation.

As we celebrate Juneteenth on June 19, I encourage all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for all citizens. Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the President’s Dinner *June 19, 2002*

Thank you all for that warm welcome, and thank you for coming tonight. We’re here for the same reason. We want Denny Hastert to remain the Speaker of the House and Trent Lott to become the majority leader of the Senate. And I want to thank you for helping us achieve those two important goals. And I say they’re important because I believe that when we achieve those goals, we can do a lot for the American people.

I want to thank John Boehner for taking the lead role on this successful dinner. I want to thank George Allen from Virginia, the Senator from Virginia, for participating and helping. I want to thank Bill Frist and Tom Davis—Bill Frist of the Senate and Tom Davis of the House—for leading their respective committees to get these Members elected. I want to thank Richard Burr of North Carolina for his help and leadership. Mr. Bob Ingram, thank you for your help.

All the folks here, I appreciate your willingness to work hard to make this dinner a successful event. I appreciate Steve Wariner for his beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. And I want to thank my friends Amy Grant and Vince Gill for being here as well. Thank you all for coming.

Most of all, I'm pleased that the First Lady came. She's done a heck of a job as First Lady for the United States of America. She has kept me in line. [*Laughter*] I appreciate her passion for the children of this country, her desire to help everybody learn to read, her calm, her steady hand, and her unabiding love. Thank you for coming.

I promised the American people that I'd do my best to change the tone in Washington, DC, to elevate the discourse, to bring people together to achieve big goals for our country. And I believe, thanks to many Members of the United States Senate who are here and many Members of the United States House of Representatives who are here, we're making great progress toward that goal.

My deep desire for the American people is to provide security for our Americans. It starts, of course, with homeland security and the defense of our country. But before I talk about that, I want to talk about the security of a good America as well. That means job security.

I know here in this town people like to look at numbers all the time. And they analyze the status of America based upon this statistic or that statistic. My attitude is this: If somebody is looking for work and they can't find work, we've got a problem. I believe, if there's somebody who's willing to find a job and there's not a job, all of us in Washington, DC, must do everything in our power to increase the job base in America. And thanks to members in this audience, we started by cutting the taxes on the American people.

There was an interesting vote the other day on the floor of the Senate. You see, earlier this year, both Houses sent a tax relief bill to my desk that not only reduced the rates on the working people and did something about the marriage penalty, it repealed the death tax, because, you see, we think the death tax is unfair to American entre-

preneurs. It's unfair to American farmers and American ranchers. And because of a quirk in the law, this death tax repeal doesn't stay repealed. It's kind of hard to explain that to the fellows in Crawford, Texas, who own their farms. But nevertheless, it doesn't stay repealed. And yet the Senate, thanks to the leadership of Trent Lott, brought a vote up. Our side was firmly—firmly—I mean firmly, for the permanent repeal of the death tax. Their side wasn't. The question is, who stands on the side of the people? We do.

Part of economic security is to make sure everybody gets a good education in America. I appreciate Senator—Congressman John Boehner's leadership as chairman of the Education Committee and want you to know that by working together, we passed an education bill that sets high standards for every child in America. You see, we believe that if you lower the bar, you get low standards and bad results. We believe every child can learn. But we, for the first time, said that if you receive Federal money, if you take taxpayers' money, you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we will praise you, but if not, you better change on behalf of the American people.

We've done some good in one House. We're stalled in another House on some important legislation to enhance the economic security of the American people. We need a—actually, I take that back. Both Houses acted to pass terrorism insurance. Mr. Leader Lott, I want to thank you for your leadership on that issue.

It's important that we encourage construction around America, to encourage the creation of more jobs through construction by having terrorism insurance—by the way, a bill that does not encourage frivolous and junk lawsuits that impede economic progress and hurt jobs in America.

I appreciate so very much the work on an energy bill. Listen, this country needs an energy bill. We need to do a better job of conserving, no question about it. We need to enhance renewables. But we need to reduce supply from countries that don't like us. It is not in our national security to be importing oil from countries around the world.

Part of making sure that we've got economic security in America is to make sure that when we reauthorize the welfare reform package, that we encourage people to work. You see, if you have low expectations, you say it's okay not to work. We're the people who have high expectations for every American, regardless of where they're from in America. And we understand that with a job, you get dignity. We must make sure we insist upon work as the cornerstone for any welfare reform package.

No, there's a lot to do. And there's going to be a lot to do next year as well. And one of the reasons we need to make sure Leader Lott heads the United States Senate is so that the nominees—the good nominees, the qualified nominees I send up for the judiciary all across America gets a fair hearing, a vote, and confirmation.

And finally, to make sure we've got good economic security for everybody in America, we've got to make sure Congress holds the line on spending. I know there's going to be some tough choices on these appropriations bills, but I want to make sure that everybody understands with clarity that the budget the House passed is the limit on spending for the United States Congress.

I appreciate the Members being here to work on the security of our Nation by enhancing job security, by doing everything we can to grow the job base. You see, we understand the role of Government isn't to create wealth. That's what we understand. We understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can flourish, in which the entrepreneur can do well, in which people who want to work for the American Dream can realize that dream. And thanks to the Members here, Members in this audience, we've done a pretty darn good job of enhancing the environment for economic vitality all across America.

And we've got to do a good job of protecting our homeland. Every morning, I go to the Oval Office—that is, after I get Laura her coffee—[*laughter*]—Equal and milk, I want you to know. [*Laughter*] I don't mean to be putting any pressure on you boys out there, but—[*laughter*]—it's a good habit to get into. [*Laughter*] And I go to the Oval

Office with Spot the dog. Barney doesn't get to go. He's only a year and a half, and Laura did design a new rug for the Oval Office. [*Laughter*]

The first thing I do when I sit at this fantastic desk in this beautiful office—and I mean it's beautiful; it's a great shrine to democracy—is read a threat assessment. It makes me realize that the enemy is still interested in hurting America. My most important job is to protect the security of America, to do everything in our power to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again.

And we're making progress; we're making progress. We've got the FBI and the CIA talking like they've never talked before. And that's important, and that's important. It's important because we fight a shadowy enemy. We fight people who send youngsters to death, and they try to hide in a cave and kind of slink around, trying to hurt people who love freedom. And so, therefore, it's important for us to do the very best job we can to collect intelligence abroad and share it with our domestic agencies. The FBI is changing its culture. It's still—by the way, you need to know, it's still going to go after crooks and criminals and mobsters. But its most important job now is to protect our homeland, is to chase down any lead, follow any hint, to do everything in our power to make sure we protect innocent lives here in America.

You're probably wondering why I asked the Congress to make a very difficult decision to join me with restructuring the homeland defense. I didn't run—remember, I didn't say, “Elect me. I'm going to do everything I can to make Government bigger.” And so, therefore, the idea of creating a new Cabinet department probably sent some puzzling signals.

I also, however, believe in accountability and results. I didn't think you sent me up here just to talk. I thought you sent me up here to get things done on behalf of the American people. And so, therefore—so therefore, I'm asking Congress to reorganize all the agencies involved—or most of the agencies involved in the defense of our homeland into one single agency. There are over 100 different agencies that have something to do with the homeland, and they're

scattered everywhere, which makes it awfully hard to align authority and responsibility. It makes it hard to say with certainty we're going to get the results the American people expect.

And I'd like to cite two examples of how the signals can get mixed. One, the Coast Guard—the Coast Guard does an incredible job for America, by the way—one of their most important functions is to protect our borders. If the defense of our homeland is the number one priority, then the Coast Guard ought to be a part of that priority, since they can do a good job of preventing things from coming into our country that we don't want to come in. And yet the Coast Guard is a part of the Transportation Department, and the Transportation Department's primary function is not the defense of the homeland. Or take the Customs, the Customs people—they're important. If we change their priority to defending the homeland, which we're going to do, you wonder out loud why they're a part of the Treasury. The Treasury's primary function is not the protection of the homeland.

For the good of the security of America, I urge the Members of Congress to think what's best for the country, not what's best for their particular committee, and allow us to reorganize a singular function, all aimed at protecting the American people from attack.

And I appreciate so very much the cooperation we've received, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Members on some of the difficult problems that exist to get this job done. But you also need to know that the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to secure America from further attack, is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

I sent a significant increase in the defense budget up to the Hill for a reason, and I appreciate the Members here, because I know they agree with what I'm about to say. First, any time we commit one of our troops into harm's way, that person deserves the best pay, the best training, the best possible equipment. And secondly, the size of the increase indicates that we're—America is in this fight for the long haul. There is—none

of us have one of those desk calendars, and pop the date, and all of a sudden it says, you've got to quit. That's not what it says. As a matter of fact, if there was anything it said on my desk calendar, it would say, stay at it, Mr. President. Freedom needs America.

The enemy hopes we quit. They must have thought we were so soft and so materialistic and so self-absorbed that after September the 11th, all we would do is call our favorite plaintiff's attorney and file a few lawsuits. *[Laughter]* They didn't understand what America is all about. They didn't understand, when somebody tries to take away our freedom, we respond. They don't understand that we love our values. They can't understand that we love freedom of religion. We value the fact that people can worship freely in America or speak their mind or write any kind of editorial they want. And when it comes to somebody messing with America, trying to threaten us and threaten our freedoms, we will respond. And we will respond for however long it takes, because we love freedom in this country.

I fully recognize the task is not going to be easy. It's going to require a lot of patience and discipline on behalf of the American people. The task is difficult now, because we're hunting people down one by one. It's difficult when you think about some of the true threats that really face our country. Imagine the scenario when a regime which hates freedom, a regime which has in the past poisoned her own people, and a regime that's attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction, teams up with one of these shadowy terrorist networks. Then all of a sudden, there's the possibility of blackmail, international blackmail, holding freedom-loving nations hostage. For the good of our country, for the sake of our future, we cannot allow the world's worst regimes to develop and hold us hostage with the world's worst weapons.

And we're making progress. We routed this Taliban, which should allow you to say to your children, "America—we don't go into countries to conquer. We go in to liberate." It's a proud moment for the history of our country when we liberated the country of Afghanistan and allowed young girls to go to school for the first time in their lives.

We've assembled this vast coalition to cut off their money. We've arrested, detained, hauled in, however you want to put it, over 2,400 of these killers. We're making progress. We're making progress. But there's a lot more. And they just need to know, loud and clear from the President of the United States, we got you on the run, and we're going to keep you on the run until we get you and bring you in.

I believe—I believe that out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. I truly believe that. I believe that if we remain steadfast and strong and resolute, we can achieve peace in the world.

I know sometimes my rhetoric gets a little west Texan. Laura reminds me, I've got to tone her down at times. *[Laughter]* But you need to know my drive is for peace. I love peace. I want our children and your grandchildren to grow up not only in a peaceful America but peace all around the world, peace in the Middle East and peace in South Asia. And I believe this great country, if we're steadfast and strong, if we stand to our principles and stick to our guns, that we can help achieve peace.

And I believe at home—I believe at home America can not only be safer, but it can be a better place. I say that with confidence because I've got a good feel about the American people. I understand the great heart and compassion of the American people. You see, in our land of plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people in this great country addicted to drugs and alcohol. There are young children who can't read, people wondering what this American Dream business is all about. And so long as there's pockets of hopelessness and despair, all of us have an obligation to do something about it.

And I believe out of the evil can come incredible good, because I have seen a spirit arise in this country, where people now understand that they've got to serve something greater than yourself. And that means loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

It's my honor to travel this country and see hundreds and thousands of our fellow citizens and see them respond when I remind them if they're interested in fighting evil, if

you want to fight evil in America, you can do so by doing some good. You can do so by simple acts of kindness and decency. You can do so by mentoring a child or helping a shut-in. You can do so by going to your church or mosque or synagogue and organizing a group of people to take care of the homeless.

It's this millions of acts of kindness all across our country that take place on a daily basis that truly define the great character and strength of America and the American people. No, I believe—I believe out of the evil done to America on September the 11th will come not only a peaceful world, but I believe that this great Nation can work miracles through love and compassion in places where there is despair and hopelessness. And I want you all to join in that. I really do. I'd like you to go home to your communities and redouble your efforts to help somebody in need, to redouble your efforts to make a gesture of kindness and compassion. Tell your children you love them on a daily basis.

See, what's happening in America is, the culture is slowly but surely beginning to shift away from, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which we all understand we're responsible for the decisions we make. If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children. If you're a proud American, you're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible for being honest on your balance sheet with all your assets and liabilities.

But most of all, in order to be a patriot in this country, it is important to serve something greater than yourself. And it's happening. And it's happening because I'm fortunate enough to be the President of the greatest Nation—I mean the greatest Nation—on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:16 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Robert A. Ingram, chief operating officer and president of pharmaceutical operations, GlaxoSmithKline; and country music artists Steve Wariner, Amy Grant, and Vince Gill.

Executive Order 13265—President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

June 6, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to expand the executive branch’s program for physical fitness and sports and establish the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (the “Council”), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) shall, in carrying out his responsibilities for public health and human services, develop and coordinate a national program to enhance physical activity and sports participation. Through this program, the Secretary shall seek to:

- (a) expand national interest in and awareness of the benefits of regular physical activity and active sports participation;
- (b) stimulate and enhance coordination of programs within and among the private and public sectors that promote participation in, and safe and easy access to, physical activity and sports;
- (c) expand availability of quality information and guidance regarding physical activity and sports participation;
- (d) integrate physical activity into a broader health-promotion and disease-prevention effort through Federal agencies and the private sector; and
- (e) target all Americans, with particular emphasis on children and adolescents, as well as populations or communities in which specific risks or disparities in participation in, access to, or knowledge about the benefits of physical activity have been identified.

Sec. 2. The President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

(a) There is hereby established the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

(b) The Council shall be composed of up to 20 members appointed by the President. The President may designate one or more

members to be Chair or Vice Chair. Each member shall serve for a term of 2 years and may continue to serve after the expiration of that term until a successor is appointed.

Sec. 3. Functions of the Council.

(a) The Council shall advise the President, through the Secretary, concerning progress made in carrying out the provisions of this order and shall recommend to the President, through the Secretary, actions to accelerate progress.

(b) The Council shall advise the Secretary on ways to enhance opportunities for participation in physical fitness and sports. Recommendations may address, but are not necessarily limited to, public awareness campaigns, Federal, State, and local physical activity initiatives, and partnership opportunities between public- and private-sector health-promotion entities.

(c) The Council shall function as a liaison to relevant State, local, and private entities in order to advise the Secretary regarding opportunities to extend and improve physical activity programs and services at both the local and national levels.

(d) The Council shall monitor the need for the enhancement of programs and educational and promotional materials sponsored, overseen, or disseminated by the Council, and shall advise the Secretary as necessary concerning such need.

Sec. 4. Administration.

(a) Each Federal agency shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to available funds, furnish such information and assistance to the Secretary and the Council as they may request.

(b) The members of the Council shall serve without compensation for their work on the Council. Members of the Council may, however, receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(c) To the extent permitted by law, the Secretary shall furnish the Council with necessary staff, supplies, facilities, and other administrative services. The expenses of the Council shall be paid from funds available to the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall appoint an Executive Director of the Council who shall serve as a liaison to the Secretary and the White House on matters and activities pertaining to the Council.

(e) The Council may establish subcommittees as appropriate to aid in its work. Such subcommittees shall meet on a voluntary basis and be defined by objectives established in coordination with and agreed upon by the Secretary and the President.

(f) The seal prescribed by Executive Order 10830 of July 24, 1959, as amended, shall be the seal of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports established by this order.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.) (Act), may apply to the Administration of any portion of this order, any functions of the President under the Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary in accordance with the guidelines and procedures issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) In accordance with the Act, the Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

(c) Executive Order 12345 of February 2, 1982, as amended, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2002.

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**Remarks at the White House
Fitness Expo**

June 20, 2002

Please be seated—except for those of you behind me. [Laughter] Welcome to the White House, and thanks for joining us as we launch a new national initiative designed to help the American people live longer, live healthier, and live better lives.

Better health is an individual responsibility, and it is an important national goal. We're making great progress in preventing and detecting and treating many chronic diseases, and that's good for America. We're doing a better job with heart disease and cancer and diabetes. We're living longer than any generation in history. Yet we can still improve, and we can do more. And it's not all that difficult to do. When it comes to your health, even little steps can make a big difference.

I really appreciate the First Lady for joining us. She is—she's a regular exerciser. I appreciate Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for being here. Tommy told me the other day, even at his advanced age he's thinking about running a marathon. [Laughter] I appreciate very much Gale Norton, who's the Secretary of the Interior, for being here as well, Gale. Thank you both for coming.

I want to thank all the athletes who are here, and physical fitness experts and Olympians and Paralympians and President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports today. I'm honored you're here.

This is an important message that we're sending to America. When America and Americans are healthier, our whole society benefits. And that's important to know. If you're interested in improving America, you can do so by taking care of your own body.

This year, heart disease will cost our country at least \$183 billion. If just 10 percent of adults began walking regularly, we could save billions in dollars in costs related to heart disease. Research suggests that we can reduce cancer deaths in America by one-third simply by changing our diets and getting more exercise. The evidence is clear: A healthier America is a stronger America.

And today I'm taking two actions to put a new emphasis on health and fitness in America. First, I'm appointing the men and women you see behind me to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. These are professional athletes, trainers, U.S. Olympians, executives from the public and private sector, and physicians. Lynn Swann, a friend and a football legend—not necessarily a friend to Cowboy fans, I might

add—[*laughter*—will be the Chairman of this Council. I named him Chairman because, after a discussion with him and with his friends, he is committed to using the platform that he now has to make America a healthier place by encouraging individual responsibility. I appreciate so very much his Vice Chairman, Dot Richardson, an Olympic gold medalist in softball and an orthopedic surgeon, for joining us as well.

These fine Americans will serve as role models and will join me in working with Americans to encourage exercise and healthy choices in life. Together, we're going to educate our country. We can do so by adopting four guideposts in a new initiative called Healthier US. First, Americans should be physically active every day. Second, develop good eating habits. Third, take advantage of preventative screenings. And fourth, don't smoke, don't do drugs, and don't drink excessively. These four simple measures will help our country a lot, by helping our fellow Americans a lot.

First, let me talk about physical fitness. People ought to work out every day, one way or another. A report released today by the Department of Health and Human Services confirms that virtually all individuals can benefit from regular physical activity. Yet more than a third of our children, 9th through 12th grades, failed to exercise at least 20 minutes a day, 3 times a week. More than a third of our children don't get an hour's worth of exercise a week. Secondly, 60 percent of American adults do not get enough exercise to improve their health.

With this initiative, we propose simple solutions. How about just walking 30 minutes a day? That's pretty simple. It's easy to do. It will make you feel a lot better, by the way. How about parents just playing a game with children in their backyard for 30 minutes or an hour? It would be good for the child; it would be good for the parent; and it's good for the family.

Regular hiking through a park can add years to a person's life. To honor that commitment, I want to thank Secretary Norton for waiving all entrance fees this weekend to national parks and Federal lands. If you're interested in doing something about your

health, go to one of our parks and take a hike. [*Laughter*]

Second, eat a nutritious diet. That means at least five fruits or vegetables a day. I've got a little work in my family. We've been working on the old—well, been working on "Number 41" to eat broccoli for all these years. [*Laughter*] But it's good advice. If you're interested in your health, cut out fatty foods; watch what you're eating. And by the way, when you eat better food, it will give you more energy for your 30-minute walk.

Third, get preventative screenings. These are simple tests that can save your life. Screenings available through your doctor may tell you if you're prone to developing certain diseases, such as diabetes or cancer or heart disease. By acting on information, you can help prevent a potentially life-threatening illness.

And fourth, cut out tobacco, drugs, and excessive drinking. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in America. Drug and alcohol abuse destroys our families and lives and hopes of our fellow Americans. Our message is clear: Avoiding tobacco, drugs, and excessive alcohol can save your life.

This initiative is part of this administration's ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the benefits of exercise and healthy choices. Exercise is a part of my daily life. It kind of helps me deal with the stress a little better. After I get a good run in, I even like the press corps a lot better. [*Laughter*] I don't know if they like me a lot better after my run. But I value exercise. It's an important part of a balanced life.

I've urged the folks at work inside the White House to exercise on a daily basis. As an employer, I insist that they take time off, out of their daily grind, to get some exercise. I found them to be better able to communicate and happier on their job when they take some time, and it doesn't matter to me when they do it. They can do it any time of the day, so long as they get it done.

Today I'm going to sign an Executive order directing Federal agencies to work together to develop new policies to promote fitness. And at the White House, Federal agencies and businesses and professional sport leagues

have set up activities, as you can see, to educate people about better eating, preventative screenings, and the danger of substance abuse.

On Saturday, members of my staff will join the First Lady and me in a fitness challenge to serve as an example to get people running and exercising and walking. And throughout this year and so long as we're here in Washington, we will do everything we can, as we travel around the country, to demonstrate ways to help keep America fit.

It is important for all of us to be responsible for the decisions we make in life. It's important for us to be responsible for taking care of our own health. And as we do so, not only will we each have a more fulfilling life, collectively we'll make a great contribution to the country we love.

I want to thank you for coming. I want to thank you for your commitment to making America the greatest place it can possibly be. Take a small step for America by exercising on a daily basis.

God bless you all, and God bless the country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters at the White House Fitness Expo

June 20, 2002

President's Workout

Q. Have you worked out today, sir?

The President. This afternoon. As you know, I'm giving a speech tonight, the Sullivan speech. So after working all day long, before the speech, I'll work out. I'm going to lift weights. I'm going to do a little elliptical training. I'm going to do some physical fitness stuff—not an outdoor run today.

Upcoming Speech on the Middle East

Q. How's the other speech coming?

The President. The speech I'm giving tonight?

Q. No, the other one.

The President. I'll give it at the appropriate time. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:33 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Executive Order 13266—Activities To Promote Personal Fitness

June 20, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to improve the efficiency and coordination of Federal policies related to personal fitness of the general public, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. This order is issued consistent with the following findings and principles:

- (a) Growing scientific evidence indicates that an increasing number of Americans are suffering from negligible physical activity, poor dietary habits, insufficient utilization of preventive health screenings, and engaging in risky behaviors such as abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
- (b) Existing information on the importance of appropriate physical activity, diet, preventive health screenings, and avoiding harmful substances is often not received by the public, or, if received, is not acted on sufficiently.
- (c) Individuals of all ages, locations, and levels of personal fitness can benefit from some level of appropriate physical activity, dietary guidance, preventive health screening, and making healthy choices.
- (d) While personal fitness is an individual responsibility, the Federal Government may, within the authority and funds otherwise available, expand the opportunities for individuals to empower themselves to improve their general health. Such opportunities may include improving the flow of information about personal fitness, assisting in the utilization of that information, increasing the accessibility of

resources for physical activity, and reducing barriers to achieving good personal fitness.

Sec. 2. Agency Responsibilities in Promoting Personal Fitness.

- (a) The Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Policy shall review and evaluate the policies, programs, and regulations of their respective departments and offices that in any way relate to the personal fitness of the general public. Based on that review, the Secretaries and the Director shall determine whether existing policies, programs, and regulations of their respective departments and offices should be modified or whether new policies or programs could be implemented. These new policies and programs shall be consistent with otherwise available authority and appropriated funds, and shall improve the Federal Government's assistance of individuals, private organizations, and State and local governments to (i) increase physical activity; (ii) promote responsible dietary habits; (iii) increase utilization of preventive health screenings; and (iv) encourage healthy choices concerning alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and safety among the general public.
- (b) Each department and office included in section 2(a) shall report to the President, through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, its proposed actions within 90 days of the date of this order.
- (c) There shall be a Personal Fitness Interagency Working Group (Working Group), composed of the Secretaries or Director of the departments and office included in section 2(a) (or their designees) and chaired by the Secretary of HHS or his designee. In order to improve efficiency through information sharing and to eliminate waste and overlap, the Working

Group shall work to ensure the cooperation of Federal agencies in coordinating Federal personal fitness activities. The Working Group shall meet subject to the call of the Chair, but not less than twice a year. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide such administrative support to the Working Group as the Secretary of HHS deems necessary. Each member of the Working Group shall be a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies or entities, its officers or employees, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 21, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Statement on World Refugee Day
June 20, 2002

On World Refugee Day, I commend the determination and bravery of refugees fleeing tyranny in many parts of the world. This year's celebration focuses upon refugee women. They deserve our special admiration for overcoming the daunting challenges they face every day. Today is also a time to be reminded of the terrible circumstances that drive people from their homelands in search of freedom and safety. America will always stand firm for the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity and the rule of law.

As a country that has seen so many refugees contribute so much to our society, this day has special meaning for Americans. I am proud that we are the largest donor to the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the world's leader in accepting refugees for resettlement. Today I reaffirm our commitment to protect and assist refugees, promote their right to seek asylum, and provide opportunities for their resettlement, as needed.

This year in Afghanistan, over a million Afghan refugees are returning home to restart their lives in a country free of Taliban oppression. Americans are proud of our contribution to this progress and will continue to assist in these efforts.

This day we also recognize UNHCR and private voluntary organizations for their courage and tireless work under often extraordinarily difficult conditions. Their efforts bring hope to millions of refugees worldwide.

**Executive Order 13267—
Establishing a Transition Planning
Office for the Department of
Homeland Security Within the Office
of Management and Budget**

June 20, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. I hereby establish within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a Transition Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security (the "Transition Planning Office"), to be headed by the Director of the Transition Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security (the "Director for Transition Planning").

Sec. 2. Missions. The missions of the Transition Planning Office shall be to:

(a) coordinate, guide, and conduct transition and related planning throughout the executive branch of the United States Government in preparation for establishment of the proposed Department of Homeland Security; and

(b) consistent with Presidential guidance, work with the Congress as it considers legislation to establish that Department.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The Director of OMB shall ensure that the Transition Planning Office receives appropriate personnel (including detailees and assignees, as appropriate), funding, and administrative support for the Office, subject to the availability of appropriations. The Director of OMB is authorized to make expenditures under section 522 of title 31, United States Code, as may be appropriate to carry out this order.

(b) If an individual who is an Assistant to the President is appointed to serve simultaneously as Director for Transition Planning, the functioning, personnel, funds, records, and property of the office of the Assistant to the President and the office of the Director for Transition Planning shall be kept separate in the same manner as if the two offices were headed by two different individuals.

Sec. 4. Other Departments and Agencies. This order does not alter the existing authorities of United States Government departments and agencies. In carrying out the missions set forth in section 2 of this order, all executive departments and agencies are directed to assist the Director for Transition Planning and the Transition Planning Office to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 5. Termination. The Transition Planning Office, and all the authorities of this order, shall terminate within 90 days after the date on which legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security is enacted, or within 1 year of the date of this order, whichever occurs first.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., June 21, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions

June 20, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, signed at Moscow on May 24, 2002 (the “Moscow Treaty”).

The Moscow Treaty represents an important element of the new strategic relationship between the United States and Russia. It will take our two nations along a stable, predictable path to substantial reductions in our deployed strategic nuclear warhead arsenals by December 31, 2012. When these reductions are completed, each country will be at the lowest level of deployed strategic nuclear warheads in decades. This will benefit the peoples of both the United States and Russia and contribute to a more secure world.

The Moscow Treaty codifies my determination to break through the long impasse in further nuclear weapons reductions caused by the inability to finalize agreements through traditional arms control efforts. In the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union, both countries’ strategic nuclear arsenals remained far larger than needed, even as the United States and Russia moved toward a more cooperative relationship. On May 1, 2001, I called for a new framework for our strategic relationship with Russia, including further cuts in nuclear weapons to reflect the reality that the Cold War is over. On November 13, 2001, I announced the United States plan for such cuts—to reduce our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads to a level of between 1700 and 2200 over the next decade. I announced these planned reductions following a careful study within the Department of Defense. That study, the Nuclear Posture Review, concluded that these force levels were sufficient to maintain the security of the United States. In reaching this decision, I recognized that it would be preferable for the United States to make such reductions on a recip-

rocal basis with Russia, but that the United States would be prepared to proceed unilaterally.

My Russian counterpart, President Putin, responded immediately and made clear that he shared these goals. President Putin and I agreed that our nations’ respective reductions should be recorded in a legally binding document that would outlast both of our presidencies and provide predictability over the longer term. The result is a Treaty that was agreed without protracted negotiations. This Treaty fully meets the goals I set out for these reductions.

It is important for there to be sufficient openness so that the United States and Russia can each be confident that the other is fulfilling its reductions commitment. The Parties will use the comprehensive verification regime of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the “START Treaty”) to provide the foundation for confidence, transparency, and predictability in further strategic offensive reductions. In our Joint Declaration on the New Strategic Relationship between the United States and Russia, President Putin and I also decided to establish a Consultative Group for Strategic Security to be chaired by Foreign and Defense Ministers. This body will be the principal mechanism through which the United States and Russia strengthen mutual confidence, expand transparency, share information and plans, and discuss strategic issues of mutual interest.

The Moscow Treaty is emblematic of our new, cooperative relationship with Russia, but it is neither the primary basis for this relationship nor its main component. The United States and Russia are partners in dealing with the threat of terrorism and resolving regional conflicts. There is growing economic interaction between the business communities of our two countries and ever-increasing people-to-people and cultural contacts and exchanges. The U.S. military has put Cold War practices behind it, and now plans, sizes, and sustains its forces in recognition that Russia is not an enemy, Russia is a friend. Military-to-military and intelligence exchanges are well established and growing.

The Moscow Treaty reflects this new relationship with Russia. Under it, each Party retains the flexibility to determine for itself the composition and structure of its strategic offensive arms, and how reductions are made. This flexibility allows each Party to determine how best to respond to future security challenges.

There is no longer the need to narrowly regulate every step we each take, as did Cold War treaties founded on mutual suspicion and an adversarial relationship.

In sum, the Moscow Treaty is clearly in the best interests of the United States and represents an important contribution to U.S. national security and strategic stability. I therefore urge the Senate to give prompt and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and to advise and consent to its ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

Remarks at the Leon H. Sullivan Summit Dinner

June 20, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. The kindest gift anyone can give a President and his family is prayer, and I appreciate the prayers.

I'm so honored to be with you all to pay tribute to an exceptional man and to further a great cause. Leon Sullivan understood an important principle: If we want to live in a world that is free, we must work for a world that is just. The free people of America have a duty to advance the cause of freedom in Africa. American interests and American morality lead in the same direction. We will work in partnership with African nations and leaders for an African continent that lives in liberty and grows in prosperity.

I want to thank Andrew Young for his service to our great country. I appreciate his friendship. I also want to welcome my friend the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the stage, and I want to congratulate him on receiving the prestigious Leon H. Sullivan Summit Award. You have picked a good man. I want to thank Jack Kemp for supporting this organization. I appreciate his—[*applause*].

It has been my honor tonight to meet the Sullivan family, headed by a fantastic lady, Grace Sullivan, who has raised beautiful children, people who are willing to follow the example of their dad. We were—Hope and I were talking about that we had a lot in common. You know, we both have got famous fathers and strong mothers. [*Laughter*] I appreciate very much Julie and Howard and meeting the grandkids. It's a thrill to be here. Your dad and your grandfather was a great American. That's the only way to call it.

I appreciate so very much members of my Cabinet and my inner circle being here, of course, the great Secretary of State, Colin Powell; Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill; the National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. I see the Deputy Director of HUD, my friend, Alphonso Jackson.

I also appreciate Members of Congress who are here tonight; members of the diplomatic corps. It's good to see the Ambassadors from the African nations, many of whom I've had a chance to spend some quality time with. It's great to see Coretta Scott King here as well.

Thank you all for coming and supporting this important dinner. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk about my administration's plans for the continent of Africa.

I'm really grateful, though, that the Secretary of State and Treasury are here. See, it was last May that Secretary Powell became the first member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. And this May, Secretary O'Neill was the latest member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. He and Bono were quickly dubbed "The Odd Couple." [*Laughter*] But they soon found out that the rock star could hold his own in debates on real growth rates and that the Secretary of Treasury is second to none in compassion. I knew the trip had had an effect on our Secretary when he showed up in the Oval Office wearing blue sunglasses. [*Laughter*]

Here's what we believe. Africa is a continent where promise and progress are important, and we recognize they sit alongside disease, war, and desperate poverty, sometimes even in the same village. Africa is a place where a few nations are havens for terrorism and where many more—many

more—are reaching to claim their democratic future. Africa is a place of great beauty and resources and a place of great opportunity, so tonight I announce that in order to continue to build America's partnership with Africa, I'll be going to the continent next year.

Can I come to your place? I think the President has in mind a particular stop. *[Laughter]* Put me on the spot here, right with all these cameras. *[Laughter]*

I look forward to the trip. I really do. It's going to be a great trip, and I look forward to focusing on the challenges that we must face together.

Everyone in this room is joined by a common vision of an Africa where people are healthy and people are literate, a vision that builds prosperity through trade and markets, a vision free from the horrors of war and terror. America will not build this new Africa; Africans will. But we will stand with the African countries that are putting in place the policies for success through important new efforts such as the Millennium Challenge Fund. And we will take Africa's side in confronting the obstacles to hope and development on the African continent.

One of the greatest obstacles to Africa's development is HIV/AIDS, which clouds the future of entire nations. The world must do more to fight the spread of this disease and must do more to treat and care for those it afflicts. And this country will lead the effort.

My administration plans to dedicate an additional \$500 million to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. And as we do so, we will work to improve health care delivery in Africa and in the Caribbean. This will allow us to treat one million women annually and to reduce the mother-to-child transmission by 40 percent within 5 years or less in the countries we target.

Every year—it's important for my fellow Americans to understand this statistic—every year, approximately 2 million HIV-infected women give birth. More than one in three will pass the virus on to her baby, meaning that on the continent of Africa there are close to 2,000 more infected infants every day.

We will begin to save many of these young lives by focusing our efforts on countries where the problem is most severe and where

our help can have the greatest impact. We will pursue proven and effective medical strategies that we know will make a difference. And when the lives of babies and mothers are at stake, the only measure of compassion is real results.

In places with stronger health care systems, we'll provide voluntary testing, prevention, counseling, and a comprehensive therapy that we know is highly effective in reducing virus transmission from mother to child. We know it works. In places with weaker health care systems, we'll provide testing and counseling and support one-time treatment programs that reduce the chances of infection by nearly 50 percent.

Most importantly, we will make a major commitment to improve health care delivery systems in these countries. We will pair hospitals in Africa with hospitals in America. We will deploy volunteer medical professionals to assist and train their African counterparts, and we will recruit and pay African medical and graduate students to provide testing and treatment and care. As health care delivery systems improve in these nations, even more progress will be possible. And as we see what works, as we're confident that our money will be well spent and results will matter, we will make more funding available.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who have supported this initiative. I particularly want to thank Senators Helms and Frist and Congressman Jim Kolbe of Arizona. I'm also pleased that organizations exercising on—exercising leadership on this issue will join our efforts, particularly the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, headed by Elizabeth Glaser. And I will call upon other industrialized nations and international organizations to join as well, so that we can bring hope of life to hundreds of thousands of African children.

This \$500 million commitment is the largest initiative to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV by any government in history. It's important for you to know that this funding will complement the nearly \$1 billion we already contribute to international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The money will complement the \$2.5 billion we plan to spend on research and development of new drugs and treatments, and it will complement

the \$500 million we've committed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other infectious disease.

Lack of education is the second great barrier to progress in Africa. Tonight I announce that my administration plans to double, to \$200 million over 5 years, the funding devoted to an initiative I put forward last year to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa.

Here's what we believe we can achieve. With that money we will train more than 420,000 teachers, provide more than 250,000 scholarships for African girls, and partner with historically Black colleges and universities in America to provide 4.5 million more textbooks for children in Africa. As we do so, we'll make sure the school system is more open and more transparent, so African moms and dads can demand needed reform.

Education is the foundation of development and democracy in every culture, on every continent. And we'll work to give Africa's children the advantages of literacy and learning so they can build Africa's future.

The third great obstacle to Africa's development is the trade barriers in rich nations and in Africa, itself, that impede the sale of Africa's products.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a tremendous success. My administration strongly supports efforts in Congress to enhance AGOA. And to encourage more U.S. companies to see Africa's opportunities firsthand, I propose holding the next AGOA Forum in Africa to coincide with my visit.

We will continue to explore a regional free trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union.

Africa also stands—also stands to gain even greater benefits from trade if and when we lower trade barriers worldwide. And so I'm committed to working in partnership with all the developing countries to make the global trade negotiations launched in Doha a success. And we look forward to advancing all of our development priorities with African countries at the upcoming World Summit in Johannesburg.

Expanding global trade in products and technologies and ideals is a defining characteristic of our age, capable of lifting whole nations out of the cycle of dependency and

want. In this country we will work to ensure that all Africa—all of Africa—is fully part of the world trading system and fully part of the progress of our times. It is important for my fellow citizens to know we will build trade with Africa because it is good for America's prosperity, trade is good for building prosperity in Africa, and it is good for building the momentum of economic and political liberty across that important continent.

And finally, for Africans to realize their dream of a more hopeful and prosperous future, Africa must be free from war and free from terror. Many African nations are making real contributions to the global war on terror, particularly my friend President Obasanjo. I can remember his phone call right after September the 11th, and Mr. President, I want to thank you for your condolences and your support.

I've asked Congress this year to provide an additional \$55 million in funds to help African nations on the frontlines of our mutual war to defend freedom.

The United States is committed to helping African nations put an end to regional wars that take tens of thousands of lives each year. We will help African nations organize and develop their ability to respond to crises in places such as Burundi. We'll work closely with responsible leaders and our allies in Europe to support regional peace initiatives in places such as the Congo.

And we will also continue our search for peace in Sudan. My policy towards Sudan seeks to end Sudan's sponsorship of terror and to promote human rights and the foundations of a just peace within Sudan, itself. My envoy for peace in Sudan, former Senator John Danforth, has made progress toward a ceasefire and improved delivery of humanitarian aid to such places as the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan.

Since September the 11th, there's no question the Government of Sudan has made some useful contributions in cracking down on terror, but Sudan can and must do more. And Sudan's Government must understand that ending its sponsorship of terror outside Sudan is no substitute for efforts to stop war inside Sudan. Sudan's Government cannot continue to talk peace but make war, must not continue to block and manipulate U.N.

food deliveries, and must not allow slavery to persist.

America stands united with responsible African governments across the continent—and we will not permit the forces of aggression and chaos to take away our common future. We jointly fight for our liberty. We chase down coldblooded killers one at a time, and we do so for the common good of all people.

Leon Sullivan wrote and spoke of a vibrant partnership between America and Africa that, in his words, would help mold Africa into a new greatness, glorious to see. Tonight his vision must be our mission. Together, we can chart a new course for America's partnership with Africa and bring life and hope and freedom to a continent that is meeting the challenges of a new century with courage and confidence.

May God bless the people of Africa, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 p.m. in the Marriott Ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; former Representative Jack Kemp; Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and musician and activist Bono.

Exchange With Reporters in Orlando, Florida

June 21, 2002

FBI Alert on Fuel Tanker Trucks

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—the threat warning that your administration has put out with regard to fuel tugs—tanks, rather, or trucks, what Americans need to be aware of?*

The President. Well, any time we get any kind of threat that we think is serious, we'll put it out, and people need to respond accordingly.

Q. Nothing more specific on this threat?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what is your current thinking on the Middle East? When can we expect to hear from you?

The President. My current thinking is, is that there are obviously some in the Middle

East who want to use violence to destroy any hopes for peace. And the world must do everything in its power to prevent the few from creating misery for the many.

I—and if you're talking about the speech, I'll give the speech when I'm ready to give the speech. [*Laughter*] But—wait a minute; let me finish—but I strongly condemn this series of attacks. I fully recognize that Israel's got the right to defend herself. And all parties who are interested in getting on the path to peace must do everything they can to reject this terror. It is outrageous, and it is—it's got to be stopped.

Q. Sir, do you agree with your wife that the building of an electronic fence by Israel is not particularly helpful to two states living side by side in peace?

The President. Israel has a right to protect herself.

Q. Including an electrical fence?

National Economy/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, yesterday business executives who saw you said that you saw several things weighing down the market—the state of the economy, fears of terrorism, and a loss of confidence in corporate accounts.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think the market is just not going to bounce back until you address all three of those?

The President. I think we are addressing all three of those. And I think, obviously, corporate profits are important. People are going to make their decisions based upon their view of the future and the P/E ratios at the moment. Obviously, there is concern in our society about possible terrorist attacks. I think most people in America know we're doing everything we can to deal with it, particularly chasing these people down.

I don't know if you took note, but there was a significant event that took place in the Philippines. The head of the Abu Sayyaf is now dead. We want to congratulate Gloria Arroyo for being tough and firm and strong to help rid the world of this particular threat.

But I do think there is an overhang, over the market, of distrust. Listen, 95 percent or some percentage, a huge percentage of

the business community are honest and reveal all their assets and have got compensation programs that are balanced. But there are some bad apples. And—well, let me finish—and there are some bad apples. And the business world must clean up its act. I mean, people have got to have confidence as to whether or not the assets and liabilities are good numbers. They've got to have confidence that the leadership has got the shareholder and employee in mind when they make decisions.

And so I'm concerned about that, and I spoke very plainly about it. You've heard me, in many of my speeches, say in this era where we expect for there to be personal responsibility in America; we expect there to be corporate responsibility as well; that part of a responsible era is, those who run corporate America understand they have a responsibility.

And so I believe it's being addressed. I've got confidence in the future of the country. I've got confidence in our economy. I've got confidence we're doing everything we can to stop terror. And I've got confidence in the good faith of those who run corporate America.

Thank you.

[At this point, the President's tour of the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex continued.]

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about outpacing your predecessor when it comes to fundraising, which you're about to do?

The President. Got good candidates. Right here. One of the great candidates in the history of Florida.

Q. You're one of the best fundraisers, right?

The President. No, no. It's the candidates, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. It's the candidates.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:33 p.m. during the President's tour of the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex. In his remarks, the President referred to Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex in Orlando

June 21, 2002

Thank you all very much. So here's what they say about Marks Street Senior Center: It's one of the most happening places in all of central Florida. [Laughter] I believe that. I've just come from a spinning class. [Laughter] I just came from a strong exercise class. Thankfully, I didn't have to join. [Laughter] I was most impressed by the spirit of the participants and the idea of encouraging exercise. That's what I'm here to talk about.

Before I do so, of course, I want to say how proud I am of my little brother—[laughter]—my big little brother. I love him a lot. I love him a lot. He's a great man. I'm glad to be with him here in Florida.

Today I came down with some distinguished citizens as well. I picked a man from central Florida, from Orlando, to be my Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and that's Mr. Mel Martinez. I appreciate you coming, Mel. Mel told me he volunteered here. He and his wife, Kitty, used to come by to help people here, and it was kind of old home week for him. But he's doing a fabulous job. And it's hard to take a young family out of such a beautiful part of the world and sacrifice and move to Washington. But Mel made that decision, and the country's better off for it.

I want to thank the two United States Senators for traveling with me today, Senator Bob Graham and Senator Bill Nelson. I want to thank them for their—[applause]. I particularly want to thank Senator Graham for his leadership on the Intelligence Committee. During this time where America is at war, intelligence is—gathering of intelligence is incredibly important, and I appreciate the way he has led that committee. It gives me great confidence to know that Bob Graham is there making sure we do everything we can to collect as much intelligence as possible to protect Americans. And so Senator, I want to thank you for your leadership on that issue.

I want to thank Congressman Ric Keller for traveling with us as well. Ric's one of the bright stars in the United States Congress. I appreciate you, Rick. Mike Bilirakis flew down with us, but he probably thought he had to hear me give a speech, so he went somewhere else. *[Laughter]* But Mike's a good friend and a good man.

I'm honored that your mayor, Glenda Hood, came by to say hello. Madam Mayor, I'm pleased—appreciate you being here. And with her as well is Orange County Chairman Rich Crotty. Rich has been a friend of mine for a long time. And I want to thank Julie for—Julie Graf for inviting us here. I'm here to talk about—*[applause]*. Thank you, Julie.

I want to give you a quick update about how I see the world, and then I want to talk a little bit about the health initiative that we're here to herald. You know, we love freedom in America, and we hold freedom dear. And obviously that has irritated some people who hate freedom. And that is why they've made the decision in the past to attack us and why they're probably trying to figure out a way to do it again.

They must have thought we were weak. They must have thought we were really a feeble country. But they're learning differently. You see, when it comes to the defense of freedom, we're strong and we're plenty tough. And when it comes to the defense of our homeland, we're plenty tough. I just want to assure you that the country's united and determined. And I'm determined to do everything in my power to keep America safe.

I appreciate the spirit in Washington, DC, of both Republicans and Democrats. When we talk about the homeland security, it's not a Republican issue. It is not a Democrat issue. It is an American issue.

I am sure you—certain that you've heard about this Homeland Security Department I intend to create. It is to streamline decisionmaking so everybody is on the same page when it comes to protecting the homeland. We've got to change cultures of agencies which, before September the 11th weren't that focused on homeland security. And you can understand why; we hadn't been attacked for a long time. And now it's time to reorganize and readjust and set the most important priority of all, which is to keep America safe.

And I look forward to working with the Congress and the Senate on what is a difficult task, but a task that I'm confident that, when we keep the—keep the American people in mind, we can get done.

But the best defense for America is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what America will do. It's a different kind of war. I'm confident there are some World War II veterans or Korean war veterans here, and I want to thank you for your service. It's a war for freedom, but it's a different kind of war.

Today—in the last 24 hours, the Philippine Government, which had made a concerted effort to find terrorists in their country—the terrorists who, by the way, kidnaped two Americans, the Burnhams—today announced that the head of the group, this extreme group of killers, met his fate. And I want to congratulate the President of the Philippines. I appreciate her leadership and her strength. It goes to show that by assembling a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, that when we work together and are strong and are diligent, we can succeed, and that's what's going to happen.

I not only work to make sure that America is a safer place, I want to work to make sure that America is a better place as well. One of the initiatives that we talked about the last time I was in Florida, one of the last times, was called the USA Freedom Corps. I encourage people to serve their neighbor by volunteering, by becoming involved in their communities. We talked about a Senior Corps that can make a huge difference in people's lives all across Florida and all across the country. I believe serving somebody in need is an integral part of the American experience.

Today I had the honor of meeting Marie Wieland. She came—where are you, Marie? There she is. Thank you for coming. She came out to the airport today. She stood underneath the great seal of the Air Force One to have her picture with me, because she has been an extraordinary volunteer in your community. She's heard the call to help a neighbor in need. She's involved with the community care for the elderly. She's been involved with the Children Home Society of Florida.

All her life, she has set an example by serving in the army of compassion. You see, our society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And for those of you like Marie, who are volunteering and helping make America a better place, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And thank you, Marie, for being here.

Generally, when we come to Florida to talk to senior citizens, we're talking about Medicare. I look forward to working with the Congress to get a Medicare plan that is modern, up to date, with prescription drugs. But I want to talk about another way, another way to encourage a healthy America.

Yesterday I unveiled, right there on the South Lawn, what we call a HealthierUS. It is an initiative to encourage young and old alike to live healthier and longer lives by paying attention to four guideposts. First, people should be physically active every day. Secondly, people should develop good eating habits. Let me put it another way. You need to eat your vegetables—[laughter]—and your fruits. We've been working on Dad for a while on the broccoli issue. [Laughter]

People need to be conscious of their diet. They need to be careful not to be loading up with fatty foods all the time. If you want to have a healthy life, you've got to be careful of what you eat. People need to take advantage of preventative screenings to detect early whether or not there's a likelihood of disease, so you can do something about it. And finally, in order to have a healthy life, you shouldn't smoke, drink excessively, or do drugs. In other words, those are choices you can make to make sure you've got a healthy life.

The amazing thing about America is that we're doing a good job on chronic diseases, and people are living longer and longer lives. And that's incredibly positive. But we've all got to work to improve. We can all do better.

And age need not be an indicator of health, as I witnessed in the spinning class. [Laughter] There are a lot of youth that couldn't spin like those spinners were spinning. [Laughter]

We need to make healthy choices no matter how old we are. And a simple and effective way to do this is to really focus on exercise.

Jeb mentioned I'm in pretty good condition because I exercise nearly every day. Laura exercises nearly every day. And I feel better for it. I sleep better. I eat better. I'm a lot more pleasant fellow to be around after I exercise. [Laughter] And I encourage all Americans to do so.

Not enough older Americans are exercising, however. I want to share this statistic with you: In fact, nearly 70 percent of individuals in our country age 65 to 74 do not engage in regular physical activity. And that can be changed pretty quickly. Listen, just a stroll in the park for a reasonable period of time is exercise, and it's good for you. If people just walked 20 to 30 minutes a day, it would change life expectancy, your life expectancy. It would improve your healthy conditions. The Department of Health and Human Services has been reporting on the health of America, and they confirm that older Americans have more to gain from regular exercise than younger Americans do. That makes sense.

And so, today I want to continue on my message of encouraging America to make healthy choices by encouraging our seniors to exercise on a regular basis—exercise just like we saw here in this fabulous center; listen to people or seek advice as to how to keep up your heart rate and increase your breathing; work on your flexibility. It will make a tremendous difference, and it doesn't take much. It doesn't take much.

We can make a significant difference in the cumulative health costs all around America by encouraging young and old alike to exercise. If we can get people exercising and pushing away from lousy diets, we'll decrease the amount of incidents of heart disease by a significant number. If we can get some of our young to stop watching TV as much as they do and get outside and enjoy, it will promote the habits for a healthy life for a long time coming. I urge moms and dads to exercise with their kids, to go out in the backyard and kick a soccer ball or throw a baseball. It will be good for your family; it will also be good for setting good habits for your children. Physical exercise, whether it be walking or gardening, walking up and down the stairs, can have a significant impact all across America.

I say societies can change one soul, one person at a time. If each person makes a dedicated effort to exercise more, you'll be serving your Nation. The accumulative effect will be incredibly positive for America.

And what a nation you'll be serving. I want you to tell your grandchildren or your children, the young of America, that this great Nation stands for peace; that this Nation, as we defend our freedom, we do so to keep the peace; that we're a nation that is compassionate and decent. When we unleash our military, we do so not as conquerors but to liberate people from the clutches of a barbaric regime such as the Taliban, that was so repressive they wouldn't even let young girls go to school. That when they hear their President talking about chasing this person down or that, he does so because he wants the children to grow up in a peaceful world and to realize the freedoms that we've realized. He does so because we defend civilization itself, and we have the obligation to do so.

We're making progress in the war against terror. It's going to take a while, but America understands that it's going to take a while. And for that, I'm grateful. And as importantly, we're making progress in showing the world the compassionate face of America as well. Hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens are loving a neighbor just like they'd be liked—just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And that's good. Out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because we're such a good nation.

Thank you for coming today. And may God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. in the ballroom. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Julie Graf, site supervisor, Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex; Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 16

During the day, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico concerning the World Cup soccer game between the U.S. and Mexico to be held the next day in Chonju, South Korea. In the evening, he had a telephone conversation with U.S. team members to express his support.

June 17

In the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where he met with Habitat for Humanity volunteer Darryl Hicks and later toured the Pryor Road Corridor housing development. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on June 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey S. Merrifield to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate John S. Bresland to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen Sauerbrey to be U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Norman J. Pattiz to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board: Michael Corradini, Mark D. Abkowitz, Thure E. Cerling, David J. Duquette, and Ronald Michael Latanision.

June 18

In the morning, the President met with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal to

Digest of Other White House Announcements

commend him for his work toward a resolution of the political crisis in Madagascar and discuss development in Africa.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with the leadership of Disabled American Veterans.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Allan Roth to be Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

June 19

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Boudewijn van Eenenmaam of The Netherlands; Kassahun Ayele of Ethiopia; Phanthong Phommahaxay of Laos; Carlos Jose Ulvert Sanchez of Nicaragua; Aziz Mekouar of Morocco; Ishaq Shahryar of Afghanistan; Mihail Manoli of Moldova; and Mario Miguel Canahuati of Honduras. He then participated in a roundtable interview with health and fitness reporters in the Roosevelt Room.

The White House announced that the President has invited President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to Washington, DC, for a state visit on July 17–18.

The President declared a major disaster in Colorado and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on April 23 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 3 and continuing.

June 20

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Later, he dropped by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President-elect Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to express his sympathy for the families of victims of recent suicide bombings in Israel.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Physical Fitness

and Sports: Lynn Swann (Chairman); Dot Richardson (Vice Chairman); Denise Austin; James Baird; John Burke; Paul Corrozza; Katherine Cosgrove; Amanda C. Cromwell; Pamela Danberg; Jamie Davidson; Dan Gable; Nomar Garciaparra; Marion Jones; Ivette Lirio; Nancy Lopez; T.L. Mitchell; Charles Moore, Jr.; Derek Parra; Emmit Smith; and Lloyd Ward.

The President announced that he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the following individuals at a ceremony in July: Hank Aaron, Bill Cosby, Placido Domingo, Peter Drucker, Katharine Graham, D.A. Henderson, Irving Kristol, Nelson Mandela, Gordon Moore, Nancy Reagan, Fred Rogers, and A.M. Rosenthal.

June 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Orlando, FL, where he met with volunteer Marie Wieland.

In the evening, the President attended a fundraising event for the Republican Party of Florida and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida at the Universal Studios Portofino Hotel. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 17

John S. Bresland,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Devra Lee Davis.

Jeffrey S. Merrifield,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2007 (reappointment).

Norman J. Pattiz,
of California, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2004 (reappointment).

Ellen R. Sauerbrey,
of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador dur-
ing tenure of service as U.S. Representative
to the Commission on the Status of Women
of the Economic and Social Council of the
United Nations.

Submitted June 20

Richard Vaughn Mecum,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Marshal for the North-
ern District of Georgia for the term of 4
years, vice Robert Henry McMichael, term
expired.

Burton Stallwood,
of Rhode Island, to be U.S. Marshal for the
District of Rhode Island for the term of 4
years, vice John James Leyden, resigned.

George Breffni Walsh,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Dis-
trict of Columbia for a term of 4 years, vice
Donald W. Horton.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released June 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press
Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
President Wade of Senegal

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Expand-
ing Opportunities to Homeownership

Released June 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy
Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate
Finance Committee action on legislation to
assist community and faith-based organiza-
tions

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 1366, H.R.
1374, H.R. 3789, H.R. 3960, and H.R. 4486

Released June 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 4560

Statement by the Press Secretary: State Visit
of President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Po-
land

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Colorado

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Iowa

Fact sheet: President Bush's International
Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Mar-
shals for the Northern District of Georgia,
the District of Columbia, and the District of
Rhode Island

Released June 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Bush Launches
HealthierUS Initiative

Fact sheet: The U.S. Commitment to Africa's
Growth and Prosperity

Fact sheet: Africa Education Initiative

Advance text of remarks by Homeland Secu-
rity Director Tom Ridge before the Senate
Governmental Affairs Committee

Announcement of the recipients of the Presi-
dential Medal of Freedom

Released June 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press
Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement: Facts and Figures on the
President's Fitness Challenge

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved June 18

H.R. 1366 / Public Law 107–190

To designate the United States Post Office building located at 3101 West Sunflower Avenue in Santa Ana, California, as the “Hector G. Godinez Post Office Building”

H.R. 1374 / Public Law 107–191

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the “Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building”

H.R. 3789 / Public Law 107–192

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2829 Commercial

Way in Rock Springs, Wyoming, as the “Teno Roncalio Post Office Building”

H.R. 3960 / Public Law 107–193

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the “Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building”

H.R. 4486 / Public Law 107–194

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1590 East Joyce Boulevard in Fayetteville, Arkansas, as the “Clarence B. Craft Post Office Building”

Approved June 19

H.R. 4560 / Public Law 107–195

Auction Reform Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, June 28, 2002

**Remarks at the Republican Party of
Florida Majority Dinner in
Orlando, Florida**

June 21, 2002

Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be back here in the great State of Florida. I want to—I appreciate all of you who have come tonight. I'm here to help support the Republican Party of this State and make sure your unbelievably great Governor gets reelected.

It was a real treat for me to be able to see *mi cuñada*, my sister-in-law, Columba. Jeb and I both married above ourselves. [Laughter] I know you're proud of the job that Columba's doing as the first lady of Florida. And I'm really proud of the job Laura's doing as the First Lady of America.

I'm pleased to report that our mother is still telling both of us what to do. [Laughter] And we're both listening—most of the time. But it's great to be here with my family. As you know, we love our—we've got a great family; we love each other a lot. And anything I can do to help Jeb stay in the Governor's office I'll do, even if that means keeping Brogan as the Lieutenant Governor. [Laughter] I appreciate you, Frank. Frank Brogan is a very good man, and you're doing a great job, Frank. I appreciate you.

I want to thank an Orlando product who traveled with me today for his service to the country. Mel Martinez is doing a great job in my Cabinet. I want to thank former Senator Connie Mack for staying involved with the Republican Party and for helping a lot.

I appreciate so very much Congressman Ric Keller, who's doing a fine job in the United States Congress. Ric, thank you very much. Mike Bilirakis is here, and Mike is a great Congressman from up the coast. I appreciate you being here, Mike. They tell me Congressmen Miller and Foley and Weldon may be here. If you're not here, I can understand—I'm going to give a long speech.

[Laughter] If you are here, thank you for your service to the State of Florida and to the country. And finally, they've been a little lax on the immigration laws here in Florida; you let a man from Georgia come in. He's a great Congressman from south Georgia, Charlie Norwood—Congressman Norwood.

I appreciate members of the elected—who have been elected statewide here in Florida: Charlie Bronson, Charlie Crist, and Tom Gallagher. I'm honored you all are here. I want to thank the chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, Al Cardenas, for his hard work and noble efforts for this party. And I want to thank Al Hoffman and Al Austin for their loyal friendship and longtime support for both Jeb and me. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank the mayor of this fine city, and the mayor of Sarasota as well for coming—both Carolyn Mason and Glenda Hood. Thank you all for being here.

I appreciate so very much members of the Florida legislature, starting with the speaker, Tom Feeney, and Senate Leader John McKay. Thank you both for being here, and all of you for coming.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for supporting a great cause and a great slate of candidates. I want to thank those of you who have contributed your money, and I want to thank those of you who contribute your time. We understand—at least Jeb and I understand—how important it is to have a viable, vibrant grassroots organization. And for those of you who spent hours dialing phones and putting up signs and passing out pamphlets, thanks for your hard work. Get a little rest over the next couple of weeks—[laughter]—and get ready. We need you this fall.

My attitude is, when you find a man who brings integrity to office, you've got to send him back into that office. And that's Jeb Bush. He's a man with strong principles. He fights for what he believes in. He sets high

standards. The thing I'm most proud about Jeb, he is the Governor of everybody in the State of Florida. His vision—he doesn't think about keeping people out or doesn't think about keeping special people in. When Jeb thinks and acts, he thinks about how best to improve the lives of everybody.

And I want the citizens of Florida to stay focused on his education agenda and his education vision. Jeb Bush understands and believes that every child in the State of Florida can learn. He knows that if you set low standards, certain children aren't going to learn. He believes that he's got to set high standards to make sure that every child in this great State learns how to read and write and add and subtract.

He's a man of enormous principle who believes in holding people accountable. He understands that in order to make sure every child learns, you must measure. You see, there used to be a system in Florida that said—it must have said certain kids can't learn, so the easy way out is just to move them through. And guess who got moved through—inner-city African American kids. Let's just quit on them and move them through and hope nobody notices.

How about children whose parents don't speak English as a first language? They're easy to quit on. But under the leadership of Governor Jeb Bush, because he set high standards and holds people accountable for results, his program and his vision will do more to make sure that every child—I mean every single child in this great State—is going to get a good education, and no child will be left behind. I'm proud of you, brother.

It hasn't been easy times for Governors around the country when it comes to managing the budget. But fortunately, you've got a Governor who didn't run up the baselines of your budget when it seemed like times were plenty. You've got a fiscally sound Governor, somebody who understands that the people's money is their money, not the Government's money, somebody who's done a fabulous job on behalf of the taxpayers of the people of Florida.

I've enjoyed very much working with Jeb on a lot of key issues, and I know for the State of Florida there is no more key issue than making sure that the coastline of Florida

didn't have a lot of oil and gas drilling. As a matter of fact, under our vision, it's not going to have any. And so we worked together on Destin Dome—we worked together on Destin Dome and the Collier property in the Everglades. And thanks to the leadership of this Governor, thanks to the leadership of Jeb Bush—he has been a strong environmental steward for the people of the State of Florida.

This guy is doing a great job for the people. And I'm confident with your help, you're going to send him back up to Tallahassee.

We've got work to do in Florida, and we've got work to do in Washington. And I want to share some thoughts about how I think things are going. First, I know there's a lot of talk about statistics in Washington, DC. They're always quoting this person's statistic or this smart person's statistic. Here's my attitude: If somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we've got a problem. If somebody's looking for work and can't find that job, all of us involved in public policy must do everything we can to expand the job base. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small-business owner has a chance to realize his or her dreams.

And that's why I insisted last year that the United States Congress join me in cutting the taxes on the working people all around America. I readily concede some people in Washington read a different economic textbook than I have. They believe that when the economy slows down, you've got to keep more of the money in Washington. I believe that if you let people have their own money, they'll spend it. And they'll demand a good and service, and when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce that good and service. And when somebody produces that good and service, somebody is more likely to have a job. It is essential in Washington and in Tallahassee that you have leaders understand the entrepreneurial potential of our country and of the State of Florida.

So whether it be on tax policy or terrorism insurance—and by the way, I want to thank the Senate and the House for passing me

a terror insurance bill, so that we can make sure large-scale construction projects can go forward in the State of Florida. But they've got to make sure they send me a bill that doesn't enrich plaintiffs' attorneys but instead encourages workers to be able to find work.

And you're going to see, there's going to be some budget struggles in Washington, DC. The temptation is to spend, and I understand that. But they've given the President the veto for a reason. And one of the reasons is to make sure that there is fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. And I intend to use the veto to make sure we do not overspend in our nation's capital. We're making progress on the economic security front. But I'm telling you, we've got a lot more to do, and we will. We will.

And we're making progress on the defense of our homeland as well. As you probably have heard, I have asked Congress to help me in streamlining and making more effective the ability for all of us involved with the homeland security to do our jobs. I readily concede that some are probably asking the question, "Why would he try to create more Government?" After all, I didn't run and say, "Vote for me, I promise to create bigger Government." The reason why I have asked Congress to join me is because I want to take the over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense and bring them under one agency, so that we can be more effective, so that we can be more accountable and doing the most important job we have to do, which is to keep the enemy from hurting innocent Americans.

I say, "Keep the enemy from hurting innocent Americans," because that's exactly what they want to do. We're dealing with cold-blooded killers, and that's all they are. These are people who hijack a great religion and kill in the name of that religion. These are people who send youngsters to their death, and they hide in caves. And so I just want you to know that my main focus, and the main focus of a lot of hard-working people, is to do everything we can to protect America. We're chasing down every single lead—[*applause*]*—*we're chasing down every single lead. If there is a hint that somebody might

try to do something to America, we're on them. We are.

I know there's been a lot of consternation in Washington—and probably in your newspapers here—about the FBI and the CIA. There's no question that the FBI needed to change its attitude after September the 11th. After all, prior to September the 11th, the main function of the FBI was to run criminals down here in America and arrest them and bring them to justice, and that's still an important function. But now that we've realized that we've got a war on our hands, an enemy that wants to hurt us, the FBI's primary mission is now to prevent an attack.

And they're talking better than ever. With intelligence-gathering networks, we're getting pretty good at it, and we're communicating better. My point to you is that the defense of the homeland, although never perfect, is improving every single day thanks to a lot of hard-working Americans.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to make sure that I do my job, is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that is precisely what America is going to do.

I've submitted a significant increase in the defense spending of the United States. It's the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President of our country. I did so for two main reasons. One, any time any one of our troops goes into the battle or into harm's way, that person deserves the absolute best equipment, the best pay, the best training possible. And the second reason is it sends a clear signal to our country, the coalition we have put together, and the enemy that the United States, when it comes to defending our freedom, will take however long it takes, that this is a long struggle, this is going to be a struggle of—it's going to last a long time.

And we're making progress, we really are. Some of it's very evident; we routed out this barbaric regime called the Taliban. We sent our incredibly brave troops into Afghanistan, and in pretty short order we liberated a country. We freed people from the clutches of people who wouldn't even let girls go to school, and now they do, thanks to the United States of America.

But a lot of what's happening you won't see. That's the nature of the new war. We're kind of chasing down shadowy networks, people that try to blend into big, crowded cities, or they hide in, as I said, caves. But you just need to know we're after them. We've got them on the run. And we're going to keep them on the run. And we're going to continue making sure we send a clear message: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy.

We spend a lot of time talking to our friends and allies and bolstering our coalition. Today one of our coalition members, President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines, did the world a great service. There was a group of killers named Abu Sayyaf in her country. They kidnapped; they killed. And today their leader met his Maker, thanks to one of our coalition partners.

We've hauled in, one way or the other, 2,400—make it 2,401—people that have been a part of this shadowy army. But there's more to do. There's more to do. And you can bet the United States of America, so long as I'm the President, is going to do what needs to be done, because, after all, we defend our freedom. And the decisions we make today and our steadfast resolve will help our children to live in a free world. And there's some tough, tough tasks ahead, no question about it. There will be some tough battles.

There's a threat that faces our country, which I take very seriously, and that is the capacity of some of the world's worst regimes to develop and harbor weapons of mass destruction. I'm a patient man. The United States has got a lot of tools at our disposal. And we'll use every tool at our disposal to make sure that the axis of evil doesn't hold us hostage, doesn't hold our friends hostage, and does not hurt the freedoms that we love so dearly.

I believe that out of the evil done to America will come some good. I believe that this country is so strong and so powerful and so good and decent that out of the evil done on September the 11th can come some important, lasting contributions to the world, starting with peace.

You know, Laura always—not always, sometimes—gets on me for my rhetoric.

[*Laughter*] And if your children question, you know, why is the President talking this way or the other way? I ask you to look them in the eye and say, because he loves peace, because he believes that the United States has been called into action; that history has given us a chance to seize the moment to use our position in the world to make the world more peaceful, peaceful in America, peaceful in parts of the world where people cannot possibly dream of peace right now, peace in South Asia, peace in the Middle East. So long as I'm the President, I will drive public policy, foreign policy to achieving peace.

And at home, and at home, I believe that out of the evil is coming incredible good. People say, "What can I do to help?" You can love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, it's the million acts of kindness and decency that take place every day in America that will help us fight off evil.

As a result of people loving their neighbor, mentoring a child, helping a shut-in, our culture's changing in America. I gave a speech at Ohio State University a week ago today, and I was pleased to see that 70 percent of all the graduating class had at one time or another done some volunteer work. It's a great sign to realize that our young have heard the call that life is more than just profit and loss, that life of service is an important part of being not a spectator but a citizen of the United States of America.

The most compelling story, of course, in my judgment, after 9/11 or during 9/11 was Flight 93, when brave souls heard that their airplane was a weapon. They called their loved ones. They said a prayer, and they took the airplane in the ground in the ultimate gesture of serving something greater than yourself. I believe that lesson has reverberated throughout our society. I believe millions of our fellow citizens now realize that in order to be a full-fledged American, it means you've got to help somebody in need.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America that can be solved by love and compassion, by works of faith. And I believe that out of the evil, more and more Americans, as a result of our fellow Americans showing compassion and decency, will

realize the American Dream extends to every neighborhood in this great land.

I believe that Americans understand that the culture of if it feels good, do it, and you got a problem, blame somebody else, is a culture that must fade off into the sunset. It's being replaced by a culture of personal responsibility. Each of us are responsible for loving our children. If you happen to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

In order to be a good neighbor, you must love your neighbor. If you're running a business, a public company in America, you have the responsibility to have clean balance sheets, to be—fully disclose your assets and your liabilities and treat your shareholders and employees with the respect they deserve.

No, out of the evil done to America has come a new culture, a new sense of responsibility. The enemy thought they were hurting America, and they killed too many lives, no question about it. But they didn't realize who they were dealing with. They were dealing with the greatest Nation, the most decent Nation, the most compassionate Nation on the face of this Earth. And it is my high honor to be the President of such a great place.

Thank you for coming. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:44 p.m. in the Tuscan Ballroom at the Universal Studios Portofino Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, and his wife, Columba; Charles Bronson, Florida commissioner of agriculture; Charlie Crist, Florida education commissioner; Thomas Gallagher, Florida State treasurer, insurance commissioner, and fire marshal; Al Hoffman, Jr., national finance chairman, Republican National Committee; Al Austin, finance chairman, Republican Party of Florida; Mayor Carolyn Mason of Sarasota, FL; Mayor Glenda Hood of Orlando; Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at the President's Fitness Challenge

June 22, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for coming. I hope you feel as good as I feel. Great to be outside, isn't it? Thanks for coming today.

General Jackson, thank you so very much for opening up this beautiful running trail for me and a couple of my friends. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you, sir, and all the troops that helped make this run successful. And I want to thank you and all the troops and their families for their service to a great country. Thank you very much for letting us come back today.

I want to thank those on my Cabinet who are here. I see the Secretary of HUD here, Mel Martinez. Ann Veneman is here. Where's Ann? Annie, good going; good to see you. Thank you all for coming. Robert Zoellick, Trade Minister—where is Zoellick? He left. [*Laughter*] He didn't know he was going to get introduced.

I want to thank Debbie LeHardy for the Race for the Cure and Tara Wolf Monaco as well for helping organize this. Thank you for your—[*applause*]. The Race for the Cure is a fantastic event. It raises money for a great cause, and they know how to organize well. Thank you all for setting this up for us.

I want to thank my friend Paul Carrozza, who's a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, for being here as well. Paul is a—he's a fellow Texan. Yeah! If you're ever in Austin, you might want to stop by his store and buy a couple pairs of shoes from him. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the great athletes from the Special Olympics who are here today to help us register. These athletes registered people to volunteer as well. They're going to represent the country in the 2003 World Games in Ireland. Kevin Boyd is here with us today, Lindsey Wilkes, Kevin Gafford, and Daniel Bailey. Thank you all for coming. Good luck at the Olympic Games too.

Sir, I'll be down there and get it in a minute.

I want to thank Fresh Fields and Dasani water—make sure you drink a lot of that today—[laughter]—at least that’s what Dr. Tubb told me—[laughter]—and Starbucks, for helping to sponsor this event.

I want to thank you all for agreeing not only to set a good example but agreeing to help a neighbor in need. As you might remember, part of the entry fee—or the entry fee is the willingness for you to give of your time and money to help a local charity here. And if you haven’t signed up yet, I was serious about that being part of the entry fee. I think it’s important for all of us who are fortunate enough to be able to run and be healthy to help others who might not be as fortunate. So thanks for agreeing to do that.

It’s important for those of us in the White House to live how we talk. If we’re going to say we’re going to live a healthy life, let’s do it. If we say we care about a neighbor in need, we want to love a neighbor like we’d like to be loved ourselves; let’s show it through our actions. So I want to thank you for the example.

It’s really important for the White House team to exercise on a regular basis. I hope you understand at least that’s how the boss thinks. [Laughter] I expect you to—I think you’re—I know; I don’t think—I know you’re a better worker if you exercise on a daily basis. I know you’ll help keep the health care costs down in America if you exercise on a daily basis. [Laughter] I know your life will be more complete if you exercise and serve a neighbor in need.

And you know, we’re not here for long. But when we’re here, let’s make sure we give it our all. And one way to do so is to stay healthy and fit, have a great outlook in life.

And so thanks for joining us today. It’s been a fantastic event. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Make sure you stretch afterwards, get in a good nap—[laughter]—and show up to work on time on Monday. [Laughter]

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. on the Parade Field at Fort McNair. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, USA, Commanding General, Military District of Washington; Debbie LeHardy, general manager, and Tara Wolf Monaco, deputy general manager,

Komen Race for the Cure; and Col. Richard Tubb, USAF, Director, White House Medical Unit.

The President’s Radio Address

June 22, 2002

Good morning. Earlier today, the First Lady and I joined the White House staff for the inaugural Presidential Fitness Challenge Run and Walk. Every participant took important steps on the road to better health, and runners and walkers volunteered to perform community service or contribute to charities.

The Fitness Challenge is part of a larger initiative I launched this week to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives. And the good news is this: When it comes to your health, even little steps can make a big difference. If just 10 percent of adults began walking regularly, Americans could save \$5.6 billion in costs related to heart disease. And research suggests that we can reduce cancer deaths by one-third simply by changing our diets and getting more exercise.

The title of our new health and fitness initiative says it all, HealthierUS. It is based on four guideposts to good health. First, be physically active every day. Second, develop good eating habits. Third, take advantage of preventative screenings. Fourth, don’t smoke, don’t do drugs, and don’t drink excessively. These four simple measures will help all Americans get healthier and stronger.

First, be physically active every day. A report released this week by the Department of Health and Human Services confirms that almost 40 percent of adults get no leisure time physical activity. This lack of activity can lead to poor health and higher health care costs. Americans who are obese spend approximately 36 percent more on health care services than the general population. They spend 77 percent more on medications.

Here are some simple suggestions to help Americans get active. Walking 30 minutes a day can improve your health. Playing a game in the backyard will help parents and children get fit and spend some quality time with each other. And regularly hiking through a park can add years to your life. This weekend,

the Federal Government is waiving all entrance fees to national parks and other Federal lands, so you can exercise while exploring America's natural beauty. Exercise is a daily part of my life, and I urge all Americans to make it an important part of your lives.

Second, eat a nutritious diet. That means eating fruits and vegetables and cutting back on fatty foods. If you try your best to achieve these goals, you will be on the road to healthier living, and you'll have a lot more energy for your 30-minute walk.

Third, get preventative screenings, simple tests that can tell you if you're prone to developing certain diseases such as diabetes and cancer and heart disease. By acting on that information, you can help prevent a potentially life-threatening illness.

Fourth, cut out tobacco, drugs, and excessive drinking. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in America. Drug and alcohol abuse destroys lives and families and communities. Avoiding tobacco, drugs, and excessive alcohol can save your life.

This initiative is part of my administration's ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the benefits of exercise and healthy choices. Our message is simple but important. The doctors in America should talk to your patients about the value of exercise and healthy eating. Parents should make sure your children get plenty of exercise and good nutrition and make smart decisions. By making minor changes to our lives, we will build a healthier and stronger America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:16 p.m. on June 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Earthquake in Iran *June 22, 2002*

I am saddened by the news of the earthquake centered in Iran this morning. I extend my condolences and those of the American

people to the families of the many victims in the cities and villages affected by this tragic event. Human suffering knows no political boundaries: We stand ready to assist the people of Iran as needed and as desired.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans *June 21, 2002*

On June 26, 2001, by Executive Order 13219, I declared a national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo. Because the actions of these persons, which threaten the peace and international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on June 26, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond June 26, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans.

This Notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 24, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 25.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to
the Western Balkans**

June 21, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a Notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed Notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Western Balkans**

June 21, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Cyprus**

June 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2002, through May 31, 2002. The previous submission covered events from February 1, 2002, through March 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under U.N. auspices as they strive to meet their stated objective of a comprehensive settlement by the end of this month. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler provided diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the

United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

Remarks on Homeland Security in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey

June 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Well, not everybody be seated. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all very much for coming today. It is my high honor to be in the midst of so many great Americans, people who serve our country with dignity and honor, people who allowed me to say, "We're winning, and we're going to continue to win as we fight for our freedoms."

I'm honored to be here at the largest marine cargo terminal on the East Coast. I'm so impressed with the massive size of this operation and its obvious importance to the economy of our country, but not nearly as impressed as I have been and am by the way New Jersey firefighters and police officers and emergency rescue units and Port Authority officers responded on September the 11th and have continued to respond.

The country has come to appreciate so very much the dedication of our Nation's first-responders, thanks to the bravery of many in this audience and the continued hard work you do on behalf of all America. So on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for the job you're doing for the people of New Jersey and the people of New York and, as importantly, for the people of this great land, your fellow Americans.

I appreciate the many who have traveled with me today, key Cabinet members and heads of agencies all involved with the defense of our homeland. I appreciate Norm Mineta, the Secretary of Transportation, who's doing such a fantastic job in his important Cabinet position. I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's the Homeland Security Adviser,

who's with me today. I appreciate the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and Christie Todd Whitman, who is running the Environmental Protection Agency. *[Applause]* They still remember you. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate Commissioner Robert Bonner of the U.S. Customs, Admiral Tom Collins, who's the Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard. I want to thank Commissioner Jim Ziglar of the INS for his steadfast leadership. Jim, thank you very much. I appreciate Jack Sinagra of the—Port Authority chairman, and all those who work hard to make sure this port runs well.

I also want to thank very much the Governor of New Jersey for being here; Jim, thank you for coming, appreciate your time. Members of the mighty New Jersey Congressional delegation who have joined us, Senator Torricelli and Senator Corzine, thank you all for being here. Congressman Mike Ferguson, Frank LoBiondo, Congressman Steve Rothman, Congressman Marge Roukema, I'm honored you all are here, and thanks for coming. Rush Holt, I appreciate you being here, Rush. Thank you for your time.

I marvel at the strength of our country. It's an incredibly great country because the people are great. Today when I landed at—on Air Force One, I had the honor of meeting a young lady named Joanna Glick. She's a member of the USA Freedom Corps. Her brother, Jeremy, was one of the heroes on Flight 93. That was the flight in—where average citizens were flying across the country. They realized their airplane was to be used as a weapon to harm their fellow Americans. They told their loved ones good-bye on cell phones. They said a prayer, and they drove the airplane in the ground. They served something greater than themselves in life.

And Joanna and her classmates Kelly Bianco and Allison Cohen heard the call, the example of her brother to serve something greater than themselves in life. They understand that in order to defeat evil, you can do so by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. They started what they call the Teen Freedom Corps in their high school. They serve as a fabulous example for young and old alike to respond to the challenge of our country by working to make somebody else's life better. Would you girls

please rise, and thank you for being here. I'm real proud of you. Thank you. I'm really proud of your service and your leadership.

I also want to thank Arlene Howard for coming. Arlene is my friend, mother of George Howard, Port Authority policeman. She represents so many moms and dads and loved ones who mourn for the loss of a child or a husband or a wife. I appreciate your strength, Arlene. I love seeing you every time. She's always telling me what to do. [Laughter]

But being here reminds me that the country still continues to pay tribute to the heroism of 9/11, and we must. As we pay tribute to the heroes, we pay tribute to America's character. And it's important for many to see the character of our country. One of those heroes was Fred Morrone. Many of you may have known Fred. He was the Port Authority Superintendent of Police and Director of Public Safety. Immediately after the plane crashed into One World Trade Center, Fred raced from his New Jersey City office to the Trade Center. He oversaw the evacuation of staff from the Port Authority's offices on the 67th floor. The plane crashes, he heads over, up to the 67th floor. Many were leaving; he's heading in. Evacuees heading downstairs saw the calm superintendent urging people to leave in an orderly fashion. He was posthumously awarded the Port Authority's Medal of Honor.

Eddie Calderon was a civilian employee of the Port Authority, a former Marine. You're never really a former Marine. Eddie was a supervisor of the Trade Center's Operation Control Center. On the morning of September the 11th, Eddie stayed at his desk, speaking to people trapped in elevators, coordinating requests for information from firefighters. When a co-worker expressed concern about Eddie's own safety, here's what he said: "I'm a Marine. I do not ever leave anybody behind." He, too, received the Port Authority Civilian Medal of Honor.

I know their loved ones are with us today. Our Nation is extremely grateful for the dedication and example for others to see. God bless you all.

All together, 75 Port Authority employees were killed on September the 11th. And you need to know, no matter how long it takes,

we're going to hunt their killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

This is a different kind of war, and it has placed many Americans on the frontline of this war, America's firefighters and police officers and postal workers and all the folks who work here at the Port Authority, New York and New Jersey, to keep America safe.

And we're working hard to make sure your job is easier, that the port is safer. Here's some examples of what's taking place. The Customs Service is working with overseas ports and shippers to improve its knowledge of container shipments, assessing risk so that we have a better feel of who we ought to look at, what we ought to worry about. Inspectors here can focus on high-risk shipments. America will be better protected.

The Port Authority of New York and Jersey has been putting together a \$60 million closed-circuit TV security system with cameras all around sensitive areas here at the port. This will strengthen our ability to safeguard these facilities. Coast Guard inspectors and law enforcement officials currently board targeted commercial vessels shortly before they enter the Port Authority, and then they escort them safely to docks. Tomorrow the Coast Guard's Deep Water Project will award a multi-year contract to replace aging ships and aircrafts and improve communications and information sharing.

The whole purpose is to push out our maritime borders, giving us more time to identify threats and more time to respond. The Coast Guard is also working on ways to better detect weapons of mass destruction. They've assembled strike teams, one of which I was able to meet today.

No, we're better and stronger and wiser today than we were. We're working harder than ever before. As I travel our country, I remind our citizens, there are thousands of people working as hard as they possibly can to keep America safe. Today I recognize I'm in the midst of that type of citizen who's working hard to keep America safe. Thank you, for a grateful nation.

We must constantly think of ways to improve our ability to protect the homeland, because these killers are still out there. Somebody asked me to describe them one time. I said, "They're nothing but a bunch

of coldblooded killers, and they still hate the fact that we love freedom. And they really can't stand the fact that we're not backing down. See, they thought we'd probably just file a lawsuit or two." [Laughter] They didn't understand America. That's what they didn't know. They didn't understand our character. They don't have any idea about what makes the people right here tick.

And so we've got to continue to do everything we can to protect innocent lives. And that's why I think it is vital the Federal Government reorganize, so that we've got people involved with homeland security under a Cabinet office dedicated to homeland security. You see, we've got to change—change our priorities. We've got to focus our priorities. We've got to set clear goals. If cultures need to be changed within agencies, we'll change the cultures, because this new war of the 21st century requires a 100 percent focused effort to protect the homeland.

Now, I know some are nervous about taking this from here and that from there. It is the right thing to do, to have the over 100 agencies involved with homeland security under one authority, so that we can have accountability and responsibility in Washington, DC. I want to thank the Members of Congress who understand that it's important to put their own personal turf aside. It's also important to put our political parties in the background as we focus on doing what's right for the country.

I believe with hard work and a lot of effort and a lot of reminding by the President that this is the right thing to do on behalf of the American people, we can get this new Cabinet agency up and running. It will make your jobs easier, for those of you involved with the agencies I'm talking about. It'll make our Federal Government more responsive. It will allow us to communicate better. It will allow all of you to make sure that the hard hours you're putting in are able to more secure the homeland.

But I want you to know that no matter what we do here in America, the best way to protect the homeland is to chase the killers down wherever they think they can hide and bring them to justice. And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. It's important for our

country to understand, this new war of the 21st century is really not like any other war we've fought. You see, we fight people who, on the one hand, send youngsters to their death, and they, themselves, try to hide in a cave. Those are the kind of people we fight. You know, they claim in the name of a great religion that death is justified.

You know, this country will take its time, because we defend freedom. This country will not blink, because we defend freedom. We love freedom, and we love our fellow Americans.

The mighty United States military in step one performed brilliantly in Afghanistan. And I submitted a defense budget up in Washington that's big—no question about it—because anytime we commit our young into harm's way, they deserve the best pay and the best training possible. And I expect the United States Congress to get the defense bill to my desk quickly. They don't need to delay the defense bill in a time of war. They need to deliberate like they're supposed to and get it to my desk. And the big increase also says, the United States of America is in this fight for the long run.

You know, the enemy would have loved to have seen a scrawny little budget up there. They'd have said, "Well, we were right. They're going to quit." We're not quitting. I don't care where the theater is, how long it takes. This mighty Nation is going to track them down until we can say with certainty, "Our children and our grandchildren are free."

We've hauled in about 2,400 of them. This weekend I called Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, to congratulate her on her country's steadfast desire to rout out the Abu Sayyaf* killer organization. This is the organization which captured the Burnhams. They're nothing but coldblooded killers, again. They may espouse some kind of doctrine, but they have no regard for innocent life. I told Gloria early on in the fight that we'd help her. If she wanted us to take on the enemy without her, we'd be glad to do that too. And she said, "No, we'd like your help to train so we can go get them." And

* White House correction.

she did. So I guess it's 2,401. But we're making progress, one person at a time.

At the same time, we recognize that there are other threats that could face our country and our history—these nations which have no regard for human rights and at the same time want to develop weapons of mass destruction. We're not going to let the world's worst leaders blackmail America with the world's worst weapons.

This country recognizes, history has called us into action. History has given us an opportunity to lead the world to more freedom. And as far as I'm concerned, history will record this: The United States of America led a mighty coalition to freedom so that all freedom-loving people in every country could grow up in a peaceful environment, so children of all walks of life could grow up understanding what freedom means, in a peaceful way.

I think out of the evil done to America, the evil so many saw firsthand and had to live with, will come incredible good. I believe there will be peace in the world if the America—if America continues to lead and remains strong. And I believe here at home, thanks to the loving hearts of thousands of our fellow citizens, America can not only be a safer place but a better place.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to thank you for giving me the chance to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 a.m. at the marine cargo terminal. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James R. McGreevey of New Jersey.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Mike Ferguson in Newark, New Jersey

June 24, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. So here's what I believe. I believe if you find an honest person who works hard on behalf of every citizen in the district in which he represents, a person who does in office what he said he would do, you need to send him back to Washington, DC.

I'm here as as strong an advocate as I can be for the reelection of Mike Ferguson to the United States Congress. After all, we share some things in common. We both have got impressive mothers. *[Laughter]* We both got degrees from Notre Dame. *[Laughter]* Okay, it took me a 30-minute speech to get mine. *[Laughter]* We both married great women.

I appreciate so very much Maureen. I love her demeanor. It was an honor to meet their children today. And I want you to know, Maureen and Mike, that Laura sends her best. She is not town—not in Washington, that is. She's out in Texas with her mother, and she is—but boy, she's made me proud. People now know why I asked her to marry me. *[Laughter]* A lot of people wonder why she said yes, but—*[laughter]*.

But we're doing great. Listen, many of you said you pray for Laura and me and the family. It is the kindest gift you can give the President, is your prayers, and I want to thank you for that.

We had a big event at the Port Authority today, and one of the—one of my treasured Cabinet secretaries and friends came with me, and that is your former Governor, Christie Todd Whitman. Barney—Barney's the little Scottish Terrier—wouldn't have happened without Christie Todd. *[Laughter]* And so I thank her for her service, but as importantly, thank her for Barney. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank some candidates who are here. Doug Forrester, running for the United States Senate, is with us. Scott Garrett, running in the 5th District of New Jersey, thank you, Scott. My friend Buster Soaries, thank you, Buster, for coming. I'm glad you're here. I want to thank Rodney Frelinghuysen for being here. He's a fine Member of the United States Congress. And Rodney, thank you for your leadership. Frank LoBiondo is here as well. Frank, where are you? He heard I was going to give a speech. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Lew Eisenberg, my friend here from New Jersey, for being such a great Republican National Committee finance chairman. I want to thank Lew for taking time out of a busy life to serve our party and our country. And I want to thank your chairman, the new father. Joe, I wish you

all the very best with your new baby. Thanks for coming.

So the enemy hits us, and a lot of people were wondering how people would respond. And Mike and Maureen spend time comforting people. They didn't hold press conferences. They didn't hire some camera crew to follow them around. They did the best they could possibly do about extending love and compassion and decency to people who hurt deeply. That's the kind of Congressman I would like to have. This was not a time for politics in our country. This was a time to be as good an American as you could possibly be. It's a time of great testing. These two folks passed it—passed their test with flying colors.

And he's passed his test in the United States Congress too. A couple of examples: He understands, like I understand, the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which people are willing to take risk. He understands that when you cut the people's taxes, it's part of creating an environment that encourages job growth.

You know, when I was running, I said—they asked me, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Well, only if we had a recession or a national emergency or a war." [Laughter] And our economy was floundering, and thank goodness I had allies like Mike, who agreed with me that we needed to let people keep more of their own money. See, we—here's the textbook we read from. If somebody has more money in their pocket, they're likely to spend it, and when they spend it, they demand a good and—or service. And when somebody demands a good or service, somebody is going to produce a good and service. And when somebody is producing a good or a service, somebody is working.

In Washington, they talk about statistics all the time. Here's my attitude: So long as somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we need to worry about that person. We need to worry less about statistics, and more about the people—more about people who are trying to find a job. Tax cuts came at the right time in America, and I'm glad Mike was by

my side. And now we need to make them permanent.

And I appreciate his commitment to making sure Social Security is strong, not only strong today, and that we fulfill the promise to our seniors today, but strong tomorrow. And as well, you need to know that as an impressive—as a sign of the Congress' recognition of Mike's leadership, he's going to be one of the leaders on the floor of the Congress, to make sure that our seniors get prescription drugs in Medicare.

That doesn't happen all the time, when you've got a freshman Congressman. You know, as they say down home, it means you've got a good one. [Laughter] And you need to work hard to put him back in office. And that means more than showing up in ballrooms. That means manning the phones and turning out the vote. Many of you never get enough credit for that kind of work, here in New Jersey or anywhere around the country. I'm here to tell you, I thank you from the bottom of Mike's heart and my heart for your willingness to be grassroots activists for something you believe in. And I believe in this guy, and I know you do as well.

And what I love about Mike's background is, he was a teacher. For those of you who have been teachers and—or are teachers today, thank you from the bottom of our heart. It's an incredibly important profession, because while homeland security is now the top priority of the country, economic security depends upon making sure every single child—I don't mean a few or some—every child gets a good education.

We passed a great education reform bill. Mike was by my side. He understands it's important to set high standards. It's simple—kind of a simple logic, but if you set low standards, guess what you're going to get? You're going to get bad results. We believe every child can learn. Therefore, we've set the highest of high standards.

And we believe you ought to measure. You see, if you don't measure, how do you know if somebody is not getting shuffled through—get shuffled through the system? And guess who is easy to shuffle through? Children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, for example. It's so much easier to quit on a child. Inner-city African

Americans, it's easy to quit on them. But when you measure, we get to determine whether or not the goal of every child getting educated is being met. And if that's the case, I promise you, I'm going to praise the teachers all over the country. However, where I find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, I demand something different, because not one single child needs to be left behind in America. And Mike understands that, and I appreciated his support on the education matters.

I appreciate his support on matters of economic security. That is a top priority of mine, to make sure we continue to work to expand our job base, so people can find work. It's a top priority of mine to make sure that we protect the homeland too.

Today I went to the Port Authority to thank the first-responders, brave police and fire and Port Authority officials that work so hard on behalf of the American people. You just need to know, if you don't know, that there are a lot of people working a lot of hours to do everything we can to prevent the enemy from attacking America again. And I'm proud of their efforts, and I'm proud of their response. I went today to thank those on the frontline. We can't thank them enough for the diligence.

I like to tell people that any time we get a hint or a lead or a piece of evidence, we're going to run it down. We're going to make sure that the enemy—if they think they can hit us, they're going to have to cross some mighty big hurdles to do so. And we're getting better at what we're doing. We really are. Today I saw some fairly sophisticated equipment—or very sophisticated equipment about how to detect hazardous equipment. If somebody is trying to ship it here, we've got a better job of risk assessment, so that not only we can facilitate trade, but we can also make sure that the cargo coming in is inspected. We need to know who is coming in our country, if they're going out when they're supposed to be going out. We need to know what is coming in our country, if it is supposed to be the stuff that's supposed to be coming in our country. And so, therefore, we're being wiser about how we use technology with our Customs and Border and INS people.

And we need to share information better. There is no question about it, prior to September the 11th, the FBI and CIA weren't talking enough, and now they are on a regular basis. There's no question that the culture of the FBI wasn't focused for homeland defense. After all, they're charged with hauling people in that had busted the law. And they still need to be doing that. But the world's changed, and now the focus is on protecting the homeland. And every morning, I talk to the Director of the FBI and the head of the CIA, and we talk about information and how we're doing and what's happening with this lead. It's all part of making sure we do everything we can to—so I can travel the country to say we're doing—we are doing everything we can, every possible thing, to protect the homeland.

I think we need to do some more in Washington, DC. I believe strongly we need to reorganize the agencies involved with the homeland, the defense of our homeland, into one single Cabinet agency. Listen, I didn't run on "Vote for me; I'm going to try to make Government bigger." I understand that, and this is going to be a big agency. But I do want to make sure that we've got authority and responsibility aligned. There's over 100 different agencies involved with the defense of our homeland. In order to make sure we've got the right focus and the right culture, it seems wise to me to have them aligned under one agency.

And so I'm asking Congress to make a tough decision, to give up a little turf, and to do what's right on behalf of the American people, so that I can continue to say the Government is doing good. And I must tell you, the response has been gratifying, the response from both Republicans and Democrats. And I want to thank them for that, and I just urge them to continue to work to get this done.

There's a lot to do to secure the homeland, and we will. But the surest way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do. And it's going to take a while. It's going to take a while.

Audience member. You're doing a good job.

The President. Thank you. Every crowd needs a yeller. [*Laughter*] Thank you.

I'm not doing as good a job as the U.S. military is doing though. I'll tell you, they're doing a great job. The—I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They must have said, this country was so materialistic, so self-absorbed, so selfish, that after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They found out we think differently. They did. They found out that we love freedom, and we love our country.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. The other night, when I announced the Department of Homeland Security, I told the country that we have arrested—we, our friends, and allies, have arrested over 2,400 people. And that's good. Some of them you never heard about. This is a different kind of war. This isn't a war with fronts and tanks and industrial complexes. This is a war of this great country fighting down shadowy killers, nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who do not value innocent life. And 2,400 of them is a good dent. We've made pretty good progress. But you've just got to know there's more to go. And so long as they're out there threatening us, we're going to run them down. They think they can hide—[*ap-
plause*].

I've submitted to Congress the largest defense spending increase since Ronald Reagan was President, and I did so for two reasons: One, any time we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay; and secondly, I did so because this is going to take a while.

You know, I just—I don't have a calendar on my desk—it's a magnificent desk, I might add, in the—[*laughter*—beautiful Oval Office—that says, on such-and-such a date, we quit. That's not how you think when it comes to defending freedom. There is no date of departure from this noble effort. Until we feel secure, that's the date. And so I work hard on a daily basis to keep our coalition intact.

And this weekend, I had the honor of calling Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines. I don't know if you remember, but they had this little Al-Qaida-type terrorist organization that captured two Americans as

well as other people. The wife lives today free in America; the husband, unfortunately, died. They're called Abu Sayyaf. Early on in the war I said, "They're there in your country. We'd like to help you. However you want the United States to help, we want to help." See, we're after—any time these terrorists light, we're after them. And I called her and congratulated her on what looks like the demise of the head of the organization, totally disrupting it. Either you're with us or you're against us, and she proved she was with us. And I want to thank her for her leadership.

And so we're making steady, steady progress, just one day at a time—one day at a time. And as you know, I'm deeply concerned not only about shadowy terrorist networks; I'm deeply concerned about shadowy terrorist networks teaming up with nations which have got some of the world's worst leaders and at the same time want to develop and maintain the world's worst weapons. And I'm a patient man. I'll take my time. We've got a lot of tools at our disposal. We've got diplomatic tools, financial tools, military tools. But for the sake of our children and for the sake of freedom, we can't let the world's worst leaders threaten us or blackmail us with the world's worst weapons.

I want to thank Mike for his steadfast support on this war we all fight. This isn't that partisan battle up in the Congress. There are no partisan battles when it comes to defending the homeland. This isn't a Republican initiative. It's not a Democrat initiative. This is an American initiative. And I think Congress understands that.

Not only do I feel determined; I also feel that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I truly believe that. I believe that if we remain strong and steadfast, we can achieve peace. I see a lot of youngsters here. I want them to know that my dream is peace. I want our children—and matter of fact, children all around the world—to grow up in peace.

Your country doesn't seek revenge. We seek justice. And when we went into the first battle of this new war, we liberated a country. We didn't conquer a country. We liberated a country. And thanks to your Government and your country, young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And I also believe here at home, out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good as well. I do. I see—if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good—do some good. Help a neighbor in need. Mentor a child. Teach a child to read. Listen, there are pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness in America that we need to worry about. There are people who hurt in this country, people who wonder, is America meant for them? And I believe that because this Nation is so compassionate and decent, that out of the evil done to America on September the 11th will come the good by reaching into neighborhoods with love and compassion and decency.

I'm a strong backer of the Faith-Based Initiative, because I believe in providing help and hope to those in need. Government can write a check, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That will be done by our fellow citizens. We will change America one soul, one conscience, one person at a time.

And it's happening here in this country. Joanna Glick came out to the airport today and then was at the Port Authority with me; she's a 17-year-old child, a high school student who, the day after September the 11th, started what's called Teen Freedom Corps Club in her high school to help people in need. You know, what made her story most interesting is, her brother, Jeremy, was on Flight 93. And so here's a child who asked the question, "What can I do to fight evil," and of course, obviously, misses her brother and loves her brother but immediately went out to rally compassion and decency to help people in need.

Her brother serves as a great example of what I think is happening in America, and why I say that out of evil will come some good. Here's a guy, along with others, on an airplane they knew was a weapon—told their loved ones goodbye, told them they loved them, said a prayer, said, "Let's roll," drove the plane in the ground.

They served something greater than themselves in life. They were willing to say, "I will die to save somebody else." Joanna was

willing to say, "I will work. I will set aside myself, to serve somebody else." And that's my call to my fellow Americans. If you want to do some good, you can fight evil by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

Now, out of the evil will come some good, because this is America. We are the greatest country, the greatest country, on the face of the Earth. It is my privilege to campaign for a Congressman of that great country, as the President of the greatest country.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Maureen Ferguson, wife of Representative Ferguson; Jenna Welch, mother of First Lady Laura Bush; DeForest "Buster" Soaries, candidate for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District; State Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr., chairman, New Jersey Republican Party; and missionary Gracia Burnham, who, along with her husband, Martin, was held captive by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines. Representative Ferguson is a candidate for reelection in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

Remarks on the Middle East

June 24, 2002

For too long, the citizens of the Middle East have lived in the midst of death and fear. The hatred of a few holds the hopes of many hostage. The forces of extremism and terror are attempting to kill progress and peace by killing the innocent, and this casts a dark shadow over an entire region. For the sake of all humanity, things must change in the Middle East.

It is untenable for Israeli citizens to live in terror. It is untenable for Palestinians to live in squalor and occupation. And the current situation offers no prospect that life will improve. Israeli citizens will continue to be victimized by terrorists, and so Israel will continue to defend herself. And the situation of the Palestinian people will grow more and more miserable.

My vision is two states, living side by side in peace and security. There is simply no way to achieve that peace until all parties fight

terror. Yet, at this critical moment, if all parties will break with the past and set out on a new path, we can overcome the darkness with the light of hope. Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership, so that a Palestinian state can be born.

I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror. I call upon them to build a practicing democracy, based on tolerance and liberty. If the Palestinian people actively pursue these goals, America and the world will actively support their efforts. If the Palestinian people meet these goals, they will be able to reach agreement with Israel and Egypt and Jordan on security and other arrangements for independence.

And when the Palestinian people have new leaders, new institutions, and new security arrangements with their neighbors, the United States of America will support the creation of a Palestinian state whose borders and certain aspects of its sovereignty will be provisional until resolved as part of a final settlement in the Middle East.

In the work ahead, we all have responsibilities. The Palestinian people are gifted and capable, and I am confident they can achieve a new birth for their nation. A Palestinian state will never be created by terror. It will be built through reform, and reform must be more than cosmetic change or a veiled attempt to preserve the status quo. True reform will require entirely new political and economic institutions, based on democracy, market economics, and action against terrorism.

Today, the elected Palestinian legislature has no authority, and power is concentrated in the hands of an unaccountable few. A Palestinian state can only serve its citizens with a new constitution which separates the powers of government. The Palestinian Parliament should have the full authority of a legislative body. Local officials and government ministers need authority of their own and the independence to govern effectively.

The United States, along with the European Union and Arab states, will work with Palestinian leaders to create a new constitutional framework and a working democracy for the Palestinian people. And the United States, along with others in the international

community, will help the Palestinians organize and monitor fair, multiparty local elections by the end of the year, with national elections to follow.

Today, the Palestinian people live in economic stagnation, made worse by official corruption. A Palestinian state will require a vibrant economy, where honest enterprise is encouraged by honest government.

The United States, the international donor community, and the World Bank stand ready to work with Palestinians on a major project of economic reform and development. The United States, the EU, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund are willing to oversee reforms in Palestinian finances, encouraging transparency and independent auditing. And the United States, along with our partners in the developed world, will increase our humanitarian assistance to relieve Palestinian suffering.

Today, the Palestinian people lack effective courts of law and have no means to defend and vindicate their rights. A Palestinian state will require a system of reliable justice to punish those who prey on the innocent.

The United States and members of the international community stand ready to work with Palestinian leaders to establish finance—establish, finance, and monitor a truly independent judiciary.

Today, Palestinian authorities are encouraging, not opposing, terrorism. This is unacceptable. And the United States will not support the establishment of a Palestinian state until its leaders engage in a sustained fight against the terrorists and dismantle their infrastructure. This will require an externally supervised effort to rebuild and reform the Palestinian security services. The security system must have clear lines of authority and accountability and a unified chain of command.

America is pursuing this reform, along with key regional states. The world is prepared to help.

Yet ultimately, these steps toward statehood depend on the Palestinian people and their leaders. If they energetically take the path of reform, the rewards can come quickly. If Palestinians embrace democracy, confront corruption, and firmly reject terror, they can count on American support for the

creation of a provisional state of Palestine. With a dedicated effort, this state could rise rapidly, as it comes to terms with Israel, Egypt, and Jordan on practical issues such as security. The final borders, the capital, and other aspects of this state's sovereignty will be negotiated between the parties as part of a final settlement. Arab states have offered their help in this process, and their help is needed.

I've said in the past that nations are either with us or against us in the war on terror. To be counted on the side of peace, nations must act. Every leader actually committed to peace will end incitement to violence in official media and publicly denounce homicide bombings. Every nation actually committed to peace will stop the flow of money, equipment, and recruits to terrorist groups seeking the destruction of Israel, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah. Every nation actually committed to peace must block the shipment of Iranian supplies to these groups and oppose regimes that promote terror, like Iraq. And Syria must choose the right side in the war on terror by closing terrorist camps and expelling terrorist organizations.

Leaders who want to be included in the peace process must show by their deeds an undivided support for peace. And as we move toward a peaceful solution, Arab states will be expected to build closer ties of diplomacy and commerce with Israel, leading to full normalization of relations between Israel and the entire Arab world.

Israel also has a large stake in the success of a democratic Palestine. Permanent occupation threatens Israel's identity and democracy. A stable, peaceful Palestinian state is necessary to achieve the security that Israel longs for. So I challenge Israel to take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state.

As we make progress towards security, Israel forces need to withdraw fully to positions they held prior to September 28, 2000. And consistent with the recommendations of the Mitchell committee, Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories must stop.

The Palestinian economy must be allowed to develop. As violence subsides, freedom of movement should be restored, permitting innocent Palestinians to resume work and nor-

mal life. Palestinian legislators and officials, humanitarian and international workers must be allowed to go about the business of building a better future. And Israel should release frozen Palestinian revenues into honest, accountable hands.

I've asked Secretary Powell to work intensively with Middle Eastern and international leaders to realize the vision of a Palestinian state, focusing them on a comprehensive plan to support Palestinian reform and institution-building.

Ultimately, Israelis and Palestinians must address the core issues that divide them if there is to be a real peace, resolving all claims and ending the conflict between them. This means that the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 will be ended through a settlement negotiated between the parties, based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, with Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognized borders.

We must also resolve questions concerning Jerusalem, the plight and future of Palestinian refugees, and a final peace between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and a Syria that supports peace and fights terror.

All who are familiar with the history of the Middle East realize that there may be setbacks in this process. Trained and determined killers, as we have seen, want to stop it. Yet the Egyptian and Jordanian peace treaties with Israel remind us that with determined and responsible leadership, progress can come quickly.

As new Palestinian institutions and new leaders emerge, demonstrating real performance on security and reform, I expect Israel to respond and work toward a final status agreement. With intensive effort by all, this agreement could be reached within 3 years from now. And I and my country will actively lead toward that goal.

I can understand the deep anger and anguish of the Israeli people. You've lived too long with fear and funerals, having to avoid markets and public transportation, and forced to put armed guards in kindergarten classrooms. The Palestinian Authority has rejected your offered hand and trafficked with terrorists. You have a right to a normal life. You have a right to security, and I deeply

believe that you need a reformed, responsible Palestinian partner to achieve that security.

I can understand the deep anger and despair of the Palestinian people. For decades you've been treated as pawns in the Middle East conflict. Your interests have been held hostage to a comprehensive peace agreement that never seems to come, as your lives get worse year by year. You deserve democracy and the rule of law. You deserve an open society and a thriving economy. You deserve a life of hope for your children. An end to occupation and a peaceful, democratic Palestinian state may seem distant, but America and our partners throughout the world stand ready to help—help you make them possible as soon as possible.

If liberty can blossom in the rocky soil of the West Bank and Gaza, it will inspire millions of men and women around the globe who are equally weary of poverty and oppression, equally entitled to the benefits of democratic government.

I have a hope for the people of Muslim countries. Your commitments to morality and learning and tolerance led to great historical achievements, and those values are alive in the Islamic world today. You have a rich culture, and you share the aspirations of men and women in every culture. Prosperity and freedom and dignity are not just American hopes or Western hopes. They are universal, human hopes. And even in the violence and turmoil of the Middle East, America believes those hopes have the power to transform lives and nations.

This moment is both an opportunity and a test for all parties in the Middle East, an opportunity to lay the foundations for future peace, a test to show who is serious about peace and who is not. The choice here is stark and simple. The Bible says, "I have set before you life and death . . . therefore choose life." The time has arrived for everyone in this conflict to choose peace and hope and life.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks to Firefighters and Displaced Families in Eagar, Arizona *June 25, 2002*

The President. Thank you. It's nice to see you. I'm sorry we're doing so under these circumstances. But I want you to know that a lot of people in our country are pulling for you. They understand the suffering that families are going through because of worry about your most precious possession, your home. They understand that a lot of you are living in tents when you'd rather be in your own bed. They cry for you, and they hurt with you. And I'm here to say on behalf of the American people, God bless you.

I want to thank Governor Hull for being—she called me a couple of days ago, and she said, "This is really bad. You've got to understand how bad these fires are. We're kind of used to fires out west, but this is the biggest of all big fires." And I appreciate her leadership. I appreciate her concern.

See, my job and her job is to make sure that all resources are coordinated and funneled to help the people. That's what we're here to do. And the Governor is committed to that, and as am I. And that's why I brought my man, Joe Allbaugh. Where is he? There he is.

Audience member. Right here.

The President. He's the pretty one. *[Laughter]* He runs what they call FEMA, which is the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Its job is to provide help. That's what its job is to do, provide help during emergency. And this is an emergency.

Today I signed a declaration declaring this an emergency, which then provides for Federal help, which means money to fight the fires. It means temporary housing money and long-term housing money. It means help for small-business owners. I understand there's a lot of small-business owners who are worried about your business, and I don't blame you. I'd be worried too. And it provides help. It helps provide counseling services, and a lot of folks here—I hope if you need counseling, you ask for it—a lot of people we want to help. So, this is the Federal Government's way of committing the resources allowed under the law, the full extent of the resources under the law.

I appreciate Congressman J.D. Hayworth for working this issue hard. I appreciate you being here, J.D. Thanks for coming.

We got people down here from the Interior Department. A fellow named Steven Griles is the number two man in the Interior Department. I want to thank Steve for being on site here, for spending a lot of time in this area—again, to make sure that whatever we can do to help, we really would like to try to do so.

I want to thank the Red Cross. I appreciate the good—I appreciate, I want to thank Chad Ettmueller, who's the—I guess the man in charge of the Red Cross here. He just gave me a briefing on the number of meals being served—over 9,000—the number of people being housed.

You know, one of the great things about this country is that there's a lot of loving people here in this country. I always say—[*applause*]. And not only is the Red Cross helping, but the Salvation Army is as well. See, here's what I tell them. What the enemy didn't understand is, when they attacked America, they didn't understand how kind and decent this country is. And so I'm here to say thanks on behalf of the volunteers, the people who are doing their best to spread compassion to people who need compassion, to spread love to people who need love, to spread guidance to people who seek guidance.

I also want to thank the Forest Service, Dale Bosworth. Listen, we've got a lot of work to do to make sure the Forest Service has got wise forest policy, to make sure to maintain the forests so that they're healthy and viable and not become kindling-boxes.

I want to thank all the firefighters, the people who are—[*applause*]. I had the honor of shaking some hands today of some of those who wear the uniform of the firefighter. You know, we focus on the houses which have been lost, and there have been too many houses lost. One house lost is too many houses lost—one house. But there's been thousands of homes saved too, and that's important.

People that are just working their hearts out on behalf of their fellow citizens, you can look in their eyes and see the exhaustion. But I can assure you, having talked to them, and

I know you have as well, they're not quitting until this thing is whipped. And I hope that makes you feel somewhat better, to know there's a lot of people out there working their heart out on your behalf.

I want to thank the mayors who are here, Kelly, Mayor Kelly, Mayor Handorf, and Mayor Kay Dyson, of Show Low and Pinetop and Springerville. You see, one of the other things that's important is there's a lot of local folks who are doing everything they can to help as well. I want to thank Dallas Massey, who's the chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He came by to say hello today.

Let me make this clear to you: We're all in this together. It is a—these fires wreak havoc on everybody who stands in their way. They don't pick and choose. And I hope, as we stay united to make sure that we do the best job we can in fighting these fires, that people stay united in doing this. It's an important moment. It's an important time for people to stay bound up in their compassion and in their desire to fight off this devastating disaster that's befallen you all.

And so it's been my honor to come. I look forward to shaking as many hands as I can. This is a—I know it's a tough moment in a lot of people's lives, there's just no doubt in my mind. But just like this war we're under, I believe out of evil can come some great good. It's hard to tell it right now. It's hard to tell it. I know it's hard to tell it. It's easy for me; you say, yes, sure, he flies down in Air Force One and comes here and says that. It's easy for him to say it. But that's what I believe, because I do believe there is a gracious and almighty God that's looking out after the people who've been affected.

So hang in there. Hang in there, you're brave and great people. Thanks for giving me a chance to come by and say hello. May God bless you, and may God bless your families.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the multipurpose room at Round Valley High School. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; Chad Ettmueller, chief development officer, Grand Canyon Chapter, American Red Cross; Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Forest Service; Mayor Gene Kelly of Show Low, AZ; Mayor Ginny Handorf of Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ; and Mayor Kay Dyson of Springerville, AZ. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Implement International Terrorism Conventions

June 25, 2002

Earlier today I signed into law the implementing legislation for two very important United Nations international conventions against terrorism: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. I thank the Congress, especially the judiciary committees, for its hard work in passing this legislation, which will strengthen our campaign against global terrorism. The Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of these Conventions last December. Now that this legislation has been enacted, the United States will deposit its instruments of ratification at the United Nations and become a party to these two Conventions.

These two Conventions strengthen international efforts to defeat terrorism of global reach. They underscore—along with 10 other international terrorism conventions—the broad moral consensus that violence against innocent civilians is a criminal act and must be punished. These Conventions also require parties to them to take practical steps to bring terrorists and their supporters to justice. The Terrorist Bombings Convention creates a new and important mechanism for nations to cooperate in investigating and prosecuting terrorist crimes. The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism strengthens our continuing efforts to cut off the flow of funds to terrorist groups.

In Canada this week, I will be discussing with leaders from other industrialized nations ways we can ensure that all countries take stronger legal measures against terrorism. In particular, I urge all countries to join us in becoming party to these Conventions and fully adhering to U.N. Security Council Resolutions to stop terrorism, particularly U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which denies safe haven to terrorists and prohibits ter-

rorist financing, recruitment, and access to weapons and other support. I will continue to work with other leaders around the world to build a consensus that terrorism, whatever the excuse, is unacceptable. Working together, America and the other freedom-loving nations of the world are moving towards a day when our children can live free from the fear of terrorism and free to achieve their dreams.

NOTE: H.R. 3275, approved June 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107-197.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Legislation To Increase the Public Debt Limit

June 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am writing to ask that the bipartisan cooperation you have shown in our war against terror and creation of a new Department of Homeland Security be extended to another important priority: maintaining the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Because of the economic slowdown that began in the summer of 2000, the terrorist attacks of September 11, and the ongoing expense of the war, the Secretary of the Treasury last December asked the Congress to increase the statutory ceiling on the Government's ability to raise funds. Seven months later, the Congress has still not acted, although it has routinely fulfilled this responsibility in the past.

The Treasury has had to take extraordinary measures to allow the United States Government to continue to function normally as a result of the failure of the Congress to act. These are only temporary measures, not an excuse for the Congress to fail to fulfill its duties.

I urge you and Minority Leader Gephardt to show the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation that Senate Majority Leader Daschle and Senate Minority Leader Lott showed 2 weeks ago with their bipartisanship on this important issue.

As we fight for freedom, we must not imperil the full faith and credit of the United

States Government and the soundness and strength of the American economy.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker, and Richard A. Gephardt, minority leader, House of Representatives. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis, Canada

June 25, 2002

Prime Minister Chretien. I am delighted to have the President in Kananaskis. It's a beautiful part of Canada, and it's where we produce oil and natural gas that you guys need a lot.

President Bush. That's right. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Chretien. And so I wanted to show this beautiful province, and it's just north of Texas. [Laughter] And so—and they play baseball here too.

President Bush. That's right. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Chretien. So, welcome, Mr. President.

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said I was going to be stunned by the beauty of this place. And you're right. It is spectacular. I really want to thank you for your hospitality and working hard to put on this important conference. We appreciate it.

Middle East Peace Proposal

Q. Mr. President, will you be asking the Prime Minister for support on your recent peace plan?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Mr. President, can I follow up on that?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Today the—

President Bush. So this is two of the four questions. [Laughter]

Q. Do you expect—today Israel captured the seventh of eight major cities and today announced—

[At this point, cell phones rang.]

President Bush. Everybody settled down? All right, go ahead.

Q. In the incursions today by Israel, we now have 700,000 Palestinians confined to their homes. Do you condone those actions? And do you think it will make it harder gaining the support of G-7 leaders with that kind of activity going on Israel right now?

And quickly to the Prime Minister, do you support President Bush's position that the Palestinians won't, can't, will not get statehood unless Arafat is ousted?

President Bush. If I might say what I said yesterday, I said the Palestinians need new leadership, elected leadership. They need a constitution. They need the international donor community to participate so long as there's transparency and the financial institutions are sound enough to reject corruption. In order for there to be hope, there needs to be the emergence of the institutions necessary for a peaceful Palestinian state to emerge.

And I will continue to remind all parties they have responsibilities, that if there's a true desire for peace, they ought to work for that peace. And listen, everybody has got a right to defend themselves. But there also had to be a vision toward a way forward. And that's what I talked about yesterday.

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territory

Q. Do you condone the action?

President Bush. Everybody has a right to defend themselves. But all parties must work toward peace. If they're interested in peace, they've got to work toward peace. And I laid out the conditions necessary, that I thought were necessary. I called upon all parties in the region to assume the proper responsibilities.

Prime Minister Chretien. And then for me, I think that it's important that the statement to the effect that we need in this part of the world an Israel that is secure and well-protected and, eventually, a state for Israel. And the situation of Jerusalem will always be complicated, but it will take—we have to secure two countries there that can live in peace.

And as the President said, on both sides we have to work towards peace. And of

course, there will be elections; I'm told that there will be an election before the end of the year. And I hope that it will be a real election that will produce somebody that will be democratically elected. I'm not—the President talked about perhaps it will be better to replace Mr. Arafat. I don't have the specific point of view on that. I will—I think it might be a good thing. I don't want to comment on that. But I just say that we need quick election there and to produce the best leadership, because—and it's very important to have a constitution and a real state, alongside Israel that has to be secure and well-protected.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Q. Prime Minister, there are several thorny issues that continue to divide Canada and the United States, and you appear to be making no headway on them. Everyone knows softwood lumber is another one. And I also wanted to ask you about the border pact, how far along are you on that?

Prime Minister Chretien. Oh, we're doing very well on that. We were supposed to have a meeting—we'll have a meeting very soon. I think that Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley have done a fabulous job. And I think that we've made a lot of progress on that, and we're supposed, eventually, to have an occasion to celebrate the good work between Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley.

President Bush. Let me comment on this.

Q. Sure.

President Bush. We've got a significant relationship together. It's a vibrant, positive friendship. We've got enormous trade between our two countries. The trade is in the interests of all of us. There are some problems on occasion, but we've got the kind of relationship where we can be very frank about it and try to work them out. And the opportunities and the benefits from our relationship far exceed—far exceed—the few problems that face us.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters], last question. There you are, Adam. Emerge.

Strength of the Dollar

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Are you concerned about the weakening dollar? And

should the United States do something about it?

President Bush. Adam, as you know, my position is, is that the dollar will seek its level based upon—based upon market forces and based upon whether or not our country can rein in spending, can recover, can revitalize our manufacturing base. And so the dollar will seek its appropriate level based upon market forces.

Prime Minister Chretien. And I say the same thing about the Canadian dollar. [Laughter]

President Bush. Good fastball.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:09 p.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. Prime Minister Chretien referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Deputy Prime Minister John Manley of Canada. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis

June 26, 2002

President Bush. I'm going to make a comment; the Prime Minister will make one. We'll call in an orderly fashion, answer a couple of questions, if you don't mind.

First, I'm—it's great to be with my friend the Prime Minister. This is our second bilateral of the day. The first was in the gym. I went down after a run, and there was the Prime Minister working out—an impressive regime, I might add. [Laughter] So we had a good visit there, and we'll have a good visit here. America has got no better friend than the Government of Great Britain. And I really appreciate his advice and friendship. It's good to see him.

I am deeply concerned about some of the accounting practices that take place in America. Today the revelations that WorldCom has misaccounted \$3.4 billion is outrageous. We will fully investigate and hold people accountable for misleading not only shareholders but employees as well.

There is a need for a renewed corporate responsibility in America. Those entrusted

with shareholders' money must—must—strive for the highest of high standards. The good news is, most corporate leaders in America are good, honest, open people who care deeply about shareholders and employees. And our economy is strong. When we find egregious practices, such as the one revealed today, we'll go after them—and need to.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, Mr. President, first of all, thank you for your kind words. And I thought you looked in pretty good shape yourself this morning.

And once again let me pay tribute to your leadership at this time, particularly post-September the 11th, but actually on all the range of issues in the world today. Our relationship is strong, partly because you and your colleagues are so easy and open and transparent to deal with it, and I thank you for that.

And obviously, we have discussed and will discuss all the key issues that are to do with the summit and the issues to do with the Middle East and so forth. And I'm sure our discussions will be good and fruitful, as they always are.

President Bush. Finlay [Finlay Lewis, Copley News Service].

Middle East Peace Proposal/Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, in your speech you made it very clear that the current leadership in Palestinian is not acceptable. If the outcome of the election in January were to result in the reelection of Yasser Arafat, what would be the policy of your Government?

President Bush. I meant what I said, that there needs to be change. If people are interested in peace, something else has got to happen. We're mired in the situation now where there is terror on the one hand and hopelessness on the other, and that's unacceptable.

And therefore I laid out a way forward for Palestinians, the Israelis, the Arab world, and all the rest of us worried about. And it said basically the new institutions—there needs to be a new constitution; there needs to be elections; there needs to be balance of power; there needs to be new security forces; there needs to be transparency amongst financial institutions.

I also made it plenty clear that if their leadership compromised by terror, we won't be on the path to peace. I've got confidence in the Palestinian, when they understand fully what we're saying, that they'll make right decisions as to how we get down the road for peace. The status quo is simply unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to them. They live in a—you know, they've been pawns in the game of peace. They have no hope. Their economy is in shambles. They live in squalor. Their leadership has let them down.

Q. Mr. President, who will be the judge, though, in the sufficiency of the reforms that you're calling for?

President Bush. The free world, the people that are going to be asked to put up money. Listen, I can assure you we won't be putting money into a society which is not transparent and corrupt, and I suspect other countries won't either.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, can I ask you, do you agree that there's got to be change, and that means an end to Yasser Arafat?

And can I ask you also, Mr. President, whether you agree with the Europeans that you're not as serious as Mr. Blair about helping Africa?

President Bush. Okay.

Prime Minister Blair. First of all, let me just make it clear, as I said to you yesterday, it's for the Palestinians to elect the people that they choose to elect. But if we're going to make progress, we need people that we can negotiate with who are serious about negotiating around the issues of security and political reform necessary for the peace process to work.

So this is no question of us going in and saying to the Palestinians, "Look, we're going to run your election." But it is a question of us saying, "If we want this peace process to work, there are certain clear preconditions. One, we've got to have leadership we can negotiate with that is serious about peace and resists and totally rejects terrorism. Two, we've got to have a security infrastructure in Palestine that has integrity.

And three, we've got to have political institutions capable of giving rise to the viable Palestinian state that we believe should be the outcome of this process. So if in the end you want, as we want, an Israeli state that is confident about its own security and a viable Palestinian state, those are the preconditions. For Israel to be confident, it's got to have a negotiating partner that is serious about tackling terrorism."

Now, that is, I think, the essence of it. So, you know, it's not a question of saying we're going to tell people who they elect or not elect; that's for them. But it's for us to say, the consequences of electing people who aren't serious negotiating partners is that we can't move this forward.

Q. And that's Arafat you're talking about—

Prime Minister Blair. Well, you know, as I said to you yesterday, we've had a situation over the past few years—and I've tried as hard as anyone. I think I've had 30 different meetings with Chairman Arafat over the past few years. But as I said to you yesterday, you've got a situation where we have not been able to make progress, and there has been an attitude towards terrorism that is inconsistent with the notion of Israel's security.

Assistance to Africa

President Bush. As to Africa, all of us are doing as much as we possibly can. I don't think this is a competition. I'm proud of the Blair government's efforts for Africa, and I'm proud of my efforts for Africa. After all, I laid out what I call a Millennium Challenge Account in Monterrey, Mexico, that says if countries adopt the habits of democracy and freedom and private property and reform, there will be \$5 billion a year available. I laid out a new AIDS initiative that is the first of its kind, that says we're going to provide a lot of money, about half a billion dollars, to mother-to-child—to affect mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. We're also significantly involved in the AIDS fund. I laid out another initiative on a \$200 million education fund. So I'm plenty pleased with the progress we're making.

Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]. We call him Stretch.

National Economy/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Glad to have it back. [Laughter] Mr. President, if Yasser Arafat is compromised by terror and if the Palestinian Authority has trafficked with terrorists, under your doctrine are you prepared for the U.S. to step up its military role in eliminating him and those terror organizations which the administration believes that he props up?

And totally unrelated to that, do you believe that there is a crisis in confidence among the American people vis-a-vis the economy, and particularly the stock market, in view of yet another failure of an American corporation?

President Bush. Let me answer the second question first. The market isn't as strong as it should be for three reasons. One, corporate profits: There's no question some sectors of our economy are recovering from the slow-down. But they'll recover.

Secondly, there are still some concerns as to whether or not the United States and our friends and allies will be able to prevent further terrorist attack. In other words, there's some concerns about the capacity of the enemy to hit us again. And I want to assure American investors and our friends that we're doing everything we possibly can—the Government is on full alert, attempting to run down every hint and every lead.

And thirdly, there are some concerns about the validity of the balance sheets of corporate America, and I can understand why. We've had too many cases of people abusing their responsibilities. And people just need to know that the SEC is on it; our Government is on it. After all, Arthur Andersen has been prosecuted. We will pursue, within the full—within our laws, those who are irresponsible.

Having said that, I do believe the economy is strong, and I know that most people that run businesses in America are above board, honest, care deeply about their employees and their shareholders.

First question?

Bush Doctrine

Q. Under the Bush Doctrine, any—

President Bush. Under the Bush Doctrine, I said we'd use all resources, all available resources, to fight off terror. And that includes working with our friends and allies to cut off money, to use diplomatic pressure, to convince—to convince those that think they can traffic in terror that they're going to face a mighty coalition. And sometimes we use military force, and sometimes we won't.

In the case of the Middle East, obviously, the roadmap I've laid out is one that calls upon all our friends and allies to join and bind together against terror. It calls upon the Arab nations to step up and firmly reject terror. If you remember, in my speech, I said they need to get on their public airways and denounce terror; they need to work on Syria and Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah from creating chaos in the Middle East. We all have responsibilities, and in this case the tool I'm using is diplomatic pressure, to work with our friends and allies to convince all parties they have a responsibility to bear.

Q. Are you ruling out military action?

President Bush. I'm never ruling out military. All options are available. But in this case, at the path I've laid out, is the path that ought to be clear to you by now. It's one that—the one that I spoke to clearly.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Final question, British reporter.

War on Terrorism

Q. I'm the only British reporter here. [Laughter]

President Bush. [Inaudible]—British accent? [Laughter]

Q. I speak English.

President Bush. I may not understand you. [Laughter]

Q. Can we just ask about the war on terror, because you know, anyone who has come up here knows what a fortress you've got here. What more have you got to agree with your G-8 partners here on—

President Bush. On the war on terror?

Q. On the war on terror.

President Bush. I think it's just an up time to give an update. We've got to do everything we can to cut off their money, do everything we can to keep the pressure on countries which might not realize that we're still serious.

We've had some great successes. One of the most recent successes, of course, is Gloria Arroyo in the Philippines. She's a part of our vast coalition. She early on said, we need to get after Abu—you know, the Abu Sayyaf* group. And she did it. And to her credit, it looks like the leader met his demise. And the Philippines are better off for that, and so is the world.

And so this is a chance for us to continually remind each other that we—our countries are still under threat, but we're making good progress. This is a different kind of war; I readily concede that. Sometimes people are going to see success, and sometimes they're not, but we're making success.

Prime Minister Blair. And I think the important thing, too, is to emphasize to people that it's a continuing trend. I mean, this threat is not over yet. We have to make sure that in every single battle we carry this fight on, and it will take a long time.

But I think if you—if we're to look at Afghanistan today and think back 7, 8 months, I think we've come a very, very long way indeed. And I'm optimistic about it, because I think the coalition against terror is as strong today as it was all those months ago.

President Bush. Let me just make sure you understand, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], what I said. I can tell from the tone of your question that there was a little doubt in your mind—some doubt.

No leader ever takes options off a table. But the path to peace that I believe is appropriate is the one I talked about in the Rose Garden the other day—just to make sure you understand.

Q. Diplomacy.

President Bush. Absolutely.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Prime Minister Blair referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

* White House correction.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis

June 27, 2002

President Bush. First——

Q. Okay, President Bush——

President Bush. Wait a minute, please. I first want to say how pleased I am to meet with Vladimir Putin again. Every time we meet, we have a very constructive dialog, and we have a very important dialog. And I appreciate so very much his leadership and his continued willingness to find a new common ground in this most important relationship.

Yesterday a court in America made a ruling that I want to comment on. America is a nation that is—a nation that values our relationship with an Almighty. Declaration of God in the Pledge of Allegiance doesn't violate rights. As a matter of fact, it's a confirmation of the fact that we received our rights from God, as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. I—I believe that it points up the fact that we need commonsense judges who understand that our rights were derived from God. And those are the kind of judges I intend to put on the bench.

Mr. President, do you want to make a comment or just answer questions?

[At this point, President Putin began his remarks in Russian.]

President Bush. Do you want to interpret this for the American press?

President Putin. I want to say that I'm also very glad to meet with President Bush. And moreover, I'd like to emphasize that the President and I are having very good personal relations, and our colleagues in our capitals also note that interaction between our countries is becoming very efficient, not only from the viewpoint of bilateral relations and solving bilateral issues but also as regards to resolution of major international problems.

And there is one subject that is of particular importance and responsibility the U.S. and Russia undertook; that is the promotion of international security. And during the time since the signature of our international treaties on stability, international stability between our countries, we have had an oppor-

tunity to evaluate these documents and pass them to the parliament for further ratification—I mean the treaty between the United States and Russia on cutting strategic offenses.

And I'm simply very glad to meet George again and have a chat with him and discuss all the problems that are of concern for both our nations.

President Bush. Thank you.

Patience, please. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

WorldCom/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, there are some Democrats who think they can make some political hay out of the WorldCom failure and other business scandals by, first, noting that polls show a lot of Americans think you're too close to big business and, second, arguing that because of that, your reform proposals aren't tough enough. What do you think the political impact of WorldCom will be? Are you concerned about it?

President Bush. I'm concerned about the economic impact of the fact that there are some corporate leaders who have not upheld their responsibility. If you are a responsible citizen and you run a corporation in America, you must fully disclose all assets and liabilities, and you must treat your shareholders and employees with respect.

President Putin. During the general discussion at the G-8 meeting, the President paid attention to this issue. And for me and my other colleagues, it was very important to listen to the President's opinion, because under the circumstances of the globalized community and world, a lot depends on the state of the U.S. economy these days. And therefore, the willingness of the President of the United States to secure the stock market and market of the securities is very important, as well as the notion of transparency in the U.S. business, and is a very good signal.

President Bush. Do you want to call on a Russian media?

Middle East Peace Proposal

Q. President Bush, were you astonished by the European reaction towards your proposal in regards to Arafat?

President Bush. I'm very pleased with my—the response to my proposal in the Middle East. The response has been very positive. And the reason why is, most European leaders understand something has to change in order for there to be peace. And that starts with free elections, a new constitution, transparency, rule of law amongst the Palestinians. And that's the hopeful way to get to where we need to get, which is two states living side by side in peace. The response has been very positive, and for that I'm grateful.

Q. And one question to you, Mr. Bush.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. A question from the American reporters.

President Bush. Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek].

President's Personal Faith

Q. Thank you, sir. In light of the comments you just made about the Pledge of Allegiance, I'm wondering if you could talk about how your personal faith has helped you as President.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate you saying that, Martha. I—know, yesterday when I went to see the—or 2 days ago when I was—or yesterday—[laughter]—2 days ago, I went—

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Please, let me at least finish the answers.

I was amongst people whose lives were hurting a lot. And I was trying to figure out how to bring a sense of hope, and I thought that the best thing I could say was that there is a God who loves them. And I believe that's the case. And as a result, I feel comfortable in my life because I have that belief and that understanding.

You know, it's interesting, there is a universal God, in my opinion, and the first conversation I ever had with Vladimir Putin was about God—in Slovenia. It was a way that we—we'd never met each other, and the first discussion we had was about our personal beliefs.

I appreciate—you hear me say that I appreciate the fact that our country prays for me and Laura. And I do. I do. I feel the prayers of the people. And so there is a—I think that the Almighty is important—obviously, important part of my life but very im-

portant part of the life of our country. And that's why the ruling of the courts was out of step with the traditions and history of America.

Press Secretary Fleischer. Final question from a Russian reporter.

Russia-U.S. Cooperation in the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. Bush, the G-8 was supposed to carry out the six points having to do with terrorism. What is the relationship of the United States and Russia vis-a-vis this battle against terrorism, jointly? I only ask the Russian translation when you're speaking. Thank you.

President Bush. It sounds like you speak better English than some of us. [Laughter]

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] included. [Laughter]

First of all, President Putin has been a stalwart in the fight against terror. He understands the threat of terror, because he has lived through terror. He's seen terror firsthand, and he knows the threat of terrorism. One of the first—go ahead, do you want to translate?

He understands what I understand, that there won't be peace if terrorists are allowed to kill and take innocent life. And therefore, I view President Putin as an ally, strong ally in the war against terror. And his actions are more than—speak louder than his words. He has been a man of action when it comes to fighting terror, and I appreciate that very much.

Thank you all. We've got to have our bilateral. Thank you.

[At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and no translation was provided.]

President Putin. What I would like to say—that the military of our nations and special services of our countries are built up in a way so that they carry this global nature. And unfortunately, terrorism is of a global nature as well today. And therefore, we have repeatedly mentioned that joint efforts are essential if you want to be a success in this fight.

Therefore, we welcome the firm position of the U.S. President in this regard. And

therefore, we welcome his courage and consistency with which he persists his policies, in spite of any elements that interfere with that. And we expect that our interaction will have—will make a significant and decisive contribution to the elimination of terrorism worldwide.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:54 a.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Statement on the Supreme Court
Decision on Cleveland's School
Choice Program**

June 27, 2002

This landmark ruling is a victory for parents and children throughout America. By upholding the constitutionality of Cleveland's school choice program, the Supreme Court has offered the hope of an excellent education to parents and children throughout our country. This decision clears the way for other innovative school choice programs, so that no child in America will be left behind.

School choice offers proven results of a better education, not only for children enrolled in the specific plan but also for children whose public schools benefit from the competition. The Milwaukee choice plan, begun in the early 1990s, has resulted in substantially improved reading and math scores for thousands of low-income children. The program has also had a positive impact on the entire public school system, which has responded to competition with better results.

The education reforms we enacted earlier this year give unprecedented new options to parents of children trapped in low-performing schools. My budget builds on this act by adding important new options to empower parents—particularly low-income families—to improve their children's education. I urge Congress to move quickly to build on the momentum generated from this decision to enact my education priorities.

**Statement on House of
Representatives Action on Defense
Appropriations Legislation**

June 27, 2002

I commend the Members of the House for their strong, bipartisan show of unity in our war against terrorism with passage of the defense appropriations bill. I urge the Senate to work in a similar bipartisan fashion and pass the bill in July so that our men and women in the armed services have every resource they need to continue defending freedom. It is critical in this time of war that the defense appropriations bill be at the front, not the end, of the legislative line. Our troops deserve nothing less.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Representative Connie Morella**

June 28, 2002

I hate to disagree with our distinguished honoree, but the reason people are here, Connie, is because they love you, they trust you, and like me, want you reelected to the United States Congress.

I appreciate so very much the Morella boys for being here. That, of course, is Tony, the husband, Mark, the son, and Michael, the grandson, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. It's good to be here with the Morellas. It's clear that they love each other. They value their family. They understand that in family you can find strength of purpose and love and compassion and comfort. And I want to thank the Morella men for allowing Connie to serve our Nation and encouraging her to serve our Nation. She makes an important contribution, and therefore, you do as well.

I regret that my wife wasn't here today. But I want you to know she's doing fine. I can't tell you how proud I am of the First Lady. She really wasn't interested in politics when I asked her to marry me and frankly didn't care for politicians, if the truth be known. [Laughter] But now the people of the country are figuring out why I asked her to marry me. She's calm and steady and a gracious lady. A lot of people wonder why

she said “yes.” [*Laughter*] But we’re doing great. Many of you have said—some of you have said you pray for me and my family. It is the greatest gift you can give a President and his family, and for that, I’m grateful.

I appreciate Governor Ehrlich being here today as well—[*laughter*]—I meant Congressman Ehrlich. I thank Congressman Gilchrest, Wayne Gilchrest. There you are, Wayne. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you being here.

So here’s what I like about Connie: She speaks clearly. After all, she was an English professor. [*Laughter*] A lot of people think I probably need to spend a little quality time with her. [*Laughter*] But she’s an independent soul. She’s a highly intellectual person who is with you if she thinks you’re right and is gracious enough to explain to you when she thinks she’s wrong—when you’re wrong. And I respect that a lot. And I hope the people of this district respect that about Connie. She’s an incredibly thoughtful soul, with a big heart, who cares deeply for the constituents she represents and loves her country too.

You know, I like to tell people, when you find somebody who’s good and decent and honorable, you have a civic duty to make sure that that person remains in the Halls of Congress.

I appreciate so very much her focus on homeland defense, and so should you. I mean, the defense of our homeland is an incredibly important part of the national life these days. And after all, Connie represents the National Institutes of Health and does it well, I might add. She understands the important role that the National Institutes of Health can play in fighting off bioterrorism, preparing response for our Nation. She’s an advocate of doing what is right in the budget for the National Institutes of Health. For no other reason, people ought to send her back, because she’s got a clear vision of the importance of research for our country.

But as well she worked hard right after September the 11th to secure emergency funding for the Montgomery County’s local police forces and emergency response teams, those who worked so hard to help rescue and repair lives in the wake of that tragedy.

As you know, I’ve asked the Congress to think boldly about how best to protect the homeland. I mean, after all, we’ve got 100 different agencies involved with homeland defense. They’re scattered all over Washington. And it seems like to me that we ought to align authority and responsibility under one Cabinet office, so that we can affect the culture of the agencies that protect the homeland as well as make sure that we can affect the results. And fortunately, Connie understands that. And she is on the House Science and Government Reform Committees, two important committees that will be dealing with this important initiative.

I have been pleased with the response so far out of Congress. Both Republicans and Democrats alike understand that defending the homeland is not a partisan issue. It has nothing to do with political parties. It has everything to do with doing what’s right for the American people.

And the good news is, Connie understands that for the good of the country, some are going to have to give up what they call turf. You know, some people are going to have to say, “Well, this—I no longer can have oversight on this jurisdiction.” And that’s going to be hard. And it’s going to be difficult for some Members of the Senate and the House, and I understand that. But fortunately, we’ve got allies who understand the Nation comes first, and that leaving behind a legacy that will make it easier for future administrations and future Congress to deal with the true threats that face this country is more important than turf. And I want to appreciate Connie Morella’s leadership on this issue.

I appreciate so very much her strong commitment to Medicare and seniors who rely upon Medicare and the need for us to have prescription drugs in Medicare. As well I appreciate her strong commitment to making sure that we fulfill the promise of Social Security.

As well I love her passion for education. We worked closely on an education bill that I’m convinced will make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens. I mean, this was a good piece of legislation. After all, it had to be pretty good,

since Senator Edward Kennedy and I traveled around the country signing the bill. [Laughter] I know people in the Crawford coffee shop are wondering, "What the heck's he doing? That guy gets up there and—must've drank the water or something." [Laughter] But nevertheless, it's a good piece of legislation, and Connie poured her heart and soul into making sure it's good.

Let me explain it right quick. It says we ought to have high standards for every child in America, not just a few children, not just children from one demographic group but every child. We ought to believe in our heart that every child can learn. She understands and I understand that if you set low standards, you're going to get lousy results. If you believe certain children can't learn, guess what's going to happen? Certain children won't learn. And so we started kind of trying to change the mentality of public education by insisting on the fact that every child can learn.

And then we said something unique. We said, "If you receive Federal money, you've got to measure to see whether or not the children are learning." See, if you've got high standards and high expectations, you want to know. If you've got low standards and low expectations, you don't care. But if you've got high standards, you want to know. And so for the first time, the Federal Government says, "The State of Maryland, you get to measure to show us whether or not children are reading and writing and adding and subtracting."

And you see, if they are, then we'll praise the teachers and praise the plans and herald the curriculum that's working. But if not, we expect something else to happen. We expect there to be a change. We expect for people to say, "Wait a minute. This is unsatisfactory to allow certain children to learn and other children not to learn." You see, the idea of measuring and holding people accountable is to save lives; it's to enforce this belief that every child can learn; it's to make sure we have the highest of high standards.

And finally, in the bill, we say we trust the people of Maryland to chart the path to excellence. We understand that trying to run the public schools out of Washington isn't going to work. We believe in local control

of schools. And I appreciate Connie's commitment to education reform.

And finally, she has been a champion of the strong economy. We need to make sure that above all else here domestically, people can find work. You know, this is a town where people love to talk about statistics. Here's my attitude about the workforce: If somebody's looking for work who wants to work and can't find work, we've got a problem. We've got to continue to work to expand the job base.

I appreciate the Members of Congress here who supported the tax relief plan last year. It made sense to let people keep their own money, because when people keep their own money, they get to spend their own money.

And we'll continue to work to open up markets for products manufactured right here in Connie's district, so that we can sell overseas. You see, fearful people build walls around America. Confident people open—tear them down and open up markets. And I'm confident that the entrepreneurs in the State of Maryland and all across the country can compete if given a level playing field. And Connie understands that, and I want to—I appreciate her support for trade measures that the Congress has been working on.

I'm a little concerned about—I'm not concerned about the fundamentals of our economy. I think they're very strong. I think we've got the right fiscal policy in place, the right monetary policy—seems like it's good. People are concerned, however, about whether or not the balance sheets of corporate America are open, whether or not the numbers are real.

Let me tell you how strongly I feel about this: I believe if somebody is running a corporation, if somebody has got responsibilities to shareholders and employees, they have the responsibility to be above board at all times, to be frank and honest with all numbers.

We can have all kinds of rules, and we will. I laid out some initiatives in March of this year that will hold people accountable. And our Justice Department will hold people accountable. But corporate America has got to understand there's a higher calling than trying to fudge the numbers—trying to slip a billion here or a billion there and may hope

nobody notices—that you have a responsibility in this country to always be above board. We expect high standards in our schools; we expect high standards in corporate America as well. And I intend to enforce the law to make sure that there are high standards.

It is important for our fellow citizens to understand that the foundation for economic growth is strong in America; that our free enterprise system is strong, vibrant; that there's a lot of entrepreneurship that takes place across the country. And it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that, by far, the vast majority of our leaders in the business community are honest and upright people. That's important for them to hear. Just as important for them to hear, when we catch people doing wrong, there will be consequences for those who have done wrong.

So I feel good about our work on the economy. But we won't tire until we kind of boost the confidence of the country and, at the same time, work to continue to expand the job base so people can find work. And Connie Morella has been an advocate for this kind of approach, and I appreciate her leadership in the Congress.

One issue that affects our economy besides the competence and corporate profits, which are improving, is also the American people and the investors are worried about another attack on America. And as you know, we're doing everything we can here at home to button up the homeland.

Connie Morella's a huge supporter of the Federal workers, those who work hard to help America. And I've got to tell you, people are working overtime on behalf of our citizens. I'm proud of the effort people put in. Listen, we're running down every hint. If we get any kind of hint that somebody's thinking about doing something to this country, we're on it—"we" being hard-working Federal employees like the FBI. People analyze data; there's a lot of people in this town who spend a lot of time on the—now the number one mission of the country, which is to protect our homeland. And I'm proud of their efforts.

But the surest way to protect the homeland, the best way to make sure that America is safe and secure, is to hunt the killers down

one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what we're going to do.

And we're after them—we're after them. Sometimes you might not know it. After all, this is a different kind of war. This war doesn't have the old troop movements of the past, where you could watch lines of infantry march here or squadrons of airplanes fly there. We're facing a shadowy bunch of killers, and that's all they are, coldblooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their death, who meld into big cities, you know, hide in the buildings hoping nobody knows they're there. And so it takes a while to achieve the battlefield victories, because we've got to change our mind set about what it means to achieve a battlefield victory. Battlefield victories come one person at a time in this war.

So I'm pleased to report, as I did the other day when I spoke to the Nation, that we've got about 2,400 of them so far. These are hardcore killers and their supporters and money raisers, part of their army. And it's not just America; it's our friends and allies who are—like the courageous leader of the Philippines, Gloria Arroyo, who we believe brought to justice the guy who was running this Abu Sayyaf group who managed to kidnap at least two Americans, the Burnhams, and the husband died unfortunately on the rescue attempt. But these people need to be got, and we've got our friends and allies getting them. And that's what we're going to spend our time doing in this administration.

We made great progress in Afghanistan, obviously. I mean, we've still got a lot of work there, no question about it, because we want to leave behind a legacy of—that's safe and stable and secure. And there's still a lot of people there, kind of in caves and moving around, that eventually we're going to bring to justice.

But you've got to tell your sons and daughters that this great Nation went into that country not as conquerors but as liberators. In the midst of all the talk about war, it's important to reassure our youngsters that we don't seek revenge, we seek justice, and that this compassionate Nation want to help people, that we believe in freedom. When people attack our freedoms, we'll respond.

I don't know what got into the minds of the enemy. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic that, after September the 11th, all we might do is file a lawsuit or two. They don't understand the character of this Nation and how much we love freedom. And when it comes to our freedoms, we will spend the time necessary to defend our freedoms.

And that's why I've submitted to Congress a significant increase in the defense spending, because I want our troops to have the best pay, the best equipment, the best training possible, and I want to send a message to the world that America is in this fight for freedom for the long pull.

And the House of Representatives passed the defense appropriations bill overwhelmingly, and I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats for voting on that bill. And I expect the Senate to get the defense appropriations bill to my desk quickly, for the good of our planning for this war, for the good of understanding what money is going to be available. Instead of playing politics with the defense appropriations bill, they need to do what the House did and get it passed in a bipartisan fashion so I can sign it as quickly as possible.

We're making great progress. Like the American people, I'm a patient man. And we're deliberate. I think the American people fully understand the new—the nature of this war. I believe history has called us into action. I mean, I believe history has shined the spotlight on this country, and people are wondering, are we going to blink, or are we going to lead? That's what they're wondering. And there's only one course, and that's lead toward freedom.

There are some true threats that face us, beyond, obviously, this Al Qaida network, and you've heard me speak about them. I believe, for the sake of our children's future, we've got to deal with and be realistic about these countries which develop—harbor the desire to develop weapons of mass destruction. You see, we cannot let America and our friends and allies become blackmailed by the world's worst leaders who harbor the world's worst weapons. And so for the sake of our future, you just need to know that we'll use every tool at our disposal—every tool at our

disposal—to make sure that our children can grow up in a free world.

No, we've been given a chance to show the world what we're made out of, and we are. This is a fantastic nation. And I believe that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. It's hard for people to probably realize that, but I believe it. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe that if America is tough and firm and resolved, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace if we speak clearly, no doubt of where we stand. We can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have no hope for peace, where people might have given up.

No, I believe out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, not only abroad, but I believe here at home too—I believe here at home. This country is so compassionate and decent and kind that out of the evil done to us can come some incredible good.

We've got to understand in this country, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction. There are people who say, "This American Dream has absolutely nothing to do with me." And that bothers me, and it bothers Connie, too. But you know what I know? I know that our society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And I know there are thousands and millions of Americans who understand that to fight evil, you can do some good by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And it doesn't take much. It doesn't take much. It doesn't take much to be tolerant to your neighbor. It doesn't take much to mentor a child or to go into a shut-in's house and say, "I love you," to deliver food out of your church or your mosque or your synagogue. It doesn't take much. It takes a commitment to something greater than yourself, is all it takes. It takes a desire to serve your Nation not only as a patriot who is willing to put his hand over his heart on the Pledge of Allegiance but understands that patriotism is serving that person in need. And that's happening in America.

You watch. Out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good in this country. And you know why? Because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And

it is my honor to be your President. And it's Connie's honor to be representing Maryland in the United States Congress.

Thanks for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:04 p.m. in Salon 3 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Representative Morella is a candidate for reelection in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2002

June 28, 2002

Each year on Independence Day, Americans honor and celebrate the courageous action that our Nation's Founders took on July 4, 1776—the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With that brave and profound decision, the Founders demonstrated their love for liberty and proved that they were willing to fight and die for freedom. As we honor our Founders' bold vision on this first observance of Independence Day since September 11, Americans possess a greater national unity and a deeper appreciation of the things that matter most in our lives—our faith, our love for family and friends, and our freedom.

In this new era, Americans share a renewed appreciation for the ideals that make our country strong. Our fine service men and women are fighting and winning the war on terror. They deserve the gratitude of all people who cherish freedom.

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have been steadfast in their efforts to build a country of liberty, peace, and opportunity for all. As we act to lift the dark cloud of terror from our Nation and the world, we reaffirm our determination to preserve our Forefathers' legacy of freedom. In doing so, we honor their legacy as we move forward into the 21st century.

On this Independence Day we pay special tribute to all those currently serving in the Armed Forces and to our veterans. Their contributions have been critical to the de-

fense of our country, and our Nation is grateful.

Laura joins me in extending best wishes for a safe and memorable Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 23

In the afternoon, the President attended a tee-ball game on the South Lawn at the White House.

June 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Port Elizabeth, NJ, where he met with Teen Freedom Corps volunteers Joanna Glick, Kelly Bianco, and Allison Cohen. Later, he toured port facilities and met with first-responders who participated in rescue efforts after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He then traveled to Newark, NJ, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michelle Guillermin to be Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

June 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Springerville, AZ, where he took an aerial tour of the wildfires in the area. He then met with emergency and rescue personnel fighting the wildfires. Later, he traveled to Eagar, AZ, where he met with families displaced by the fires.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Kananaskis Village resort in Kananaskis, Canada, for the G-7/8 Summit.

In the evening, in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort, he met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

The President declared a major disaster in Arizona and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on June 18 and continuing.

June 26

Throughout the day, the President attended G-7/8 meetings.

The President announced his nomination of Nancy J. Powell to be Ambassador to Pakistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate David L. Lyon to be Ambassador to Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

The President announced that the 60 recipients of the 2001 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers will be honored in a White House ceremony on July 12.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding on April 27–May 30.

June 27

Throughout the day, the President and other G-8 leaders met with African leaders and Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Ellen Watt to be Ambassador to Panama.

June 28

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced the President's appointment of the following individuals as White House Fellows: Cesar Aristeguieta; Balan R. Ayyar; David A. Carmel; Cesar Conde; Heather H. Graham;

Richard Greco, Jr.; Eric D. Hothan; Vincent D. McBeth; Jonathan S. Spaner; Daniel S. Sullivan; William J. Thornton; Rajeev V. Venkayya; and Barry K. Williams.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House: Leonore Annenberg, Kenneth Blasingame, Helen Cooper, Wendy Cooper, Lonnie Bunch, William Kloss, S. Roger Horchow, Elizabeth Gerschel, Leslie Neuhoﬀ, Richard Nylander, and John Wilmerding.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 25

Richard H. Carmona, of Arizona, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of 4 years, vice David Satcher, term expired.

Michelle Guillermin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Anthony Musick.

David L. Lyon, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nauru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Tonga,

and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Tuvalu.

Nancy J. Powell,
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Submitted June 26

Richard A. Griffin,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Damon J. Keith, retired.

Daniel L. Hovland,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota, vice Patrick A. Conmy, retired.

Thomas W. Phillips,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, vice James H. Jarvis II, retired.

Linda R. Reade,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, vice Michael J. Melloy, elevated.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2431

Released June 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs Gary Edson on the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada

Released June 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer on the court decision on the Pledge of Allegiance

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action on welfare reform legislation

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska

Fact sheet: Cooperative G-8 Action on Transport Security

Fact sheet: G-7/8 Kananaskis Summit, Day One—U.S. Accomplishments

Announcement of nominations for a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit and U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Iowa, the District of North Dakota, and the Eastern District of Tennessee

Released June 27

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the G-8 Summit

Statement by the Press Secretary: Madagascar: Post-Dakar II

Statement by the Press Secretary on the resignation of Gen. Wayne A. Downing, USA (Ret.), as Deputy Assistant to the President, National Director and Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism

Announcement: Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge To Travel to Niagara Falls, Ontario, To Meet With Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley To Discuss U.S.-Canada Action Plan To Secure the Border

Fact sheet: G-8 Summit: Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Fact sheet: G-7/8 Kananaskis Summit, Day Two—U.S. Accomplishments

Released June 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Dr. Richard Tubb, Physician to the President, on the President's medical condition

Announcement: Deputy Prime Minister John Manley and Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge Release Progress Report on the Smart Border Declaration and Action Plan

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved June 24

S. 2431 / Public Law 107–196
Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains
Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002

Approved June 25

H.R. 3275 / Public Law 107–197
To implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings to strengthen criminal laws relating to attacks on places of public use, to implement the International Convention of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to combat terrorism and defend the Nation against terrorist acts, and for other purposes

Approved June 28

H.R. 327 / Public Law 107–198
Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002

S. 2578 / Public Law 107–199
To amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit

Week Ending Friday, July 5, 2002

**Remarks and an Exchange With
Reporters on Departure for
Camp David, Maryland**

June 28, 2002

President's Health

Q. Mr. President, what's the story?

The President. Hold on, I'll tell you.

As you know, I've been recommending that Americans take precautionary measures for their health and that people should be screened on a regular basis, particularly those of us over 50. And tomorrow I'm going to have a colonoscopy at Camp David. It is the third such procedure I've had. The doctor has recommended I have another one because the last time, they found some benign polyps. And so this is kind of a routine physical examination that will be done at Camp David.

I'm going—I'm going to be sedated for a period of time and will transfer power to the Vice President during that time. And I look forward to exercising tomorrow afternoon, after the procedure takes place.

Q. Do you know how long it's going to be, sir?

The President. Well, it's—you know, the last time I did this, it wasn't very long. I mean, the definition of long—the docs will be briefing here pretty soon. But you know, it shouldn't take too long to—

Q. Is there anything that triggered this?

The President. No, not at all, John [John Roberts, CBS News]. I feel great. This is a part of the ongoing—you know, it's a kind of part of the annual physical. And so I just decided to do it at this time; it fit in with my schedule. And I feel great—no signs, no symptoms.

The last time we did one of these colonoscopies, they found benign polyps, and they recommended that—I think it was 2 years ago, and they recommended they take another look and see if there's anything in there.

Q. Should we read anything into the fact that you are going to transfer the power, the length of time of this?

The President. No, not at all. It's just that I made the decision. We looked at the precedent. I'm the first President to have done so under this type of procedure and/or physical examination. I did so because we're at war, and I just want to be super—you know, super cautious.

And I informed the Vice President of this, and he's fully prepared to—standing by. He'll realize he's not going to be President that long. [*Laughter*]

Q. Is he back in Washington, sir?

The President. He is. Yes, he is.

Q. What time will you be doing this tomorrow?

The President. Well, the time is—you know, I really don't want to put out a time, and I hope you understand why.

Q. Where's the Vice President, here?

The President. He'll be—I'm not sure where he'll be.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. We'll hold a briefing. We'll fill you in.

The President. Yes, I need to find out where he's—

Q. Any family history of colon cancer?

The President. Let's see, not really. Well, my brother—yes, I had a brother who had colitis. And so there's some history there.

I do recommend and urge that people take—get these precautionary tests and take a look. I had my first “scope,” as we say in the business, I think maybe 5 or 6 years ago. They discovered polyps for the first time. And it gets your attention a little bit. Fortunately, they were benign. And I think it's important to continue to get good checkups, and that's what this is about.

So anyway, I'm glad to be able to share that with you. [*Laughter*] Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002

June 28, 2002

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 327, the “Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002.” This legislation will help achieve an important objective of my Administration to reduce the cost and burden on small businesses of government paperwork and increase the resources available to small businesses to create jobs and economic growth.

Section 3 of the bill creates a new section 3520 in title 44 of the United States Code to create an interagency task force on information collection and dissemination to help the heads of departments and agencies reduce the government burden on small businesses. Section 3520 purports to require task force publication of differences in views among executive officers and transmittal of recommendations to congressional committees. The executive branch shall construe section 3520 in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the confidentiality of executive deliberations, and to recommend to the consideration of the Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 28, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 327, approved June 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–198. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address

June 29, 2002

Good morning. This week, we learned of another deeply troubling accounting scandal at a major American corporation. Reports al-

lege that the company hid nearly \$4 billion in expenses and reported profits when it may have actually lost more than a billion dollars. The Securities and Exchange Commission immediately filed suit against the company to preserve documents so that a complete and thorough investigation can take place and to ensure that the company cannot give massive payments to executives during the investigation.

Despite recent abuses of the public’s trust, our economy remains fundamentally sound and strong, and the vast majority of businesspeople are living by the rules. Yet, confidence is the cornerstone of our economic system, so a few bad actors can tarnish our entire free enterprise system. We must have rules and laws that restore faith in the integrity of American business. The Government will fully investigate reports of corporate fraud and hold the guilty parties accountable for misleading shareholders and employees. Executives who commit fraud will face financial penalties, and when they are guilty of criminal wrongdoing, they will face jail time.

In March, I unveiled a 10-point plan designed to enhance the economic security of Americans by providing better information to investors, making corporate officers more accountable, and delivering a stronger, more independent auditing system. Among other measures, the plan would give the Securities and Exchange Commission two critical tools to hold corporate officers accountable.

First, corporate officers who personally benefit from false accounting statements should lose all the money gained by their fraud. An executive whose salary or bonus is tied to his company’s performance makes more money when the company has done well. That is fair when all of the accounting is done aboveboard. Yet, when bad accounting practices make the company appear to be more successful than it actually is, corporate executives should lose their phony profits gained at the expense of employees and stockholders.

Second, corporate leaders who violate the public’s trust should never be given that trust

again. The Securities and Exchange Commission should be able to punish corporate leaders who clearly abuse their powers by banning them from ever serving again as officers or directors of publicly held corporations.

Since my call for action, the Securities and Exchange Commission has sought to take away the profits of senior executives from four different companies. And in this fiscal year, the SEC has sought to bar 54 officers and directors. On Thursday, the SEC ordered the CEOs and CFOs of the 1,000 largest public companies to certify that the financial information they submitted in the last year was fair and accurate.

In addition to bringing a new measure of accountability to American businesses, my administration is committed to protecting the retirement savings of American workers. The plan I unveiled in February would give workers greater freedom to diversify and manage their own retirement funds. It would ensure that corporate executives are held to the same restrictions as workers during blackout periods, when employees are prohibited from trading in their accounts. It would give workers quarterly information about their investments, and it would expand workers' access to investment advice. These measures should give American workers confidence that their investments will not fall prey to unethical executives.

America is ushering in a new era of responsibility, and that ethic of responsibility must extend to America's boardrooms. I want every American to know that the vast majority of businesspeople are honest individuals who do right by the employees and their shareholders. The unethical actions of a few should not be allowed to call into question our whole free enterprise system.

No violation of the public's trust will be tolerated. The Federal Government will be vigilant in prosecuting wrongdoers to ensure that investors and workers maintain the highest confidence in American business.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:50 a.m. on June 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Temporary Transfer of the Powers and Duties of President of the United States

June 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As my staff has previously communicated to you, I will undergo this morning a routine medical procedure requiring sedation. In view of present circumstances, I have determined to transfer temporarily my Constitutional powers and duties to the Vice President during the brief period of the procedure and recovery.

Accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am unable to discharge the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3, the Vice President shall discharge those powers and duties as Acting President until I transmit to you a written declaration that I am able to resume the discharge of those powers and duties.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of both letters. Originals were not available for verification of the content of the letters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Resuming the Powers and Duties of President of the United States

June 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am presently able to resume the discharge of the Constitutional powers and duties of

the office of President of the United States. With the transmittal of this letter, I am resuming those powers and duties effective immediately.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of both letters. Originals were not available for verification of the content of the letters.

Proclamation 7575—Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

June 28, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Nearly 200 years ago, President Thomas Jefferson sent an expedition westward to find and map a transcontinental water route to the Pacific Ocean. With approval from the Congress, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on their legendary 3-year journey to explore the uncharted West. The expedition included 33 permanent party members, known as the Corps of Discovery.

Their effort to chart the area between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast set these courageous Americans on a remarkable scientific voyage that changed our Nation. In successfully completing the overland journey between the Missouri and Columbia River systems, they opened the unknown West for future development. During their exploration, Lewis and Clark collected plant and animal specimens, studied Indian cultures, conducted diplomatic councils, established trading relationships with tribes, and recorded weather data. To accomplish their goals, the Corps of Discovery relied on the

assistance and guidance of Sakajawea, a Shoshone Indian woman.

As we approach the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's expedition, we commend their resourcefulness, determination, and bravery. This Bicentennial should also serve to remind us of our Nation's outstanding natural resources. Many of these treasures first detailed by Lewis and Clark are available today for people to visit, study, and enjoy. As the commemoration of this journey begins in 2003, I encourage all Americans to celebrate the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark and to recognize their contributions to our history.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby designate 2003 through 2006 as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. I ask all Americans to observe this event with appropriate activities that honor the achievements of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I also direct Federal agencies to work in cooperation with each other, States, tribes, communities, and the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial to promote educational, cultural, and interpretive opportunities for citizens and visitors to learn more about the natural, historical, and cultural resources that are significant components of the Lewis and Clark story.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:44 a.m., July 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

**Memorandum on Emergency
Military Counterterrorism
Assistance to the Armed Forces of
the Philippines**

June 28, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–24

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Presidential Determination to
Authorize the Furnishing of Emergency
Military Counterterrorism Assistance to the
Armed Forces of the Philippines

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that:

- (1) an unforeseen emergency exists that requires immediate military counterterrorism assistance to the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and
- (2) the emergency requirement cannot be met under the authority of the Arms Export Control Act or any other law except 506(a) of the Act.

I therefore direct the drawdown of up to \$10 million of defense articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense to the Philippines for counterterrorism assistance.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1.

**Remarks at a Rally on Inner-City
Compassion in Cleveland, Ohio**

July 1, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I’m feeling great, by the way. [*Laughter*] And I’m glad I’m here. And thank you all for coming.

We’ve just come from a discussion of community leaders all involved with trying to

make Cleveland a compassionate, decent place for every citizen. Some were Democrats; some were Republicans; all of them Americans, all of them Americans who understand that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, that by loving a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself, you can do some good in our country. You can fight evil by being a decent, honorable, compassionate citizen. And that’s what I want to talk about today. I want to talk about the soul of America.

First, I appreciate my traveling party and the folks who showed up here today. I want to thank Rod Paige for being the Secretary of Education. I like to remind people that when I was—came time to pick a Secretary of Education, that I wanted somebody who had actually been on the frontlines of education. I didn’t need a theorist. I needed somebody who was a practical person, somebody—and I knew Rod when I was the Governor of Texas and he was the superintendent of our State’s largest school district, Houston Independent School District. And our test scores soared when he was leading that district. And so I—fortunately, he came to Washington, DC. He’s made a huge sacrifice to be there, and he’s doing a fine job. And I want to appreciate Rod, and I appreciate his leadership. I appreciate his being a straightforward fellow. It’s easy to understand where he’s coming from. He’s coming from this perspective: Every child must be educated in America—every child.

I also brought another man along with me, Alphonso Jackson, who is the Deputy Secretary of HUD. Alphonso’s job is to make sure we work tirelessly to promote homeownership in America. And I appreciate Alphonso coming. I’m going to talk a little bit about that later on.

Of course, I appreciate so very much the elected officials who have joined: My friend the Governor of the great State of Ohio, Bob Taft, is with us; your senior Senator, a fine friend and a good man, George Voinovich, is with us. I think you’re—are you the senior Senator? He’s the junior—he’s the oldest junior Senator. [*Laughter*] He’s a junior Senator who happens to be a senior citizen, he said. [*Laughter*] But a young—he thinks young. He’s a great man.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation, both Republicans and Democrats alike: Ralph Regula, Steve LaTourette, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and Dennis Kucinich. I appreciate you all coming. Thanks for being here. I appreciate you're here.

I appreciate the attorney general, Betty Montgomery, from the great State of Ohio. I'm honored that the mayor of the great city of Cleveland would come; Mayor Campbell, thank you for being here. I'm honored you're here—appreciate you. I had the honor of listening to a elected—a local elected official, Ms. Fannie Lewis, who had some things to say. Thank you, Fannie, for coming.

Today, as I landed at the airport, I had the honor of meeting a gentleman named Eugene Brudno, and Eugene is a Cleveland resident who has spent a lot of time of volunteering in the community. The reason I mention Eugene is, one of the true strengths of this country is the fact that we've got so many citizens who have heard the call to help somebody in need, and they don't need a Government telling them to do it. They just do it because they love their community. And Gene has been loving his community for a long time. Gene, would you stand up and please wave? Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Alex Machaskee for having sponsored the discussion we had today. I want to thank the United Way leadership for being here. I want to thank you all for coming. I am honored that you're here.

I've got some things to say—it's really how great America—I mean, what a fabulous country we have. We are lucky to be Americans. And as Americans, we have responsibilities. We have responsibilities. If you live in this country and you want to be a patriotic soul, you have a responsibility. And I think one of those most important responsibilities is to help a neighbor in need. I do.

And I've got a responsibility too. Perhaps my biggest responsibility is to keep our homeland secure. I want to give you a brief update about our attempts to keep the homeland secure. At home, we're doing everything we can do. I want to thank all those on the frontline, the first time—the first-responders, the police and fire and EMS teams, for

being prepared and ready and working long hours.

In Washington, DC, we've got a lot of good folks who are spending a lot of time chasing down any hint or any lead, any idea that somebody might have to hurt us. We're on it. And you just need to know, we are actively focusing our attention and efforts to keep the homeland secure.

We're fighting an enemy that hates what we stand for. They don't value human life. The death of innocent people doesn't bother them in the least. They've hijacked a great religion. They kill in the name of the religion when, in fact, they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded fanatics and killers.

I've asked the Congress to take all the agencies involved with the homeland defense—there's about 100 of them scattered all over Washington, DC. You can imagine what that is like, trying to hold somebody accountable. I said, "We should put it all under one umbrella called the Cabinet officer, and give us a chance to align authority and responsibility. Give us a chance to change the culture of these agencies. Give us a chance to say, protecting the homeland is now the single most important priority of the Federal Government."

And I appreciate the response from both Republicans and Democrats alike to the initiative I laid out. It's tough for some. I recognize that. I mean, there's some turf in Washington. [*Laughter*] And people like to protect the turf. But by far, most Members understand that it's more important to protect the American people than the turf.

So we're making progress at home. But the surest way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. And we're making progress.

This isn't a—the type of war we're all used to. It's not the kind of war where there's tanks moving across, you know, some plain, and everybody gets to see the progress of the tanks. This isn't the kind of war where planes are in formation. This is a war that we fight against these shadowy terrorists that hide in caves or hide in big cities and send young souls to their death through suicide. That's the kind of people we're after. But we've hauled in over 2,400 people so far. I

say “we;” I’m talking about not only the United States but a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries. And so we’re after them one by one. I guess the best way to describe the strategy is to treat them for what they are, international criminals; get them on the run; and when we find them, bring them in and get them.

And that’s what this mighty country is going to do, because, you see, we love our freedom. We stand for freedom. We love freedom of religion. We love freedom of the press. We love to speak freely. We love politics. We love what we’re doing in this country. And anybody who threatens our freedoms will face the ire of the mighty United States of America.

And we’re in this deal for the long haul. There is not a calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date, we quit. That’s not how I think, and I don’t believe that’s how the American people think either. The American people understand that we need to be patient and resolved and determined to do what is right. History has called us into action. And for the sake of our young, for the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we must be strong enough and resolved enough to defend freedom to the core, to not waver or tire in the face of an enemy that hopes that we relinquish our love for freedom and the values we hold dear in America.

You know, I can’t imagine what was going through their mind when they attacked us. They must have thought America was so materialistic and so selfish and so self-absorbed that we might just file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] They learned differently. They learned that we love our country and love our freedoms.

But I want the youngsters here to understand, this great country doesn’t seek revenge; we seek justice. And this great country, when we go somewhere, we don’t go as conquerors; we go as liberators. I want our country to keep in mind what happened in Afghanistan. Afghanistan was a country that had been hijacked by these Al Qaida killers, with a complacent Government. We said, “If you harbor a terrorist, you’re just like the terrorist. We’re going to treat you just like the terrorist.” And we upheld that doctrine by

removing the Taliban, but more importantly, we liberated people. For the first time, young girls go to school in Afghanistan, thanks to the United States and our coalition.

And that’s—and that’s going to be our posture for a long time coming too. We believe in freedom for all. We believe in the value of individual life. We’re a compassionate, strong nation, a nation that through our determination will bring peace.

Oh, I know that in the midst of this war, there is a lot of warlike talk, and I’m as guilty as—I’m guilty. [Laughter] I talk that way. But I want you to know, I love peace. I want the world to be at peace. I believe out of the evil done to America can come some good. And one of the goods is going to be a peaceful world, peace in places where we haven’t seen peace in a long time and peace at home for our children and our grandchildren. I long—I long for a peaceful world for every citizen on the face of the globe. And I believe that the United States can lead to peace if we’re strong and resolved and unified.

And I also believe that as we make the world more peaceful and America more secure, we can make America a better place, a better place for all of us, not a better place for some, not a better place for a few, but a better place for all. I think that means that our Government, Federal Government, must be active to promote self-government and self-reliance and independence. It means that we must encourage individuals and communities and families to take more responsibility for themselves and their neighbors and our Nation.

Our aim isn’t to make Government bigger by spending more money. Our aim isn’t to focus on finance, large or small. Our aim must be to mean that when we spend money, we spend it on what works to create a better society. I call this compassionate conservatism.

It is conservative to trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence in education. It’s conservative to liberate parents. It’s conservative to pass power out of Washington, DC, when it comes to public schools. It is compassionate to make sure not one child gets left behind in America.

It is conservative to promote private property and ownership of homes. It is compassionate to understand there is an ownership gap in America, and we must use our resources to close that ownership gap by encouraging minority ownership of homes in America.

It's conservative to reform welfare and reduce dependence on Government. It is compassionate to encourage work and family and values of personal responsibility. It is conservative to understand Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts, and therefore, we should promote the good works of faith-based and community-based programs.

It is compassionate to understand, in the land of plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people who, when you say "the American Dream," say, "I don't know what that means." And it's compassionate to understand, all of us, no matter what your political party is, must do something about it. We must work to make the American Dream reach into every single neighborhood all across America.

I believe that starts with making sure everybody gets a good education. Rod talked about the No Child Left Behind legislation. Let me tell you what I think the bill says. I believe it says that our society must believe every child can learn, and that means we've set high standards. If you set low standards, guess what's going to happen? If you have low expectations, you know what's going to happen? We'll just give up on kids—see?

It's so much harder to, by the way, educate inner-city—some inner-city children. It's easy to walk into a classroom full of inner-city African Americans, for example, and say, "You can't learn. We'll move you through." Or how about classrooms full of children whose parents don't speak English as a first language? It's easy to quit on those kids. "Heck, it's hard to educate a child whose parents don't speak English. Why don't we just shuffle them through the system?" That means you have low hopes, low standards, low expectations. We start with a different premise: Every child can learn, regardless of their circumstances. And we expect every single child to learn in America.

We said, "Yes, there's a role for funding," and we increased funding for Title I programs here in Cleveland by 23 percent. And that's good, and that's important. We want to help the disadvantaged through funding. But Washington shouldn't be telling Cleveland how to run its school system. See, that's up to you all to figure out how to run your school system.

But we've instituted a new reform, and it's an important reform. It says, if you do receive the money, if you decide to take Federal money, show us whether or not the children are learning, see. Show us whether or not expectations are being met.

I've heard it all: "We can't test"; "We test too much"; "We test too much"; "We shouldn't test children whether they can read"; "See, all you do is teach the test." Listen, if you can teach a child to read, they can pass a test. You teach them to read; don't worry about the tests.

We need to know in America whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract. That's what an accountability system is for. Not only do we need to know, but more importantly, the parents need to know whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. And if we find they can't, something else has to happen. We cannot allow our children to be trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change.

Starting this September, as many as 3.5 million students across America who attend failing schools will have different options, of transferring to another public school. It's part of being an accountable society. It's part of strengthening public education.

Listen, I think public education is one of the most important parts of democracy. In order to make sure the American Dream reaches every neighborhood, we've got to have good public schools all across America. We must. So we've got to strengthen the public education system by encouraging different opportunities if there's failure.

Low-income students, as a result of the new bill, in chronically failing schools will now have access to after-school tutoring. The money follows the child, and the parent can decide who provides the after-school tutoring.

There is not a single avenue to success. In order to achieve educational excellence for every child, there's got to be a multiplicity of approaches. That's why I believe so strongly in local control of schools. The people of Cleveland and the State of Ohio decided that one of the approaches they wanted to take was to encourage a voucher system to be implemented. That was a local decision, and the Supreme Court of the United States gave a great victory to parents and students throughout the Nation by upholding the decisions made by local folks here in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. It is a constructive approach to improving public education. We're interested in aiming toward excellence for every child. And the voucher system is a part of the strategy to achieve that here in Cleveland.

One of my jobs is to make sure that we continue to insist upon reform, to take this court decision and encourage others to make the same decision at the local level. One way to do so is through tax credits, which is now in my budget. I urge Congress, when we debate how to improve public education, to pass the tax credit so parents will have more flexibility and more choices when it comes to the education of their children, particularly K-through-12.

I also—the Supreme Court in 1954 declared that our Nation cannot have two education systems. And that was the right decision—can't have two systems, one for African Americans and one for Whites. Last week, what's notable and important is that the Court declared that our Nation will not accept one education system for those who can afford to send their children to a school of their choice and for those who can't. And that's just as historic.

I think by continuing to focus on high standards and results and local control of schools, we can all work together to make sure no child is left behind.

And by the way, I had the honor of meeting Roberta Kitchen today. She should be giving the speech, not me. Where's Roberta? Hi, Roberta. Roberta is a mom of five children, and her passion is a passion which is shared by moms all across America. Her passion is pretty simple: "I want my children to go to a safe school where he or she can

realize their full potential." Roberta, thank you for your love for your children. I appreciate you.

We also have got to do a better job of bringing the American Dream to all Americans by encouraging homeownership. There is a—we've got a homeownership gap in America. Let's face it. Over 75 percent of White Americans own their home, and less than 50 percent of Hispanos and African Americans don't own their home. And that's a gap. That's a homeownership gap, and we've got to do something about it.

One of the barriers to homeownership is the cost of downpayment. And I'm working with Congress right now to have a downpayment assistance program to help the homeowner be able to afford the downpayment.

I also believe that a barrier to entry is education. There's a lot of folks who, when they look at the fine print in the contract, don't quite understand what it means. Not only do we need to simplify the contracts, we've got to make sure that there's an outreach program to educate first-time homebuyers on what it means to own a home and how you do it, not to get nervous about the fine print, but to realize what's in the fine print so that the people can make good decisions. We've got money in the budget to do that. We want to work with the faith-based community to encourage the education of people to understand what it means to own a home.

I'm also working with the private sector to make sure they do their part. It's in the national realtors' interests, or the national homebuilders' interests that we encourage minority ownership of homes. We're trying to increase the demand for homes. One way to do that is to work with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to encourage capital, so that there's more money in the private sector for first-time homebuyers. We need billions of more dollars available for those who want to realize the dream. They have made the commitment to do so.

And finally, we need legislation, tax credit legislation that will increase the supply of homes, affordable homes all across the country, affordable homes in inner-city Cleveland, where people are able to find a home and realize their dreams.

The goal for this country is that by 2010 we have 5.5 million new minority homeowners. And when that happens—you watch what happens when these neighborhoods will become revitalized. It'll help the public school systems; it'll create such a sense of hope. This is a noble goal and one that I fervently believe we can achieve and must achieve to make America a better place.

We've got work to do. The Senate has got work to do, in passing a reauthorization of the welfare reform bill. One of the great success stories in recent past has been to reform welfare so as we reduce dependency upon Government. And that's important. See, we believe in the worth of each individual and believe if we help people, they can realize their full potential.

And it starts with finding work. It starts with a job. If somebody works, they're more likely to be able to realize dreams, to realize their God-given potential. And so we've got to continue to employ the resources and the vision to helping people find work. I believe work ought to be an incredibly important part, ought to be the standard by which welfare reform has been judged. And our society must work with local folks to implement strategies that will help people find work.

Listen, the Government is willing to pay for re-education. The Government is willing to pay for job training. But we need people at—the local people, just right like you do out here in Cleveland, to take the hand of somebody in need and say, “How can we help you? How can we help you realize the independence of finding—and the dignity, by the way—of finding work?”

I want to thank the employers in Cleveland for showing responsibility by helping on the welfare-to-work initiative. And I want to thank the faith-based programs for taking the resources available and to help people find work. We've got to continue—we've got to continue to promote work as part of a independent—independent—to encourage independence. And at the same time we do so, we've got to teach people the values of marriage and family.

And speaking about responsible society, one of the key things we've got to do here in America is make sure that all of us are responsible for the decisions we make, espe-

cially in this day and age, the CEOs of corporate America. We need to make sure that when the people put out their balance sheets, when people put out the facts and figures, there's no question about their veracity. There's no question that they're true numbers.

You see, in order to keep the job base increasing in America, there must be trust. And some have violated the trust. They haven't assumed their responsibility. I expect there to be responsibility at all levels in our society. And I intend to fully enforce the law when people cheat on the balance sheets of corporate America. We laid out an initiative in March to provide better information to investors, to make corporate officers accountable and responsible, to make sure that there's an independent auditing system, make sure this business about conflict of interest is eradicated. We need to rebuild the confidence in our job-creating system.

Now, you need to know that by far the vast majority, by far, of corporate America are above board and doing their jobs just the way you'd expect them to do, that they treat their investors, their shareholders, and employees the way you'd want them to. And that's important for America to know. It's also important to know we're going after those who aren't and hold them accountable.

Our economy, the foundation of our economy is strong. We've got good fiscal policy, good monetary policy. We just now got to get this—get trust built back in the country's leadership, which we will. We will. And one way to do it is to bring some of these folks to justice who have violated their trust. And we'll do that too.

I also want you to know that my philosophy really does trust the American people. I trust people when it comes to—the parents when it comes to educating their children. I trust people when it comes to making right decisions about whether to own a home. I trust people when it comes to helping find work. The strength of this country is really not in our halls of Government; it's in the hearts and souls of the American people. That's really why America is so strong a nation as we are today.

I also believe that—in the power of faith in people's lives, and that when we find people who have lost hope, maybe as a result of addiction or despair, that one way to help change America is to encourage those who have heard the call to love a neighbor to go love their fellow citizen. See, I've got great faith in America because I know our society can change one heart, one person at a time. And I know there are millions of soldiers in the armies of compassion who are willing to do just that. The Faith-Based Initiative that you've probably read about means this: Our Government should not fear programs which exist because of—a church or a synagogue or a mosque has decided to start one; we should not discriminate against programs based upon faith in America; we should enable them to access Federal money, because faith-based programs can change peoples lives, and America will be better off for it.

I urge the Congress to get the bill on my desk that does two things: One, allows for faith-based programs to compete for taxpayers' money to help change people's lives; and secondly, allows nonitemizers to receive a deduction on their income taxes when they give money to a charity. We need to do everything we can to encourage the strength of America, to help change America for the better.

Now, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good here. I believe it. I believe that our citizens, many citizens are now hearing the call that a true patriot is somebody who serves something greater than themselves. A true patriot is somebody who asks a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" A patriot is somebody who understands that life is more—that life is complete when you make a sacrifice for somebody else.

That certainly came home to a lot of Americans when Flight 93 was driven into the ground by citizens, normal, everyday citizens, who realized the plane they were on would be a weapon. And I want to remind you of what happened on that flight. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer, and they made the ultimate sacrifice for somebody else. That's the American spirit, as far as I'm concerned, the notion that in order—[applause].

And it is that spirit which is exhibited every day in our country when people say, "I think I want to mentor a child," and do so, and when people help an elderly shut-in, when people deliver food. It's the millions of acts of kindness and decency which define America, which show the true face of this great country. And I mean a great country.

It's a great honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming today, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. at the Playhouse Square Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jane L. Campbell of Cleveland; Fannie M. Lewis, Cleveland City councilwoman, ward 7; and Alex Machaskee, board chairman, United Way of Greater Cleveland. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Clear Skies Initiative

July 1, 2002

Today Environmental Protection Administrator Whitman released important new information about the unprecedented health and environmental benefits of the Clear Skies Initiative that I proposed in February. For the last several months, EPA has been working to generate new information about how Clear Skies will dramatically improve air quality in every region of the country. Clear Skies will bring Americans much cleaner air and healthier forests, lakes, and estuaries. Many cities and towns will meet air quality standards for the first time in years. We will virtually eliminate the problem of acid rain, which affects so many lakes and forests in the Northeast. We also will dramatically reduce urban smog and nitrogen and mercury deposition. Clear Skies will reduce air pollution from powerplants by 70 percent—the most significant step America has ever taken

to address this problem—while using a market-based system to keep electricity prices affordable for hardworking Americans. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the Clean Air Act through the passage of Clear Skies so we can improve air quality for all Americans.

Statement on Representative J.C. Watts, Jr.'s Decision Not To Seek Reelection

July 1, 2002

Congressman J.C. Watts has served the people of Oklahoma and the United States with honor and distinction as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

J.C. will leave behind a legacy of compassion and commitment to public service. He has been a leader in highlighting the success of faith-based and community-based organizations, and thanks to his efforts, these organizations may soon have additional resources in their fight against abuse, addiction, and poverty. His leadership was recognized by members of his party, and as Chairman of the House Republican Conference Committee, J.C. has effectively promoted the positive agenda of the Republican Party.

Though his tenure in the House is ending, he still has many talents to offer his country, and I know he will continue to contribute. J.C. is a good friend, and Laura and I wish J.C. and his wife Frankie and their family the best and thank him for his dedicated service.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of Funds Previously Transferred From the Emergency Response Fund

July 1, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to fulfill urgent requirements for civil aviation security, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred to the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Emergency Response Fund. These funds will now be allocated to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 107-38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001.

In addition, I am further revising my request for supplemental funding originally transmitted on March 21st to account for this transfer by adjusting my Administration's request for supplemental funding for FEMA and for TSA. This will ensure that FEMA has the full resources necessary to meet my commitment to the recovery of New York.

As provided in Public Law 107-38, the \$270 million to be transferred will be made available immediately to TSA to continue its civil aviation security responsibilities.

This is the second time I have arranged a "bridge loan" from FEMA to TSA to allow the Congress to complete action on my March 21st emergency supplemental request. This option will not be available a third time, since FEMA has no additional remaining unobligated funds from Public Law 107-38. It is imperative that the Congress quickly pass an acceptable emergency supplemental bill to prevent a disruption of commercial air travel.

I hereby designate the revised requests contained in the accompanying material as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2.

Exchange With Reporters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July 2, 2002

New York Times Article

The President. Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], what is it?

Q. Do you have any response—there's this columnist in the New York Times today who says that your role on the board of Harkin Energy back in the 1980s and its sale of Aloha Petroleum, your sale of stock, that amounts to the same kind of corporate misbehavior you're now criticizing.

The President. Everything I do is fully disclosed. It's been fully vetted.

Any other question?

International Criminal Court

Q. Excuse me, sir. Do you think you'll be able to work out that logjam, or is our participation in Bosnia coming to an end?

The President. The International Criminal Court is troubling to the United States. It's troubling to the administration and obviously trouble with the United States Senate as well.

President Clinton signed this treaty, but when he signed it, he said it should not be submitted to the Senate. It therefore never has been, and I don't intend to submit it either, because it—you know, as the United States works to bring peace around the world, our diplomats and our soldiers could be drug into this court, and that's a very troubling—very troubling to me.

And we'll try to work out the impasse at the United Nations. But one thing we're not going to do is sign on to the International Criminal Court.

Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, as you contemplate new penalties for corporate malfeasance, do you think that the laws on the books are insufficient to prosecute CEOs, or—

The President. I will make a statement on that at the appropriate time, Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Independence Day Celebrations

Q. How should Americans celebrate July 4th this year, given the anxieties about more attacks?

The President. They should celebrate heartily because we have freedom, and we love freedom. And I—they should also know our Government is doing everything they can to make the homeland secure, that people ought to be joyous in their celebration and celebrate the fact that we're fortunate enough to be Americans. I'm going to do that in West Virginia.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:16 a.m. during a tour of the Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Faith-Based Welfare Initiative in Milwaukee

July 2, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I—it's great to be here in the midst of so many social entrepreneurs—[laughter]—people who are willing to think differently in order to provide hope for people who need hope.

Wisconsin—Tommy is right—it's kind of the heartland of compassionate conservatism. People decided, "We're not going to worry about process; we'll worry about results. And the result we want is for everybody to feel a part of the American experience." I'm glad I picked Tommy to be in my Cabinet. You all trained him well—[laughter]—and he's doing a great job on behalf of all Americans.

Bishop Patterson, I'm honored that you would travel here. Bishop Patterson is a leader. He is a person who has got a clear vision about the need for the private sector and public sector to join together to help people who need help. And the fact, sir, that you traveled all the way here from the great city of Memphis, Tennessee, to be with us today is a tribute to your dedication to finding ways to improve people's lives. I'm honored you're here.

And then Bishop Daniels, I'm sorry that we kind of muzzled him. I was hoping that he would unleash—[laughter]—if not in

word, at least in song. I'm looking forward to listening to the Daniels CD that he gave me today. But I'm impressed by his vision as well. We had the opportunity earlier to see the building plans, and that's just the skeleton. The body comes from the works that are going to take place inside the building, based upon faith and compassion and decency, all aimed—those works all aimed to change people's lives. And Bishop, I appreciate what you're doing. I'm not kidding when I use the words "social entrepreneur." It's a word that's applicable to the bishop and the congregation and the church. The willingness for people to use the great power of faith to revitalize neighborhoods is inspiring. Mr. Bishop, thank you very much for having us here. I appreciate that.

I appreciate Members of the United States Congress coming today. I know Mark Green and Tom Petri are here—I'm honored you both are here—as well as the chairman, Chairman Sensenbrenner. Much of what I'm going to talk about in terms of the Faith-Based Initiative has—those accomplishments which have taken place in Washington, in other words, the bill that got out of the House—[laughter]—he is responsible for. I appreciate you, Jim, very much for your leadership.

I want to thank members of the statehouse who have come. Of course, the Governor's here. I appreciate Scott, and I appreciate his leadership, and I appreciate his willingness to carry on the vision of welcoming social entrepreneurs in the providing of aid and comfort to people who need help. I appreciate the speaker being here and the minority leader of the Senate in the State of Wisconsin. Thank you all for coming today as well.

I appreciate local officials—it seems like when the President shows up, quite a few people show up. And I'm honored that the mayor is here. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for coming. And County Executive Scott Walker, I appreciate you coming, Scott, too. Thank you.

And finally, the Bradley Foundation is represented here today. The reason that I'm so happy that my friend Mike Grebe is here and Mike Joyce and others from the Bradley Foundation is because foundation America

must be a part of the revitalization of our communities as well. And the Bradley Foundation has always been willing to seek different solutions. They've been willing to challenge the status quo. They'd say, "Where we find failure, something else must occur." And the foundation not only has been kind and generous with its donation, the foundation also has been willing to help people think anew. And I appreciate you all coming. I'm honored you're here, and thanks for your good work.

As I travel the country, I get to meet the quiet heroes of America, those folks who were willing to give of their time and talents and their heart to help people in need. Today Linda Stephenson came out to see Air Force One, and I'm glad she came, because it gave me a chance to thank her for 36 years of volunteering her time and efforts to help causes ranging from Youth Leadership Academy to Public Allies to Goodwill Industries. You see, the reason I like to talk about the individual hero is because America can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And while a person can't do everything, a person can do something to be a part of that. And thank you for coming, Linda. I'm honored you're here. Please stand up. [Applause] Got you. Thanks for coming.

Listen, we've got some big goals for America. Somebody asked me today, "What should people feel like going into the Fourth of July?" I said, "You should be celebrating the fact that we live in America and the Fourth of July is our Independence Day. It is the day we honor our freedoms, and as we honor the freedoms, we're going to do everything we can to protect the freedoms."

There are people that hate our freedoms, that really can't stand the thought that people are able to worship freely or speak their mind freely or be able to realize their dreams regardless of who they are. They don't like that, and therefore they want to strike out at America again. And I want to assure you that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland of America. We've got a lot of dedicated folks who work overtime, all the time, to run down any lead. Any hint, any idea of anybody trying to do something to America, we'll react to it, because protecting innocent life is my most important job and

the most important job of government at any level.

We value life; the enemy hates life. We say each life matters; they say innocent life doesn't matter. And so we've got a big task at hand.

The best way for us to secure the homeland, besides utilizing resources in an effective way to protect America, is to hunt this enemy down one by one and to bring them to justice. It's to find them where they try to hide and to bring them to—you notice I say we're not going to seek revenge. This Nation seeks justice because we love freedom.

It's going to take a while. It'll take a while. This is a different kind of enemy. These are the folks that hide in caves and then send youngsters to their suicide deaths. They don't march across land in formations. They—they're nearly invisible. But they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. That's—you've got to know how I feel about it. And so they'll be treated as international criminals. We will get them on the run and keep them on the run until we bring them to justice.

But you need to know—you need to know that—and it's important that you tell your youngsters—Bishop, I know you'll tell youngsters who hear about war that this Nation longs for peace. That's what—we do what we do for peace.

See, I believe that out of the evil done to America can come some good. I believe there can come some good, and part of that good is a more peaceful world, not only for Americans but for people all across the globe. I believe if the American—I know if America stays steadfast and strong and resolute and speaks plainly about the values, the human values that are universal, we can achieve peace in places where the people don't dream of peace. And that's what I think can happen and will happen.

And as we work hard to secure America, we've got to work hard to make America a better place, and that's what I want to talk about today. You see, it's one thing to make sure that we are secure, but we've also got to understand that in our plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. In our plenty as America, in our strength, our military strength, we've got to recognize there

are some people in our country who wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them. And so long as there's that despair and worry and hopelessness, this Nation must do something about it. And I've got some ideas about how to do it, and that's what I want to speak about today, because it relates directly to what's happening inside the walls of this church.

It starts with making sure every child gets a good education, not just a few, not just the ones that are apparently easier to educate, but every child, every single child.

That sounds obvious, but it's not obvious in the way we address education, because in some parts of the world, there aren't high standards. If you have low standards and low expectations, you know what you're going to get? You're going to get bad results.

If you believe every child can learn, you set high standards. And that's what we've done in the new law we passed out of the Congress called the No Child Left Behind law. It says that we expect the best for every single child, and since we do so, we want to know whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

If you have low expectations, you don't measure, because you say, "Well, certain kids can't learn, why measure?" If you care about each child, you do measure. And the measuring system is important, because it helps indicate what's working and what's not working. It helps show whether or not a curriculum makes sense or not makes sense. It helps us judge whether or not the very faces of our future can read, for starters. And if they can't read, we as a society must do something about it. We cannot accept mediocrity.

And so the first time in history, the Federal Government has said, if you take Federal money—and we're spending a lot of it, particularly for Title I students, and that's good—that you've got to show us whether or not the money is making a difference. You, the people of Wisconsin, measure.

And finally, a final part of this bill is it says we trust the local people to chart the path to excellence for their children. In other words, we pass power out of Washington to the local level, and we encourage—by doing

so, encourage any approach that works. See, we're not worried about the process; we're worried about the results.

That's why I am so appreciative of what Wisconsin and the city of Milwaukee has done in terms of providing choice. You call it whatever you want to call it, vouchers, choice, whatever it is. Freedom for parents is what I call it, and the results are better as a result.

I want to thank the bishop for having education as one of the cornerstones of this enterprise. You see, he understands what I know and you all know: If a child is educated, that child is more likely to be able to realize his or her dreams. An educated child is one much more likely to succeed. If you're worried about children going to prison, let's make sure that a child can read. That's the first step to making sure somebody can have a hopeful future. And the fact that this enterprise—what I call an enterprise—this fantastic operation has education within its building is a sign of clear vision.

And I want to thank the Supreme Court for making an important decision when it ratified the Cleveland voucher program. It said that—it was an important statement about let's focus on each child to make sure no child is left behind. Let's worry more about results and less about process.

In the bill that we've signed this year, there will be 3.5 million children who will be attending failing schools—that's the estimate. They will be given—their parents will be given different options, public school choice or after-school tutoring. It could be very likely that someone will come here into this building and find an after-school tutoring program, where the money follows the child, so that the parent and the child can escape from the mediocrity. And that's an important concept, very important concept.

I do believe the Federal Government can do more. I know we need to work with local jurisdictions to help them develop a variety of options for parents—all aimed, by the way, at making sure our public school system works. See, the public school system is an incredibly important part of democracy, and we want it to work, and we want it to work for every single child. And so I think we ought to work for an education tax credit that

will be a part of empowering parents to be able to make choices if they're dissatisfied with the status quo. We're going to make progress.

We're making progress on education. It's an important progress to make. It's an important way to make sure America is not only a secure country but a better country.

There's another initiative that I want to speak briefly about, and that is homeownership. We've got a homeownership gap in America: 75 percent of Anglos or white people own their homes; less than 50 percent of minority own their homes. That's a gap that needs to change. And so my goal—my goal is that by 2010, we have 5.5 million additional minority homeowners.

There are ways the Government, obviously, can help. One is to help people with their downpayment. People think about owning their home, and they say, "I can't afford the downpayment. Forget ownership. I'll just continue to rent." And so we're going to have Federal monies available to help people afford the downpayment so they can make the first big step into homeownership.

Secondly, we will work with the Tax Code to provide tax credits so that affordable new homes can be built, for example, in this neighborhood, so that people—low-income and moderate-income people will be able to have a new supply of homes from which they can choose and purchase if they want to own a home.

Thirdly, the private sector must do more, starting with freeing up capital. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac must, as part of their vision and mission, encourage minority ownership by helping more capital to be available. We're talking about over \$400 billion available over the next 10 years for people to be able to purchase their own home.

And finally, in the budgets we've submitted, and I'm confident Congress will pass, there is money for education. I can see, for example, I know the bishop has got a vision for homeownership in this neighborhood. I can easily see a desk or an office here where people who have never bought a home can come and become educated about what homeownership means. I mean, you pull these contracts out—you pull the contracts out, the print is about that big. Old guys like

me can't even read it with my reading glasses on. And people get worried about it. "Why am I going to sign all this paper? What does it mean for me?" And we've got to help first-time homebuyers understand what it means to own a home, the obligations, the opportunities in the future. And part of the money that is available for homeownership education is—that would be administered by faith-based institutions.

Another initiative that Tommy mentioned, that makes sense in order to make sure America is a better place, is welfare reform. Welfare reform to me means liberation from dependency. It means we realize each person matters, and if we can help people find work, it means there's dignity. And this State has been fantastic about encouraging work and helping people work and providing services to help people work and recognizing that faith-based institutions can make a huge difference in the training, in helping people train to be able to find work.

Again, I want to thank the bishop. You're beginning to get a picture of why I've come here. I'm talking about education and homeownership; now I'm talking about job training—all of which takes place here within the fabric of this institution.

Thanks to efforts in States like Wisconsin, the percentage of single black mothers working is the highest ever, and poverty amongst black children is the lowest ever. That's because people have found work.

Today Tommy Thompson, Secretary Thompson, announced that the Department of Health and Human Services is awarding \$200 million in bonuses to States that have performed best in helping people move from welfare to work. And Tommy's probably already made this announcement, but \$14 million of the \$200 million have gone to the State of Wisconsin, which shows that there's still a lot of good being done here in Wisconsin.

But as we reauthorize welfare, we've got to do more. We've got to do more. We've got to make sure that the progress made is not undermined. And one way to make sure that we continue to make progress is insist upon work and then help people who need help to find a job, either through training and/or job placement.

And today we saw what can happen. Today I met the recipients of the compassion in the building. One lady had been on welfare for a while, now owns her own business. Isn't that right? [Applause] There's story after story of people who have been helped, people who have come here not only to receive the Word but also have come here to receive a helping hand. And that's what I appreciate so very much about this program and faith-based programs all across the country. Our Government should not fear faith in our society.

Just ask Annette Williams, a mother of four who'd been on and off welfare; she's the owner. She's owned her own business for 4 years. Or Essie Lee, she'd been on welfare. She lost her job. She came here as a single mom. And by the way, being a single mother in America is the toughest job in America. It's the hardest work. And she came with a 12-year-old child. She got job training. She had counseling, and she's now gainfully employed in a catering business. In other words, the folks came here to obviously receive comfort from the Comforter, but they also came to receive a hand from people who want to help them.

Government can hand out money. We do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in their lives. That's been the fallacy of the Federal-Government-only approach to helping people help themselves. When we find programs that work, when we find a place that is actually effective at helping people, this Government ought to welcome such programs. That's why I'm here. We welcome this program.

Sometimes reality is that sometimes faith-based groups are prohibited or discouraged from even applying for Federal grants. Last week, my Director of the Faith-Based Initiative met with the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty out of New York. It's a group of people who want to help. They feed the hungry for their community. They feed the hungry regardless of somebody's religion. They don't ask, "What is your religion?" They ask, "Are you hungry?" But because of their name and their identity, Federal officials have repeatedly discouraged them from applying for Federal funds.

That's not right. The Federal Government should not ask, "Does your organization believe in God?" That's not the question they ought to ask. They ought to ask, "Does your program work? Are you saving lives? Are you making a difference in people's lives?"

We'll ask for accountability—of course, we'll ask for accountability. We should ask for accountability whether it be taxpayers' money or donations in the plate. *[Laughter]* There ought to be accountability. And obviously, we're not going to use taxpayers' money to evangelic—to promote religion. But we should use taxpayers' money to help people change their lives, so that they can realize the American experience and the American Dream.

We've got to get our Federal agencies to remove regulations that discriminate against faith-based groups. I've told all my Cabinet officers that's what I expect to happen in Washington, DC. And I want to thank Tommy for leading the charge on this.

I mentioned what we call the "CARE Act," "Charity Aid Recovery and Empowerment Act." That's the act that passed out of the House, and let me tell you what this act will do. One of the key principles is there's equal treatment. Organizations that have a religious name or religious icons on the wall like a cross or Star of David should be welcomed partners in providing for the poor. That's one of the principles.

It also encourages donations to charitable and faith-based organizations. Right now, non-itemizers don't get to deduct charitable gifts. I believe non-itemizers should be able to deduct charitable giving, which would encourage 84 million taxpayers—provide an additional incentive, beside their heart—to contribute to a faith-based organization or a charity.

I believe that we ought to have more resources available for the institutions which are struggling to cope with the Federal grant process. What we don't want to do is we don't want to stifle opportunity and stifle the imaginative process that takes place within our faith communities. We want to encourage it by providing what I call a compassion capital fund that will allow those who emulate the bishop, those who want to figure out how to get ahead to have a place to go to find

out what works, how it works, what to do in order to realize the vision of expanding compassion to every neighborhood in America.

No, this piece of the legislation is very important, and I—and we've got supporters all over Washington on this bill, and that's good, both Republicans and Democrats. See, I don't view faith as a partisan issue. I view it as a universal issue, much bigger than party politics.

Let me read one quote for you that says, "The CARE Act isn't a Republican or Democratic plan. It's a bipartisan proposal that strikes the right balance between harnessing the best forces of faith in our public life without infringing on the First Amendment." I agree with that. "Most importantly, it is representative of what we can accomplish in Washington when we put partisanship and politics aside and focus on what matters. I look forward to working with President Bush to get this proposal signed into law."

The author of the quote was Senator Tom Daschle, and I appreciate his support for this initiative. I look forward to the Senate getting the bill out of the Senate as quickly as possible, any differences reconciled with the House, and get it on my desk so I can sign it and we can get forward with the goal of making sure America is better for every citizen who lives in this country.

When the enemy hit us, they didn't know who they were hitting. Out of evil will come some really important good. Good will come when neighbors love neighbors just like they'd like to be loved themselves. It is the acts of kindness and generosity and decency, which you find right here, is what define the true face of our country. We recognize that there are people who hurt, and we want them to be healed. We recognize people are hungry; we want them to be fed. We recognize people can't read, and we want them to read. That's our focus.

Out of the evil done to America can come incredible good, because this is a great nation full of decent and loving and honorable people. And it is my honor today to be amongst great leaders—two fine bishops and a congregation which cares about their fellow man. Thank you for letting me come by. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. at the Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ. In his remarks, he referred to Bishop G.E. Patterson, pastor, Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ, founder and president of Bountiful Blessings Ministries; Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, pastor, Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ; Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Scott Jensen, speaker, Wisconsin State Assembly; Mary E. Panzer, minority leader, Wisconsin State Senate; Mayor John O. Norquist of Milwaukee; Scott Walker, county executive, County of Milwaukee; and Michael W. Grebe, president and chief executive officer, and Michael Joyce, former president and chief executive officer, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Executive Order 13268—
Termination of Emergency With
Respect to the Taliban and
Amendment of Executive Order
13224 of September 23, 2001**

July 2, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) (NEA), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, find that the situation that gave rise to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999, with respect to the Taliban, in allowing territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Ladin and the Al-Qaida organization, has been significantly altered given the success of the military campaign in Afghanistan, and hereby revoke that order and terminate the national emergency declared in that order with respect to the

Taliban. At the same time, and in order to take additional steps with respect to the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States, and the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, I hereby order:

Section 1. The Annex to Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is amended by adding thereto the following persons in appropriate alphabetical order:

Mohammed Omar (aka, Amir al-Mumineen [Commander of the Faithful])

The Taliban.

Sec. 2. For the purposes of this order and Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, the term “the Taliban” is also known as the “Taleban,” “Islamic Movement of Taliban,” “the Taliban Islamic Movement,” “Talibano Islami Tahrik,” and “Tahrike Islami’a Taliban”. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, is hereby authorized to modify the definition of the term “the Taliban,” as appropriate.

Sec. 3. Nothing contained in this order shall create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 4. Pursuant to section 202 of the NEA (50 U.S.C. 1622), termination of the national emergency with respect to the Taliban shall not affect any action taken or proceeding pending not finally concluded or determined as of the date of this order, or any action or proceeding based on any act committed prior to the date of this order, or any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 2, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:09 a.m., July 2, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Termination of the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

July 2, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 202(a) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that terminates the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999, related to the actions and policies of the Taliban, and amends Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, to include reference to Mohammed Omar and the Taliban in the Annex to that order, thus preserving the sanctions imposed against the Taliban.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Final Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

July 2, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith the final 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the Taliban that was declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on United States Individuals Involved in the Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia

June 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. The report provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of May 15, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 168 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 233 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia, as described in this 11th report to the Congress in accordance with the Act. This report further indicates that during March, April, and May 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Second Protocol to
the Netherlands-United States
Agreement on Social Security**

June 25, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Second Protocol to the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Netherlands on Social Security (the “Second Protocol”). The Second Protocol was signed at The Hague on August 30, 2001, and is intended to modify certain provisions of the original U.S.-Netherlands Agreement, signed December 9, 1987, as amended by the Protocol of December 7, 1989 (the “U.S.-Netherlands Agreement”).

The U.S.-Netherlands Agreement as amended by the Second Protocol is similar in objective to the social security agreements that are also in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the loss of benefits that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The U.S.-Netherlands Agreement as amended by the Second Protocol contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Second Protocol with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the Second Protocol (Annex A). Also annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Second Protocol on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of

individuals affected by the Second Protocol (Annex B), and a composite text of the U.S.-Netherlands Agreement showing the changes that will be made as a result of the Second Protocol. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Second Protocol and related documents to me.

I commend the Second Protocol to the United States-Netherlands Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 25, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Benchmarks for a Sustainable Peace
Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

June 25, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the Levin Amendment to the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act (section 7(b) of Public Law 105–174) and section 1203(a) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This sixth report, which also includes supplemental reporting as required by section 1203(a) of Public Law 105–261, provides an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks covering the period March 2001 to December 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 25, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Lapse of the Export
Administration Act of 1979**

June 25, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration, on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 25, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

June 25, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 25, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Memorandum on Delegation of
Authority Under Section 124 of the
National Defense Authorization Act
for Fiscal Year 2001**

July 2, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under
Section 124 of the National Defense
Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, you are delegated the authority and assigned the responsibility of the President under section 124(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398).

The authority delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated, in writing, not lower than the Under Secretary of Defense level.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Remarks Celebrating the
Bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's
Voyage of Discovery**

July 3, 2002

Welcome. Please be seated. You read it just like I wrote it. [*Laughter*]

Thank you all for coming. It's great to see so many of my fellow Americans here on the eve of Independence Day, the day we celebrate the fantastic freedoms we love in America. And I hope every American goes out tomorrow and gives thanks for the many blessings of our Nation.

I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here. Thank you all for coming, Gale and Ann.

I want to thank Members of the Congress—Senator and Congressman from the great Commonwealth of Virginia are here. I want to thank many members of the administration who are here. I see Fran, who is head of the National Parks. I want to thank

the tribal leaders who have come. I want to thank my fellow Americans. Welcome to the people's house. And it's a beautiful house, as you can see.

I want to thank Laura for serving as the host while I was doing some work. I particularly want to thank the Missouri Historical Society for lending this splendid portrait of the man Stephen Ambrose called the greatest of all American explorers, Captain Meriwether Lewis.

You know, it's amazing—it's fitting and amazing, when you think about it, that we're holding this event here in the East Room, because this is where Lewis lived when he was Jefferson's private secretary. Not a bad room. *[Laughter]* They tell me, though, that back then the room was damp and depressing. The second First Lady who lived here, Abigail Adams, actually used to hang the washing here. *[Laughter]* And I want to thank Laura for getting my underwear out before the event started. *[Laughter]*

Nearly 200 years ago, President Jefferson sent an expedition to explore what was then the uncharted West. Jefferson was a curious man, as we've learned, and I bet you he wanted to lead the expedition himself. But he was occupied, and so he chose a trusted aide and friend, Meriwether Lewis, to lead what was called the Voyage of Discovery.

The Lewis and Clark expedition lasted just a couple of years, but it changed the face of our country forever. It opened up the American West for future development. It increased our knowledge of our natural resources. It helped us gain a better understanding of America's native cultures. Most importantly, the Lewis and Clark Expedition will stand forever as a monument to the American spirit, a spirit of optimism and courage and persistence in the face of adversity.

Earlier this week, I signed a proclamation designating 2003 through 2006 as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration. I urge all Americans to learn more about Lewis and Clark and how the expedition changed our Nation and, at the same time, to learn more about our native culture, to learn more about courage and the values that continue to shape our Nation today.

American history is filled with remarkable examples of heroism and adventure, and the voyage of Lewis and Clark is one of the most remarkable of them all. And that's why we're here in the White House today. Their expedition became an epic of endurance and discovery, and that epic became an American legend which all Americans should know about, and they should teach their children about it as well.

The achievement would not have been possible without the tremendous contribution of a remarkable Shoshone Indian woman, Sacagawea, who helped the explorers on their long and perilous journey. And I say remarkable because she had a 2-month-old baby when the trip began. And she was just as committed to discovery and success as Lewis and Clark and the other young members of the Corps of Discovery.

Her courage and her strength reminds us that American Indians have played a central role in our history, and their unique culture must never be lost. Tribal colleges and universities help preserve irreplaceable languages and cultural traditions. At the same time, of course, they offer a high-quality college education to thousands of students and provide much-needed job training and other means of economic development in Indian country.

I bring that up today because I had the honor of signing an Executive order affirming the Federal Government's commitment to these unique institutions. Many of the board members that I named are here today, and they were in the Oval Office earlier, and I want to thank them for coming. All Americans—all Americans—deserve an excellent education, including those who attend tribal colleges and universities.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to thank you for being here to honor the courage of great explorers. I want to thank you for being here to honor the richness of native cultures. And I want to thank you for being here to honor the grand history of the American West.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to historian Stephen E. Ambrose.

Executive Order 13270—Tribal Colleges and Universities

July 3, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. There is a unique relationship between the United States and Indian tribes, and a special relationship between the United States and Alaska Native entities. It is the policy of the Federal Government that this Nation's commitment to educational excellence and opportunity must extend as well to the tribal colleges and universities (tribal colleges) that serve Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities. The President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities (the "Board") and the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU) established by this order shall ensure that this national policy regarding tribal colleges is carried out with direct accountability at the highest levels of the Federal Government.

Tribal colleges are both integral and essential to their communities. Often they are the only postsecondary institutions within some of our Nation's poorest rural areas. They fulfill a vital role: in maintaining and preserving irreplaceable languages and cultural traditions; in offering a high-quality college education to younger students; and in providing job training and other career-building programs to adults and senior citizens. Tribal colleges provide crucial services in communities that continue to suffer high rates of unemployment and the resulting social and economic distress.

The Federal Government's commitment to tribal colleges is reaffirmed and the private sector can and should contribute to the colleges' educational and cultural missions.

Finally, postsecondary institutions can play a vital role in promoting excellence in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education. The Federal Government will therefore work to implement the innovations and

reforms of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) in partnership with tribal colleges and their American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Sec. 2. Definition of Tribal Colleges and Universities. Tribal colleges are those institutions cited in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), any other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and Diné College, authorized in the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-471, title II (25 U.S.C. 640a note).

Sec. 3. Board of Advisors. (a) *Establishment.* There shall be established in the Department of Education a Presidential advisory committee entitled the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities (the "Board").

(b) *Membership.* The Board shall consist of not more than 15 members who shall be appointed by the President, one of whom shall be designated by the President as Chair. The Board shall include representatives of tribal colleges and may also include representatives of the higher, early childhood, elementary, and secondary education communities; tribal officials; health, business, and financial institutions; private foundations; and such other persons as the President deems appropriate.

(c) *Functions.* The Board shall provide advice regarding the progress made by Federal agencies toward fulfilling the purposes and objectives of this order. The Board also shall provide recommendations to the President, through the Secretary of Education (Secretary), on ways the Federal Government can help tribal colleges:

- (1) use long-term development, endowment building, and planning to strengthen institutional viability;
- (2) improve financial management and security, obtain private-sector funding support, and expand and complement Federal education initiatives;
- (3) develop institutional capacity through the use of new and emerging technologies offered by both the Federal and private sectors;

(4) enhance physical infrastructure to facilitate more efficient operation and effective recruitment and retention of students and faculty; and

(5) help implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and meet other high standards of educational achievement.

(d) *Meetings.* The Board shall meet at least annually, at the request of the Secretary, to provide advice and consultation on tribal colleges and relevant Federal and private-sector activities, and to transmit reports and present recommendations.

Sec. 4. White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities. There shall be established in the Department of Education, Office of the Secretary, the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU). The WHITCU shall:

(a) provide the staff support for the Board;

(b) assist the Secretary in the role of liaison between the executive branch and tribal colleges; and

(c) serve the Secretary in carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities under this order.

Sec. 5. Department and Agency Participation. Each participating executive department and agency (agency), as determined by the Secretary, shall appoint a senior official who is a full-time officer of the Federal Government and who is responsible for management or program administration. The official shall report directly to the agency head, or to the agency head's designee, on agency activity under this order and serve as liaison to the WHITCU. To the extent permitted by law and regulation, each agency shall provide appropriate information as requested by the WHITCU staff pursuant to this order.

Sec. 6. Three-Year Federal Plan.

(a) *Content.* Each agency identified by the Secretary shall develop and implement a Three-Year Plan of the agency's efforts to fulfill the purposes of this order. These Three-Year Plans shall include annual performance indicators and appropriate measurable objectives for the agency. Among other relevant issues, the plans shall address how the agency intends to increase the capacity of tribal colleges to compete effectively for any available grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and any other Federal resources, and to encourage tribal colleges to participate in Fed-

eral programs. The plans also may emphasize access to high-quality educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged Indian students, consistent with requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; the preservation and revitalization of tribal languages and cultural traditions; and innovative approaches to better link tribal colleges with early childhood, elementary, and secondary education programs. The agency's performance indicators and objectives should be clearly reflected in the agency's annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget. To facilitate the attainment of these performance indicators and objectives, the head of each agency identified by the Secretary, shall provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to tribal colleges regarding the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

(b) *Submission.* Each agency shall submit its Three-Year Plan to the WHITCU. In consultation with the Board, the WHITCU shall then review these Three-Year Plans and develop an integrated Three-Year Plan for Assistance to Tribal Colleges, which the Secretary shall review and submit to the President. Agencies may revise their Three-Year Plans within the three-year period.

(c) *Annual Performance Reports.* Each agency shall submit to the WHITCU an Annual Performance Report that measures the agency's performance against the objectives set forth in its Three-Year Plan. In consultation with the Board, the WHITCU shall review and combine Annual Performance Reports into one annual report, which shall be submitted to the Secretary for review, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget.

Sec. 7. Private Sector. In cooperation with the Board, the WHITCU shall encourage the private sector to assist tribal colleges through increased use of such strategies as:

(a) matching funds to support increased endowments;

(b) developing expertise and more effective ways to manage finances, improve information systems, build facilities, and improve course offerings; and

(c) increasing resources for and training of faculty.

Sec. 8. Termination. The Board shall terminate 2 years after the date of this order unless the Board is renewed by the President prior to the end of that 2-year period.

Sec. 9. Administration. (a) *Compensation.* Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(b) *Funding.* The Board and the WHITCU shall be funded by the Department of Education.

(c) *Administrative Support.* The Department of Education shall provide appropriate administrative services and staff support for the Board and the WHITCU. With the consent of the Department of Education, other agencies participating in the WHITCU shall provide administrative support (including detailees) to the WHITCU consistent with statutory authority. The Board and the WHITCU each shall have a staff and shall be supported at appropriate levels commensurate with that of similar White House Initiative Offices.

(d) *General Provisions.* Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.) (the “Act”), may apply to the administration of any portion of this order, any functions of the President under the Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary of Education in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 10. Revocation. Executive Order 13021 of October 19, 1996, as amended, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 3, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:22 a.m., July 5, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 8.

Executive Order 13269—Expedited Naturalization of Aliens and Noncitizen Nationals Serving in an Active-Duty Status During the War on Terrorism

July 3, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440) (the “Act”), and solely in order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen nationals serving in an active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period of the war against terrorists of global reach, it is hereby ordered as follows:

For the purpose of determining qualification for the exception from the usual requirements for naturalization, I designate as a period in which the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force the period beginning on September 11, 2001. Such period will be deemed to terminate on a date designated by future Executive Order. Those persons serving honorably in active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and terminating on the date to be so designated, are eligible for naturalization in accordance with the statutory exception to the naturalization requirements, as provided in section 329 of the Act. Nothing contained in this order is intended to affect, nor does it affect, any other power, right, or obligation of the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person under Federal law or the law of nations.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 3, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:21 a.m., July 5, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 8.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Extension of Normal Trade Relations
Status for Certain Former Eastern
Bloc States**

July 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress prepared by my Administration on the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

On September 21, 1994, President Clinton determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, he also determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

On June 29, 2000, pursuant to section 302(b) of Public Law 106–200, President Clinton determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan, and on December 29, 2000, he made a similar determination with respect to Georgia pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106–476.

The attached report indicates continued compliance by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An

original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Proclamation 7576—To Provide for
the Efficient and Fair Administration
of Safeguard Measures on Imports of
Certain Steel Products**

July 3, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. On March 5, 2002, pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Trade Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2253), I issued Proclamation 7529, which imposed tariffs and a tariff-rate quota on certain steel products under subheadings 9903.72.30 through 9903.74.24 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) (the “safeguard measures”) for a period of 3 years plus 1 day.

2. In clause (3) of Proclamation 7529, I excluded imports of certain steel that are the product of World Trade Organization (WTO) member developing countries, as provided in subdivision (d)(i) of U.S. Note 11 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS (Note 11), from the safeguard measures.

3. In clause (5) of Proclamation 7529, I authorized the United States Trade Representative (USTR), within 120 days after March 5, 2002, to further consider any request for exclusion of a particular product submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001) and, upon publication in the *Federal Register* of a notice of his finding that a particular product should be excluded, to modify the HTS provisions created by the Annex to Proclamation 7529 to exclude such particular product from the pertinent safeguard measure.

4. Pursuant to section 203(g) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(g)), in order to provide for the efficient and fair administration of the safeguard measures, I have determined that:

(a) the USTR should have authority, as appropriate, to add WTO member developing countries to the list of countries in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11;

(b) the period provided in clause (5) of Proclamation 7529 should be extended until August 31, 2002; and

(c) requests for exclusion submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 67 *Fed. Reg.* 19307, 19308 (April 18, 2002); 67 *Fed. Reg.* 35842, 35842–35843 (May 21, 2002); 67 *Fed. Reg.* 38693, 38694 (June 5, 2002) should be treated as having been submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001).

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuation, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections 203 and 604 of the Trade Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) The USTR is authorized, upon publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* of his determination that it is appropriate to add WTO member developing countries to the list of countries in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11, to add such countries to that list.

(2) Clause (5) of Proclamation 7529 is amended by deleting the words “Within 120 days after the date of this proclamation” and adding in their place the words “At any time on or before August 31, 2002”. Note 11 is amended in subdivision (c), by deleting the date “July 3, 2002” and adding in its place the date “August 31, 2002”.

(3) The USTR is authorized to treat requests for exclusion submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 67 *Fed. Reg.* 19307 (April 18, 2002); 67 *Fed. Reg.* 35842 (May 21, 2002); or 67 *Fed. Reg.* 38693 (June 5, 2002) as having been submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001).

(4) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are incon-

sistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(5) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. EST, on March 20, 2002, and shall continue in effect as provided in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, unless such actions are earlier expressly reduced, modified, or terminated. Effective at the close of March 21, 2006, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of the safeguard measures, the modifications to the HTS established in this proclamation shall be deleted from the HTS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:21 a.m., July 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 4, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 8.

Remarks at a “Saluting Our Veterans” Celebration in Ripley, West Virginia July 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you. Well, thank you, Shelley, and thanks for that warm welcome. I’m really proud to be in Jackson County, West Virginia.

Today we mark the 226th birthday of the United States of America. Last year I spent my first Independence Day as your President in Philadelphia. This year I get to spend it in Ripley, West Virginia.

Shelley told me about the Fourth of July celebration. She said I needed to come and meet the town. It looks like most of you showed up. [Laughter] I appreciate your hospitality. I appreciate all the hard work that went into making this Fourth of July celebration such a fantastic gathering of our fellow Americans. And thanks for having me.

I want to thank Shelley Moore Capito for her friendship and her leadership in the Halls of Congress. I appreciate so very much one of my Cabinet officers, Tony Principi, who is the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs, for not only serving the country and serving in Vietnam but also agreeing to come today to Ripley to represent the veterans from all across our country. Thank you for being here, Tony.

I want to thank your Governor, Governor Wise, for joining us today. I appreciate you being here, Bob. And I appreciate Senator Jay Rockefeller coming as well. Thank you both for coming.

I had the honor of meeting the mayor of Ripley, Mayor Guthrie. Thank you for being here, Mr. Mayor. I appreciate your hospitality, and tell all the folks who work in the city here, I'd like to stay around for the clean-up, but—[laughter].

Audience member. We'll let you.

The President. I'm sure you would let me, but—[laughter]. I also appreciate Mayor Ritchie of Ravenswood for coming over to say hello as well. Thank you, Mayor. I know the attorney general of West Virginia is here, General McGraw. I appreciate the Secretary of State for West Virginia for being here. I want to thank all the members of the legislature. But most of all, I want to thank my fellow citizens.

Today I had the honor and privilege of saying hello to two West Virginia citizens who are family members of some of West Virginia's finest. Earlier this year, U.S. Special Forces Sergeant Gene Vance, Jr., and Anissa Ann Shero lost their lives in defense of our freedom. And I had the privilege of kissing Gene's wife, to express our sympathies and our love and our prayer. And I had the privilege of doing the same with Anissa's dad. And I would like you all to join me in welcoming them to this celebration today. Thanks for coming.

The anniversary of America's independence is a day for gratitude and a day for celebration. On the Fourth of July, we count our blessings, and there are so many to count. We're thankful for the families we love. We're thankful for the opportunities in America. We're thankful for our freedom, the freedom declared by our Founding Fa-

thers, defended by many generations, and granted to each one of us by Almighty God.

Americans know that our country did not come about by chance. Our Nation was first designed as a colony, serving an empire and answering to a king. The Founders had other things in mind. In the summer of 1776, they declared that these colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States.

With a great army massed against the Americans, these were not idle words. "Stepping forward to sign the Declaration," said Dr. Benjamin Rush, "was like signing your own death warrant." Yet he and 55 others put their name on the document, pledging to the cause their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

And all Americans can draw a straight line from the free lives we lead today to that one moment when the world changed forever. From that day in 1776, freedom has had a home, and freedom has had a defender.

Unlike any other country, America came into the world with a message for mankind, that all are created equal, and all are meant to be free. There is no America race. There's only an American creed: We believe in the dignity and rights of every person; we believe in equal justice, limited government, and in the rule of law; we believe in personal responsibility and tolerance toward others. This creed of freedom and equality has lifted the lives of millions of Americans, of citizens by birth and citizens by choice. This creed draws our friends to us. It sets our enemies against us and always inspires the best that is within us.

In this 226th year of our independence, we have seen that American patriotism is still a living faith. We love our country only more when she's threatened. An Air Force pilot spoke for everyone when he was asked if anyone on his base had a personal connection to the victims of September the 11th. He said, "I think we all do. They were all Americans." Watching the events of that day, no American felt this was an attack on others. It was an attack on all of us—on each and every one of us. Every ethnic background is known and respected here in America. Every religious belief is practiced and protected here. Yet, in a moment we discovered again that we're a single people. We share the same

allegiance. We live under the same flag. When you strike one America—when you strike one American, you strike us all.

In the moments after September the 11th, Americans turned instinctively to the flag we share. The flag was lowered to half-staff in days of mourning, raised in respect over Ground Zero, hung in defiance from the wall of the Pentagon, carried with special pride at the Olympic Games, carefully folded at military gravesides and given to families. The American people, when we pledge our allegiance to the flag, feel renewed respect and love for all it represents. And no authority of Government can ever prevent an American from pledging allegiance to this “one Nation under God.”

More than ever in the lifetimes of most Americans, the flag stands for a truly unified country. We’ve been united in our grief, and we are united in our resolve to protect our people and to defeat the enemies of the United States of America.

Sixty years ago, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, General George C. Marshall declared that “before the Sun sets on this terrible struggle, our flag will be recognized throughout the world as a symbol of freedom, on the one hand, and of overwhelming power on the other.” This is our purpose again today. Once again, history has called America to use our overwhelming power in the defense of freedom, and we’ll do just that.

In Afghanistan we defeated the Taliban regime, but that was just the first step. The liberation of that country was the beginning of the long and unrelenting struggle we have entered. America is a patient and determined country. We’re working with our allies. We’ll use every tool of diplomacy and law enforcement. We’re organizing to protect the homeland against further attack, and we will take the battle to the enemy, wherever he hides and wherever he plans and wherever he dwells.

The greatest asset we have in this conflict is the military of the United States of America. At this hour, more than 60,000 American troops are deployed around the world in the war against terror. Many of you here today have family members serving in the military. Wherever they are stationed, this Nation is

depending on them, and you just need to be proud of them.

Thousands of our men and women in uniform were born in other countries and now spend each day in honorable service to their adopted land. Many of them are still waiting for the chance to become American citizens because of the waiting period for citizenship. These men and women love our country. They show it in their daily devotion to duty. Out of respect for their brave service in this time of war, I have signed an Executive order allowing them an immediate opportunity to petition for citizenship in the United States of America.

America has always depended on the courage and character of our people in the military. We’re honored today by the presence of some of West Virginia’s most distinguished citizens, veterans of American Armed Forces. These men and women served in different places, at different times, but all were ready when their country needed them, ready to sacrifice, to fight, and if necessary, to die for the sake of others. That’s the highest form of citizenship. Whether the veterans here served in peacetime or in the worst battles, you have the Nation’s gratitude and the respect of your fellow Americans. On this Fourth of July, it is my privilege to thank you for your service to your country.

Veterans know better than anyone that love for country is shown in works. A spirit of service is alive and strong in America today. Our response to tragedy and sudden national challenges has revealed the courage, and it has revealed the kindness of the American people. As we fight a war abroad, here at home Americans are answering the call of service, giving their time and energy to causes greater than self-interest. This Nation is confronting a terrible evil, and we are overcoming evil with good.

There is much in modern America that the founding generation might not understand. Yet, they would recognize the Stars and Stripes, and they would know qualities of character that still define our country. They would take great pride, as I do, in the decent, responsible, caring citizens who are the true strength of our country. I am certain as well that, if they could survey this country of ours,

they would join us all in giving thanks for all that we have.

A year after independence was declared, the Second Continental Congress set the design of our Nation's flag. The stars on blue were to represent a new constellation, the different world our young Nation had begun to create. Today, as much as ever before, America bears the hope of the world. Yet, from the day of our founding, America's own great hope has never been in ourselves alone. The Founders humbly sought the wisdom and the blessing of Divine Providence.

May we always live by that same trust, and may God continue to watch over the United States of America. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. at Courthouse Square. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Wise, Attorney General Darrel V. McGraw, Jr., and Secretary of State Joe Manchin III of West Virginia; Mayor Roy Guthrie of Ripley, WV; Mayor W.S. Ritchie of Ravenswood, WV; Lisa Vance, widow of Sgt. Gene Vance, Jr., USA; and Clyde Shuttlesworth, father of Staff Sgt. Anissa Ann Shero, USAF.

Videotape Remarks to the Vilnius Ten Group of Nations

July 5, 2002

I'm honored to send greetings to the leaders of the Vilnius Ten group of nations aspiring to join the NATO Alliance. I want to thank Prime Minister Berzins and President Freiberga for hosting this important event in the great city of Riga. I'm also pleased that Senator Trent Lott and some of his colleagues were able to visit with you today. The U.S. Senate has a critical role to play in ratifying any expansion of NATO, and I appreciate my friend Senator Lott's leadership on these vital issues.

Our nations share a common vision of a new Europe, where free European states are united with each other and with the United States through cooperation, partnership, and alliance. We seek a new Europe that has buried its historic tensions and is prepared to meet global challenges beyond Europe's borders. America will continue to work arm in arm with Europe on fulfilling this vision.

At the Prague Summit later this year, we can take a major step by enlarging NATO to include all of Europe's democracies that are ready to share in NATO's responsibilities. Since you first met in Vilnius over 2 years ago, your countries have made real progress on the essential reforms necessary for NATO membership. Work continues, as it must, to prepare your nations to make the greatest possible contributions to the new Europe we are building.

Today, our nations face another historic challenge: to defeat the forces of global terror. The attacks of September the 11th took place in the United States, but their target was freedom, itself. All of Europe and freedom-loving nations everywhere are threatened by these forces of chaos and hatred.

NATO has risen to the challenge, declaring that an attack on one of its members is an attack on all. And NATO nations have made valuable contributions to the war on terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere. NATO must prepare itself to fight and defeat terror and the other threats to freedom that we face together. And new members will help improve NATO's capabilities.

The Prague Summit will mark the beginning of a new era in Europe and in trans-Atlantic relations, defined by greater security and greater prosperity and greater freedom. We will see the great alliance of liberty grow and prepare to fulfill its old mission in a new era. And I am determined to succeed and determined that our children will record this year as a momentous turning point in their history.

I wish you success at your meeting. I have met most of you, and I look forward to seeing my good friend Aleksander in a few weeks here in Washington. We have a great opportunity ahead of us. The hopes and prayers of the American people are with you.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 3 p.m. on June 28 in the Blue Room at the White House, for later transmission to the meeting in Riga, Latvia. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Andris Berzins and President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 29

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, after temporarily transferring the power of the Presidency to Vice President Dick Cheney, the President underwent a routine medical procedure under anesthesia. When he awoke, he had telephone conversations with the Vice President and the First Lady. Later in the morning, he reassumed the power of the Presidency.

June 30

During the day, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then traveled to Cleveland, OH. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 2

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his nomination of Peter Eide to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry R. Hoglander to be a member of the National Mediation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Pearson to be a Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neil McPhie to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Quanah Crossland Stamps to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans.

The President announced his intention to appoint Windy Sitton as U.S. Commissioner of the Canadian River Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Federal Salary Council: Thomas Bastas and James Pasco (employee representatives); and Rudy Joseph Maestas, Mary McNally Rose, and Samuel Johnson Wallace (labor relations and pay policy representatives).

July 3

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with National Geographic Society leaders, who presented him with a custom National Geographic map cabinet.

In the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President signed Executive Order 13270, Tribal Colleges and Universities. Later, he traveled to Andrews Air Force Base, MD, where he played a round of golf.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities: Ron S. McNeil, David W. Anderson, Carl J. Artman, Eddie F. Brown, Kathryn L. Domenici, Ann Marie Downes, Mark O. Hatfield, Daniel G. Keating, David J. Matheson, Martha A. McLeod, Karen M. Gayton Swisher, Della C. Warrior, and Richard B. Williams.

The President declared a major disaster in Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 8 and continuing.

July 4

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Ripley, WV. In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush viewed the Independence Day fireworks display on The Mall with their guests,

from the balcony of the White House overlooking the South Lawn.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 29 and continuing.

July 5

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of the the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan to express his condolences concerning civilian deaths in joint U.S.-Afghan military operations in the Oruzgan Province of Afghanistan on July 2.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush family home on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, ME.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Dr. Richard Tubb, Physician to the President, on the President's colorectal screening procedure

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's colorectal screening procedure

Released July 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2578

Fact sheet: A Compassionate Conservative Agenda for America's Inner Cities

Released July 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the military action in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan

Statement by the Press Secretary expressing the President's condolences to families of victims of the air accident on the German-Swiss border

Released July 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Montana

Released July 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Fact sheet: Honoring Members of America's Armed Services

Released July 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, July 12, 2002

Statement on the Death of Ted Williams

July 5, 2002

With the passing of Ted Williams, America lost a baseball legend. Whether serving the country in the Armed Forces or excelling on the baseball diamond, Ted Williams demonstrated unique talent and love of country. He inspired young ballplayers across the Nation for decades, and we will always remember his persistence on the field and his courage off the field. Ted gave baseball some of its best seasons—and he gave his own best seasons to his country. He will be greatly missed.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine

July 6, 2002

President's Birthday

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Q. Happy birthday.

The President. That's the way we like it, up and early.

Q. We do too. [Laughter]

The President. Up and at 'em. Feeling a little older, if you know what I mean.

David [David Gregory, NBC News], how are you, lad?

President's Upcoming Vacation

Q. All right. Sir, now that you're a little older and wiser, are you rethinking avoiding spending all of August here?

The President. No, I think—I think you'll like Crawford.

Former President Bush. It's warmer there.

Q. Do you have any words of wisdom for him on the vacation schedule?

Former President Bush. I've got words of wisdom for Eric. He ought to get out of there.

The President. Get out of there, Eric. [Laughter]

[At this point, the President continued to prepare for his golf outing.]

President's Hat

Q. What does your hat say?

The President. *El Jefe*. That's French. [Laughter]

Q. I was going to sing for you in another language.

The President. Thank you, sir. That's an inside joke.

[The President continued to prepare for his golf outing.]

Former President Bush. No laughing about the ladies' tee.

President's Birthday

Q. Sir, what do you want for your birthday?

The President. I don't know yet. I haven't thought about it. First of all, I'm glad—I'm glad my mother and wife remembered. [Laughter]

[The President prepared to tee off.]

The President. Yes, Mr. President. Nice, gentle applause rippling throughout the gallery.

See you in a couple hours—like 2.

[The round of golf proceeded.]

The President. I apologize.

Q. Yes, right.

The President. Miserable shot.

Q. You didn't have any idea where we were, either, did you?

The President. It's clear I didn't have any idea where the ball was going—

Q. Mr. President, it's up by the tree, sir.

The President. Who kicked it under there? [Laughter]

Q. David did. [*Laughter*]

The President. I was just kidding about the French thing. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:15 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Course. In his remarks, the President referred to White House Director of Photography Eric Draper. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Situation in Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport

July 6, 2002

Assassination of Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir of Afghanistan

The President. Today Vice President Qadir of Afghanistan was gunned down. The administration and our country mourns the loss of a man who desired freedom and stability for the country he loved. We have been in touch with Chairman Karzai, expressed our deepest condolences to the Chairman and the Government and people of Afghanistan, who lost a good and valued friend.

The Afghan Government is in the process of investigating who might have done this. And we are more resolved than ever to bring stability to the country so that the Afghan people can have peace and hope.

I'll answer a couple of questions.

Q. Mr. President, did you personally call Chairman Karzai? And what does this say about the ability of a new Government to form and actually succeed there, and what are your concerns?

The President. No, I haven't spoken to Chairman Karzai yet. I spoke to him yesterday, interestingly enough, to express our condolences about the loss of life during the military action. He was talked to by a member of my national security team.

I am confident and I believe Chairman Karzai is confident that with patience and with aid and with a proper strategy, that Afghanistan can develop into a peaceful and hopeful nation.

Bombing of Afghan Civilians

Q. Sir, what do you say to the Afghan people who are upset about the bombing of civilians?

The President. Well, I say, you know, we're investigating. I say "we." Both the Afghanistan Government and the United States Government are investigating to find out the facts. But I can say to the Afghan people exactly what I told to Chairman Karzai, "Any time innocent life is lost, we're sad. Our country values life, all life, and we'll find out what the facts are and then address it accordingly."

Assassination of Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir of Afghanistan

Q. Can the United States or the FBI or someone help with the investigation of the assassination, or will they?

The President. Well, we'll find out. Right now the Afghan Government believes they can handle the investigation. There's all kinds of scenarios as to how the—who killed him. But we'll work closely with the Government if they want us to.

Q. Sir, is there any sign that this kind of assassination may be connected to terrorist groups who are trying to get more involved in the country?

The President. It could be that. It could be drug lords. It could be longtime rivals. Who knows? All we know is a good man is dead, and we mourn his loss.

All right, thank you all. Thanks.

President's Birthday

Q. Birthday plans, sir?

The President. Let's see, settling in, a family lunch, may go for a run—it will be a mechanical run, however.

Q. Why, not hot enough?

The President. No, I wish I could get off the Point, but I think the agents will say today it's probably best for me to stay on Walker's Point.

Let's see, what else will be happening? Who knows? Maybe a surprise party. [*Laughter*] Other than that, just hanging out with my family, which is a wonderful gift unto itself.

Thank you all.

President's Round of Golf

Q. What took you so long to play 18 holes—just 2 hours and 10 minutes?

The President. Well, I think it's because I three-putted too many greens. [*Laughter*]
Have a good day today.

Q. Happy birthday, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:36 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Course. In his remarks, he referred to President Hamid Karzai of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan.

The President's Radio Address

July 6, 2002

Good morning. This week, Americans are celebrating the 226th anniversary of our independence. On the Fourth of July, we count our blessings, and there are so many to count.

We are thankful for the families that share our life in this land of liberty. We're thankful for the opportunities given to us every day in this country. We are thankful for our freedom, the freedom declared by the Founding Fathers, defended by many generations, and granted to each one of us by Almighty God.

Americans know that our country did not come about by chance. Our Nation was first designed as a colony, serving an empire and answering to a king. The Founders had other things in mind. In the summer of 1776, they declared that these colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States. All Americans can draw a straight line from the free lives we lead today to that one moment when the world changed forever.

From that day in 1776, freedom has had a home and a defender. Unlike any other country, America came into the world with a message for mankind, that all are created equal and all are meant to be free.

There is no American race; there's only an American creed. We believe in the dignity and rights of every person. We believe in equal justice, limited government, and the rule of law, personal responsibility and tolerance toward others. This creed of freedom and equality has lifted the lives of millions of Americans, of citizens by birth and citizens by choice. This creed draws our friends to

us, sets our enemies against us, and always inspires the best that is in us.

In this 226th year of our independence, we have seen that American patriotism is still a living faith. We love our country only more when she is threatened. America is the most diverse Nation on Earth. Yet, in a moment we discovered again that we are a single people; we share the same allegiance; we live under the same flag; and when you strike one American, you strike us all.

More than ever in the lifetimes of most Americans, our flag stands for a true united country. We've been united in our grief, and we are united in our resolve to protect our people and defeat the enemies of freedom. At this hour, more than 60,000 American troops are deployed around the world in the war against terror. Many of you have family members serving in the military. Wherever they are stationed, this Nation is depending on them, and you can be proud of them.

America's service men and women and our veterans know better than anyone that our love for country is shown in works. That spirit of service is alive and strong in America today. As we fight a war abroad, at home Americans are answering the call of service, giving their time and energy to causes greater than self-interest. This Nation is confronting a terrible evil, and we are overcoming evil with good.

Today, as much as ever before, America bears the hopes of the world. Yet, from the day of our founding, America's own great hope has never been in ourselves alone. The Founders humbly sought the wisdom and the blessing of Divine Providence. May we always live by that same trust, and may God continue to watch over the United States of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:17 a.m. on July 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Statement on the Death of
General Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr.**

July 6, 2002

Two days ago, on July 4th, America lost a true hero when General Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., died at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC. Throughout his career, General Davis served the cause of freedom with distinction and dignity. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of a grateful nation, Laura and I send our condolences to the Davis family.

We will remember General Davis most for his leadership of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. The segregated African American 332d Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties against the Nazi Luftwaffe, destroyed over 250 enemy aircraft, and never lost a single Allied plane flying under its escort protection. Davis' leadership and the dazzling success of his Tuskegee Airmen contributed greatly to the victory over fascism abroad—and to important victories over discrimination here at home, especially the desegregation of the Armed Services ordered by President Truman in 1948.

The quiet courage, discipline, and high achievement of the Tuskegee Airmen simply mirrored the qualities that Benjamin Davis, Jr., demonstrated throughout his career. A graduate of West Point, he was a recipient of the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross and was the first African American in the Air Force to earn a star. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant General and was awarded his fourth star after his retirement in 1998. His passing on the date of our Nation's Independence underscores the independence and pride with which he served our Nation's highest ideals. General Davis left our country better than he found it and his legacy will endure for as long as Americans seek to protect—and perfect—our Union.

**Remarks on Presenting the
Congressional Medal of Honor
Posthumously to
Captain Humbert Versace**

July 8, 2002

Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. It's a—this is a special occasion. I am honored to be a part of the gathering as we pay tribute to a true American patriot and a hero, Captain Humbert "Rocky" Versace.

Nearly four decades ago, his courage and defiance while being held captive in Vietnam cost him his life. Today it is my great privilege to recognize his extraordinary sacrifices by awarding him the Medal of Honor.

I appreciate Secretary Anthony Principi, the Secretary from the Department of Veteran Affairs, for being here. Thank you for coming, Tony. I appreciate Senator George Allen and Congressman Jim Moran. I want to thank Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and General Pete Pace, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Army General Eric Shinseki—thank you for coming, sir. I appreciate David Hicks being here. He's the Deputy Chief of Chaplains for the United States Army.

I want to thank the entire Versace family for coming, three brothers and a lot of relatives, brothers, Dick and Mike and Steve, who's up here on the stage with me today. I appreciate the classmates and friends and supporters of Rocky for coming. I also want to thank the previous Medal of Honor recipients who are here with us today. That would be Harvey Barnum and Brian Thacker and Roger Donlon. Thank you all for coming.

Rocky grew up in this area and attended Gonzaga College High School, right here in Washington, DC. One of his fellow soldiers recalled that Rocky was the kind of person you only had to know a few weeks before you felt like you'd known him for years. Serving as an intelligence adviser in the Mekong Delta, he quickly befriended many of the

local citizens. He had that kind of personality. During his time there he was accepted into the seminary, with an eye toward eventually returning to Vietnam to be able to work with orphans.

Rocky was also a soldier's soldier, a West Point graduate, a Green Beret who lived and breathed the code of duty and honor and country. One of Rocky's superiors said that the term "gung ho" fit him perfectly. Others remember his strong sense of moral purpose and unbending belief in his principles.

As his brother Steve once recalled, "If he thought he was right, he was a pain in the neck." [Laughter] "If he knew he was right, he was absolutely atrocious." [Laughter]

When Rocky completed his one-year tour of duty, he volunteered for another tour. And 2 weeks before his time was up, on October the 29th, 1963, he set out with several companies of South Vietnamese troops, planning to take out a Viet Cong command post. It was a daring mission and an unusually dangerous one for someone so close to going home to volunteer for.

After some initial successes, a vastly larger Viet Cong force ambushed and overran Rocky's unit. Under siege and suffering from multiple bullet wounds, Rocky kept providing covering fire so that friendly forces could withdraw from the killing zone.

Eventually, he and two other Americans, Lieutenant Nick Rowe and Sergeant Dan Pitzer, were captured, bound, and forced to walk barefoot to a prison camp deep within the jungle. For much of the next 2 years, their home would be bamboo cages, 6 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 3 feet high. They were given little to eat and little protection against the elements. On nights when their netting was taken away, so many mosquitos would swarm their shackled feet it looked like they were wearing black socks.

The point was not merely to physically torture the prisoners but also to persuade them to confess to phony crimes and use their confessions for propaganda. But Rocky's captors clearly had no idea who they were dealing with. Four times he tried to escape, the first time crawling on his stomach because his leg injuries prevented him from walking. He insisted on giving no more information than required by the Geneva Convention and

cited the treaty, chapter and verse, over and over again.

He was fluent in English, French, and Vietnamese and would tell his guards to go to hell in all three. Eventually the Viet Cong stopped using French and Vietnamese in their indoctrination sessions, because they didn't want the sentries or the villagers to listen to Rocky's effective rebuttals to their propaganda. Rocky knew precisely what he was doing. By focusing his captors' anger on him; he made life a measure more tolerable for his fellow prisoners, who looked to him as a role model of principled resistance.

Eventually the Viet Cong separated Rocky from the other prisoners. Yet even in separation, he continued to inspire them. The last time they heard his voice, he was singing "God Bless America" at the top of his lungs.

On September the 26th, 1965, Rocky's struggle ended with his execution. In his too short life, he traveled to a distant land to bring the hope of freedom to the people he never met. In his defiance and later his death, he set an example of extraordinary dedication that changed the lives of his fellow soldiers who saw it firsthand. His story echoes across the years, reminding us of liberty's high price and of the noble passion that caused one good man to pay that price in full.

Last Tuesday would have been Rocky's 65th birthday. So today we award Rocky—Rocky Versace the first Medal of Honor given to an Army POW for actions taken during captivity in Southeast Asia. We thank his family for so great a sacrifice. And we commit our country to always remember what Rocky gave to his fellow prisoners, to the people of Vietnam, and to the cause of freedom.

Now, Major, please read the citation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:07 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. Following the President's remarks, Maj. Paul Montanus, USMC, Marine Corps Aide to the President, read the citation.

The President's News Conference July 8, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I hope you all enjoyed your weekend in Maine as

much as I did. And I hope our fellow Americans all enjoyed a Fourth of July weekend with their family and friends. And now it's back to work. Congress is coming back into Washington, and they've got a lot of work ahead of them before the August vacation.

Congress has been making some important progress, but it also has a lot of unfinished business. I urge Congress to join me in advancing—join me in acting to achieve and advance three big goals: We need to win the war; we need to protect our homeland; and we need to strengthen our economy.

Winning the war and protecting the homeland requires a sustained national commitment. More than 100 days ago, I asked Congress to appropriate additional money to equip our Armed Forces and strengthen the security at our airports. Four months later, the Department of Defense and the new Transportation Security Administration are still waiting for the money, and they'll run out of operating funds maybe as soon as this week. Congress simply must fund our troops while they're fighting a war. And Congress must provide the funds to improve security at our airports. Further delay is intolerable. Congress has got to act.

Congress must also pass the defense appropriations for next year's budget. The House has acted. The Senate must act. Our Nation is at war, and our budget priorities and actions need to reflect that reality. These bills are critical, and quick action on them does not and should not preclude simultaneous progress on other legislation.

Creating more jobs and strengthening our economy are critical priorities. And Congress can act to create jobs by giving me trade promotion authority. Expanding trade means new jobs for American workers. Congress has debated trade now for more than a year. It's time to stop talking. It's time to start acting. Congress should act to create American jobs before it goes home for the August recess.

And Congress should act to make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy. Congress has the opportunity to pass legislation that gives America the energy policy it needs, one that makes us less dependent on foreign oil and promotes conservation. Reliable, affordable energy means more and better jobs.

Another key element of economic growth is consumer and investor confidence in our markets and in the integrity of corporate America. And right now, that confidence has been shaken. Tomorrow in New York, I'll outline tough new laws and actions to punish abuses, restore investor confidence, and protect the pensions of American workers. We have a duty to every worker, shareholder, and investor in America to punish the guilty, to close loopholes, and protect employee pensions. And we will. The House has acted on the pension reforms I proposed in February and on the corporate responsibility proposals I made in March. It's time for the Senate to act in an equally responsive manner.

As Congress works on all this important legislation, it must keep a tight hand on taxpayers' money. Excessive Government spending is a drag, or will be a drag, on our economy. Congress is moving forward on the proposal for the new Department of Homeland Security, and it is doing so with speed and skill and a constructive spirit of bipartisan cooperation. I hope the Congress will apply the same spirit to other important legislation.

A safer and more prosperous America can also be a more compassionate country. The House has acted to encourage the charity and good works of private and religious groups throughout America. The House has also passed welfare reform that upholds the values of work and family. If the Senate acts, we will improve the lives of millions of our fellow citizens.

I know that this is an election year, and both Republicans and Democrats will be focused on politics. That's normal during an election year, but we must not be distracted from the important work that we share. It will take a lot of work and bipartisan cooperation to get important legislation out of the Congress before they all go home to campaign. The agenda is full; the time is short; and the Nation is watching.

In the coming weeks, I'll continue to focus on pursuing the war and protecting the homeland and strengthening our economy. And I urge the Congress to join me in this unfinished business.

Now I'll be glad to answer some questions you have. Why don't we start here, David [David Gregory, NBC News]?

Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, in the war on terrorism, you made it very clear that it's not just a matter of seeking justice for offenders but also preventing another act of terrorism against our country. So when it comes to corporate corruption, beyond calling for tough penalties, what can you say to investors around the country about what this administration will do to prevent abuses from occurring in the future?

The President. Well, let me start by telling you that I think, by far, the vast majority of CEOs in America are good, honorable, honest people who have nothing to hide and are willing to let the true facts speak for themselves. It's the few that have stained the—that have created the stains that we must deal with.

And tomorrow I'm going to talk about some specifics, and I'd rather save those for tomorrow. But let me just put it to you this way: We'll vigorously pursue people who break the law. And that's what—and I think that will help restore confidence to the American people.

Q. And prevention, though? What about—how do you prevent this from happening again?

The President. Well, David, there is a—listen, there had been a period of time when everything seemed easy. Markets were roaring; capital was everywhere; and people forgot their responsibilities. And as you know—you've had to suffer through many of my speeches—but I have been calling for a renewed sense of responsibility in America. And that includes corporate responsibility, because I'm very worried about a country that has—that could conceivably lose confidence in the free enterprise system. And I'm an avid backer of the free enterprise system, but I also understand that that requires trust. And we've had some destroy the trust of the American people, and we need to do something about it.

In the future, starting—we start with calling on people's—calling on people's better

nature. And I'll do some of that tomorrow as well.

Yes, Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

Smallpox Vaccine

Q. Sir, the Government is stockpiling enough smallpox vaccine for every American, but is only planning right now to offer it to emergency and health care workers. Why shouldn't every American be able to evaluate the health risks for themselves and then decide for themselves to get the vaccine?

The President. Sandra, first of all, I haven't made any decisions as to who's going to be vaccinated or not. We're looking at all options. I think one concern that I can share with you is that if everybody received a vaccine, there are some who—to whom that vaccine might be fatal. And I worry about that. I worry about calling for a national vaccination program and that it could cause the loss of life. And so I'm looking at all options before I make up my mind.

Yes. Yes, sir.

Harken Energy/2002 Election

Q. Mr. President, the Democrats have signaled that they are going to make your behavior while a director at Harken an election-year issue. There's an ad out today which is relatively new. I know you said this has been vetted before—I mean, I've heard that. But would you take on the charge that you were 8 months late with an \$850,000 stock sale report?

The President. First, let me take on the notion that people love to play politics. You know, you said the Democrats are going to attack me based upon Harken. That's nothing new. That happened in 1994. I can't remember if it happened in 1998 or not. It happened in 2000. I mean, this is recycled stuff. When I—[laughter]. Thank you. [Laughter]

When I made the decision to sell, I filed what's called a Form 144. I think you all have copies of the Form 144. It's an intention to sell, and I did so. And—but as you said, this has been fully vetted. It has been looked at by the SEC. You've got the documents. You've got the finding where the guy said, "There is no case here." And it's just—the way I view it is, it's old-style politics. And

I guess that's the way it's going to be, but——

Q. Well, sir, if I might, on the question that the Form 4 was 8 months late, why was it?

The President. You know, the important document was the 144, the intention to sell. That was the important document. I think you've got a copy of it. If you don't, we'll be glad to get you one that showed the intention to sell.

As to why the Form 4 was late, I still haven't figured it out completely. But nevertheless, the SEC fully looked into the matter. They looked at all aspects of it, and they did so in a very thorough way. And the people that looked into it said there is no case. And that was the case in the early nineties; it was the case in the '94 campaign; it was the case in the '98 campaign. The same thing happened in the 2000 campaign. I guess we're going to have to go through this again in the 2002 campaign, but nothing has changed. And the nothing that changed was the fact that this was fully looked into by the SEC, and there's no "there" there.

Helen [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers].

SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt

Q. Mr. President——

The President. I'm working my way around, John [John Cochran, ABC News].

Q. —in a way to clean up the corporate world and start the reforms, Senator McCain is suggesting that you ask for the resignation of Harvey Pitt and says that he is inept and has had to recuse himself so many times in all these cases. What do you think? And are you 1,000 percent behind him?

The President. Very tricky. I support Harvey Pitt. Harvey Pitt has been fast to act. He's been in office less than 12 months, I think—I mean, he was—we sent him up to the Senate and was unanimously approved. I'm not exactly sure when the vote was. I guess it was about a year ago, and every Senator said aye on Harvey Pitt—"aye" meaning that they thought he would do—they thought he was the right man for the job. And I still think he is.

He is—in a quick period of time, he has taken 30 CEOs and directors to task by not

allowing them to serve again on a board or serve in a CEO capacity of a company. He's encouraged what they call disgorgement; in other words, if somebody has profited based upon malicious reporting, or whatever the lawyers call it—obviously trying to scam somebody—they had to give their money back. And he's been very active on that. So I think Pitt's doing a fine job.

Former President Clinton/Harken Energy

Q. Sir, you said, in your speech tomorrow you're going to talk about some of the excesses of the 1990s, when a lot of money was flying around, people were playing a lot of games with money.

The President. That's right.

Q. You weren't President then; Bill Clinton was President. Do you think in some way he contributed to that, set a moral tone in any way?

The President. No.

Q. Can I ask one more—[laughter]? You'd not like to expand on that?

You were asked about the SEC and the Harken Energy Company. Democrats are saying, "Would you have the SEC release all the papers in connection with that to end all the questions? Would you tell the SEC, Mr. Pitt, to release those papers?"

The President. This is old politics, John. This has been around for a long time. In the early nineties, key members of Congress asked for relevant documents from the SEC on this case. They were given the documents. You've seen the relevant documents.

And I want to remind you all that I sold the stock at 4, and 14 months later—the holding period for capital gains, I think, was 12 months in those days—the person who bought my stock could have sold it for 8, could have doubled his or her money.

Q. Mr. President, you've said that you didn't know, when you sold your Harken stock, that the company was going to restate its earnings. As a member of its audit committee, how could you not know that its earnings had not been properly accounted for?

The President. Because that fact—that fact came up after I sold the stock. And the SEC fully looked into this. All these questions that you're asking were looked into by

the SEC. And again, I repeat to you, the summary, which I think you've seen—I hope you've seen it; if not, we'll be glad to get it to you—said there was no case there.

Yes—working my way down there.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Mr. President, first of all, my apology for not having the tie, because I have this Indian summer suit today. *[Laughter]*

The President. That's okay. Therefore, you don't get to ask a question. *[Laughter]*

Q. And second, sir, happy birthday. We share the—were born the same day.

The President. Thank you. That's a fine question. *[Laughter]*

Q. My question is, sir, that we did a survey at India Globe and Asia Today, around the United States among the Indian-American community and also in India and the Indian Government. They all support your stand against fighting against terrorism. But the question is, sir, are you going to find Usama bin Laden before the first anniversary of September 11th?

The President. Well, that's an interesting—his question is about Usama bin Laden. We haven't heard from him in a long time. I don't know if the man's living or the man's dead. But one thing is for certain: The war on terror is a lot bigger than one person. And as I told the American people, this is going to be a long and—long struggle. And we're making good progress. We're rounding people up slowly but surely. We're disrupting networks. But this is—and these are like international criminals, is what they act like. They kind of hide and order things up and then hide again. And we're just patiently hunting them down. And whether or not Usama bin Laden is alive or not, I don't know.

Mike *[Mike Allen, Washington Post]*.

Harken Energy

Q. Sir?

Q. Mr. President, if I may walk you—

The President. If you'd have worn a tie, you could have had a followup. *[Laughter]*

Q. If I may ask a question from just before the sale of stock that you mentioned, could you please explain your role when you were on the board of Harken Oil in the sale of

1989 of its Aloha Petroleum subsidiary, which later caused the SEC to require Harken to restate its earnings? The sale has been described as creating a phantom profit to hide large losses. How did you see it, sir? And do you think that this transaction hurts your credibility on corporate responsibility?

The President. Mike, Mike, this and all matters that related to Harken were fully looked into by the SEC. And in this case, the system worked. There was a honest difference of opinion as to how to account for a complicated transaction. And that's what—you're going to find that in different corporations. Sometimes the rules aren't as specific as one would expect. And therefore, the accountants and the auditors make a decision. And it is the SEC's role to make the determination as to whether or not the accounting procedure used in this particular instance was proper or not.

And—let me finish. And they made the decision that Harken ought to restate some earnings, which Harken did. And that's how the system is supposed to work.

John *[John King, Cable News Network]*.

Q. If I may ask you, right before the accounting, the sale, itself, of the subsidiary—did you favor that? Were you involved—

The President. Mike, you need to look back on the directors' minutes. But all I can tell you is, is that in the corporate world, sometimes things aren't exactly black and white when it comes to accounting procedures. And the SEC's job is to look and is to determine whether or not—whether or not—whether or not the decision by the auditors was the appropriate decision. And they did look, and they decided that earnings ought to be restated, and the company did so immediately upon the SEC's finding.

Yes, John.

Corporate Responsibility

Q. Sir, in that SEC investigation, you waived attorney-client privilege so that the SEC could question Harken attorneys and your personal attorneys about your dealings. In light of that, do you think it is appropriate today, given the fact that you say investors are nervous about the markets, for senior executives of these companies to go before Congress and invoke the fifth amendment

and refuse to discuss their dealings in controversial—and on a related point, one of the differences right now between the administration and the Senate bill on corporate responsibility is the Sarbanes proposal to have this independent board, appointed by the SEC, police the accounting industry. You have opposed that so far. Are you prepared today to endorse that?

The President. Well, let me—I'll give you my opinion on that. Look, I think people, obviously, if they're called up, ought to tell what they know. But lawyers have different opinions. And these people are listening to the advice of their counsels.

Q. Does it hurt the very market confidence you're—

The President. Well, I think what hurts the market confidence is the—in the recent cases, was the inflated numbers. And so people look at balance sheets and wonder if they're real.

And now, as to the Sarbanes bill, we share the same goals, and I'm confident we can get a good piece of legislation out of the Congress. I too called for an independent board. My concern in the Sarbanes bill is that there's overlapping jurisdiction, which will make it harder to enforce rules and regulations, not easier. If you have overlapping jurisdiction, it creates confusion as to who is in charge of what. But I'm confident we can work that out. I am.

Yes, David [David Sanger, New York Times]. We're skipping around there.

Q. Mr. President, you—

The President. Nice tie, though. [Laughter]

Q. Hope I'm going to get a question. [Laughter]

Situation in the Middle East

Q. You gave your speech on the Mideast nearly 2 weeks ago now. And after your previous speech on the Mideast, you repeatedly called on the Israelis to withdraw from the West Bank. You made a brief allusion to that in this most recent speech. You haven't discussed it since. And of course, they're still there. Should they take your silence as an indication that they should stay where they are, or that they should stay there while Yasser Arafat is still in power?

The President. David, I said in my speech, "as security improves." I also will call upon the Israelis, as security improves, to allow for more freedom of movement by the Palestinian people.

At the same time, we're working to begin the reforms necessary amongst the Palestinians to create enough confidence in all parties so that security will improve as well. Burns—Under Secretary Burns was recently there in the Middle East. He's back to report this week. Colin Powell will be following up on his meetings.

And I haven't had the briefing yet, but I believe some progress is being made toward the institutions that I talked about that are necessary for a Palestinian state to emerge which will give us all confidence in its ability to fight off terrorist activities, in its ability to receive international aid without stealing the money, its ability to develop a judiciary. And what's very important in the Middle East, Dave, is that those institutions evolve and grow so that the true will of the Palestinian people can be reflected in the government and that the institutions grow and evolve so that there's, in fact, separation of power, so that all hopes of the Palestinians don't rest on one person. And I believe we're making some progress there.

Go ahead. Followup on Dave.

Q. With security at its current state, do I understand you correctly to be saying, if things are in its current state, you're perfectly comfortable to have the Israelis where they are?

The President. I would hope that everybody got the message that we all have responsibilities to fight off terrorist attacks.

Yes, Ed [Ed Chen, Los Angeles Times].

Bringing Terrorists to Justice

Q. Good afternoon. Since shortly after September 11, you said that you would like to see Usama bin Laden, dead or alive. But you've also said that America is after justice and not revenge.

The President. Right.

Q. Could you please tell us, to your way of thinking, what is the difference?

The President. Between justice and revenge? I think it's a difference of attitude. I mean, I seek justice for the deaths done

to American people. And it's—you can be tough and seek justice, Ed. And you can be disciplined and focused and seek justice. But it's a frame of mind. We don't take—we take lives when we have to, to protect the people and to hold people accountable for killing thousands, is how I look at it.

Ed, and then Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News], and then Tie Man [Ken Bazinet, New York Daily News].

Q. Thank you.

Iraq

Q. Yes, Mr. President, thank you. We continue to see reports on the state of planning to get rid of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. I know it's unlikely that you'll share any details with us, though we'd be delighted to hear them, sir——

The President. Somebody else thinks they are, evidently. [*Laughter*]

Q. But I wonder, Mr. President, regardless of when or how, is it your firm intention to get rid of Saddam Hussein in Iraq——

The President. Yes.

Q. ——and how hard to you think it will be?

The President. It's the stated policy of this Government to have regime change. And it hasn't changed. And we'll use all tools at our disposal to do so.

I actually didn't read the whole story about somebody down there at level five flexing some know-how muscle, but there's all kind—listen, I recognize there's speculation out there. But people shouldn't speculate about the desire of the Government to have a regime change. And there's ways, different ways to do it.

Q. How involved are you in the planning, sir? We know that you meet with General Franks. You meet with Rumsfeld to talk about this. How involved are you?

The President. I'm involved. I mean, I'm involved in the military planning, diplomatic planning, financial planning, all aspects of—reviewing all the tools at my disposal. And—but in my remarks to American people, I remind them I'm a patient person and there's a—but I do firmly believe that the world will be safer and more peaceful if there's a regime change in that Government.

And Tie Man. Let me see, you are—[*laughter*]—I don't have my—"no name," it says. Never mind. [*Laughter*]

Q. Tie Man is fine.

The President. Thank you.

SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt

Q. Thank you. And I thank you for the compliment. Earlier you signaled your staunch support for Harvey Pitt, sir. On August 8th, his one year will have come up, and he will no longer have to recuse himself. Do you think that he should voluntarily recuse himself after that point? Would that be appropriate?

The President. I think Harvey Pitt was put in place to clean up a mess, and he's working hard to do that. It's an amazing town, where the man barely got his uniform on, barely had a chance to perform, and now, for whatever reason, people think he ought to move on, the very ones who voted for him. And I would ask them to look at his record. And I'm going to—since I'm the decision-maker, I'm going to give him a chance to continue to perform.

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times].

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Your name is not Elisabeth.

Harken Energy

Q. Thank you. The accounting procedures at Harken and Aloha have been compared to what went on at Enron. Would you agree with that?

The President. No.

Q. Why not, sir?

The President. Well, again, this is—there was no malfeasance involved. This was a honest disagreement about accounting procedures. And the SEC took a good look at it and decided that the procedures used by the auditors and the accounting firm needed to—were not the right procedure in this particular case or the right ruling and, therefore, asked Harken to restate earnings, which it did. I mean, that's the way the SEC works. That's the proper role of an oversight group.

There was no malfeasance, no attempt to hide anything. It was just a accounting firm making a decision, along with the corporate

officers, as to how to account for a complex transaction.

Q. Can I follow that up, sir?

The President. No.

Yes, Ken [Ken Walsh, U.S. News & World Report].

Corporate Responsibility

Q. Yes, Mr. President, to put your speech tomorrow in a larger context, at the turn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt complained about what he called the “malefactors of great wealth,” and he asked, in a very famous speech, “Who shall rule this country, the people,” or what he called “those who hide behind the breastworks of corporate organizations?” I wonder if you feel this era is comparable to that one, and if you feel you should respond as aggressively as Roosevelt did to corporate corruption?

The President. Well, of course, he was referring to trusts. I’m referring to a lapse of ethics, people forgetting the fact that they represent things other than their own compensation packages, however inflated they may be, that they have a responsibility to employees and shareholders.

And I am—I also understand how tender the free enterprise system can be. If people lose confidence in the system, it will be hard to attract capital in the markets. And that’s one reason I’ve reacted so steadily against what I have seen. And I don’t like it a bit, and I’m going to talk about it tomorrow.

David asked an interesting question about how do you prevent things in the future. It’s like asking how do you—if somebody has—doesn’t have that ethical compass, they’ll find ways to cut corners. There are ways that people should hold people accountable. I mean, investors need to be—pay attention. There are investor groups that will do that. Obviously, boards of directors need to hold CEOs accountable. But if you get a bunch of people together that have no sense of ethics, you’re going to get this kind of behavior. And so then what the Government must do—and it’s a legitimate role of Government—is to step in and hold people accountable.

Corporate Tax Returns

Q. Mr. President, one way to establish or restore investor confidence being floated

right now is making public the tax returns of corporations. Would you favor that policy?

The President. Making public? I’d need to look at that. I’ll take a look at that.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Hillman [G. Robert Hillman, Dallas Morning News].

Civil Rights

Q. Yes, Mr. President. The NAACP is meeting this week in Houston, as you probably know. And there’s been some criticism that you’ve not attended their convention since the 2000 campaign. How would you respond to that and respond generally to suggestions from some critics that your civil rights record in the administration is not a stellar one?

The President. Let’s see. There I was, sitting around the leader with—the table with foreign leaders, looking at Colin Powell and Condi Rice.

Yes.

Anti-Semitism/Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, on the Middle East, a followup. Realistically, can anything be accomplished in the Middle East before the Palestinian elections? And does the White House have anything to say about the rise of anti-Semitism which is sweeping Europe? Are you concerned that that could spread to this country?

The President. We’re concerned about anti-Semitism anywhere.

And yes, progress can be made. We can help write—encourage the writing of a new constitution, the reformulation of security forces, prepare aid packages that will be disbursed if there is transparency. So progress can be made until the elections.

Pension Reform

Q. Mr. President, how do you respond to the criticism that your administration, and you particularly, are more interested in protecting the interests of corporate America than the needs of ordinary Americans?

The President. What I’m interested in protecting is the confidence of all Americans in the marketplace, so that people feel comfortable investing, because investment means

jobs; and so that people feel comfortable that their savings plans and pension plans are protected. That's why I put out the pension reform package.

Remember, in February I laid out a pension reform package. And in March I laid out 10 steps for good corporate governance, and I'm waiting for Congress to act. And it's been a while. But listen, I'm a believer in the free enterprise system. But I'm also a strong believer in holding people accountable when they betray the trust of employees and shareholders. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Yes, Anne [Anne Kornblut, Boston Globe].

Iraq/War on Terrorism

Q. On Iraq, can the American people expect that by the end of your first term you will have affected a regime change in Iraq, one way or another? And by the same token——

The President. That's hypothetical.

Q. But can the American people expect that? Should they expect that?

The President. That's a hypothetical question. They can expect me not to answer hypothetical questions.

Q. On Usama bin Laden, does your promise still——

The President. On sensitive subjects. [Laughter]

Q. Sir, on Usama bin Laden, does your promise still hold that he will be caught, dead or alive, at some point?

The President. What? Say that again?

Q. Does your promise on—or your goal of catching Usama bin Laden dead or alive, does that still stand?

The President. I don't know if he is dead or alive, for starters, so I'm going to answer your question with a hypothetical. Usama bin Laden, he may be alive. If he is, we'll get him. If he's not alive, we got him. [Laughter]

But the issue is bigger than one person. That's what I keep trying to explain to the American people. We're talking about networks that need to be disrupted, plans that need to be stopped. These people are cold-blooded killers. They're interested in killing innocent Americans, still. And therefore, we will continue to pursue them.

And I understand the frustrations of this war. Everybody wants to be a war correspondent. They want to go out there and see the tanks moving across the plains or the airplanes flying in formation and—but that's not the way this war is going to be fought all the time. There's a lot of actions that take place that you'll never see. And there's—and some of it, hopefully, will continue to take place as a result of the actions of our friends, such as that which took place in the Philippines. Abu Sayyaf—the leader, evidently, was killed by Philippine troops. And that's positive. That's a positive development.

We're constantly working with nations that might become havens for terrorists, to make sure that there's no place for them to bunch up or train or to—and it's—and we're making progress. But it's a long journey, and that's what people have got to know.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Final question.

Role of Securities and Exchange Commission

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned that sometimes the accounting laws are just too difficult to calculate.

The President. No, I said sometimes there's differences—a ability to interpret one way or the other.

Q. But isn't that—wouldn't that provide a handy excuse to some of the folks who are involved in these scandals today, who say, "Well, internally we had——"

The President. Sure. Sure, it becomes a handy excuse. But good prosecutors and a strong SEC will determine the difference between what becomes a handy excuse by somebody willing to defraud and somebody who has just a difference of opinion. And that's the difference. And that's the role of the SEC, and that's why the SEC has to be strengthened.

And tomorrow I'll call for a stronger SEC, more investigators and more budget. But that's precisely what the role of the SEC is, and that's what it does. I know the Democrats are trying to divert attention from the major goal. And I hope they—I hope we can work together to get good legislation out. The important thing is to restore confidence to the economy, and we can. But—go ahead.

Q. I just wonder if you think then that some of the companies that are in play today in terms of scandal could actually be places where the accounting was just——

The President. Could be. It could be. It's not my role to judge, or the Congress' role to judge. It is the SEC's role to judge. And that's why we need a strong and vibrant SEC, to make those judgments. But I think it's pretty clear when somebody is trying to defraud. And it's—when you've got an error of \$3.4 billion, I think it was, it's a pretty clear indication that something might be there. But everybody ought to have their day in court. We ought not to rush to judgment on every single case that comes up. And the SEC ought to do its job and do it well.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Reporters referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, commander in chief, U.S. Central Command; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks on Corporate Responsibility in New York City

July 9, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm pleased to be back in New York City. New York City is a unique symbol of America's creativity and character and resilience. In the last 10 months, New Yorkers have shown a watching world the true spirit of your city, a spirit that honors the loss, remembers its heroes, and goes forward with determination and with confidence. The people of this city are writing one of the greatest chapters in our Nation's history, and all Americans are proud of New York.

I've come to the financial capital of the world to speak of a serious challenge to our financial markets and to the confidence on which they rest. The misdeeds now being uncovered in some quarters of corporate Amer-

ica are threatening the financial well-being of many workers and many investors. At this moment, America's greatest economic need is higher ethical standards, standards enforced by strict laws and upheld by responsible business leaders.

The lure of heady profits of the late 1990s spawned abuses and excesses. With strict enforcement and higher ethical standards, we must usher in a new era of integrity in corporate America.

I want to thank Bill for his introduction. There's nothing like being recycled. [*Laughter*] But thanks for having me, and I'm honored to meet your family and Uncle Jack. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate very much Secretary O'Neill and Secretary Evans traveling with me today. I want to thank the members of the New York delegation, Senators Schumer and Clinton as well as Congressman Fossella and Congressman Rangel. I appreciate so very much the mayor—my friend the mayor for being here to greet me as I came in on the chopper. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thanks for the great job you're doing for New York.

I'm honored that Cardinal Egan is here. And I appreciate so very much seeing John Whitehead, the chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. And thank you all for coming as well.

The American economy—our economy—is built on confidence, the conviction that our free enterprise system will continue to be the most powerful and most promising in the world. That confidence is well-placed. After all, American technology is the most advanced in the world. Our universities attract the talent of the world. Our workers and ranchers and farmers can compete with anybody in the world. Our society rewards hard work and honest ambition, bringing people to our shores from all around the world who share those values. The American economy is the most creative and enterprising and productive system ever devised.

We can be confident because America is taking every necessary step to fight and win the war on terror. We are reorganizing the Federal Government to protect the homeland. We are hunting down the terrorists who seek to sow chaos. My commitment and the commitment of our Government is total. We

will not relent until the coldblooded killers are found, disrupted, and defeated.

We can be confident because of the amazing achievements of American workers and entrepreneurs. In spite of all that happened last year, from the economic slowdown to the terrorist attack, worker productivity has grown by 4.2 percent over the last four quarters. In the first quarter of 2002, the economy grew at an annual rate exceeding 6 percent. Though there's much work left to do, American workers have defied the pessimists and laid the foundation for a sustained recovery.

We can be confident because we're pursuing pro-growth reforms in Washington, DC. Last year we passed the biggest tax cut in a generation, which encouraged job creation and boosted consumer spending at just the right time. For the sake of long-term growth, I'm asking Congress to make the tax reductions permanent. I'm asking Congress to join me to promote free trade, which will open new markets and create better jobs and spur innovation. I ask Congress to work with me to pass a terrorism insurance bill, to give companies the security they need to expand and to build. And I will insist on—and if need be, enforce—discipline in Federal spending, so we can meet our national priorities without undermining our economy.

We have much to be confident about in America. Yet our economy and our country need one more kind of confidence, confidence in the character and conduct of all of our business leaders.

The American economy today is rising, while faith in the fundamental integrity of American business leaders is being undermined. Nearly every week brings better economic news and a discovery of fraud and scandal, problems long in the making but now coming to light. We've learned of some business leaders obstructing justice and misleading clients, falsifying records, business executives breaching the trust and abusing power. We've learned of CEOs earning tens of millions of dollars in bonuses just before their companies go bankrupt, leaving employees and retirees and investors to suffer. The business pages of American newspapers should not read like a scandal sheet.

The vast majority of business men and women are honest. They do right by their employees and their shareholders. They do not cut ethical corners, and their work helps create an economy which is the envy of the world.

Yet high-profile acts of deception have shaken people's trust. Too many corporations seem disconnected from the values of our country. These scandals have hurt the reputations of many good and honest companies. They have hurt the stock market. And worst of all, they are hurting millions of people who depend on the integrity of businesses for their livelihood and their retirement, for their peace of mind and their financial well-being.

When abuses like this begin to surface in the corporate world, it is time to reaffirm the basic principles and rules that make capitalism work, truthful books and honest people and well-enforced laws against fraud and corruption. All investment is an act of faith, and faith is earned by integrity. In the long run, there's no capitalism without conscience; there is no wealth without character.

And so again today I'm calling for a new ethic of personal responsibility in the business community, an ethic that will increase investor confidence, will make employees proud of their companies, and again regain the trust of the American people.

Our Nation's most respected business leaders, including many gathered here today, take this ethic very seriously. The Business Roundtable, the New York Stock Exchange, the NASDAQ have all proposed guidelines to improve corporate conduct and transparency. These include requirements that independent directors compose the majority of the company's board, that all members of audit, nominating, and compensation committees be independent, and that all stock option plans be approved by the shareholders. I call on all the stock markets to adopt these sensible reforms, these common-sense reforms, as soon as possible.

Self-regulation is important, but it's not enough. Government cannot remove risk from investment—I know that—or chance from the market. But Government can do more to promote transparency and ensure that risks are honest, and Government can

ensure that those who breach the trust of the American people are punished.

Bold, well-considered reforms should demand integrity without stifling innovation and economic growth. From the antitrust laws of the 19th century to the S&L reforms of recent times, America has tackled financial problems when they appeared. The actions I'm proposing follow in this tradition and should be welcomed by every honest company in America.

First, we will use the full weight of the law to expose and root out corruption. My administration will do everything in our power to end the days of cooking the books, shading the truth, and breaking our laws.

Today, by Executive order, I create a new Corporate Fraud Task Force, headed by the Deputy Attorney General, which will target major accounting fraud and other criminal activity in corporate finance. The task force will function as a financial crimes SWAT team, overseeing the investigation of corporate abusers and bringing them to account.

I'm also proposing tough new criminal penalties for corporate fraud. This legislation would double the maximum prison terms for those convicted of financial fraud from 5 to 10 years. Defrauding investors is a serious offense, and the punishment must be as serious as the crime. I ask Congress to strengthen the ability of SEC investigators to temporarily freeze improper payments to corporate executives and to strengthen laws that prevent the destruction of corporate documents in order to hide crimes.

Second, we're moving corporate accounting out of the shadows, so the investing public will have a true and fair and timely picture of assets and liabilities and income of publicly traded companies. Greater transparency will expose bad companies and, just as importantly, protect the reputations of the good ones.

To expose corporate corruption, I asked Congress 4 months ago for funding to place 100 new enforcement personnel in the SEC. And I call on Congress to act quickly on this request. Today I announce my administration is asking Congress for an additional \$100 million in the coming year to give the SEC the officers and the technology it needs to enforce the law. If more scandals are hiding

in corporate America, we must find and expose them now, so we can begin rebuilding the confidence of our people and the momentum of our markets.

I've also proposed a 10-point accountability plan for American business, designed to provide better information to shareholders, set clear responsibility for corporate officers, and develop a stronger, more independent auditing system. This plan is ensuring that the SEC takes aggressive and affirmative action.

Corporate officers who benefit from false accounting statements should forfeit all money gained by their fraud. An executive whose compensation is tied to his company's performance makes more money when his company does well. That's fine, and that's fair when the accounting is above-board. Yet when a company uses deception—deception accounting to hide reality, executives should lose all their compensation—all their compensation—gained by the deceit.

Corporate leaders who violate the public trust should never be given that trust again. The SEC should be able to punish corporate leaders who are convicted of abusing their powers by banning them from ever serving again as officers or directors of a publicly held corporation. If an executive is guilty of outright fraud, resignation is not enough. Only a ban on serving at the top of another company will protect other shareholders and employees.

My accountability plan also requires CEOs to personally vouch for their firms' annual financial statements. Currently, a CEO signs a nominal certificate and does so merely on behalf of the company. In the future, the signature of the CEO should also be his or her personal certification of the veracity and fairness of the financial disclosures. When you sign a statement, you're pledging your word, and you should stand behind it.

And because the shareholders of America need confidence in financial disclosures right away, the SEC has ordered the leaders of nearly 1,000 large public companies to certify that the financial information they submitted in the last year was fair and it was accurate.

I've also called on the SEC to adopt new rules to ensure that auditors will be independent and not compromised by conflicts of interest.

The House of Representatives has passed needed legislation to encourage transparency and accountability in American businesses. The Senate also needs to act quickly and responsibly, so I can sign a good bill into law.

Third, my administration will guard the interests of small investor and pension holders. More than 80 million Americans own stock, and many of them are new to the market. Buying stock gives them an opportunity to build wealth over the long term, and this is the very kind of responsible investment we must promote in America. To encourage stock ownership, we must make sure that analysts give honest advice and pension plans treat workers fairly.

Stock analysts should be trusted advisers, not salesmen with a hidden agenda. We must prevent analysts from touting weak companies because they happen to be clients of their own firm for underwriting or merger advice. This is a flat-out conflict of interest, and we'll aggressively enforce new SEC rules against this practice, rules which take effect today.

And the stock markets should make sure that the advice analysts give and the terms they use have real meaning to investors. "Buy" should not be the only word in an analyst's vocabulary, and they should never say "hold" when they really mean "sell."

Small investors should also not have to have the deck stacked against them when it comes to managing their own retirement funds. My pension reform proposal would treat corporate executives the same as workers during so-called blackout periods, when employees are prohibited from trading in their own accounts. What's fair for the workers is fair for the bosses.

My reform proposal gives workers quarterly information about their investments. It expands workers' access to sound investment advice and allows them to diversify out of company stock.

The House has passed these measures. I urge the Senate to do the same. Tougher laws and stricter requirements will help—it'll help.

Yet ultimately, the ethics of American business depend on the conscience of America's business leaders. We need men and women of character, who know the difference between ambition and destructive greed, between justified risk and irresponsibility, between enterprise and fraud.

Our schools of business must be principled teachers of right and wrong and not surrender to moral confusion and relativism. Our leaders of business must set high and clear expectations of conduct, demonstrated by their own conduct. Responsible business leaders do not jump ship during hard times. Responsible leaders do not collect huge bonus packages when the value of their company dramatically declines. Responsible leaders do not take home tens of millions of dollars in compensation as their companies prepare to file for bankruptcy, devastating the holdings of their investors.

Everyone in a company should live up to high standards, but the burden of leadership rightly belongs to the chief executive officer. CEOs set the ethical direction for their companies. They set a moral tone by the decisions they make, the respect they show their employees, and their willingness to be held accountable for their actions. They set a moral tone by showing their disapproval of other executives who bring discredit to the business world.

And one of the principal ways that CEOs set an ethical tone is through their compensation. The pay package sends a clear signal whether a business leader is committed to teamwork or personal enrichment. It tells you whether his principal goal is the creation of wealth for shareholders or the accumulation of wealth for himself.

The SEC currently requires the annual disclosure of the CEO's compensation. But that information is often buried in long proxy statement—proxy statements and seldom seen—seldom seen—by shareholders. I challenge every CEO in America to describe in the company's annual report, prominently and in plain English, details of his or her compensation package, including salary and bonus and benefits. And the CEO, in that report, should also explain why his or her compensation package is in the best interest of the company he serves.

Those who sit on corporate boards have responsibilities. I urge board members to check the quality of their company's financial statements, to ask tough questions about accounting methods, to demand that audit firms are not beholden to the CEO, and to make sure the compensation for senior executives squares with reality and common sense. And I challenge compensation committees to put an end to all company loans to corporate officers.

Shareholders also need to make their voices heard. They should demand an attentive and active board of directors. They should demand truly independent directors. They should demand that compensation committees reward long-term success, not failure. Shareholders should demand accountability not just in bad times but especially in boom times, when accountability frequently breaks down. Shareholders are a company's most important constituency, and they should act like it.

The 1990s was a decade of tremendous economic growth. As we're now learning, it was also a decade when the promise of rapid profits allowed the seeds of scandal to spring up. A lot of money was made, but too often standards were tossed aside. Yet the American system of enterprise has not failed us. Some dishonest individuals have failed our system. Now comes the urgent work of enforcement and reform, driven by a new ethic of responsibility.

We will show that markets can be both dynamic and honest, that lasting wealth and prosperity are built on a foundation of integrity. By reasserting the best values of our country, we will reclaim the promise of our economy.

Leaders in this room help give the free enterprise system an ethical compass, and the Nation respects you for that. We need that influence now more than ever. I want to thank you for helping to restore the people's trust in American business. I want to thank you for your love of the country. And I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and address you today.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the Regent Ballroom at the Regent Wall Street Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to William Rudin,

chairman, Association for a Better New York; Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City; and Edward Cardinal Egan, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13271— Establishment of the Corporate Fraud Task Force

July 9, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to strengthen the efforts of the Department of Justice and Federal, State, and local agencies to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, recover the proceeds of such crimes, and ensure just and effective punishment of those who perpetrate financial crimes, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. The Attorney General shall immediately establish within the Department of Justice a Corporate Fraud Task Force (Task Force). Without regard to any other provision of this order, the Task Force shall be subject to the authority of the Attorney General under applicable law.

Sec. 2. Membership and Operation. Subject to section 4 of this order, the Task Force shall have the following members:

- (a) the Deputy Attorney General, who shall serve as Chair;
- (b) the Assistant Attorney General (Criminal Division);
- (c) the Assistant Attorney General (Tax Division);
- (d) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- (e) the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York;
- (f) the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York;
- (g) the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois;
- (h) the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania;
- (i) the United States Attorney for the Central District of California;
- (j) the United States Attorney for the Northern District of California;

(k) the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas; and

(l) such other officers or employees of the Department of Justice as the Attorney General may from time to time designate.

The Deputy Attorney General shall convene and direct the work of the Task Force in fulfilling all its functions under this order. The Deputy Attorney General may permit, when he deems it appropriate, the designee of a member of the Task Force, including those designated under section 4 of this order, to participate in lieu of the member. The Deputy Attorney General shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force within 10 days of the date of this order and shall thereafter convene the Task Force at such times as he deems appropriate.

Sec. 3. Functions. Consistent with the constitutional authority of the President, the authorities assigned to the Attorney General by law, and other applicable law, the Task Force shall:

(a) provide direction for the investigation and prosecution of cases of securities fraud, accounting fraud, mail and wire fraud, money laundering, tax fraud based on such predicate offenses, and other related financial crimes committed by commercial entities and directors, officers, professional advisers, and employees thereof (hereinafter “financial crimes”), when such cases are determined by the Deputy Attorney General, for purposes of this order, to be significant;

(b) provide recommendations to the Attorney General for allocation and reallocation of resources of the Department of Justice for investigation and prosecution of significant financial crimes, recovery of proceeds from such crimes to the extent permitted by law, and other matters determined by the Task Force from time to time to be of the highest priority in the investigation and prosecution of such crimes; and

(c) make recommendations to the President, through the Attorney General, from time to time for:

(i) action to enhance cooperation among departments, agencies, and entities of the Federal Government in the investigation and prosecution of significant financial crimes;

(ii) action to enhance cooperation among Federal, State, and local authorities responsible for the investigation and prosecution of significant financial crimes;

(iii) changes in rules, regulations, or policy to improve the effective investigation and prosecution of significant financial crimes; and

(iv) recommendations to the Congress regarding such measures as the President may judge necessary and expedient relating to significant financial crimes, or the investigation or prosecution thereof.

Sec. 4. Additional Participation for Specified Functions. In the Task Force’s performance of the functions set forth in subsection 3(c) of this order, and to the extent permitted by law, the following officers of the executive branch shall be members of the Task Force in addition to such other officers of the Federal Government as the Deputy Attorney General deems appropriate:

(a) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(b) the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(c) the Chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission;

(d) the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

(e) the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Sec. 5. Internal Management Purpose. This order is intended to improve the internal management of the Federal Government. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity or otherwise against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, instrumentalities, officers, or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 6. Termination. The Task Force shall terminate when directed by the President or, with the approval of the President, by the Attorney General.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 9, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:15 a.m., July 10, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 11.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom

July 9, 2002

The President. Please be seated. Thank you all very much. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. Laura and I are honored to welcome our recipients and family members and friends to the people's house.

As we honor today's Presidential Medal of Freedom winners, I want to acknowledge the presence of our great Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and his wife, Alma. Secretary Powell has won the Presidential Medal of Freedom twice—once with distinction. I'm not sure what happened the other time. [Laughter]

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civil honor our Nation can bestow, and we award it today to 12 outstanding individuals. The men and women we honor span the spectrum of achievement. Some are fighters; others are healers; all have left an enduring legacy of hope and courage and achievement.

Hank Aaron overcame poverty and racism to become one of the most accomplished baseball players of all time. "When I was in a ballpark," he said, "I felt like I was surrounded by angels, and I had God's hand on my shoulder." By steadily pursuing his calling in the face of unreasoning hatred, Hank Aaron has proven himself a great human being, as well as a great athlete.

Bill Cosby is a gifted comedian who has used the power of laughter to heal wounds and to build bridges. "I don't think you can bring the races together by joking about the differences between them," he said. "I'd rather talk about the similarities, about what's universal in their experiences." By focusing on our common humanity, Bill Cosby is helping to create a truly united America.

Placido Domingo has performed in more roles than any other tenor in the history of opera. His boundless admiration for the composers of the great operatic music makes him push himself to the limit. "They spend years

creating operas," Placido has said, "lots of suffering and lots of sweating." Well, by suffering and sweating himself, Placido Domingo is making sure that the great music of the past will continue to delight opera lovers the world over.

The week after September the 11th, Peter Drucker sent a letter to his friends and associates urging them "not to abandon daily life and civil society. That's exactly what the terrorist wants," he said. Peter Drucker has devoted his life to strengthening civil society. His determination to help our nonprofit and faith-based institutions carry out their desperately needed missions more effectively has made him one of the greatest management experts of our time.

Katharine Graham was a forceful, courageous, and deeply principled newspaper publisher. She described herself as someone who suffered from a sense of inferiority but who was forced to become a leader after her husband's death. "What I essentially did," she wrote, "was to put one foot in front of the other, shut my eyes, and step off the edge." Under her brilliant guidance, the Washington Post has become one of America's most powerful newspapers. Katharine Graham will always be remembered for her determined pursuit of journalistic excellence.

D.A. Henderson is a great general in mankind's war against disease. From 1966 to 1977 he led the World Health Organization's global smallpox eradication campaign. Today, he is helping protect America from the threat of bioterrorism. "We need to plan, not panic," says this master medical planner. Our Nation is fortunate to be able to draw on D.A. Henderson's great store of wisdom and experience as we work to lift the dark threat of terrorism from the nation and our world.

Irving Kristol is a wide-ranging thinker whose writings have helped transform America's political landscape. As young men, he and his fellow student radicals in City College's "alcove number one," devoted themselves to solving the ultimate problems of the human race. Today, Irving Kristol is still grappling with ultimate problems, and in thinking them through, he has vastly enlarged the conservative vision.

Shortly after he arrived on South Africa's Robben Island to begin serving his prison

sentence for resisting apartheid, Nelson Mandela refused an order to jog from the harbor to the prison gate. When a prison warden threatened to kill him, here's what he said: "If you so much as lay a hand on me, I will take you to the highest court in the land, and when I finish with you, you'll be as poor as a church mouse." [*Laughter*] The warden backed off and so, eventually, did other, more powerful representatives of apartheid—all of whom were humbled by Mandela's immense moral authority. It is this moral stature that has made Nelson Mandela perhaps the most revered statesman of our time.

Gordon Moore is a great businessman and innovator. His interest in science was sparked by a chemistry set when he was a boy. "With the chemistry set," he recalls, "I had to get a good explosion at the end, or I wasn't happy." [*Laughter*] In the worlds of business, science, and philanthropy, Gordon Moore has been setting off explosives ever since. And the ripple effects of his explosive genius have helped create our age of information.

Nancy Reagan has devoted herself to her family and her country. As first lady of California, she spoke out eloquently on behalf of POWs and American servicemen missing in action. As First Lady of the United States, she has led an antidrug campaign—she led an antidrug campaign that helped reduce teenage drug abuse. Today we honor Nancy Reagan for her eloquent example of loyalty and courage and abiding love.

Fred Rogers has proven that television can soothe the soul and nurture the spirit and teach the very young. "The whole idea," says the beloved host of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, "is to look at the television camera and present as much love as you possibly could to a person who needs it." This message of unconditional love has won Fred Rogers a very special place in the heart of a lot of moms and dads all across America.

A.M. Rosenthal's calling is journalism; his passion is human rights. "When I come out for human rights," he says, "I'm not talking in the abstract. I know that if I lived in a dictatorship, I would be in jail very quickly." A.M. Rosenthal's outspoken defense of persecuted Christians in Asia, Africa, and the

Middle East have truly made him his brother's keeper.

Each of these men and women has enriched the life of America and the world. And we're honored to have them with us here today.

And now the military aide will call each of the winners forward and read their citations.

[*At this point, Maj. James M. McAllister, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.*]

The President. Again, I want to thank you all for coming to honor such remarkable men and women. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, established by President Kennedy in 1963, recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, or to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." I'm sure you'll agree that today's Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients richly deserve their honor.

And now, Laura and I would like to invite you all to join us for a reception in honor of today's distinguished Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients, in the room back here in the back.

May God bless our recipients, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Account of Federal Expenditures for Climate Change Programs and Activities

July 9, 2002

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with section 559(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-115), I transmit herewith an account of Federal expenditures for climate change programs and activities. This report includes both domestic and international programs and activities related to climate change, and associated costs by line

item as presented in the President's Budget Appendix.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Robert C. Byrd, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Concerning Refugee Assistance

July 9, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Delegation of Authority under Sections 2(d) and 2(f) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate the functions and authorities conferred upon the President by sections 2(d) and 2(f) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act (MRAA) of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 2601, insofar as they relate to actions taken under the authority of section 2(b) (2) of the MRAA, to the Secretary of State, who should insure timely performance of any duties and obligations of the delegated authority and who is authorized to redelegate these functions and authorities consistent with applicable law. The Secretary of State, or his or her delegate, is directed to provide notice to the President of any use of the functions and authorities delegated by this determination.

This delegation of authority supplements Presidential Determination No. 99-6, Delegation of Authority Under Section 2(b) (2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended (November 30, 1998).

Any reference in this memorandum to section 2 of the MRAA, as amended, shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this Determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 10.

Memorandum on the 2002 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area

July 9, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: 2002 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area

I am delighted that the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann M. Veneman, has agreed to serve as the Chair of the 2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area. I ask you to enthusiastically support the CFC by personally chairing the campaign in your agency and appointing a top official as your Vice Chair.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an important way for Federal employees to support thousands of worthy charities. Public servants not only contribute to the campaign but also assume leadership roles to ensure its success.

Your personal support and enthusiasm will help positively influence thousands of employees and will guarantee another successful campaign.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 10.

Memorandum on Electronic Government's Role in Implementing the President's Management Agenda

July 9, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Electronic Government's Role in Implementing the President's Management Agenda

My Administration's vision for Government reform is guided by three principles. Government should be citizen-centered, results-oriented, and market-based. These principles have been woven into the five Government-wide reform goals outlined in my Administration's Management Agenda: strategic management of human capital, budget and performance integration, competitive sourcing, expanded use of the internet and computer resources to provide Government services (Electronic-Government or E-Government), and improved financial management. Effective implementation of E-Government is important in making Government more responsive and cost-effective.

Our success depends on agencies working as a team across traditional boundaries to better serve the American people, focusing on citizens rather than individual agency needs. I thank agencies who have actively engaged in cross-agency teamwork, using E-Government to create more cost-effective and efficient ways to serve citizens, and I urge others to follow their lead.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 10.

Remarks to Federal Employees on the Proposed Department of Homeland Security

July 10, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thank you. Thanks for that warm welcome. It's such a pleasure to be here today, and I want to thank you all for coming. I'm here to thank each one of you for your dedication to the country we all love. You worked hard

prior to September the 11th. You're working really hard now, and the American people appreciate it a lot, and so do I.

You know, the amazing thing about America is, our Nation is stronger today than it was before the enemy hit. I like to remind people, they must have not understood who they were dealing with. They probably thought we might file a lawsuit or two—[laughter]—but they didn't understand the character of the American people, the strength and resolve of our great land to defend that which we hold dear, which is freedom. Nor did they understand the energy and drive of the people who work on behalf of the American people to do everything we can—and I say “we”—we can, to protect and guard our people. And that's what's happening today in America, and I want to thank you for your dedication.

And we've got to do more. We've got to move forward. We've got to seize the moment to do everything we can to assure the American people that our Government and the fine folks who work on behalf of the taxpayers are working in a smart way, in a dedicated way.

And today I want to talk some about the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and why it's important to our country. And I call upon your continued sense of duty to our country as we develop the new plans. Oh, it's not going to be easy, and the challenges are going to be great. But there's no doubt in my mind that we'll do what's necessary—do what's necessary—to protect America.

I want to thank Chung for her introduction. Backstage, we had a picture taken. I said, “Only in America”—only in America do we have somebody as dedicated as—people like Chung, who are willing to sacrifice on behalf of the United States of America, use their time and talent and energy like everybody in this hall to work for others. So, Chung, thanks for your hard work, thanks for your dedication to your job, and thanks for representing the good folks in this hall.

When I go back to Crawford, people say—or I see my friends from Texas, they say, “Gosh, it must be hard to be the President.” I say, “Well, not really, if you've got a good

team.” And I’ve put together a great team. You all are a part of that team.

Today some of the generals of the team are here, people such as Tom Ridge, who is adviser to Homeland Security. He’s done a great job. He left being the Governor of the great State of Pennsylvania to come and serve the Nation, and I want to thank you, Tom, for your dedication to the country.

Some of my Cabinet members are here. The Secretary of State of the United States of America, Colin Powell; our great Attorney General, John Ashcroft, is here. The Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, is here. Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta; the Energy Secretary, Spence Abraham, is here. Thank you for being here, Spence. Christie Todd Whitman, who runs the EPA, is with us today. Thank you, Christie Todd.

The prettiest person in our administration—[*laughter*—of FEMA, Joe Allbaugh; I want to thank Kay James, who’s the Director of Office of Personnel Management, for coming. I appreciate you being here, Kay. I know Stephen Perry of the GSA is here. I see Brian Stafford, who’s running the Secret Service. I see the head of the Coast Guard; I see Magaw, John Magaw. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you all being here.

And I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I appreciate you working with us. I appreciate you’re here to celebrate the dedication of the fine people that we’re fortunate enough to have working in our Government.

You know, the threats we face are real. I mean, it is real. I like to remind people that I’m an early morning guy. I get to the Oval Office about—oh, generally about 6:50 or so. It’s not a very long commute. [*Laughter*] And I sit at the great desk that other Presidents have used—Teddy and Frank, and—I can call them that, since—[*laughter*]. And Spot the dog comes in with me, and I read a threat assessment. The fact that the enemy is still interested in hurting America, I read that every morning. And I take it seriously, and I know you do as well.

This is a threat that not only affects America; it affects anybody who loves freedom, anybody who’s willing to stand up and say, “We value freedom. We value the freedom

for people to worship the way they want to or speak their mind or to print an article the way they want to print it.” And the people who stand up for freedom, they’re going to be threatened by these killers.

And it’s time for us to continue to act decisively and to be patient and to be resolute. It means all the parts of our Government must continue to cooperate. And you all have done that, and I want to thank you for the level of cooperation that has taken place in a fragmented Government. It’s a—and we’re making progress; we really are.

First, we’re hunting down the killers wherever they try to hide, and we’re bringing them to justice. Sometimes you’ll read about it in your newspapers or see it on the—you know, on all these TV shows, and sometimes you won’t. But what is for certain is, we’ve got a great military who are doing everything they can to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that’s exactly what this Government will continue to do.

These are shadowy killers, and we’re treating them just as they are—as international crooks, international criminals. And they’ll—you know, these are the kind of folks that will slip into a city and try to hide, or they’ll go to a cave. And then they’ll send some youngster to his death, and they, themselves, of course, won’t choose that route, for some reason. They don’t want to show up, because they know, if they show up, we’ll get them. And it’s just a matter of time. It’s just a matter of time. They made a mistake; they attacked a great nation. And this Nation will do whatever it takes to defend freedom and to bring people to justice.

We’re making progress overseas; we’re making progress at home. We strengthened our aviation security, and we’re tightening our borders. We’re stockpiling medicines to defend against bioterrorism. We’re improving information-sharing amongst our intelligence agencies. We’re taking new steps to protect critical infrastructure. But the important thing for the American people to know is that our public servants are working longer hours and working harder and working smarter to defend the American people.

We will win the war on terror—no doubt in my mind—thanks to the heroism of our

fighting troops and thanks to the patriotism of our people and thanks to the hard work of Government officials here at home. There have been some extraordinary stories about some in your ranks—many in your ranks. And I want to share some of the stories with you so the American people fully understand the dedication of the people throughout our Government.

Tom Armas is a special agent in the Secret Service. On September the 11th, after helping to evacuate the agency's New York field office at Seven World Trade Center, he proceeded into the damaged North Tower and up the stairwell to the 40th floor, where he worked to help the seriously wounded. After being turned back by raging fire, he continued his efforts in the North Tower lobby and then on the street. Eventually, Tom was forced to evacuate the area because of thick smoke and, of course, falling debris. Yet, even while leaving, he continued to help others. In the midst of chaos, he was a calm and steady soldier, at one point carrying a woman to the safety of a nearby emergency vehicle.

You see, this is the meaning of public service, as you all have shown the American people, a willingness to go the limit, and then some more, for the sake of your fellow citizens. Tom, thank you very much for your service to the country.

David Hart has been a FEMA individual assistance reservist for many years. He had a variety of responsibilities related to September the 11th in New York, including making sure that victims received assistance quickly, make sure that there was staffing at the assistance centers and that there was proper training for people who were willing to help. Throughout this emergency, David was responsible for monitoring the individual assistance programs. He worked with the contract inspectors and others and was a troubleshooter for a wide variety of problems. He performed with great skill and boundless determination. He showed compassion to people in need. He put the best face on our Government for people who suffered. And David, we appreciate your service to America as well.

We serve our citizens in all kinds of ways, in different methods. Take, for example, the

story of Chantice James. It's a really interesting story, because she is one of the first U.S. Customs inspectors ever to work abroad for the sole purpose of protecting America and other countries from weapons of mass destruction—weapons of mass destruction that could be concealed in cargo.

We take these threats very seriously. We worry about weapons of mass destruction. And so we've asked Chantice James to leave her family to move to Vancouver, Canada, where she's been for the past 5 months. She and her Canadian counterparts are reviewing all shipments ultimately destined for the United States that comes through that port. She has assisted in training additional U.S. Customs inspectors, sharing her skill and talent and knowledge, who are now deployed in Halifax and Montreal. She's developing techniques that will be used around the world. She's using her time and talent and efforts to help us assure the American people that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland, and Chantice, thank you for your service as well.

These are just some of the examples of the extraordinary service that's taking place. You probably have got your own stories to tell. You've got examples of people, perhaps yourself, who have taken an extra step on behalf of the American people, and I want to thank you for that, and so do the American people. You see, we're all part of the war on terror, and that's what's important to understand, a new kind of war.

This is an historic campaign. It's a little different, but it does point up the fact that public service in America today is not just another job. It is an important act of citizenship. It is a way to fulfill our obligation to those who have gone before us, to those who will follow us, and to those who have sacrificed and died for us. That's how I view your job and my job.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those public servants who, I like to say, quietly stand guard on the ramparts of freedom. We owe something else as well. We owe all of you a concerted effort to do what it takes to make your efforts more effective. And that's why I proposed the Department of Homeland Security.

At present, there are over 100 different Federal agencies with a role in what we call homeland security. And that means, despite everybody's best intentions and hard work and sacrifice, there is a dispersal of authority, a lack of accountability, and the truth of the matter is, a needless drain on critical resources. There's, to put it bluntly, an overlap of administration, a duplication of administration.

And Congress—and so that's why I did what I did. And I understand it's hard to make changes in Washington, DC. I understand that people kind of get set in their ways and want to guard turf, and I know that. But there is an overriding and urgent mission here in America today, and that's to protect our homeland. We have been called into action, and we've got to act.

The Department of Homeland Security will foster a new culture in the Nation's Capital, and it will be a culture of cooperation. Sure, there's cooperation now. But when you've got 100 agencies dispersed throughout Washington, we can do a better job of cooperation. By uniting essential agencies that will work closely together, it will give new tools to meet new challenges. It will help set priority. Listen, all of you are in agencies that have got more than one priority, but the single most important priority is to protect the homeland now in America. We're at war.

We're in a different kind of war than we're used to. There'll be moments where it seems like we're not at war, but we're at war until we win. And therefore, we must do everything we can to funnel resources and to set priorities to protect the American people. It is by far our most important challenge.

The Department of Homeland Security will be charged with four primary tasks: to control our borders and prevent terrorists and weapons from entering the country—listen, we need to know who's coming in, and why they're coming in, and if they're leaving, when they're supposed to be leaving. And if they're not leaving, we need to know why they're not leaving.

We need to work with State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies, and that's important. All levels of government must work together.

We'll bring our best scientists and develop technologies to detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and to develop the drugs and treatments necessary to protect our citizens. This is an historic opportunity, not only to deal with the immediate but to leave a legacy of better medicines and better cures on behalf of the American people.

And finally, for the first time, this new Department will merge under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, to map those threats against our vulnerabilities, and to do what's necessary to secure America.

Congress is reacting positively to the initiative, and I want to thank the Members of Congress. See, this isn't a Republican idea; this isn't a Democrat idea; this is an American idea that makes sense for all Americans.

I understand the challenges that we face. I accept the challenges. I'm not going to let it stop us, and neither should you. This is the most significant reorganization since 1947—of Government—when President Harry Truman decided to reorganize the Defense Department.

Congress, as they work with us, must give us the flexibility necessary to achieve our objectives. I call it freedom to manage. The new Department must be able to get the right people in the right place at the right time with the right pay. We need to be able to reward excellence and ensure accountability for individual performance. A lot will be expected of us, and I expect Congress to give the executive branch the—give us the flexibility necessary to achieve our objectives.

I'm here to let you know that there's no question in my mind we can achieve what we need to achieve, particularly when we work together. I want you to think about the Department of Homeland Security in this sense. Twenty years from now, if we're still standing—individually, that is—you can look back and say, "I was part of not only winning the war on terror, but I was part of working together to leave behind a legacy, a legacy of a more secure homeland so a future President or a future Congress or a future agency head can better address the true threats of the 21st century that will face our children and our children's children." That's really what we're talking about today.

This is an historic moment, a fantastic opportunity. History has called us into action. History has put the spotlight on America. History has—people are saying, “What is this country all about?” Well, I’ll tell you what we’re about. We’re going to do what’s necessary to say—to do our most important job. We are can-do people. We see a problem; this is a country that works to solve it. And that’s what’s going to happen, thanks to your hard work and dedication.

And I’ll tell you what else is going to happen. We’re going to win the war on terror, no matter how long it takes. It is a—first of all, we do what we do because there’s others coming up in our society. The dedication and sacrifice you all make is because you understand that you’re working for other people, particularly young—youngsters, youngsters who want to enjoy the same life we have in America, a life of freedom, a life—a chance to realize your dreams. And we’re doing what we’re doing because you all understand that a full life is one that serves something greater than yourself. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have signed on for Government service in the first place.

I believe the culture in the country is changing. Oh, I know there’s a lot of folks that worry only about themselves and their balance sheets and how well they’re doing. But I do believe that, as a result of the evil done to America, a lot of Americans are stepping back and taking a hard look at what’s important in life.

They remember the example of Flight 93, average Americans flying across the country. They learned their plane would become a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them and goodbye. They said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground, the ultimate symbol of serving something greater than yourself, the ultimate act of sacrifice, to serve somebody and something, a cause greater than themselves.

And that’s what we’re here talking about today—good, honorable, honest Americans working hard to serve something greater than yourself. And that something is the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for your sacrifice. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:28 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Chung K. Marston, research biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who introduced the President.

Remarks on Prescription Drugs in Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 11, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I appreciate you coming out today and giving me a chance to talk about how do we work together to make America a more secure place and a better place for all of us. And part of making sure America is a better place for each and every one of us and a more secure place is to make sure we’ve got a health care system that is responsive and vibrant and alive and well and a place—a system that will really relate to each and every one of us as an individual, give each and every one of us a chance, as we grow older, to have a health care system that we can be proud of and confident in.

That’s why I started my day here in Minnesota at the University of Minnesota Medical School. You were probably wondering why Yudof was relevant. [*Laughter*] That’s because he hosted me at a fine medical school. And there I had the honor and opportunity to talk to some fellow Minnesotans about how to advance medicine, some of the research that was taking place. I talked to some patients and heard from some of our elderly about how—what kind of system was necessary to have the quality of life that we want for each and every one of us.

It’s—the key is to make sure that we advance medicine in a way that makes sure that our citizens get access to new drugs, new life-saving drugs, unbelievably innovative drugs that have changed medicine as we know it. And it starts with making sure our seniors have got a guarantee of a prescription drug coverage in Medicare. That’s where it ought to start. It ought to start with our seniors, who have paid their dues.

And as we do so, as we look at Medicare to make sure it includes prescription drugs, we must make sure that whatever system evolves does not undermine the great innovations which take place in America. And that’s

important to remember, that as we debate this issue in Congress, as Congress debates the issue—and of course I'm watching attentively—[*laughter*]*—*that we do not undermine the great strength of the American system, which is the capacity to be on the cutting edge of new technologies which save lives.

The House has passed a good first step, by the way, in reforming and making sure Medicare is modern and capable. And I hope the Senate acts quickly and gets a responsible bill into conference so that we can get a bill to my desk, and we can get moving to doing what is right for the American people.

I appreciate so very much Tommy Thompson traveling with me today. He is—he has been a fine, fine Secretary of Health and Human Services. He was a great Governor of Wisconsin, and he has brought a lot of innovation to—[*applause*].

There's a lot of folks I could introduce. I want to introduce one other person, a person I had the opportunity to meet at the airport when I came in. One of the things I like to do is to herald kind of the quiet heroes of our society, those who volunteer to make their communities a better place. I met Pearl Lam Bergad when I came earlier today. I don't know if you've ever heard of Pearl Lam here in your community, but she has done a magnificent job of heralding the cultural life of Minnesota. She is a remarkable volunteer. Where are you, Pearl Lam? She's somewhere here. She must not have gotten a very good seat. [*Laughter*] Oh, there you are, Pearl Lam. Please stand up, will you? Thank you for coming.

She's worked tirelessly to promote and improve cultural awareness in the community. She did so without any Government agency telling her what to do. She did so because she wanted to serve. She did so because she had a talent she wanted to share. You see, the great strength of the country is the fact that we've got a nation full of people who really, honestly, decently care about the communities in which they live and want to do something about it. And so, Pearl Lam, I want to thank you, on behalf of the thousands and millions of others in our country, for volunteering.

I called up my friend Mark Yudof and invited myself here because Minnesota is one of the leading centers of health care innovation in our country. And that's saying a lot. People come from all around the world to come to the University of Minnesota's cancer center. I don't know if you know that or not, but it's one of the most famous cancer centers. We thought we were pretty good in Texas—[*laughter*]*—*but you're really good here. This university performed the first successful bone marrow transplant and is one of the world's leaders in curing childhood leukemia and other cancers. There's a lot of incredible work going on right here in your neighborhood.

Patients from all over the globe have had their lives saved by heart devices and other medical products invented by the hundreds of medical companies that have their homes in what you call Medical Alley in the Minneapolis area, and I know we've got some of the entrepreneurs, the medical entrepreneurs here with us today. And I want to thank you for your work, and I want to thank you for employing people.

People from every corner of the world come to a clinic in southern Minnesota called Mayo Clinic. I know something about that, because my mother's on the board. [*Laughter*] Whew, those must be amazing board meetings. [*Laughter*] Sorry, Mom. [*Laughter*] But the Mayo Clinic's countless breakthroughs include effective drug treatment for tuberculosis and other diseases, and the clinic now has branches all across the country to make sure our seniors get the best possible health care.

I just met with a Mayo Clinic cardiologist named Doug Wood. I want to share a story he told me. I think it helps make my point about the need for us to stay on the cutting edge of drug therapy.

When he was a resident less than 25 years ago, the only real decision he had in treating a heart attack patient was how long to keep him or her in bed. That was the most important decision he had to make after the heart attack, how long will bed rest last. He could do more than just offer comfort, and knowing Doug, he offered a lot of comfort.

But today, thanks to progress in drug treatments, Dr. Wood uses a wide range of treatments to limit the damage from heart attack, to stop any further progress of the heart disease, and to prevent it from happening in the first place. In 25 short years, the ability for this healer to make a significant difference in the lives of those who have had heart diseases is amazing. It is a fantastic development in our society.

And the future promises even more breakthroughs. That's the exciting thing about America. Thanks to the rapidly evolving field of genetic medicine, doctors may soon be able to prescribe individually suited drugs based on their patients' genetic makeup. If you think about that—you've got a particular problem and the drug will be designed to meet your need—it's medicine at its most basic level.

But there's a problem, and I think we all recognize it now in our society, and we need to do something about it. And no matter how exciting the new drug therapies are, they're oftentimes very costly. Because Medicare—and what makes it even worse is that Medicare does not cover most prescription drugs. That's the reality. Too many seniors, because that's the case—because they're too costly and Medicare doesn't cover them—too many of our seniors are forced to choose between paying for their pills or paying basic bills. And that's not right in America.

And the reason why is because the Medicare system was designed for a different time. It's old. It is—it served a noble purpose, and it made a huge difference in a lot of people's lives. But it was designed at a time, for example, when surgery was common and the miraculous prescription drugs we have today were not only available—not available, but some people hadn't even thought about them yet.

We need a Medicare system that is updated and modern, to serve the seniors of today with the medicine of today and to be able to serve the seniors of tomorrow, guys like me, with the medicines of tomorrow. We need a system which works.

I support a prescription drug benefit in Medicare that allows seniors to choose the drug coverage that is best for them—that is best for them. I also support allowing and

encouraging seniors to band together to use purchasing power to—purchasing clout to be able to get lower drug—prices on their drugs.

Now, what you need to know is that a full Medicare drug benefit will take some years to phase in. And that's why I think we need to have a Medicare endorsed prescription drug card immediately for our seniors. The card will allow seniors to gain access to manufacturer discounts on the drugs they use as well as gain access to other valuable pharmaceutical services immediately. I talked about this last year. Court moved in there, and we're trying to get the court out of it. This is important for seniors.

I also support proposals like the one the House just passed, that will provide Federal funds for immediate prescription drug assistance for seniors.

Now, the key is to make sure that we expand seniors' access to programs that help them work with their doctors to use the best treatments too. And that includes better access to innovative disease management programs, like a program you have right here in Minnesota called Evercare.

You should have heard the testimony I heard, one from a loyal daughter whose mom is now in the Evercare program and another from a customer of Evercare, about the need to use Medicare Plus Choice to fund innovative programs that allow for seniors to feel like they're not a part of some giant bureaucracy but in fact treated on a basis that you'd want to be treated on. And that's what Evercare does. And those are the kinds of innovations we need throughout our system, by giving seniors more choice in the system.

While we strengthen Medicare, we must also encourage innovation by preserving our private health care system, the private health care system which is the envy of the world.

In the report issued today that Tommy talked about, the Department of Health and Human Services says this: In countries which rely on Government controls to keep health care costs down—presumably to keep health care costs down—the patient suffers. And that's important for you all to understand and to know. And it's important for those who advocate Government control of all the health care in America to understand as well: The patient suffers.

If you want a health care system where the patient doesn't suffer but, in fact, benefits, we must be innovative and encourage a healthy private sector.

When Government determines which drugs are covered by health insurance, when Government makes those decisions, the invariable results are this: There will be delays and inflexible limits on coverage of new treatments. Costs might go down for seniors who are lucky enough to need the drugs that are on the Government's list. But as in the Canadian provinces and in many other countries, seniors who need drugs that are not on the Government's list would have no alternative to get the coverage they prefer. All seniors have to wait for the Government to decide what is covered, and that doesn't seem fair to me. And with prescription drugs, those delays can be life threatening.

And the heavy hand of Government in other countries often does this: It discourages the costly and time-consuming investments in research necessary to discover new drugs. I want you to understand these facts. Eight of the 10—top 10 best selling drugs in the world were developed by American companies, while we can expect that 34 out of the 55 breakthrough drugs entering the market this year will come from American companies. It is our companies and our researchers which are leading the world in finding the therapies necessary to save lives. And we've got to remember that. And therefore, we need to steer clear of direct Government controls that stifle innovation and limit a patient's choice.

What's interesting is that more than half of our seniors have private drug coverage now because of their previous employment. And Government should act to strengthen these private health insurance options, not replace them. By relying on competition and patient's choice and innovative programs like Evercare, we will protect our seniors now and offer many new lifesaving services to seniors in the future and preserve our private health care system.

When the founders of the Mayo Clinic started their practice over a century ago, they chose a clear principle to guide their work: The best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered. That's the prin-

ciple. Minnesota's immense and continuing contributions to biotechnology demonstrates that this is the right principle for our health care system.

As Members of Congress act to provide a drug benefit in Medicare, I urge them to honor the principle I just outlined by putting patient control and patient choice ahead of Government control. If we do so, we can guarantee the continued vitality and productivity of America's private health care system, while providing the modern drug coverage that seniors so desperately need.

And that's part of making sure we have a secure America. Health security is part of being a secure America. The other thing we need to do to make sure we secure—a lot of things we need to do to make sure we secure America—one is to make sure we continue to grow our economy. Job security is important for a secure America.

But I want to just tell you real quickly about how I'm thinking about the war on terror, while I've got you stuck here. *[Laughter]* The war goes on. We face an enemy who is—they like to hide, and they'll go to the big cities in some of these countries and think they're invisible. And sometimes we don't hear from them for awhile. But you need to know, they're still plotting and planning. These are the ones that go into caves and send their youngsters to the death. They themselves hide, and get somebody else to carry on their mission, sometimes suicide missions.

They're out there still. They still hate America because we love freedom. They hate us because we value the fact that people should worship freely. The more free we are, the more desperate they become. They like to find countries that are soft, kind of burrow in, and try to plan. And you just need to know we're doing everything we can to disrupt them. The doctrine still holds: Either you're with the United States of America and freedom-loving countries, or you're with the terrorists.

We have over 60,000 troops overseas, 8,000 still in Afghanistan. As you know, Afghanistan is still a dangerous place. And we're going to stay there until a stable Government emerges, until we complete our mission. We're—any time we get a hint in

a place like Afghanistan, we're moving, and we're moving with some of the finest Americans ever produced, those who wear our uniform.

This is a different kind of war. In the past, you'd see tank movements or airplane formations. This is like hunting down a bunch of coldblooded killers; that's what it's like. And that's all they are, by the way. And we're after them one at a time, one person at a time. We've—when I talked about the need for us to establish a Department of Homeland Security, I announced—part of my announcement was that I told the people that we had hauled in—“we” being our friends as well as ourselves—hauled in over 2,400 of these terrorists. That's in less than a year's time. So we're making progress, one person at a time.

Our goal is to get them on the run and keep them on the run, so they have no place to light or no place to hide. And it's going to take awhile. The American people understand that; that's positive. That's good news for us and bad news for the enemy. The American people understand that we've got a new challenge. Because we understand, when somebody attacks our values, the values we hold dear, it doesn't matter how long it takes, we'll defend them.

I've submitted a bill, an appropriations request to the Congress, which is a significant increase in our defense spending. And I did it for two reasons. One is, I firmly believe that any time we commit our young into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible.

And two, it's a signal to the enemy and to our friends and allies that we're in this for the long run. There is no time certain as to when we quit. There is not a calendar that says, “By such and such a moment, you've got to stop, Mr. President.” For however long it takes, we defend our freedoms. History has called America into action, and America—America will act, because we're a nation that stands for tremendous values. We love freedom. We love freedom. And anybody that tries to take it away—[*applause*].

I also want you to know this, that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I firmly believe that. I believe it. I want the youngsters here to understand,

when you hear your President talk about getting them and rounding them up, that I yearn for peace. And I believe—I believe we can achieve peace. I believe that when this country remains strong and steadfast and resolved, we can achieve peace, peace not only for our own people but peace in parts of the world where people have never dreamt of peace in a while.

That's the legacy this generation will leave behind: By being tough and doing what it takes to win the war on terror, we'll leave peace for our children and our grandchildren. I'll tell you what else is going to happen here, as a result of the evil done to America, there's going to be some incredible good here at home too. I believe people have taken a step back and asked, “What's important in life?” You know, the bottom line and this corporate America stuff, is that important? Or is serving your neighbor, loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself?

I gave a speech at Ohio State University, at their graduation, and I was pleased to see that 70 percent of the seniors in the class had served their community one way or the other. They understand that a life in America is most complete when you help a neighbor in need, when you volunteer your time, that in America, being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart and saying, “One nation under God.” It is a—serving a neighbor—[*applause*]—it also means loving a neighbor. It means mentoring a child.

You see, in spite of our richness, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness and addiction that we must address. The enemy hit us, and I believe they finally—they helped wake up a spirit of personal responsibility, a spirit that says, being an American means you've got to help a neighbor in need as well as saluting your flag.

And it's happening in this country. It's happening. And I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come a society in which the great American experience and the great American hopes extends into all neighborhoods, where people realize that they're fortunate to live in the greatest land—I mean the greatest—on the face of the Earth. And it's my honor to be your President.

I want to thank you all. I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by and talk about an issue that's important for today and tomorrow, and that is quality health care for our seniors. And thank you for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Nicollet Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. In his remarks, he referred to Mark G. Yudof, president, University of Minnesota.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Second Protocol Amending the Canada-United States Extradition Treaty

July 11, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Second Protocol Amending the Treaty on Extradition Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada, as amended, signed at Ottawa on January 12, 2001. In addition, I transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Second Protocol. As the report explains, the Second Protocol will not require implementing legislation.

The Second Protocol amends the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and Canada, signed at Washington on December 3, 1971, as amended by an Exchange of Notes of June 28 and July 9, 1974, and by a Protocol signed at Ottawa on January 11, 1988.

The Second Protocol, upon entry into force, will enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of both nations. The Second Protocol incorporates into the U.S.-Canada Extradition Treaty a provision on temporary surrender of persons that is a standard provision in more recent U.S. bilateral extradition treaties. It also provides for new authentication requirements for documentary evidence, which should streamline the processing of extradition requests.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Second Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,

July 11, 2002.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Ireland-United States Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

July 11, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Ireland on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on January 18, 2001. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, fraud, and other white-collar offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking the testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; locating or identifying persons; serving documents; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; identifying, tracing, freezing, seizing, and forfeiting the proceeds and instrumentalities of crime and assistance in related proceedings; and such other assistance as may be agreed.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 11, 2002.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Russia-United States Agreement
on the Conservation and
Management of the Alaska-Chukotka
Polar Bear Population**

July 11, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population done at Washington on October 16, 2000 (the "U.S.-Russia Agreement"). I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to that Agreement.

The U.S.-Russia Agreement provides legal protections for this population of polar bears in addition to those found in the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears done at Oslo, November 13, 1973 (the "1973 Agreement"), which was a significant, early step in the international conservation of polar bears. The 1973 Agreement is a multilateral treaty to which the United States and Russia are parties. (The other parties are Norway, Canada, and Denmark.) The 1973 Agreement provides authority for the maintenance of a subsistence harvest of polar bears and provides for habitat conservation.

The proposed U.S.-Russia Agreement, which would operate as a free-standing treaty separate from the 1973 Agreement, is the culmination of an 8-year effort. The U.S.-Russia Agreement builds on the 1973 Agreement to establish a common legal, scientific, and administrative frame work for the conservation and management of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population, which is shared by the United States and the Russian

Federation. For example, the U.S.-Russia Agreement provides a definition of "sustainable harvest" that will help the United States and Russia to implement polar bear conservation measures while safeguarding the interests of native people. In addition, the U.S.-Russia Agreement establishes the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission, which would function as the bilateral managing authority to make scientific determinations, establish taking limits, and carry out other responsibilities under the terms of the U.S.-Russia Agreement. The proposed U.S.-Russia Agreement would strengthen the conservation of our shared polar bear population through a coordinated sustainable harvest management program.

Early ratification of the U.S.-Russia Agreement by the United States will reinforce our leadership role in international conservation of marine mammals and will encourage similar conservation action by other countries. I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Agreement and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 11, 2002.

**Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial
Candidate Norm Coleman and
Congressional Candidate John Kline
in Minneapolis**

July 11, 2002

Thank you very much. Thanks for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in Minnesota. I've had some opportunity to welcome some fine Minnesota folks to the White House. Last May, a couple of Minnesota teams came by to say hello that happened to be national champs in women's and men's hockey. They felt pretty good about things, and they said they thought they're going to be back next year. [*Laughter*] Next year when they come back, Norm Coleman and John Kline are going to be with me to greet them.

I want to thank you for supporting these fine candidates. I want to thank you for being here tonight, and I want to thank you for

what you're going to do, which is to man the phones and put up the signs and convince your neighbors that these two men need your support for the good of the country and for the good of your great State.

I'm proud to be here with not only Norm but, as importantly, his wife, Laurie. It's important to have a—[*applause*]. And I appreciate Vicky Kline as well, being here with John tonight.

I know something about marrying well. [*Laughter*] We—I'm really proud of Laura. Someday she needs to come and campaign for these candidates, if they want to win. I don't know if you've heard me say this before, but when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care about politics or politicians. [*Laughter*] And now, here she is, the First Lady of the greatest country in the world, and what a fabulous, fabulous job she's doing. She sends her best.

You know, one of the things about a President—people come by, and they say, "We appreciate the job you're doing." And one of my first responses is that if you've got a good team, the job is a lot easier than it might look. And I want you to know, I put together a fabulous team. And one of my team members is here tonight, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the former Governor of the State of Wisconsin, my close friend, a guy doing a great job, Tommy Thompson. I appreciate you, Tommy.

I want to thank those who are—who hold office now. The speaker is here, and the Senate minority leader is here. The secretary of state is here. Thank you all for coming. And I'm honored also to be sharing the stage with the next Governor of the State of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty.

There's no doubt in my mind that these great candidates can win. There's no doubt, because they bring a lot of qualities to the ticket that the people of Minnesota will respect. Norm Coleman: First, he loves his family; he's a man of faith; he loves his country; he's an independent kind of fellow—nothing wrong with that. [*Laughter*]

The thing I like about Norm is, he focuses on results. As the mayor of St. Paul—I'm told, a pretty Democratic city; at least that's what the numbers looked like to me the last

time I ran—[*laughter*—he wins as a Republican because he brought a compassionate conservative agenda to the people. He focused on things that matter, like jobs and making sure children got a quality education.

He agrees with me that when it comes to educating our children, it is important to have high standards and high expectations. You see, if you don't think some kids can learn, the system will just shuffle them through; the system will quit on them. That is not good enough for America. He understands that to make sure that every single child gets educated, we must understand whether they're learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we will praise the teachers. But if we find out that our children can't read, write, and add and subtract, we better do something about it early, before it's too late. No child should be left behind in America.

Norm's got a record of prosecution—prosecuting white-collar crime. Our Nation must have confidence in our institutions. I often-times talk about the need for each of us to be responsible for our behavior. Corporate America must be responsible for its behavior as well. We expect balance sheets to be fair and open. We expect transparency, and we expect those in charge of corporate America to treat the shareholders and employees with the utmost respect.

I need Norm in the Senate to help me on Medicare. Today I had the honor of going to the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and what a fabulous place that is. It is first-class. And we saw some of the new—heard about some of the new drug therapies being developed to save lives and extend life and to enhance the quality of life. And what we need is a Medicare plan that not only encourages innovation but gives seniors choices, all of which will include prescription drugs.

I need a man in the Senate who will join me in nominating judges to our courts who will not use the bench from which to legislate but will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States.

And we need a voice in the United States Senate who will focus on the people's business, not the needless partisanship, the bickering, the name-calling that too often—too

often fills that great Chamber. We need somebody who can work with both sides of the aisle, somebody who's focused on what's right for Minnesota and what's right for America. And there's no doubt in my mind that the right person to handle that important responsibility is Norman Coleman.

And I'm here to campaign for John Kline for the United States House of Representatives. If the good folks in his district are wise, they'll send him to Washington. John served the United States with distinction as a member of the Marine Corps. He understands the need to support our military, and we need people who will support our military in the United States Congress.

The thing I like about this good man is, he actually worked on a farm. He knows if you own the land and make a living on the land, every day is Earth Day. He understands how important farming is not only to his district but to his State and to the Nation. And he understands what I know: When you're good at something, you need to promote it. Our farmers and ranchers are the best in the world, and we need to be selling our farm products and ranch products all over the world.

I look forward to having John in the United States Congress to work on the homeland defense and on the defense of our Nation. And when you put him there, he'll bring honor to that office.

I'm also here—I'm pleased to urge you to work hard for your next Governor, Tim Pawlenty. He understands what I know: If you let people keep more of their own money, it invigorates the economy. And he knows the best way to bring fiscal discipline to any body of government is to resist unnecessary spending. Tim Pawlenty will be a fine and great Governor for the State of Minnesota, and I'm proud to lend my support.

I'm pleased to talk about tax relief and trade because it is necessary to—those are necessary items to make sure our economy recovers. You know, in Washington, they talk a lot about statistics, and that's fine—"This number's up, or that number's down." What I worry about is, anytime anybody is looking for work and can't find it, we've got a problem. So therefore, I ask the question, how do we make sure we continue to expand our

job base? What does it take to make sure that the entrepreneurial spirit of America is strong and vibrant so that there are more jobs for people who want to work? And that means making sure Congress doesn't overspend, doesn't overcommit, and making sure we have fiscal sanity in Washington, DC.

We cut taxes at the right time. You see, I read the textbook that says, when people have more money, they're going to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody's going to produce the good and service. And if somebody produces that good and service, it means somebody's going to find work. For the good of long-term economic growth and for the good of long-term economic vitality, we need to make the tax cuts permanent. And I want a Senator and Members of the House to do so.

One of the worst taxes in America is what they call the death tax. It's a tax that taxes people's assets more than once. It's a tax that hurts farmers and ranchers. It says you cannot leave your business, if you're a small-business owner, to your relative. It says to some in America that if your loved one passes away, that you might have to liquidate your family farm in order to pay inheritance taxes. The Congress did the right thing in eliminating the tax, but it only lasts, because of a quirk in the Senate rules, for 10 years. We need people in the United States Congress who understand how bad the death tax is to small-business owners, ranchers, and farmers in America and make the repeal of the death tax permanent.

So I spend a lot of time on economic security and will continue to do so until I'm confident people can find work.

I also spend a lot of time on our homeland security. You need to know that we fight an enemy that is not only ruthless, a group of people who don't value human life, but they're—they hide, and they're patient, and they're determined to hurt America. People—I'm sure some of the young hear, "Well, why would you want to hurt our country? Why would they care?" And the answer is, because we're a beacon for freedom. We stand for things they don't stand for.

See, we believe people should be able to worship the Almighty God any way they see

fit. They don't. We believe people should be able to speak their mind. We believe in a free press. We believe in open elections. What we stand for is freedom, and they hate freedom. And therefore, they hate us. But they may be patient. We're more patient. They may be determined. We are more determined. They may think they have hit a country which is soft and weak. They have found out the United States of America will defend our freedoms at all costs. We're going to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

We are—we're making progress in a different kind of war. You know, you watch the old war films, you'd see tanks moving across a battlefield or formations of airplanes. That's not the kind of war we're in. We're after international killers, coldblooded killers. That's all they are. They—and, therefore, we've got to make sure at home we're secure.

The other day, I made a far-reaching proposal that urges Congress to join me in reorganizing our Government so we can do as good a job as possible about protecting the homeland. Listen, I didn't run by saying, "Vote for me. I'm for bigger Government." That wasn't my platform. *[Laughter]* But I did run and say, "Give us a chance to produce results."

Now, you need to know that when it comes to homeland security, there are over 100 agencies involved with homeland security, which means it's hard to align authority and responsibility. We've got 100 of them scattered all over Washington. I think those agencies, for the good of the country, need to be under one Cabinet officer. We need to have as a—the priority of these agencies the protection of the American people. Now, some of the agencies do other things, no question about it. But in order to effect a new culture and to set new priorities, it makes sense to me to have authority and responsibility aligned.

And this new agency will have several functions. One is to make sure we understand who's coming into our country and why they're coming in and whether they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. This new agency will be charged with working with some of America's finest citizens, our first-responders, the police and firefighters

and EMS teams all across the country, to make sure that we respond to an emergency if it ever were to occur. This new agency is in charge of working to deal with the threat of bio—a bioterrorist attack, so they've got the immunizations available and our health care systems are prepared to respond. This new agency will analyze data, intelligence that has been gathered from around the world, and analyze it in one place to determine our vulnerabilities and then the response necessary to button up the American homeland.

I'm proud of those who work for our Government. We've got a lot of fine folks working a lot of hours, running down any kind of hint there is. Any kind of suggestion that somebody is going to do something to America, we're responding as quickly as we possibly can. And we're making good progress. But you just need to know, the best way to secure the homeland is to do what we're doing, and that's to hunt these killers down one person at a time.

In my speech to the country outlining my vision for a Department of Homeland Security, I told the folks that we've—we and our friends have hauled in over 2,400 of these killers. Sometimes you'll know about it, and sometimes you won't. But what you need to know is that wherever they try to light, we're going to get them on the run, and we're going to keep them moving. And we're going to keep them moving until our military and our coalition brings them to justice.

You've got to know how proud I am of the United States military. What a great group. I asked the United States Congress for a significant increase in defense spending. And I know the two gentlemen up here, if they were in the Halls of the Congress, would be strongly supporting what I'm about to tell you. The reason I asked for the biggest increase since President Ronald Reagan was the President is because I believe this: Anytime you commit an American youth into harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible.

And the increase also sends this signal to our friends and allies, as well as the enemy: We're in it for the long haul. We're talking about freedom. We're talking about civilization itself. History has called our country into

action. There's a big spotlight on America, and our country will lead. We will lead this vast coalition.

I want you to know, the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists," it still stands, and we enforce it every single day. If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you finance a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the killers who struck America on September the 11th, and we'll hold you accountable as well.

Our task is bigger than any single individual. We chase down a network. And at the same time, I have tried to speak as plainly as I possibly can about those nations with—who harbor weapons of mass destruction, who would dare try to blackmail the United States and other freedom-loving countries. We cannot and we must not allow the world's worst leaders to develop and deploy the world's worst weapons. We owe it to our children and we owe it to our children's children to be tough and firm.

We're making progress. We've got a lot of work to do, a lot of work. And I appreciate so very much the resolve of the American people. My, what a fantastic country we have. We are so strong and so courageous and so compassionate, it leads me to declare this, that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. Out of the evil done to our country will be some—some positive developments, starting with this. I believe that as the United States continues to lead with resolution and determination, that we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only here at home, but we can achieve peace in places around the world that haven't dreamt of peace or dreamt that peace is possible. I believe it.

I believe that the terrorists—I don't know what went through their mind. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic that all we would do after 9/11 was file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* What they didn't realize is that this is a great nation, a great nation full of determined people, people not only to work for peace but people who here at home will seize the moment to make our communities a more decent and positive place for everybody to live.

We live in a fabulous nation, a rich nation, but we must always remember that in our

wealth, there are pockets of despair. There's loneliness. There's addiction. There are children who wonder whether the American Dream is meant for them. And I believe out of the evil done to America will come the good of addressing those problems, because a lot of Americans have stepped back and said, "What is the value of life? How do I have a complete life?" And many of our fellow citizens understand that to have a complete life, you love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. There are thousands of our citizens, on a daily basis, responding to the evil done to America by mentoring a child or helping a shut-in or delivering food to the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless.

And that's the true strength of our country. We're a decent country, a compassionate country. We understand that each of us can't do everything, but each of us can do something to help make a difference in changing America, one soul, one conscience, one heart at a time.

And that is why I feel so strongly that our Government must not fear the compassionate programs that emanate out of the faith-based institutions. We must not discriminate against faith. We must welcome faith in America in order to change lives.

And that's part of the spirit that is evolving in the country. We are ushering in a new period of personal responsibility, where each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. We're responsible for loving our children. If you're a mom or a dad—if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. If you live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and you're aware of a friend in need, you're responsible for helping that friend in need. If you're running a corporation, you're responsible for open books and treating your employees well.

That message came home loud and clear in Flight 93, the concept of serving something greater than yourself in life, the concept of understanding that patriotism is more than saying the pledge or saluting the flag; patriotism is serving your Nation by helping a neighbor in need. We had citizens traveling

across the country. They realized their airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane in the ground to save other people's lives. It's the new spirit of the 21st century.

And so, tonight I urge you not only to work hard for these good candidates but work hard to be a part of making America a complete country for everybody. And it's happening—it's happening. You see, I can confidently predict, out of the evil done to America will come great good, because I'm the President of the greatest nation in the face of the Earth.

It is my honor to be here. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. at the Target Center Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Sviggum, speaker, and gubernatorial candidate Tim Pawlenty, majority leader, Minnesota House of Representatives; Dick Day, minority leader, Minnesota Senate; and Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer. John Kline is a candidate for Congress in Minnesota's First Congressional District.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the United States Agency for International Development To Act as Administrator

July 10, 2002

Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

Subject: Designation of Officers of the United States Agency for International Development to Act as Administrator

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this memorandum, during any period when both the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (Administrator) and the Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International

Development (Deputy Administrator) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the United States Agency for International Development, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Administrator or Deputy Administrator is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Assistant Administrator for Policy and Program Coordination;

Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs;

Assistant Administrator for Management; and

The Assistant Administrators for the following Bureaus in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office:

Bureau for Africa;

Bureau for Asia and the Near East;

Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance;

Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade;

Bureau for Europe and Eurasia;

Bureau for Global Health; and

Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 12.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the District of
Columbia's Fiscal Year 2003
Budget Request**

July 11, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and consistent with sections 202(c) and (e) of The District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of The District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2003 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For FY 2003, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$5.7 billion.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 11, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 12.

**Remarks to the Recipients of the
2001 Presidential Early Career
Awards for Scientists and Engineers**

July 12, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for coming today. It's a privilege to welcome our country's best minds to the White House. Today it is my honor, high honor to welcome the men and women receiving the 2001 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate so very much the first steps in the careers of discovery that you've taken. And the amazing thing is, your colleagues already recognize the great potential of your work. Dr. Marburger was telling me that it was only 5 years ago that a person who had—who received an award that you're receiving today became a Nobel laureate. Maybe I'm looking at another Nobel laureate or two here. *[Laughter]*

You need to know that the breakthroughs that you have made will make life better for all Americans. Your explorations will expand our understanding of the world, and that's important. Your innovations will help America stay at the forefront of technological development for decades to come.

Most Americans may not understand all you do and all the details of your work. But we understand your promise and your commitment and your dedication. And we're grateful for it, so thanks for coming.

I appreciate Larry Lindsey, my Director of the National Economic Council, and Jack Marburger, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, for spearheading this event. I want to thank a couple of my Cabinet Secretaries who are here: Ann Veneman of Agriculture and Spence Abraham of Energy. Thank you both for your service.

I appreciate Rita Colwell, as Director of the National Science Foundation, for being here, for her work. I want to thank Elias Zerhouni from the NIH for being here. Dr. Zerhouni is—we plucked him out of the private sector to serve our country, and he's doing a fine job. I just want to remind everybody that the commitment we made that we would double the budget in the NIH has been completed, and I appreciate your leadership there, Dr. Zerhouni.

I want to thank Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher of—the Administrator of NOAA, National Oceanic and Administrative—Atmospheric Administration. I want to thank Dr. Arden Bement, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—Arden, thank you very much, sir—John Hopps, the Deputy Director of the Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense. I want to thank James Burris, the Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer of the Veterans Health Administration, and Shannon Lucid, who is the Chief Scientist of NASA.

The reason I mention these fine folks is that they all picked you. So when you see them at the reception—*[laughter]*—be nice to them. *[Laughter]*

I want to welcome the family member or friend that you picked to come here. I'm sorry the room is so small. I suspect we could

have accommodated a lot more people if we had a bigger room. But Dr. Marburger told me that at the reception other family members will be there. Please give them my best, and sorry I couldn't extol your virtues in front of them, in their person. But I want to welcome you all as well to the White House. It's quite a place to go to work, as I'm sure you can imagine. And I hope you recognize it's quite a place to receive an award too.

The honorees are—you're serving America; that's what you're doing. And you're doing so in the best of—in the best of the public interest. And for that, we're grateful.

You're learning how the smallest known particles operate and interact. You're laying down the foundation for new methods of diagnosing and treating cancer and heart disease, doing research to protect Americans against threats posed by chemical weapons. You're exploring the uncharted territory of the human mind.

Your work advances important national goals. And accomplishing these goals requires the cooperation amongst scientists and engineers in our universities, our Government agencies, and, of course, in the private sector.

This award is a statement of our confidence, the Nation's confidence and the tremendous good that can come when the America Government supports the genius of the American people.

My administration is continuing a great tradition. Whether finding cures for diseases or learning how to better predict natural disasters or developing information technology that unites the world, Government-funded basic research expands knowledge and learning and helps our people to live longer and healthier and more satisfying lives. We are committed to basic research from the Federal Government. And we will keep that commitment so long as we're here.

Innovation is one of our greatest national strengths. It drives our economy. It helps protect our environment. And the truth of the matter is, it improves lives all across the globe. In all of your work, you're contributing to the strength of America and to the well-being of our people.

You probably have become scientists or engineers because you're motivated by the

thrill of discovery—I suspect that's the case—or by the quest to push outward the bounds of human knowledge. And many of you will make significant discoveries. It probably won't be household names—not all that bad, I might add. [*Laughter*] But Americans will know your work because it will touch their lives, and I hope you understand that that in itself is a great honor and a great accomplishment.

You'll blaze the trail for others who will build on your successes and then, of course, discover their own. That's the wonders of science and engineering.

I appreciate the fact that many of you are already inspiring young boys and girls to explore their interest in science and engineering. That in itself is an incredibly important contribution to our country, to excite youngsters about the promise and hope of science and promise and hope of engineering. By involving students in your work and creating opportunities for young Americans to learn about career opportunities in the sciences, you're opening minds and opening doors to future researchers. Your impact will be felt for decades to come, and that's why I've come to speak to you.

So on behalf of all Americans, I want to thank you for your commitment to improving lives and exploring new horizons. I congratulate you for your hard work. I urge you not to stop, to keep using your God-given talents and your God-given genius to make the world better for all of us.

May God bless your work, and God bless America. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Statement on Iran

July 12, 2002

We have seen throughout history the power of one simple idea: When given a choice, people will choose freedom. As we have witnessed over the past few days, the people of Iran want the same freedoms, human rights, and opportunities as people around the world. Their Government should listen to their hopes.

In the last two Iranian Presidential elections and in nearly a dozen parliamentary and local elections, the vast majority of the Iranian people voted for political and economic reform. Yet their voices are not being listened to by the unelected people who are the real rulers of Iran. Uncompromising, destructive policies have persisted, and far too little has changed in the daily lives of the Iranian people. Iranian students, journalists, and Parliamentarians are still arrested, intimidated, and abused for advocating reform or criticizing the ruling regime. Independent publications are suppressed. And talented students and professionals, faced with the dual specter of too few jobs and too many restrictions on their freedom, continue to seek opportunities abroad rather than help build Iran's future at home. Meanwhile, members of the ruling regime and their families continue to obstruct reform while reaping unfair benefits.

Iran is an ancient land, home to a proud culture with a rich heritage of learning and progress. The future of Iran will be decided by the people of Iran. Right now, the Iranian people are struggling with difficult questions about how to build a modern 21st-century society that is at once Muslim, prosperous, and free. There is a long history of friendship between the American people and the people of Iran. As Iran's people move towards a future defined by greater freedom, greater tolerance, they will have no better friend than the United States of America.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Amendments

July 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Securities and Exchange Commission and for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development. The discretionary budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 budget would not be increased by these requests.

This transmittal also contains FY 2003 budget amendments for the legislative

branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the legislative branch are transmitted without change. These additional amendments would increase discretionary resources for the legislative branch by \$17.7 million.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Funds for the Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

July 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$500 million for the disaster relief program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These funds would allow FEMA to continue providing assistance to victims of disasters in several States, including victims of recent flooding in Texas and wild fires in Arizona and Colorado. These funds would also be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that FEMA has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate the funds made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 6

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement Territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Typhoon Chata'an on July 5–6.

July 8

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, from the Bush family home on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, ME.

The President announced his intention to designate Linton F. Brooks as Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Acting Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy.

July 9

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. Later, he traveled to New York City.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, and other Orthodox leaders.

July 10

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt to discuss

the congressional agenda. Later, he had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with former Coast Guard officials to discuss proposed homeland security legislation. Later, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with House and Senate Republican leaders to discuss the congressional agenda. He then met with recipients of the National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wendy Jean Chamberlin to be Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation: Malcolm B. Bowekaty, Robert Boldrey, Herbert Guenther, Richard Narcia, and Bradley Udall.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Healing to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (safety engineering representative).

July 11

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss developments in the Middle East and upcoming ministerial meetings.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Minneapolis, MN, where he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Pearl Lam Bergad. Then, at the University of Minnesota Medical School, he participated in a roundtable discussion on prescription drugs and medical innovation.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate John M. Reich to be Vice Chairperson of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members

of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development: Michael Deegan; Stuart Iverson, Jr.; Anthony Laos; William DeLauder; Carol Lewis; and Sharron Quisenberry.

The President declared a major disaster in Micronesia and ordered Federal aid to supplement national and State recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Chata'an, including flooding, mudslides, and landslides, on July 2–4.

July 12

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with the newly established Corporate Fraud Task Force. Later, he traveled to Camp Greentop, MD, a residential camp for disabled children and adults, where he toured facilities and participated in camp activities. He then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on Disability: Glenn Bernard Anderson, Marco A. Rodriguez, Milton Aponte, Linda Wetters, Joel Kahn, and David John Wenzel.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on June 5–13.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 9

Frederick W. Gregory,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-

tration, vice James R. Thompson, Jr., resigned.

Harry R. Hoglander,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2005, vice Magdalena G. Jacobsen, term expired.

Neil McPhie,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2009, vice Beth Susan Slavet, term expired.

Quanah Crossland Stamps,
of Virginia, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Gary Niles Kimble, resigned.

Submitted July 11

Ben S. Bernanke,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of 14 years from February 1, 1990, vice Edward W. Kelley, Jr., resigned.

Richard F. Healing,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2006, vice George W. Black, Jr., term expired.

Donald L. Kohn,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2002, vice Laurence H. Meyer, resigned.

Alia M. Ludlum,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas, vice Harry Lee Hudspeth, retired.

John M. Reich,
of Virginia, to be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, vice Andrew C. Hove, Jr.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Released July 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill, and Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans

Fact sheet: A New Ethic of Corporate Responsibility

Announcement: A New Ethic of Corporate Responsibility

Released July 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the closure of Sari Nusseibeh's Al Quds University offices in Jerusalem

Released July 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan and Council of Economic Advisers member Mark McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Micronesia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Council on Bioethics issuance of its first report on the subject of human cloning

Fact sheet: President Renews Call for Prescription Drug Coverage in Medicare

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas

Released July 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Vermont

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, July 19, 2002

The President's Radio Address

July 13, 2002

Good morning. Congress came back to Washington this week, and they have a lot of work ahead of them before the August vacation. I urge the Congress to join me in acting to achieve three big goals: We need to win the war; we need to protect our homeland; and we must strengthen our economy.

Winning the war and protecting the homeland require a sustained national commitment. More than 100 days ago, I asked Congress to pass emergency funding to equip our Armed Forces and strengthen security at our airports. The Department of Defense and the new Transportation Security Administration are still waiting for the money. Without prompt congressional action, our military will need to start cannibalizing spare parts to keep equipment running; the Transportation Security Administration will have to suspend the purchase and installation of up to 1,100 bomb detection systems; and the FAA may have to furlough up to 35,000 air traffic employees.

Congress must fund our troops while they're fighting a war, and Congress must provide funds to continue improving security at our airports. Congress also must pass the Defense appropriations for next year's budget. The House has acted. The Senate must act. Our Nation is at war, and our budget priorities and actions need to reflect that reality. Congress should send the Defense bill to my desk by the end of this month.

These bills are critical. Yet, quick action on them does not and should not preclude simultaneous progress on other legislation. Creating more jobs and strengthening our economy are an urgent part of our agenda.

Congress can act to create jobs by giving me trade promotion authority, which will allow me to open up foreign markets to American goods and create better American jobs. For the sake of long-term growth and

job creation, I ask Congress to make last year's tax reductions permanent. And I ask Congress to work with me to pass a terrorism insurance bill, to give companies the security they need to expand and create jobs through new building projects.

Perhaps the greatest need for our economy at this moment is restoring confidence in the integrity of the American business leaders. Nearly every week brings news of greater productivity or strong consumer spending but also a discovery of fraud and scandal, problems long in the making and now coming to light.

This week, I announced new steps my administration is taking to crack down on corporate fraud. I proposed doubling jail time for financial fraud. I am creating a new task force at the Justice Department to aggressively investigate corporate crime. I'm requesting an additional \$100 million to give the SEC the manpower and the technology it needs to better enforce the law. This year, the SEC has acted to bar 71 officers and directors from ever again serving as a director of a public company. All of these measures are in addition to the comprehensive plans I announced and the House passed to protect worker pensions and to make CEOs more accountable.

As part of this crackdown, I support the creation of a strong, independent board that will provide effective oversight of the accounting profession. This board would have the ability to monitor, investigate, and enforce high ethical principles by punishing individual offenders. My administration is working with congressional leaders in both parties to pass legislation that will protect workers and shareholders and investors. I am pleased that the Senate approved several of my new proposals this week. The Senate, the House, and my administration will not stop working until a final bill is passed.

Strengthening the economy and protecting the homeland and fighting the war on terror

are critical issues that demand prompt attention. I urge the Congress to act on all these issues before they adjourn for their August recess.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:25 a.m. on July 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Interview With Polish Journalists

July 12, 2002

The President. I'm looking forward to our state dinner. It's a chance for me to, on a personal level, repay the favor of my friend Aleksander for his great hospitality to Laura and me when we visited he and Jolanta there in Warsaw. Secondly, it's a chance to say to our country and the world how important our relations are with Poland. We really think—respect the Polish people. We've got great numbers of Polish Americans who still love the motherland. And it's going to be a wonderful occasion to build on a great relationship, make it even better.

We will discuss a lot of topics. We'll talk about the war on terror. Poland has been a great friend and supporter, member of the coalition on the war against terror. We've got troops in the—on ships off the Indian Ocean. We've got engineers in Bagram, shared intelligence. Aleksander has been a strong friend and supporter. I'm confident he'll want to talk about NATO expansion. Perhaps I'll leave that for a question.

But all in all, we've got great relations, and I look forward to having a good conversation with a leader I respect. And I respect Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Why don't we start with you, sir.

Democracy in Poland

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, about your talks with President Kwasniewski next week, Poland has been viewed by your administration as one of the most successful examples of democratic transformation. However, the

current Polish Government is taking some steps and adopting some laws which would obviously limit independence of media and central bank, which are the pillars of democracy. So are you going to raise these issues with the President?

The President. Well, first of all, I've got faith that a democracy will work. And I am confident that the Polish Government and the Polish people will come up with the right answers to issues relating to any law. I will—of course, if he asks my opinion, I will remind him that an independent media is a very important part of democracy. It's one of the pillars of democracy. I value our media, as an aside, saying that of course to pander to the people here that cover me on a daily basis. [Laughter]

But I do value a free and open media, and I think it's an incredibly important part. But your opening statement was true. We value the progress that Poland has made and the example Poland has set in a neighborhood that was a pretty tough neighborhood for awhile. And I was most impressed, when I went to Warsaw, to see the spirit of the people and the optimism. I understand the country is going through tough times, but all countries go through tough times.

President's Upcoming Visit to Troy, Michigan

Q. Mr. President, you're taking Aleksander Kwasniewski—it was your decision to go to Troy, Michigan, to meet with Polish Americans.

The President. Yes, we are.

Q. What is the reason for that meeting, and if you could tell us, what is your message to Polish Americans?

The President. Well, first of all, the message to Polish Americans is, I respect and honor the Polish traditions and Polish heritage. Actually, there was a—even in my own State of Texas, there is a community or two that Polish Americans have settled in Texas and still retains many of the great traditions and heritages.

It also reminds people that, even though they have got a Polish heritage and embraced Polish traditions, they're Americans. It's a great part of the American experience. We envelop and welcome people from all walks

of life. That in itself is an important statement to constantly make in our country. It reminds people of the strength of the country.

I've decided to go to Troy, Michigan, because it's going to be a—I hope it's a fun trip for Aleksander. I mean, I think it's important—I understand what a state dinner is like. It's formal. You'll see; it's going to be a grand day. They arrive on the South Lawn. The military will be there. There's a lot of pomp and circumstance. It's an exciting ceremony; it really is. And then there will be the formal dinners and the black tie, and the people will come, and the entertainment and the food—it's going to be great.

But there's more to a good American experience than just a formal dinner. I try to wear a tuxedo as little as possible, I want you to know. But flying out there to Michigan, the heartland of the country, with our friend, is going to be great. And he's going to see a big, enthusiastic crowd. It will give him a chance to say some things. And I think that's important to provide him a forum, so that he can not only be seen in a tuxedo but be seen speaking his mind about whatever issue he wants to talk about to an American audience that is made up of people from his homeland that have now settled in our country. I think it's going to be a great event. To me, it helps complete the state dinner aspect of the trip.

U.S. Economy

Q. Mr. President, I talked to Mr. Kwasniewski just before yesterday.

The President. Yes. How is he doing?

Q. Great. He looks good, in good shape.

The President. Looking forward to a 3-mile run? [Laughter]

Q. He told me that one of the topics he would like to touch on is the recent financial scandals in the U.S., because they are a kind of backlash on Central Europe, and the recovery is difficult. And there's this feeling outgoing that the U.S. Government is not doing enough to change its own rules to really prevent the backlash for a Central European—

The President. Yes, I'll explain to him we are doing things, and I will be glad to lay out the initiative I talked about—and have

been talking about, by the way, since March—February and March and then the speech I gave in New York. And of course, our House has acted—the House of Representatives acted, and the Senate has acted. And if he looks at what I proposed and what the Senate has proposed and what the House proposed, there's not much difference. And in other words, the point is that a bill will come out that will hold people accountable for accounting error—accounting fraud and, as we go forward, hopefully set an example—make it clear to people, there will be a consequence if they continue to do that.

There are markets—three things affect our markets, I'll explain to Aleksander. One of course is confidence and the numbers, and we're addressing that. Secondly is the war on terror. People are still—you know, realize that America is still a target. And the American people know that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland and run down these killers wherever they try to hide. And that's all they are, by the way, just nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. And thirdly, the corporate sector—the profits are beginning to improve, but the price-earnings multiples—in other words, the price of a share relative to its earnings—was very high, and the market is adjusting. So all three of those factors are important.

And obviously we—that's not the whole picture of our economy, and that's what Aleksander has got to understand. The market reflects part of it, but our unemployment rate is—looks like it's steady. It has stopped rising. As a matter of fact, it had a drop, and it's level. Our consumer spending numbers are up. Our manufacturing orders are increasing. In other words, the recovery is beginning to show some strength. So therefore, what I'm going to ask him is to look at the entire picture.

Finally, we've got good monetary policy and good fiscal policy here in Washington, and that in itself is part of long-term recovery. And so he'll hear a man who is—recognizes that we're making some progress. We've got to do more, but I'm pleased to report to him that I think things are going to get better. The foundation for long-term growth has been—is in place.

War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, I wanted to ask you a question about the war against terrorism. The Europeans seem to less and less support the war against terrorism. And I wonder if you could explain to us, why do you think it's happening, and if you are ready to go alone on this next phase of the war, whatever the phase is?

The President. No, I don't feel that the support from Europe is lessening. As a matter of fact, I've just come from a G-8 meeting in Canada where, to a person, they were very supportive of our war on terror, because the Europeans recognize that the terrorists could strike them just as easy as they could strike us. We've still got great intelligence sharing amongst our nations. We've got good police action. We have hauled in—"we" being the coalition—has hauled in—that means arrest—2,400, more than 2,400 terrorists. So we're picking them off one by one. This is a different kind of war.

I use every chance I get, when I speak to the American people, to explain why this is different. And so—as opposed to destroying lines of tanks or shooting down airplanes, success is measured by one by one, one person at a time. And the European leaders understand that, and they've been very supportive. They still—I think we've got about 8,000 troops in Afghanistan—we do, in the Afghan theater, and there's another 8,000 troops from other nations there as well. So it's a firm commitment.

I will continue to communicate and consult with our friends and allies as to every stage of the war, as the battlefield shifts. By the way, the battlefield isn't shifting out of Afghanistan. We're there. We'll remain there. We've got a lot of work to do there. There's still Al Qaida killers there. And of course we'll need to continue to have deliberations with our friends and allies, and we'll have them for future theaters and different operations. We talk to them all the time.

Poland's Purchase of New Fighter Jets

Q. Speaking of war, Mr. President, Poland is going to buy new fighter planes——

The President. Yes, I understand that's the case.

Q. Yes. And the F-16s are one of the——

The President. I've got a suggestion for them. [*Laughter*]

Q. However, President Kwasniewski just 2 days ago—you kind of—was kind of complaining that maybe the American offer is not meeting enough—expectations. So is——

The President. He's negotiating in public. [*Laughter*]

Q. Is your administration in any way going to support U.S. companies to win the standard——

The President. We will offer a fabulous product——

Q. Fabulous product.

The President. ——called the F-16. And we will work with our friends to make—you know, to compete on an above-board basis, totally above-board. And you know, we hope the Polish Government picks quality. If they do, they will, of course, come our way. But that's up to the Government. Aleksander will be and the Government of Poland will—you know, we will respect the process and respect the country and appreciate it's a tough decision and hope they make the right decision as far as we're concerned. But that——

Future Role of NATO

Q. Mr. President, do you think that the NATO will play as important role for the United States in the present century as it played in the previous century?

The President. Yes.

Q. And do you think it is possible that Russia one day will become NATO member?

The President. Interesting question. First, I do think NATO is very important. It's obviously a different role. NATO served as kind of a bulwark in defense against Russian tanks storming across the European Continent. Those days are over. Russia is no longer the enemy. I witnessed the fact that not only have we got good relations with Russia, but the very same trip that I—when I went to Moscow to sign this treaty that literally redefined our relationship from one of distrust and—like it was during the cold war, to a new relationship, shortly thereafter we went to Italy and welcomed a new relationship between NATO and Russia. So the whole relationship has changed for the better.

NATO has—and I think it's going to be very hard—very important to work that relationship with Russia, to allow for the—the new relationship to develop and mature. And I think it will in a very positive way.

The new relationship—the new role of NATO is—really needs to adjust to the new realities of the 21st century, and that is how to best fight the war on terror. And that means a different configuration of the use of our forces and the use of assets. Our forces need to be lighter and quicker to strike, and elite units need to be prepared to move at a moment's notice.

The enemy has changed, and the battlefield, the nature of the battlefield has changed. And therefore, the NATO mission must remain the same, mutual defense. But its tactics must change. And I think NATO is very relevant, and we will be an active and engaged partner in NATO.

Let me just—I'll ask myself, "Well, Mr. President, do you think we ought to expand?" [Laughter] I gave a very important speech in Warsaw. It's interesting—I hope the people in the world that are interested in our opinion on subjects noted that the speech was in Warsaw. And the speech was about a Europe that's whole, free, and at peace. And I talked about the expansion of NATO, and I said that I am interested more rather than less. And at the same time, I urged the applicant countries to take nothing for granted, to work very hard up until the last minute to show those of us in NATO that they'll be willing and active and capable partners.

And I look forward to our meeting in Prague. I fully understand the position of the Polish Government. I've had long discussions with Aleksander on the subject of NATO expansion, and I think people know that I'm forward-leaning, depending—if the member countries, you know, meet their MAP requirements.

Polish and U.S. Central Banks

Q. I want to go back to the finances and the limit. There is an attempt in Poland to limit independence of central bank, so it would be more—be manipulated more by Government, so Government would have more influence over central bank. In the current situation, what's your feeling about this?

The President. Well, first of all, I don't know all the facts about how the Polish democracy is handling this particular situation. I can tell you, however, from my experience, that a central bank should be independent. And the independence of our central bank gives Chairman Greenspan and the other Governors of the Federal Reserve great credibility in our country, to know that decisions are being made apart from politics. And our central bank is a part of—is a very important part of our—has been and will continue to be a very important part of the economic vitality of our country. It also gives investors who look at our country great confidence to know that the monetary supplies be not based upon politics, but the decisions on monetary supplies will be based upon the vision of some very wise people.

I think, when people look at how capital moves into countries, the independence of a central bank is an important part of attracting capital. And Poland needs to attract capital investment. If anybody were to ask me my advice on the central bank, that's what I would give.

President's Popularity in Poland/ President's Vacation

Q. I'd like to ask you about different subject. According to the latest polls, you are the most popular foreign politician leader in Poland.

The President. Really? I usually say I don't believe in polls, but I may have to change my mind. [Laughter]

Q. With the same approval rate as President Kwasniewski. And I want to ask you to comment on this, and—

The President. Well, how high is it?

Q. Would you be willing to visit Poland again?

The President. Seventy-three?

Q. Why don't you go to Poland?

The President. Again?

Q. On holiday.

The President. Thanks. I don't know what to say. I appreciate that. I'm flattered.

Q. Are you willing to spend a vacation in Poland? With your parents, obviously?

The President. With my parents? I don't know if my mother could stand that. But listen, when I vacation, just kind of know about

me, I like to be with my family, and I like to be in Texas.

I just recently went to Maine. I'd love to go to Maine, too, to be with my mother and dad. But my favorite vacation spot is my own ranch in the State I love. And I like to get out and fool around on the land, and it doesn't matter how hot it is or how cold it is. How hot it is and cold it is matters to those who have to follow me. For me, there is no day hot enough or cold enough. [*Laughter*] These poor souls—Crawford in August. That's my idea of vacation.

Although I must say, I had a great time up with Mother and Dad this weekend, and I love to be around them as well. But this August, I'm going to go down to Texas and actually work out of Texas. I'm going to travel quite a bit. After all, we're getting into the political season here in America. We've got our elections in November of 2002.

September 11/War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, we talk a lot about how September 11th changed the world, changed America. Has it changed you?

The President. Changed me?

Q. Yes.

The President. I don't think a single event can change anybody's basic values. It obviously changed the fact that I knew that my time as the President would be dedicated to winning the war on terror and protecting our homeland.

This is—I keep telling people this—it's just a different type of war, because much of the movement of the enemy is invisible to the American people and/or to the world. And yet we know they're there. The killers on September the 11th had been in our country for a period of time. They behaved normally. They looked normal. They, you know, were nonthreatening. It was hard to tell that they were part of this unbelievably evil plot.

And it—we're concerned that another group are here or somewhere, not only here but in other countries in Europe. And so the task is an all-consuming task of protecting our homeland and making sure we do everything we can here to find out if anybody is here and who they are and disrupt their plans

and, at the same time, hunt down their leaders.

The wars of the past had known battlefields, and it was clear that such-and-such had to happen. There had to be an invasion in order to achieve this or that. This is a hunt for individuals. We're chasing down one person at a time. They were foolishly collected up at one point in time in the Shahi-Kot Mountains, and it was a tough chore. But our brave soldiers, along with coalition soldiers, were able to go in and score great success at bringing them to justice, as I like to put it.

They're wise to our ways. They realize we're a heck of a lot tougher than they thought. They assumed America was a weak country, that we didn't really believe anything. And they're finding out that's not the way we think. And so I realized after 9/11, after I got over the grief, along with everybody else in our country, that this was a long, very important struggle.

And the struggle goes beyond just fighting an Al-Qaida-type network. I have deep concerns about the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction, and so should you. So should anybody who loves freedom, because there are nations in the world developing these weapons who hate freedom, leaders hate freedom. And what we cannot allow happen is these nations to develop these weapons and then blackmail us and/or use them.

We will have—a judgment will have missed history's call to freedom. And so I realize that this war is going to consume a lot of my time. On the other hand, these members of the press know that I am optimistic person who truly believes that we can achieve some positive things out of the evil done to the country and to the world.

So when I talk to our friends, like Aleksander and others, I remind them of this call. We're leaders in a significant moment in history, and we can't blink, and we can't—we must be determined and focused to achieve this important objective, which is peace for our children, is what we're really fighting for, civilization.

Yes, ma'am.

Free Trade

Q. Mr. President, you always said that you are supporter of removing the trade barriers.

The President. Yes.

Q. Why do you think there are so many of them still exist?

The President. Well, you know, because I think the temptation is to be protectionist. And it's easier to mollify constituencies with protectionist rhetoric. Poland suffers from protectionist policies in parts of Europe, as you know. I'm a strong believer in free trade. I want the Congress to give me what's called trade promotion authority. I will exercise that diligently to open up markets.

On the other hand, I have an obligation to enforce law. And so I recently said that the—I listened to an International Trade Commission ruling on steel. The ITC ruled that excessive steel imports were affecting our industry in a negative way. I put a temporary measure in place, which exempted, by the way, Poland. And that was a chance for the steel industry, our own steel industry, to get on its feet. But nevertheless, as I reminded members of the European Union, this only represents a very small portion of the \$2 trillion of trade we have each year.

But protectionism, for some, is a viable economic remedy. And in my judgment, protectionism would be bad for the world and bad for our country.

We're opening up—we sent our man to Doha to commit to the next round of the World Trade Organization. And unlike Seattle, where it all fell apart, we were able to—"we" being those of us in the world who support free trade—were able to move the process farther down the line. And I will continue to work for free trade. It's in our Nation's interests and the world's interests that we trade. It's in the developing world's interest that there be trade. And our country is—we've got what's called AGOA, agreement with the African countries. I'm working on a free trade agreement with Central Americans. I'd like to see a free trade agreement from Canada all the way down to Argentina.

As I say, there's protectionist tendencies that occasionally rise up. We've just got to convince our respective people that trade is in their interests.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. There is another President you have such a good relationship; it's President Putin.

The President. Yes.

Q. Very good working relationship, on terrorism, on oil. But there is this feeling also this is in cost of some human rights, human rights in Chechnya, press freedom in Russia—it's overlooked now—and probably some freedom of some other Russian republics. Don't you worry that this close relationship is putting your—raising other problems?

The President. No, a close relationship with Putin allows me to make the case that, on media freedom, for example—as a matter of fact, on my last trip there, I urged him to interface with media entrepreneurs from America to understand how free press actually works, something that they're not very used to in Russia. And so there have been dialog interchanges now with some of our media executives. And I do push Vladimir Putin on the need to have open media and open his media.

And secondly, in terms of Chechnya, I'm constantly talking to Vladimir Putin about relations with Chechnya and understanding and supporting minority rights. The other issue that is very important, to which we do not turn a blind eye, and which I'm deeply concerned, not only about minority rights, is proliferation, matters of proliferation. I think we're making some progress there.

The immediate concern was proliferation to Iran, and I brought that up with Vladimir every time I visited with him. It's a very important issue that he understand that an armed Iran could be very dangerous to his own country, much less to our friends the Israelis or America, itself. And we've had some very important exchanges on that.

In terms of helping make Russia a more secure place, we're working on what they call 10-plus-10-over-10: \$10 billion from the U.S., \$10 billion from Europe over 10 years to help secure some weapons stockpiles. Vladimir is very interested in working with us to decommission some of his nuclear submarines to make Russia and the world more safe.

In other words, my only point to you is, is that by being closer to Russia, we're able to deal more directly with some of the thorny

issues that could separate us and could in fact make the West less likely to deal with Russia.

And we've got another issues at home here that has upset a lot of our people, and that's chickens. Fortunately, we're arguing over chickens and not over war, over chickens and not over missiles, like we used to. But a lot of people here feel like there was a commitment made to let U.S. chickens into Russia. And they started moving into Russia, and all of a sudden they stopped moving into Russia. And so I've been—so whether it be trade or minority rights or press, our relations are such that we're able to bring those up in a very frank and forthright way and yet still moved a very important relationship forward.

Look, friends don't always agree, but friends are more likely to be able to work things out than enemies. As a matter of fact, in the old days, if there was a disagreement between enemies, that could lead to war. And there won't be a war between Russia and the United States.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, a question on another very easy subject, the Middle East crisis.

The President. Yes. *[Laughter]*

Q. What solution do you see to the crisis, and what compromise do you expect from both sides?

The President. Yes, that's a very good question. First, I do believe that we can achieve a vision of two states living side by side, at peace with each other. And that's the vision, and that's what all policy must aim toward. It starts with understanding that it's going to be impossible to achieve that vision if terrorists are allowed to have a free run and blow up the process.

An incredibly important step toward the vision of two states living side by side is for the international community, including the Arab world, to work with us to develop the institutions necessary for the emergence of a Palestinian state that will be transparent; it will respect rule of law; it will have a constitution that will allow for a sharing-of-power arrangement; that will have institutions that outlast—are far more important than any single one person.

And we're in the process of working toward that end. Colin Powell will be meeting with what they call the Quad in New York. Foreign Ministers from the Arab world will be coming as well, later on, to work on the step-by-step process toward the emergence of a Palestinian state. And I repeat, that requires a constitution, a judiciary, transparency when it comes to financial conditions. And I believe there's financial aid available. I know there is.

[At this point, the tape machine stopped.]

The President. Something just ground to a halt. That thing had, what do we call it, a skidding halt. Sounded like it needs some new tires.

Anyway, the international community wants to help with aid, but they're not going to help with aid if it's going to be stolen. Let's put it very bluntly. And so the—

[The tape machine stopped again.]

The President. —the press conference has clearly gone too long. *[Laughter]*

So we're working to get these institutions in place. Obviously as security improves, Israel is going to have to, as I said, pull her troops back to September of 2001—2000 levels. In other words—not levels but geographic—within geographic boundaries of September 2000. They're going to have to deal with the settlements. In other words, all parties have got responsibilities. The Arab world has got responsibilities, by the way, as well, to help on the development of a security force necessary—a security force, by the way, which must exist to enforce security, not enhance the status of a single person.

So we're making progress. It requires a international commitment and a focus on a positive end, which is two states living side by side in peace. As I said, I'm an optimistic fellow and believe that if we stay at it and keep working hard, we can get there. But there's no question in my mind, as I said in my speech in the Rose Garden recently, that there's going to be some setbacks. But our Nation is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

All right, well, thank you all.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:55 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 15. In his remarks, the President referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewska; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to MAP, the Military Assistance Program; AGOA, the African Growth and Opportunity Act; and the Quartet, a Middle East policy planning group consisting of the United States, the United Nations, Russia, and the European Union. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks at the University of Alabama-Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama

July 15, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you for coming.

So I come up here with Thornton, and he says, "I think driving a bulldozer is a little easier than introducing you." *[Laughter]* I said, "Well, you must be a pretty good bulldozer driver then, Thornton, because you did a great job of introducing me." Thank you very much. I appreciate your being here. Thornton is the president of Stanley Construction Company. He's one of several business leaders from Alabama I met with today to talk about what we can do together to help this economy recover.

I want to first tell you how proud I am to be back in Alabama. It's a great State. It's produced some wonderful Americans, starting with my National Security Adviser, born and raised, Condoleezza Rice, right here in Birmingham. And I'd be in trouble with the Secretary of State—at least his wife—if I didn't remind you all that Alma Powell was raised—born and raised right here in Birmingham, Alabama, too.

It's an honor to travel today with members of the congressional delegation, two fine United States Senators, Senator Shelby and Senator Sessions. Thank you all for coming. We've attracted quite a few members of the House delegation here. I'm not suggesting that they're here to be close to the President just in case they can get aboard Air Force One when we're heading back. *[Laughter]*

But if you guys do get on, you'll find it to be a comfortable plane. *[Laughter]* But I'm proud that Sonny Callahan and Terry Everett and Bob Riley and Bob Aderholt and Spencer Bachus are with us, too. Thank you all for coming. These are fine Members, and they're good people to work with, and they put their country first. And I appreciate that a lot.

I know the Lieutenant Governor is here, and the attorney general is here, and the mayor is here, mayor of Birmingham. I want to thank you three for coming as well. I appreciate your hospitality.

I personally want to thank the good folks here at UAB, University of Alabama-Birmingham, for allowing us to use, first of all, this fantastic facility. I had the honor of speaking with the president earlier today. I am proud of the accomplishments of this fine university. It is a university that is on the leading edge of important medical research. It's a university that has fostered and kindled the growth of small businesses here in Birmingham. President Marc was rightly proud of the place, and I know you are as well. And I want to thank you for your hospitality from the bottom of my heart.

And finally, one of the things I like to do when I come to a community is meet and herald those soldiers in the armies of compassion which exist all across our country. And today when I got off of Air Force One, there was a man named Roman Gary there. Roman, are you here? Where are you, Roman? There he is. Roman Gary—the reason I bring up Roman is he is a—he's a man who understands that our children need love; in order for our society to be a vibrant and whole place, there are some who need to be having an adult in their life, somebody who—there's a child somewhere in Birmingham and all across the country and needs somebody to put their arm around them and to say, "I love you. You're a part of America."

And so Roman understands that. It didn't require a Government law. It didn't require a giant act of Congress or a Presidential edict. It required somebody like Roman loving a neighbor like he would like to be loved himself. And therefore, he has poured his heart and soul into Big Brothers and Big Sisters

here in Birmingham, Alabama. And I thank you.

Our society can and will change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And while each of us can't do everything, each of us can do something to advance a decent and whole society. And so Roman, on behalf of the thousands of your fellow Americans who heard the call to help the communities in which you live, people who have assumed responsibility for their lives here in America, I want to thank you, and thank all of you all for doing the same thing.

A secure America is an America that is a compassionate America. A secure America is also an America that is willing to hunt down international killers one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. It doesn't matter how long it takes; this country will defend our freedoms. This country will defend civilization itself. This country will not let the acts of a few cold-blooded killers stand.

As well, in order for us to have the security we all want, America must get rid of the hangover that we now have as a result of the binge, the economic binge we just went through. We were in a land of—there was endless profit; there was no tomorrow when it came to, you know, the stock markets and corporate profits. And now we're suffering a hangover for that binge.

But I want you to know the economy, our economy is fundamentally strong. This economy is—has got foundations for growth so the people who want to find work can find work, so that the entrepreneurs in America can flourish.

Listen to the facts. Inflation is low. An important part of an economic recovery is to make sure that inflation is under control; it is. We've got sound monetary policy. Interest rates are reasonable. If people want to borrow money, you don't have to pay a lot of interest. Productivity is increasing. We lead the world in productivity gains as a result of the entrepreneurial spirit and the fine workers we have in America. That's an important indication of how sound our economy is.

The first quarter growth of 2002 was a little over 6 percent. That's a pretty good sign that the foundations for growth are there. Orders for durable goods for the past 6 months

are up. The manufacturing sector was down, but slowly but surely it is recovering from a slowdown that began for all of our economy in early of March 2000. Last month, retail sales were up by one percent. Consumers are buying. In other words, in spite of the fact that we've been in a slump for a while and in spite of the fact that the terrorists attacked us and affected our economic outlook, American business and workers are resilient and resolved. And this economy is coming back. That's the fact.

But I understand this, that the American economy is constructed on confidence, confidence to invest and build, confidence for our small-business owners to take risk, confidence that the job base will expand, confidence to produce and hire. And so I want to talk to you today about ways in which I intend to continue to work in Washington to build confidence, to build on the foundations, the strong foundations for economic vitality that exists, to build on the good statistics we're beginning to see. Of course, I like to remind people that Washington is full of all kinds of numbers-crunchers. They talk about this number here and that number there. My attitude is, so long as somebody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem we need to deal with.

And so I want to talk about long-term economic growth and what we can do about it. I want to make sure it is clear to those in Congress that I will resist runaway congressional spending which could serve as a drag on economic vitality.

And finally, I expect and you expect and our country expects the highest ethical standards in corporate America. First, we're promoting long-term growth, the kind of growth that understands that the main job creators in America are small-business entrepreneurs. And if you're interested in recovery—if you're interested in recovery of the job base, it is important for us to remember who creates most of the jobs, and those are the small-business owners in America. And that's why I fought so hard for a tax cut for the American people. I believe, when you cut taxes, it spurs economic growth, particularly in the small-business sector. Most entrepreneurs are not incorporated. Most small businesses are what they call sole proprietors or limited

partnerships. And so they pay tax like an individual pays tax. And so when we reduce the taxes on the individuals, we reduce the taxes on small-business growth. It was important to do that.

I remember the outcry, of course, because if you want more money in Washington, you don't want to let the people keep their own money. So they started quoting these textbooks that said, when times are slow, raise taxes; when times are slow, don't let the people keep their money. The textbook I read says that if we let you have your own money, you'll decide to spend it on a good and service. And if you decide to spend it on the good and service, somebody will produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good and service, it means somebody is going to find work.

In the tax relief plan, we reduced the marriage penalty. We reduced the alternative minimum tax which affects many small-business owners. And we did something else that's important—it's important for all small-business owners—and that is, we eliminated the death tax.

I say "we eliminated the death tax"; by a quirk of the Senate rules, the death tax, however, isn't eliminated after 10 years. That's a hard one to explain. We eliminated it, but didn't eliminate it. So for the good of long-term planning, for the good of the entrepreneurial spirit, for the good of allowing people to pass their business, farm, or ranch to whoever they want to pass it to, we need to make the tax cuts that we put in place permanent.

I want to expand trade. I believe that will help create jobs. Confident people are willing to expand trade. Nonconfident people, you know, people who aren't confident about America and our ability to compete, want to build barriers around the country. And I'm confident. Listen, I know our farmers—Alabama farmers, Texas farmers, farmers all across the country—are the best in the world. And if you're the best at something, we ought to be opening up markets for them so they can sell their products around the world.

We're good at a lot of things in America, and we ought to be selling our products all around the world. It's time for Congress to quit talking and start acting and giving me trade promotion authority so we can open

up more markets and more people can find work right here in America.

There's an issue that the Congress needs to get to my desk quickly that will show good judgment and way to help our economy recover, and that is to pass a terrorism insurance bill. It basically says that the Government will help cover certain losses for insurance companies for a terrorist act. It is important that we pass this so that major construction projects which cannot get insurance can go forward. And when those construction projects go forward all across the country, it means somebody is going to be able to find work.

It's important for us to be realistic about how to provide help so that there is insurance coverage for projects. We can do so that creates jobs—not jobs for trial lawyers. We must not have legislation—this legislation must keep in mind the workers of America and not open up our Government and/or employers to unnecessary and frivolous and junk lawsuits.

And I appreciate—I appreciate the reform-minded folks here in the State of Alabama who understand that junk and frivolous lawsuits affect small-business owners like Thornton. It makes it hard for him to expand his business, to hire people. Listen, you ought to have your day in court, no question about it. But we've got to make sure that these junk and frivolous lawsuits stop running up the cost of doing business and make it harder for people to employ people here in America.

And finally, good economic policy starts with good education policy. And I want to share with you right quickly what has happened in Washington in terms of public education and why I think it's going to make a tremendous difference in the lives of citizens all across Alabama and all across the country.

An educated work force is necessary if we intend to compete. A lady representing Honda told us today that—I think she said there's going to be additional 2,000 jobs here in Alabama. This is in the face of what appears to be pretty rough economic times for some. But 2,000 new jobs is fantastic. It also means that you make sure you've got to have 2,000 educated workers. And it starts with

public schools. It starts with making sure every child in America learns the basics, learns to read and write and add and subtract, which means you start with setting the highest of high standards.

I can't tell you how important that is, to set high standards and to have high standards, because if you don't, if you have low standards, it means certain kids aren't going to learn. If you lower the bar, guess what's going to happen? You'll have low results. People who adhere to low standards in public education essentially admit there are certain kids who can't learn. I don't accept it.

As a matter of fact, I know what happens in systems that say there are certain children who can't learn. It basically means, if we want to be honest about it, inner-city African American kids are just shuffled through the school system as if they don't matter. Children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, they're deemed to be hard to educate, so it's just easy to move them through. For the good of our country, for the good of the job base, for the good of the American Dream, we must end that kind of education policy in America.

And that means high standards for every child. That means a mindset that says, every child can learn, and we expect every child to learn. It means that when you receive Federal money—and by the way, we have filled the coffers last time around with Federal money for Title I programs. There's a lot of money available for the States now as a result of the funding last time.

It says, though, in return, we expect you to show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. We expect there to be strong accountability. In return for taxpayers' money, we the taxpayers want to know whether or not high standards are being met. We expect the children to be able to read and write and add and subtract; we want the children to be able to read and write and add and subtract; and we expect you to deliver on the promise that children should be able to read and write and add and subtract.

I've heard the argument. Listen, I was the Governor of a great State that fought hard for accountability. I heard every argument in the book against accountability, you know,

"It's racist to test." It's racist not to test—it's racist not to test. If you expect all children to learn, we want to know, and the testing ought to be viewed as a way to determine what works and what doesn't work. It ought to be viewed as a way to say, "If there is a problem, let's address it now, early, before it's too late." We want to know. You can't solve a problem unless you're able to diagnose the problem.

And the accountability is the diagnostic tool available for not the bureaucrats in Washington, DC—the local folks, because we believe in local control of schools. I firmly believe that the education plan that we passed is going to make a significant difference in making sure we achieve the national goal of not one child—no child—should be left behind in America.

In order to make sure we have economic growth and vitality, in order to make sure we build on the foundation that is laid for economic growth, I will enforce fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. I think it is so important that we make sure that we fund our priorities, fighting the war and the homeland defense, educating our children, and that Congress hold the line on additional spending. Because if there is perceived deficits, the markets react, and if there's perceived deficit, sure enough what's going to happen is people are going to start calling for tax increases. And you don't want to run a person's taxes up in the middle of an economic recovery.

Secondly, my philosophy is, is that I'd rather you spend your money. We want to fund our priorities, but when it all comes down to it, after the priorities are funded, you're better at spending your money than I am. It's your choice to spend your money on your families.

Congress must control its appetites for additional spending. There is—I submitted what they call a supplemental. It's an urgent request for funding the war and homeland security. I submitted that over 4 months ago, and yet, I haven't ever seen anything from Congress yet. The Senate needs to act and the House needs to act to get this to my bill—to my desk, so we can fund programs.

And part of the problem is, is that the Senate wants to add billions more than we requested to the supplemental. They view it as a funding opportunity, as opposed to—as a focused approach on funding the war against terror and making sure our homeland—the agencies are funded. Now, they're going to say, "Well, you know, we're going to maybe play this down to the very last minute." No. Now is not the time for games when it comes to the appropriations process. We expect—[applause].

There is no budget in the Senate. The House passed a budget; there's no budget in the Senate, which means, I guess, that I'm going to have to remind the spenders in Washington that I have submitted a budget. And I hope they watch it very carefully as they determine the size of the appropriation bills. The defense of the country is a priority. Homeland defense is a priority. Other parts of the budget have grown, but we expect them to be realistic about how they spend. After all, the budget plan I proposed says if Congress is realistic and reasonable and funds priorities, that we can balance the budget in the year 2005.

Now, that requires discipline, and I intend to help Congress understand discipline is needed in Washington, DC. One of the best ways to make sure that our economy grows is for there to be a joint effort in being fiscally responsible with your money. And that's exactly what's going to happen in Washington, DC.

Another way to make sure that we foster growth and restore confidence is to hold people accountable for misdeeds in the public sector. It is important for corporate America to hear this call: You are—in order to be a responsible American, you must behave responsibly. We expect there to be full disclosure of assets and liabilities. We expect there to be fair accounting practices. We expect you to treat your investors and employees with the respect they deserve. And if not, we intend to do something about it at the Federal level. We intend to hold people accountable.

That's why I set up what they call a Corporate Fraud Task Force in the Justice Department. We also have proposed doubling the jail time for corporate fraud. A proposed

provision is to make sure that corporate executives cannot transfer company funds to their personal accounts while their company is under investigation. I am for increasing the budget of the regulatory authorities, to make sure that there is enough manpower and technology available to run down the facts and to hold people accountable. We're making sure that executives who commit improper acts will forfeit phony profits. And we're saying that if you have defrauded investors, you can never serve as a CEO or on the board of directors of a company again. I support the creation of a strong, independent board that will provide effective oversight of the accounting profession. In other words, I'm willing to work with Congress to make sure that we've got the necessary law in place that will hold people accountable without stifling the entrepreneurial spirit of America, without stifling innovation in America.

The House has passed a bill; the Senate is going to pass a bill tonight, I understand. The two need to get together as quickly as possible and get me a bill that I can sign before the August recess. But the truth of the matter is, we can't pass a law that says you'll love your neighbor like yourself, and we can't pass a law that says you will be honest. We can pass laws that say, if you're not honest, we'll get you. Corporate America must make the decision, each as an individual, that you're going to uphold high standards, that you have a responsibility to our society, that you've got the responsibility to your shareholder and your employee to treat both with the respect they deserve.

Now, the good news for our country is that by far, the vast majority—by far—of people who have taken on the responsibility to run a corporation are good, honorable people. A few have damaged the reputation of the many, and that's why we've got the Corporate Fraud Task Force. But I call upon all of us in America to understand the awesome responsibilities we have in this country—the responsibilities if you run a company, to be forthright and open, and the responsibilities if you live in America, to help work in the community in which you live to make it a better place.

You know, I like to remind our fellow citizens that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that. Oh, some are saying, "Maybe he's too optimistic." That's what I believe about America. I believe our soul is strong; our constitution is firm. I believe this country's great strength is the fact that we're such a decent and honorable group of people, that out of the evil done to America will come peace.

If we're strong and steady and resolved, we can achieve peace. Out of the evil done to America will come an economic vitality that will be vibrant, because we're an entrepreneurial people, risk-takers and dreamers and doers. And out of the evil done to America will come a better America, because in our prosperity and wealth, we've got to remember there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction. There are some in our society who wonder whether or not America is really—the American Dream is meant for them. There are some young Americans who have no hope. And I refuse to concede that, however. I believe that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, particularly as our fellow Americans respond to the call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

I'm a strong proponent of the Faith-Based Initiative, because I understand that Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

No, I believe the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. They must have thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] But they didn't realize that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we're strong. And when it comes to the love of our fellow human beings, we're compassionate.

I want to tell you, I'm honored that you came out today. My vision for the country is one that's positive and hopeful. I believe there is a better day right around the corner for all Americans. And I believe that because I know that I'm the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming today. May God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. at the Alys Stephens Center. In his remarks, he referred to Thornton Stanley, Sr., president, Stanley Construction Co.; Alma Powell, wife of Secretary of State Colin Powell; Lt. Gov. Steve Windom of Alabama; Bill Pryor, Alabama State attorney general; Mayor Bernard Kincaid of Birmingham; and Malcolm "Mack" Portera, interim president, University of Alabama-Birmingham. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Bob Riley in Birmingham

July 15, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. It's a long speech. [Laughter] Thanks so much for coming.

I don't know whether you know this or not, but in 1972, I helped organize Red Blount's campaign for the United States Senate right here in the State of Alabama. Because of me and Jimmy Allison, he managed to get 32 percent of the vote. [Laughter] But I learned then and there how great the people are of the State of Alabama. I've got fond affection of those times. I count many of you as my friends, and I want to thank you for coming today to help the next Governor of the State of Alabama, Bob Riley.

There is no doubt in my mind he is going to win, and I want to thank you all for helping. He's going to win because he's got a fantastic grassroots organization. Many of the grassroots activists are here today. I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do, which is to start dialing phones and putting up signs and knocking on doors and going to coffee shops and going to your churches and synagogues to remind people that with Bob Riley you've got a good, honest politician who's going to bring integrity to Montgomery, Alabama, and he's going to reform the State on behalf of all the people of this great State.

He's also going to win because he married well. [Laughter] And I appreciate Patsy Riley and the Riley family for standing by Bob as

he makes this very important run for the governorship. Patsy, thank you for being here. God bless you all.

And I know something about marrying well. I did. I'm really proud of Laura. She was a public school librarian when she married me. She didn't care for politics or politicians. Here she is, First Lady of the United States, and doing a fantastic job.

I want to also urge you all, as you're turning out to vote for Bob, to make sure you turn out to vote for Jeff Sessions, who is a fantastic United States Senator. I appreciate working with Jeff, and I appreciate working with Richard Shelby as well, two great United States Senators who have got fan—[*applause*]. They're always talking about Alabama when I'm with them, reminding me of Alabama, and that's what you want your Senators to do. But they've also got the capacity to think about the country as well. I'm proud of your Senators, and I hope you are as well. And Jeff needs your help. You need to take nothing for granted in this election year. It's important for the good of the country and for the good of your State that Jeff Sessions be sent back to the United States Senate for another term.

I want to thank Members of the United States House of Representatives from the State of Alabama who are here with us today, starting with a man we're going to miss, out of Mobile, Alabama, Sonny Callahan. Where are you? There he is, Sonny. Sonny's a good one. Sonny has served the State and the country with great distinction. He announced his retirement earlier on this year. It's just too darn bad he decided to go fishing all the time, but it's a well-deserved rest, and he's a fine man. I also appreciate so very much Terry Everett from Montgomery for coming today. Terry, I appreciate you being here, as well as Robert Aderholt and Spencer Bachus. Thank you all for coming.

I know a lot of members of the statehouse are here, folks who Bob Riley is going to be working with when he becomes the Governor. I know the Lieutenant Governor, Steve Windom, is here, as is the attorney general, Bill Pryor. And I want to thank you both for coming as well. I want to thank Jim Bennett, the Alabama secretary of state, and all the members of the statehouse, the sen-

ators and house of representatives who are here to support your next Governor.

It's good that you're here, as people are beginning to realize he's going to win, you're beginning to realize he's going to win. So it's kind of good to get in good with the Governor early. [*Laughter*] At least, that's how we did it in Texas, and I suspect Alabama is that way, too. The Governor is going to remember who was with him early and who kind of got on the late train. But the good news, he's going to be the Governor of everybody when he wins. He's not going to play this business of pitting one group of people against the other.

We've got some fine candidates running to replace Sonny Callahan and Bob Riley. We've got Jo Bonner from the Alabama First Congressional District. Jo, are you here? Thank you. There he is. I appreciate you, Jo. And Mike Rogers from Alabama Three is here as well. Thank you, Mike.

But I'm here to help this good man get elected to the governorship. It's a job I understand. I was a—great honor to be the Governor of my State. It's a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in the lives of a lot of people, particularly if you've got a Governor like Bob Riley, who's got a positive vision for everybody, a vision that says, the most important job for the Governor is to make sure that every child gets a good education.

I know his passion about education, because he helped me get the education bill through the House of Representatives. And I'd like to outline the principles of that bill so that the people of Alabama understand what he will do when given the chance to be the Governor. The first principle, it says that we believe—Riley and I believe, and I hope you believe with us—that every child can learn. We set the highest of high standards. We understand that in order to get the best for every child, you must have high expectations.

See, we understand, if you have low expectations, you get low results. There are some people in our society who don't believe every child can learn, and therefore they're willing to set low standards. That's opposite what we think. We believe every child can learn, and we expect every child to learn.

And therefore, the bill I signed said in return for Federal money—in return for a good size budget increase, I might add, for Title I students—we expect you to teach them how to read and write and add and subtract. You see, we’re tired of the days when children were just shuffled through the system, the days when expectations were so low that it seemed okay to pass those through who weren’t supposed to be able to learn. For the good of the country, for the good of the State of Alabama, those days of passing children through without teaching them to read and write and add and subtract must end and will end.

We believe in accountability, because we want to know. We understand you can’t change a system unless you measure it. We understand you can’t correct a problem unless you measure it. We understand that if you want every child to learn to read and write and add and subtract, we must determine if every child can read and write and add and subtract early in their school career.

Now, I’ve heard every excuse in the world, you know, “You shouldn’t test. It’s racist to test.” My fellow Americans, it’s racist not to test. It’s racist not to hold people accountable for the children in the State of Alabama.

And finally, Bob and I share a deep conviction that if you want to have excellence for every child, you must trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence. One size doesn’t fit all across America. One size doesn’t fit all across the State of Alabama. We must empower people at the local level to meet the high standards by holding them in account, but trusting first and foremost the fact that the parents and the people closest to the children are those who are more likely to design a program that will meet our national goals, which is every child learning and not one single child left behind.

I’m confident in telling you that the vision of Bob Riley as Governor of the State of Alabama—the education vision—is the right vision for the future of this important State, because it is part of attracting jobs to your State. When the word gets out that the Riley reforms are taking hold and children aren’t being left behind, there’s going to be a lot of people coming. “I want to work here in Alabama. I want to bring my business in Ala-

bama”—assuming, of course, that you make sure that the junk lawsuits that plague this State and other States don’t continue to reign supreme.

And it’s good you’re about to put a tort reformer in the Governor’s mansion in the State of Alabama. It is necessary. Look, we want our people to have access to the courts, no question about it. If you’ve got a legitimate claim, you ought to have your day in court. But it’s important to remember that the frivolous and junk lawsuits that get filed all the time are clogging the ability of people with honest claims to get to the courthouses in Alabama and across the country. Tort reform is important for the State.

And I appreciated Bob’s strong support on the tax relief package which we passed, not only his strong support but the strong support of the other Members of Congress and, of course, the two United States Senators. We cut taxes right at the right time in our country. This economy began to slow down in March of 2000. And we understand that one way to encourage economic growth is to let the people keep their own money. You see, when you have your own money, you decide, do you want to spend it on a good or a service? And when you make that decision, somebody has got to produce the good or service. And when they produce the good and service, it means somebody is more likely to find work. Tax relief was right for America when we did it, and I’m proud to have Bob Riley’s support.

And it was more than just reducing rates—which, by the way, will stimulate small-business growth here in Alabama. I had the honor of meeting some of your fine small-business owners at the University of Alabama-Birmingham today. And by the way, that is an impressive campus that has got an impressive mission here for Alabama’s future.

And we talked about how to encourage ownership. And Bob understands a healthy and whole society in which people from all walks of life have the opportunity to own their own business. And I explained to them that the tax relief package we passed was good for small business. It was good for the capital formation necessary for small businesses to thrive because most small businesses are sole proprietorships, most small

businesses are limited partnerships which pay tax on the individual rate schedule. And when you reduce the individual rates, you're reducing the taxes on the startups and the small businesses.

And after all, it's important to understand the role of small businesses like Bob does, because 70 percent of the new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And so it's going to be good for Alabama to have a Governor who understands that the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which entrepreneurs from all walks of life are able to realize their dream, and that's to own their own business.

We've got work to do in Washington on this, a matter of economic security. The heady days of the nineties, the boom days of the nineties, it was like we were on a binge where there was no—the horizon was forever going up. And we binged, and now we're suffering a hangover. But the foundations for economic vitality and growth are very strong, low inflation, good monetary policy.

One of the risks to economic vitality is whether or not Congress will overspend. They give the President a veto for a reason, to make sure that Congress doesn't overspend. And I expect there to be fiscal discipline in Washington this summer and, as importantly, this fall, as we run up into an election year. I expect Congress to set as its priorities the priorities that I think are important, and that is the defense of the United States of America and our military budget.

We need to be a nation which is willing to be confident and strong and open up markets for Alabama farmers and Alabama ranchers and Alabama entrepreneurs. Congress needs to give me trade promotion authority. They ought to stop talking and start acting in Washington, DC.

For the good of our economic growth, we need to have a terrorism insurance bill which will encourage the creation of construction work all around America, and we need a terrorism insurance bill that focuses more on working America and less on trial lawyer America.

The foundations for growth are there. We had an over 6 percent growth in the first quarter of this year. Durable good pur-

chasing is up. Last month retail sales were up by a percent. The American people need to know that we've got the potential to grow and grow strong. But so long as anybody is looking for work and can't find work, I think we've got a problem, and I'm going to continue to work the problem.

And part of the problem is the fact that people don't have confidence in business leaders. A few—and I emphasize, a few—of corporate America's leadership have polluted the well for many. And the best thing the United States Government can do is hold them to account, because we expect high standards from business America. We expect corporate CEOs to understand the responsibility of their jobs: to be open and honest with the American people; to be open and honest with the shareholders; and to treat their employees with respect.

So we're going to pass some laws, and I'm confident that the laws that are passed out of the Senate and the House will be laws that will set the right tone and right standards without jeopardizing innovation and enterprise here in America. But I can assure you, when I talk about personal responsibility in America, I expect there to be corporate responsibility as well. And we will hold those to account who do not uphold those high standards in America.

I'm very optimistic about our economy. I'm optimistic about our country too. And we've got some big jobs to do, no question about it. My biggest job is to protect the American people from another attack, and I know that. I go to the Oval Office every morning—and by the way, walking into that office is an unbelievable experience. It's unbelievable now that I've been up there for about a year and a half; it will be unbelievable for however long I'm there, I can promise you. It's unbelievable for me and my dog Spot, I might add. [Laughter] They don't let Barney in. It's a new carpet, and Barney's a new dog. [Laughter]

But every morning I sit there at the H.M.S. *Resolute* desk. Teddy Roosevelt used it; Franklin Roosevelt used it; Kennedy used it; Ronald Reagan used it. I open up the threats to the United States of America. There's an assessment; it's a summary of what we think we know.

You need to know that the enemy we fight is still interested in harming our country. I'm sure a lot of young people wonder why. We're a kind nation. And you need to know they hate us because we love freedom. We love to worship freely. We love to speak our mind. We love a free press. We love all the aspects of our freedom. But what they didn't understand is that we're willing to defend our freedoms at any cost, anyplace, anywhere. [Applause] Thank you all.

We're making progress here at home. You know, I readily concede I didn't run on the ticket, "Vote for me. I'll try to make Government bigger." I did say, "I'll try to make it work better." And that's why I proposed the Department of Homeland Security. There are over 100 agencies dealing with homeland security. They're scattered all over Washington. It makes it awfully hard to set priority and to hold people accountable.

For the sake of the defense of our Nation, I think it's important that the major agencies and many of the minor agencies involved with homeland security be organized under one umbrella group, one Cabinet officer. It's going to save us money because we'll be able to get rid of the duplication of some services. But more importantly, it will help us install a new culture, which says that "No matter what other assignments you might have, your most important function, Mr. Agency Head and all the people who work for you, is to protect the American people, is to understand we're in a new era, that we fight a new war, that America is still threatened, and so long as America is threatened, we need to work overtime to make sure we protect the American people." And that's what's going on.

We're getting pretty good cooperation. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit in Washington. There is such a thing sometimes, and that's important. It's important to understand my proposal wasn't a Republican idea. It wasn't a Democrat idea. It's an American idea, to leave behind a legacy so that future Presidents and future Congresses are going to be able to deal with the true threats we face as we head into the 21st century.

Part of the problem is, and there is a hurdle I recognize, and that is that we're asking some Members of Congress to give up turf.

And that's okay. I understand that, but I'm going to keep reminding people, congressional turf is not nearly as important as American security. And therefore, I expect Congress to act.

We need to know who is coming into our country, why they're coming into our country, and whether or not they're leaving our country when they say they're going to be leaving our country. We need to have an effective strategy at the national, State, and local level to deal with the brave police and fire and EMS teams all across our country, so we've got a planned response if necessary. We need to work on bioterrorism, and we need to make sure we've got a coordinating facility within the Homeland Security Department that will take all the bits of intelligence that we gather and coordinate it and look at it and assess it and, if there is any vulnerabilities in our country, react to it.

And we're making good progress. You just need to know there are a lot of good folks—good, hard-working folks—who are working overtime in this phase on the war against terror. And it's part of making sure that the President can say, we're doing all we can do to protect the American people. We're chasing down any lead. Any time we get a hint, any time we get a suggestion that somebody might be planning to do something on American soil against Americans or, for that matter, on Americans or on our allies elsewhere, we're moving, and we're reacting, and we're disrupting. And we're treating these guys for what they are, a bunch of coldblooded killers, nothing but a bunch of international crooks.

And so our strategy is to keep them on the run, get them on the run, smoke them out of their holes, deny them access, make clear the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists," make it clear to people that we're continually doing—if you feed them, if you house them, if you're financing them, you're just as guilty as the murderers who struck the United States on September 11th.

I submitted the largest increase in our defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons: I firmly believe that any time the Commander in Chief commits a soldier into harm's way, that person deserves the best pay, the best training, the

best equipment possible; and I know that the signal it sends by the big increase shows our friends and allies, as well as the enemy, that the United States of America is in this war for the long pull, that there's not a moment in time in which we're just going to say, "Well, fine. We've had enough. We quit." You know, there's no calendar on our collective desks that say, well, by such and such a date, I guess we'll just get kind of tired of all this and shut her down. That's not what history has called us to do. History has called this Nation to lead the world against the true threats of the 21st century, and that's precisely what my administration will continue to do.

This is a different kind of war. We don't have the formations of airplanes flying over a territory. We don't have rows of tanks or convoys of destroyers moving around the globe. There's no set battlefield. This is a war where we're hunting them down one by one.

The other day I told the Nation, we and our friends and allies have hauled in over 2,400 of these terrorist killers, and we're making progress. Sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes it will make a splashy headline, but a lot of times you'll never hear about the progress we're making. Sometimes you'll see like what happened in the Philippines, where as I've made it clear, that if we find out there's an Al-Qaida-type network in a country, we will go to the leadership and say, "We want to help you. You get them, or we'll get them, or we'll get them together. We just want them got." [*Laughter*]

And the President of the Philippines, Gloria Arroyo, did just that, by knocking off the head of the group that had captured the Burnhams, American citizens. These are terrorists and kidnapers and killers, and their leader no longer is around, thanks to the leadership of our coalition. We're making progress. It's just going to take awhile. But that's okay, just so long as the enemy knows that we're going to chase them down, just keep them on the run.

But there's some bigger tasks. You've got to understand, this is bigger than just a terrorist network—I mean, bigger than an individual. I know there's sometimes a pre-occupation about it, is so-and-so alive, or is

such-and-such dead, you know. This is a struggle for freedom that really talks to the need for our country to not only view the current threats but future threats, threats such as some of the world's worst regimes developing weapons of mass destruction and teaming up with an Al-Qaida-type terrorist organization. We cannot and we will not allow the United States and our friends and allies to be blackmailed by the world's worst leaders with the world's worst weapons. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren to eliminate this threat before it becomes a reality.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, starting with peace. I want you all to assure your children and your grandchildren that our Nation is resolved and tough and strong because we love peace. We want them to grow up in a peaceful world. We not only want them to grow up in a peaceful world; we want youngsters all across the globe to be able to grow up in a peaceful world.

I believe that by remaining strong and resolute and united the way we are, that we can achieve peace in places like the Middle East and in South Asia. I also know that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good here at home, because this Nation is such a decent and honorable nation. There are thousands of our fellow citizens who love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, thousands of our citizens who know that they, themselves, can't do everything to make our society a better place for all, but they can do something.

People say, "What can I do to help in the war on terror?" My answer is, love your neighbor. Find a child who cannot read and teach him to read. Find a child who might be hopeless and lost and put your arm around him and tell him or her you love them. Unleash the great power of faith in our society. I strongly believe in faith-based institutions, because I know that faith can change hearts for the better in America.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is coming—is becoming—we are learning a new sense of what it means to be an American. We're learning that it's more than just the bottom line that counts, that a complete

and whole life is one that lends your time and talent and efforts to eradicating despair and hopelessness, to make sure the American experience is in every single neighborhood.

I believe we're ushering in a period of personal responsibility, a period where people understand that their most important job is to love—if you happen to be a mother or dad, is to love your children with all your heart and soul—that's your most important job; that you have a responsibility, if you're living in Birmingham, to help the community be a better place for everybody. If you run the corporate Birmingham, you've got a responsibility to your shareholders.

And it's happening. Perhaps the most vivid example of serving something greater than yourself happened on Flight 93. You all may remember that—when people were flying across the country, they learned their plane was becoming a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they made the ultimate sacrifice. They served something greater than themselves in life.

That's happening all across America. Obviously, that example is the most vivid of them all. But out of the evil done to America is coming a culture of personal responsibility that allows me to boldly predict that we're much more likely now to bring hope where there's no hope, light where there's darkness, and to make sure this American experience is available for all. It's going to happen, because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it is my honor to be the President of such a nation.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Winton M. "Red" Blount, founder, Blount International, Inc.; Patsy Riley, wife of gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley; Jo Bonner, candidate for Alabama's First Congressional District; and Mike Rogers, candidate for Alabama's Third Congressional District. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed "Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002"

July 15, 2002

In February, I outlined measures to protect the pensions of America's workers from corporate wrongdoing. In March, I proposed a series of initiatives to improve shareholder information, strengthen corporate governance, and create a stronger, more independent accounting system. Last week, I called for additional far-reaching reforms. I am pleased the Senate has now acted on a tough bill that shares my goals and includes all of the accounting and criminal reforms I proposed. The House previously passed strong reform legislation to get tough on corporate malfeasance and significantly improve oversight of the accounting profession. I urge the House and Senate leaders to get a bill to my desk before the August recess. We owe it to America's workers and shareholders to crack down on wrongdoing and fix the system to prevent future abuses.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 3763, the proposed "Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002."

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Belize-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

July 15, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Belize on September 19, 2000, and a related exchange of notes signed at Belize on September 18 and 22, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking the testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; locating or identifying persons; serving documents; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution to the victims of crime and collection of fines; and any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the State from whom the assistance is requested.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 15, 2002.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Sweden-United States Treaty on
Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal
Matters**

July 15, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Stockholm on December 17, 2001. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to

counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, and fraud and other white-collar offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; taking the testimony or statements of persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; providing documents, records, and items; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets and restitution; initiating criminal proceedings in the Requested State; and any other form of assistance consistent with the purposes of this Treaty and not prohibited by the laws of the State from whom the assistance is requested.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 15, 2002.

**Remarks on the National Strategy for
Homeland Security**

July 16, 2002

Mr. Vice President and Governor Ridge, thank you all. I want to thank the Members of Congress who have come to discuss the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. We just had a really productive meeting on this important issue. All of us agree that protecting Americans from attack is our most urgent national priority and that we must act on the priority.

I want to thank the Speaker, Speaker Hastert, and Leader Gephardt, as well as Leader Lott and Senator Reid for being here. And I appreciate so very much their agreement that we ought to have a debate about the creation of the Department of Homeland Security on the floor of both bodies before Congress leaves for the August break. These

four leaders have shown a strong commitment to get something done on behalf of the American people.

I also want to appreciate—the members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security are here, Chairman Arney and Vice Chairman Pelosi and other members. Both Republicans and Democrats are charged with reconciling the work of numerous House committees who acted this past week. They face a significant challenge, but I'm confident they'll meet the challenge, because they, too, want to do what's right.

I also welcome Members of the House and Senate who have been long interested in changing the way our Government protects our homeland—Senator Lieberman and Thompson and Collins, Congresswomen Harman and Tauscher, and Congressmen Thornberry, Gibbons, Chambliss, Portman, and Shays. These are members who had an interest in reform prior to September the 11th. They've been working on this issue for a long time, and I appreciate their input and their willingness to stay involved in the process.

I want to thank them for their past efforts. The American people need to know these Members of Congress are working hard and working long hours. And during the next couple of weeks, they'll be working hard to get something on the floor of their respective bodies. And that's good, and that's good for the American people.

There are a lot of tough decisions that will be made as we develop and discuss and debate how to move forward. But I'm confident that Members of both parties and Members of both Chambers know that the security of our Nation is the goal. That's the most important thing that they'll be focused on, is how best to secure the United States.

We also understand that the current structure of our Government is a patchwork, to put it best, of overlapping responsibilities, and it really does hinder our ability to protect the homeland. And so we're working with both parties in both Chambers to effect a strategy that will make it more likely that not only this administration and this Congress can deal with the true threats of the 21st century but, as importantly, future administrations and future Congresses will be able to

deal with the threats that will continue to be directed at a nation which loves freedom.

I—right after the September the 11th attacks, I established the Office of Homeland Security in the White House and gave it a critical mission, to produce a national strategy for homeland security. And today I'm sending to Congress our new National Strategy for Homeland Security. This comprehensive plan lays out clear lines of authority and clear responsibilities, responsibilities for Federal employees and for Governors and mayors and community and business leaders and the American citizens. With a better picture of those responsibilities, all of us can direct money and manpower to meet them.

In the war on terror, the American people are showing tremendous strength and great resolve. Our unity is a great weapon in this fight. And by acting together to create a new and single Department of Homeland Security, we'll be sending the world a signal that the Congress and the administration will work together to protect the American people and to win this war on terror.

Again, I want to thank the Members for their hard work. I appreciate the long hours that they're putting in. I appreciate their love for America and their patriotism during this trying time for our country.

May God bless the American people, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter on the “National Strategy for Homeland Security”

July 16, 2002

My fellow Americans:

Since September 11, 2001, our Nation has taken great strides to improve homeland security. Citizens, industry, and government leaders from across the political spectrum have cooperated to a degree rarely seen in American history. Congress has passed important laws that have strengthened the ability of our law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute terrorists and those who

support them. We have formed a global coalition that has defeated terrorists and their supporters in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. More than 60,000 American troops are deployed around the world in the war on terrorism. We have strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We have stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism and improved our ability to combat weapons of mass destruction. We have improved information sharing among our intelligence agencies, and we have taken important steps to protect our critical infrastructure.

We are today a Nation at risk to a new and changing threat. The terrorist threat to America takes many forms, has many places to hide, and is often invisible. Yet the need for homeland security is not tied solely to today's terrorist threat. The need for homeland security is tied to our enduring vulnerability. Terrorists wish to attack us and exploit our vulnerabilities because of the freedoms we hold dear.

The U.S. government has no more important mission than protecting the homeland from future terrorist attacks. Yet the country has never had a comprehensive and shared vision of how best to achieve this goal. On October 8, I established the Office of Homeland Security within the White House and, as its first responsibility, directed it to produce the first *National Strategy for Homeland Security*.

The *National Strategy for Homeland Security* is the product of more than eight months of intense consultation across the United States. My Administration has talked to literally thousands of people—governors and mayors, state legislators and Members of Congress, concerned citizens and foreign leaders, professors and soldiers, firefighters and police officers, doctors and scientists, airline pilots and farmers, business leaders and civic activists, journalists and veterans, and the victims and their families. We have listened carefully. This is a national strategy, not a federal strategy.

We must rally our entire society to overcome a new and very complex challenge. Homeland security is a shared responsibility. In addition to a national strategy, we need

compatible, mutually supporting state, local, and private-sector strategies. Individual volunteers must channel their energy and commitment in support of the national and local strategies. My intent in publishing the *National Strategy for Homeland Security* is to help Americans achieve a shared cooperation in the area of homeland security for years to come. The *Strategy* seeks to do so by answering four basic questions:

- What is “homeland security” and what missions does it entail?
- What do we seek to accomplish, and what are the most important goals of homeland security?
- What is the federal executive branch doing now to accomplish these goals and what should it do in the future?
- What should non-federal governments, the private sector, and citizens do to help secure the homeland?

The *National Strategy for Homeland Security* is a beginning. It calls for bold and necessary steps. It creates a comprehensive plan for using America's talents and resources to enhance our protection and reduce our vulnerability to terrorist attacks. We have produced a comprehensive national strategy that is based on the principles of cooperation and partnership. As a result of this *Strategy*, firefighters will be better equipped to fight fires, police officers better armed to fight crime, businesses better able to protect their data and information systems, and scientists better able to fight Mother Nature's deadliest diseases. We will not achieve these goals overnight . . . but we will achieve them.

Our enemy is smart and resolute. We are smarter and more resolute. We will prevail against all who believe they can stand in the way of America's commitment to freedom, liberty, and our way of life.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 16, 2002

NOTE: The letter was published in the “National Strategy for Homeland Security.”

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Review of Title III of the Cuban
Liberty and Democratic Solidarity
(LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**

July 16, 2002

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114) (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 2002, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

**Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony
for President Aleksander
Kwasniewski of Poland**

July 17, 2002

Mr. President, Madam First Lady, members of the Polish delegation, distinguished guests, on behalf of the American people, it is my great honor to welcome you to the United States.

This is the—only the second state visit of my administration, and it symbolizes the high importance America places on our friendship with Poland. This friendship is rooted in our common history and sustained by our common values.

This generation of Poles has written a story of courage and determination that has inspired America and has inspired the world. Out of a past filled with pain and oppression, Poland is constructing a future defined by greater freedom, good relations with its

neighbors, and increasing influence throughout Europe.

And today, Mr. President, we meet as leaders of two strong, mature democracies, ready to shape a new era of freedom and security. Together, Poland and America are standing and fighting side by side in the war against global terrorism. From military forces to law enforcement, terrorist financing and intelligence, Poland’s support and solidarity in this great struggle has been unqualified, and America is deeply grateful.

Our nations are determined to lead the way in NATO’s efforts to develop new capabilities to meet new threats. We’re united in our determination that our children will inherit a world defined not by fear and chaos but by tolerance and freedom.

Together, Poland and America are building that freedom on the continent of Europe. Today, a new Europe is within our grasp, one that is whole and free and at peace for the first time in its history.

In November, the President and I will join other NATO leaders in Prague to decide on inviting new members into the Alliance. On this issue, Poland and America stand united. We believe in NATO membership for all European democracies ready to share in NATO’s responsibilities. Our aim is for freedom and security to span the European continent from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean to the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

Together, Poland and America are also building our common prosperity. The trade and investment that flows between our countries creates jobs and lifts lives on both continents. We’re determined to bring the benefits of trade and markets to all our citizens.

Today, Poland and America are forging a new strategic relationship, but the friendship between our people is very old. Nine million Americans claim Polish descent. Over two centuries ago, when Americans were fighting for our independence, Poles fought alongside us. In the century just passed, as Poles reclaimed their independence, America stood by Poland.

And today, Poland and America stand and fight together for our common freedom and for bringing the hope of freedom to all who seek it in the world.

Mr. President, in June of last year you welcomed Laura and me to Poland. You showed us a nation of deep faith, a central part of Europe's soul. And you showed us a nation alive with liberty and energy and enterprise. Today Laura and I are honored to welcome you and the First Lady to an America that is proud to call Poland a friend, an ally, and a partner.

Thank you for coming, and welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Kwasniewski was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, he referred to Jolanta Kwasniewska, wife of President Kwasniewski. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.

The President's News Conference With President Kwasniewski

July 17, 2002

President Bush. It's an honor to welcome my friend the President of Poland to the White House. Mr. President, welcome.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Poland is a close friend and a good ally and an influential nation in the center of Europe. Poland has influence across Europe. America and Poland see the world in similar terms. We both understand the importance of defeating the forces of global terror, and America appreciates all that Poland is contributing to this great struggle.

Our nations also understand the importance of building a better world beyond terror, one where prosperity replaces poverty and democracy and tolerance replace dictatorship and hatred. Poland and the United States are part of the great alliance of liberty, and we're working to spread the hope of freedom and prosperity across the globe.

We had good talks this morning, and I want to highlight two initiatives we agreed on. First, we agreed to expand cooperation between our militaries. Both Poland and the United States are seeking to transform our Armed Forces and develop new capabilities. We need to meet the new threats, such as

terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. By sharing ideas and expertise, our militaries can help each other reach out—reach our transformation goals faster and improve our ability to work together. We hope this initiative will be a model for similar efforts with other NATO Allies.

Second, our Governments agree to cooperate more closely to expand our economic ties. The Polish-American trade and investment relationship is important to both countries, and it's particularly important to creating jobs and high-tech growth opportunities in Poland. We will work to resolve some company-specific issues and also improve Poland's investment climate.

These two initiatives will help build our strong working relationship.

Tomorrow the President and I look forward to traveling to Troy, Michigan. I believe you have to go beyond Washington to truly capture the energy and diversity of our country. Mr. President, I think you'll like the trip. Troy is just one of countless communities across our Nation that has been enormously enriched by the contributions and values of Polish Americans. It will be a great honor for me to travel to such a community with the President of a free and independent Poland.

Mr. President.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President, let me once again emphasize how pleased I am to stand here on the hospitable land, the country that is so close to the Polish people, where millions of people live here of Polish extraction. I'm coming as a President of the Republic of Poland to the United States from the country which may set an example of success for others. And we know that this success is due to the support of our American friends.

Today I am here as the President of democratic, developing Poland, Poland that is important in its region and whose voice is very significant, both in Europe and worldwide. I am here as President of the country which enjoys strategic partnership with the United States and friendship which is hundreds of years long and well tested, as well as enjoys perspectives that we have discussed with

President George Walker Bush for a long time today.

During our conversations, we have discussed combatting terrorism that has to be brought to the final end. And Poland has been contributing to this particular combat. And we're sure that under the leadership of the United States, we could eliminate this particular threat from the world of the 21st century, so that we could build a future on the basis of the dialog, the protection of human rights, and mutual tolerance.

Poland, with its soldiers in Afghanistan, is present in NATO, and Poland is active in exchange of information of intelligence and special units. We are ready to develop our cooperation along these lines.

We have spoken about NATO. Poland is one of the new members, and we are convinced that the new summit in Prague will be the day on which new countries will be invited to become members of NATO who have met the requirements. Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, our friends from Slovakia, and our close partners from Bulgaria and Romania and Slovenia will be welcomed there. We want a strong NATO. We want NATO to be ready to ensure security in Europe as well as in the Euro-Atlantic theater and a NATO that is going to be ready to respond to threats where the basic values of life and ethnic cleansing or acts of terror are taking place.

I've presented to President George Walker Bush an initiative that I had presented a few days ago in Riga, to develop cooperation with countries which are in NATO, which will be in NATO, and with those ones which are going to be outside of NATO—I'm thinking here of the Balkan states. And I rejoice in the fact that the initiative of cooperation has been accepted as interesting by the United States, and as deserving further development.

We have also spoken of Europe, and Poland wants to become a member state of the European Union. And we are sure that, at the beginning of 2004, we are going to become a member state, and we think that our future should be built with very close cooperation with the United States and Europe. And we want Poland to contribute, with its potential to global security and to building peace and mutual trust.

On bilateral issues, we have emphasized that we're closing a particular chapter of transformations that have been taking place in Poland and in countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Today, we can say that our partnership has matured, that we're opening a new chapter where we're going to be treated mutually as fully fledged partners ready to take actions, both current actions as well as those that are going to take place in the future.

I am convinced that the United States may draw on the experiences that Poland has gained in its transformation. We are ready to share these transformation experiences with other countries. I am also convinced that we're going to serve very well the military cooperation, especially in the areas of training, equipment, and the cooperation of special units with the particular military forces. And transformation is Poland's specific experience, as I want to emphasize again.

I would also like to say that it's very significant that we have been creating a very positive climate for European investments. Americans have so far made an investment of \$8 billion U.S., and we want the climate for further investments to be very good. We would hope that new American companies will be opening their new headquarters in Poland, making it possible for them to operate vis-a-vis other states of the region.

Let me also emphasize that since the very first moment in Washington, DC, we have been feeling the atmosphere of extreme wishfulness, kindness, and hospitable that I wish to extend my words of gratitude now in this context to President Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. We're not only guests here, as we feel, but we're also friends that are coming from Poland for a visit to the United States.

I'm convinced, too, that this visit will encourage further contacts and to develop enough contacts at all levels concerning not only politicians and elites but also citizens of the two countries, nongovernmental organizations and various institutions, social institutions. We want very much the Polish-American relations to get the new momentum. And free of the challenges that we have

had in the recent decades, they could become the greatest contribution to the world, to Europe, and to Poland and the United States.

And thank you for your attention.

President Bush. We'll answer some questions. We'll alternate between the American press and the Polish press, three apiece.

Corporate Responsibility/National Economy

Q. Mr. President, even while you're calling for transparency in corporate America, you refuse to ask the SEC to turn over documents from its investigation into Harken Energy Corporation, your old company. And the Vice President has answered few questions about his role at Halliburton, his old company, which is now under investigation by the SEC. Why not just clear the air, ask the SEC to release those documents, and ask the Vice President to talk about Halliburton in a public forum?

President Bush. Well, first, the Vice President—I've got great confidence in the Vice President, doing a heck of a good job. When I picked him, I knew he was a fine business leader and a fine, experienced man. And he's doing a great job. That matter will take—run its course, the Halliburton investigation, and the facts will come out at some point in time.

Secondly, as to a look at Harken, the SEC, as a result of Freedom of Information requests, has released documents, and the key document said there is no case. It was fully investigated by career investigators. Some of you, I think, have talked to the head career investigator, and he's made it clear there was no case.

The key thing for the American people is to realize that the fundamentals for economic vitality and growth are there, low interest rates, good monetary policy, productivity increases, economic vitality, and growth in the first quarter and that, as Chairman Greenspan said yesterday, that we've got to change from a culture of greed to a culture of responsibility. And I believe that's going to happen.

Congress is working on some legislation. I hope they get it to my desk before they go home. I think it's important to send a sig-

nal to the American people that reforms have been enacted, laws will be upheld. But as I said the other day in Alabama, I've got—I'm an optimist about the future of this economy. I think that the ingredients for growth are in place, and that's important to our friends from Poland because, as he mentioned, we invest and we trade and the stronger our economy is, the more likely it is we'll have investment and trade together.

President Kwasniewski. Now it's time for Polish journalists. I invite—Polish TV.

Poland's Role in the War on Terrorism

Q. Polish public television, TVP. The question to both of you. Regarding the future of the anti-terrorist coalition and possible next phase of the war against terrorism, do you expect an increase of Poland's involvement? And do you think that Poland is ready to meet the expectations?

President Bush. Well, first, I've been very impressed by Poland's troops. And we've got confidence in the Polish military. And we want to continue to train together. Particularly, our special forces need to work together, because the ability to succeed in the war—the new war of the 21st century means that we have to move quickly and move in a way that is effective and sometimes lethal.

It's interesting, you said the "next phase of the war against terror." Almost every day is a new phase, in some ways, because we're reminding different countries which may be susceptible to Al Qaida that you're either with us or against us. And so we're constantly working on bolstering confidence amongst some nations which may sometimes forget that either you're with us or you're with the terrorists. That's kind of a—that's a phase, I guess you could say. Phase one was Afghanistan. Phase two is to make sure that other countries don't become places for training or places where the Al Qaida think they can hide.

And we spent a lot of time on that here. I talked to Aleksander a lot about that today. The Polish Government has been very strong about working with us. The other—I also told him, of course, that we'd stay in close consultation, and we will.

President Kwasniewski. I would just constrain myself to say that we have been part

of the coalition from the very beginning, to the potential that reflects Poland's possibility and capability, such as our station in Bagram, and there is a Polish logistics unit, and they're right there. Our intelligence forces have been cooperating very closely, and we know that the commitment on the part of the Republic of Poland will be growing with the needs that are going to be growing.

We have discussed with President George Walker Bush on how to modernize the Polish Armed Forces so that they could meet the challenges of the war against terrorism. And then Secretary Rumsfeld and Minister Szmajdzinski talked about talks, and they will be continued. And we hope that the effect will be that the Polish Armed Forces will be transformed in such a way so that, as a very serious and mature partner, they would be able to respond in unison with other armed forces.

Poland is a member of the anti-terrorist coalition and has been very closely cooperating with the United States. And we want to reconfirm our readiness to continue this combat.

Reform of the Palestinian Authority/Vice President Cheney

Q. Mr. President, do you agree with your Secretary of State's willingness to consider working with a Palestinian Government that has Yasser Arafat as a figurehead leader, despite your call in June for a new and different leadership? And if I may follow up on Ron's [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] question—

President Bush. You get one question. [Laughter]

Q. If I could follow on Ron's, are you confident the SEC will find that Vice President Cheney did nothing wrong while at Halliburton?

President Kwasniewski. His question was—

President Bush. It happens worldwide.

Yes, I am, to answer your second question. And first, I am confident as well that we need to put institutions in place so that a peaceful Palestinian state can emerge. And that ought to be the primary focus.

The reform of the Palestinian state is a crucial element to achieving the confidence nec-

essary amongst all parties so that we can eventually achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace. That's really important.

The issue is much bigger than a person, as far as I'm concerned. I made it clear, I thought. The person you mentioned, Mr. Arafat, has failed to deliver. I still feel that way. And I know the Palestinian people will be better served by new leadership.

And so we are—but my focus of my administration is to work with leaders from around the world, some of whom were in New York yesterday, to work to make sure there's a new constitution which divides power, so that one person doesn't get to decide the fate of a group of people who have suffered mightily; that there are security arrangements in place, so that they serve to make the area more secure, as opposed to security forces all existing—all of which exist to keep a person in power; reforms of financial institutions to make sure there's full transparency, to make sure that the money that we spend on humanitarian aid ends up helping Palestinian people, not a few leaders.

Those institutional changes, Randy [Randy Mikkelsen, Reuters], are essential for the evolution of a state. It's essential that those institutions are developed so that the people of Palestine get helped. That's essential.

And I do believe we're making progress to this end. It is a—this is an issue much bigger than a single person. Mr. Arafat would like the whole issue to be about him. That's the way it's been in the past. Except when you analyze his record, he has failed the Palestinian people. He just has, and that's reality.

Q. [Inaudible]

President Bush. You only get—that's your third-second followup. [Laughter] Unbelievably aggressive today. [Laughter]

President Kwasniewski. Mr. President, now is Polish turn.

President Bush. You're in good standing with your colleagues for that. Break some new ground.

President Kwasniewski. It's a press conference, not interview. [Laughter]

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Polish Public Radio. Mr. President, this is a question addressed to both Presidents.

President Bush. An old Fournier trick.

Polish-U.S. Relations/War on Terrorism

Q. There are some differences between Europe and the United States. Europe seems to be more eager to deal with economy and political sources of terrorism. United States seems to be more determined to apply military solutions. European Union and the United States differ in some important trade issues. What is the differences present in your today conversation? Poland is going to be a member of the European Union. Might this membership complicate relations in between our two countries?

President Bush. No. That's an easy one. [Laughter] No, it won't. Let me make it clear to you, make sure—if I could kind of change one of your premises. We use military power, no question about it, and we'll continue to do it, to hunt these killers down, one by one. And that's all they are, is killers, coldblooded killers.

We also understand that in order to make it hard for them to attack the United States again, or any of our friends, that we must disrupt their finances. We spend a lot of time on working with our friends to disrupt finances. And so we have a multifaceted approach to the war on terror. It's important for you to understand that. We don't necessarily place one aspect on the war against terror as more important than the other.

In terms of the—listen, we've got great friends in Europe. Poland is a great friend, and the United States fully understands that we must cooperate together to achieve victory in the war against terror. That means intelligence sharing and working cooperatively on finance, making sure our militaries cooperate together. NATO—a useful role for NATO, the new role for NATO, is going to be to defend Europe against terrorist activity. And therefore, NATO needs to change, so that it can do a more effective job of defeating the enemy. Russia is not the enemy. Russia is—you know, the idea of Russian tanks storming across Europe are no longer the problem. And therefore, cooperation on chasing down killers, one by one, even becomes more focused and more important in many ways. And that's the nature of our relationship.

So I welcome Poland going into the EU, if that's what the President and the country think is best.

President Kwasniewski. I wish to say that we have discussed the subject, and it is true to say that in Europe, Poland has been criticized as a state that has extremely been—has been very pro-American. And for that reason—I haven't witnessed any criticism or heard any criticism, for that reason, here in America.

But the issue of whether Europe or America, relations, et cetera, reminds me of a question that is very often addressed by a child: Is Mom or Dad better? From the educational point of view, it's a false question, because under these circumstances that we are now in, we're creating a family based on the same fundamental values or based on similar or very similar objectives, and also based on the historical heritage for Europe and the United States are quite similar and very penetrating.

It seems to me that outside of current politics, or different accents in politics, certainly we could not talk, and we should not talk, about any conflicts of opinions. Poland wants to become a member state of the European Union, and that's how we see our political and economic opportunity. And we hope it's going to be true the first of January 2004. And I want to assure that Poland, as a member state of the European Union, will be doing all it can and will be able to do for the cooperation between the United States and Poland and Europe to be even better.

I would like to refer to what President George Walker Bush said in Warsaw last year in June. "We have to be building a spirit of Europe," he said, "whole and free," a whole and free Europe. And I believe that this is a good reply to this question, a good answer on how we should work together and how a Europe that is going to be in its whole entirety based on the same values to be the traditional and very close ally and partner for the United States.

I am convinced that Poland's membership in the European Union will not only be a problem in relations between Poland and the United States, but because we are going to get new incentives for development, this type of cooperation between Poland and the

United States will be greatly welcomed also by the United States.

Financing Homeland Security

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. The strategy that you announced yesterday indicated that we're already spending about \$100 billion on homeland security. What have you determined about the costs going forward? How much is it going to cost us, and how much of that total do you see coming from State and local governments, on the one hand, and from the private sector, on the other?

President Bush. It's going to be hard to quantify how much the private sector spends. Let's just say they need to spend enough to work in a cooperative way, and many private sector companies realize it's in their interests to do so.

The key thing about the national strategy is that we have the ability to have a Department of Homeland Security that's able to affect a national strategy by setting priority. And the priority is to protect our homeland.

Mr. President, we've got agencies who've got many different functions, and we want the primary function of agencies that have anything to do with homeland security to be protecting America, because we still feel like we're under attack.

The key cost issue is the cost of transition toward this new Department of Homeland Security. And we're confident that, if we're given the management tools necessary, we can affect that in a cost-effective way, that transition in a cost-effective way. That's why I spent some time talking to Members of Congress yesterday about giving us some management flexibility, flexibility in personnel decisions, flexibility in reorganization decisions. I think that's going to be an important part of making sure that the cost of transition is a realistic cost. As a matter of fact, we think we can save money as a result of overlap.

In terms of how much it costs down the road, that's going to depend upon how effective we are at defeating the enemy. The best homeland security is to hunt the enemy down, one by one, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to secure the homeland, and the more effective we are at that, the more cost effective it will be at home. And

so the budget we submitted is one we think is important for this year, and we'll reassess on an annual basis.

Q. As you know, Mr. President, the State and local governments are saying they're at the end of their rope financially, at the moment, because of the economic downturn. Do you see a substantial burden on them—

President Bush. Well, we'll just have to work—help them work through their budgets. But remember, the—we'll just have to see. They're concerned about budgets in a lot of areas, Medicaid, different areas. And the—I believe this economy is going to come back, and I think it's going to help improve their financial picture when it does.

Poland's Role in Europe/Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. TVN Polish Network. A question for both of you. Would you please expand on the subject of the specific role that Poland is going to play in Central and Eastern Central Europe, especially within the context of new enhanced relations between the United States and Russia? What is Poland going to do?

President Bush. Well, that's a very good question. First of all, the President talked about the Riga initiative that he described. It's a—and it's something that caught our imagination and caught our attention. We thought it was a very interesting set of ideas, and we want to explore that with him further, which would really put Poland in a unique role of fostering continued relations with countries which may or may not be admitted into NATO, for example.

In terms of the Russia-U.S. relationship, it's a strong relationship. But the—and it's a relationship which is important, because it helps Russia think Westward. And Poland can be a part of that, of course. The President has had great visits with President Putin, and he's talked about the benefits of thinking West.

And the other important part, the most immediate effect, is when Russia looks West, she sees Poland and realizes there is no threat from Poland. Poland is a peaceful

neighbor. Poland's at peace with all its neighbors. And that is a very important contribution to the stability of our relationship.

If we were—as I was very aggressive about, in talking about NATO expansion, if Russia thought that the neighborhood was unsettled, it might create some issues. But Poland has provided a great source of stability in the neighborhood, and therefore Russia feels less threatened. And I think that's an important nuance, as we say, in foreign policy. I think that's the word, isn't it? “Nuance”? Yes. *[Laughter]*

Anyway, but it's been a vital contribution, Mr. President, and I thank you for that.

Making sure you're awake.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you. First, I also wish to say that some journalists in Poland have been writing that good relations between the United States of America and Russia mean that the role of such states as Poland, or such states that joined NATO from Central Europe, has been decreasing or on a decline. I think that this is not a very wise thesis or assumption.

But let me emphasize that especially the states of Central and Eastern Europe and Russia want Russia to become a fully democratic state, a state exercising a very peaceful attitude to all other nations. So good American-Russian relations are a guarantee for us, and President George Walker Bush has just mentioned that, that there is no threat from the Russian Federation and there will be no threat from the Russian Federation.

I want to be in the shade of Russia and not afraid, as opposed to being a country that is right upfront and is afraid of Russia. I think it's the very vital interest of Poland and other states for Russia-the United States relations to be very good. And we are very happy with the Russia-NATO partnership. This is a new quality of ensuring security in the world and especially in our region.

Now, secondly, we are extremely happy that the American position is very, very pro-enlargement of NATO. I think, politically, this is a very significant decision that will result in the further development, broadening of the security zone in Europe. We are also very happy that there is a support for the Riga initiative, because it means that countries which are not going to become mem-

bers of NATO will also—could be also—can be also benefiting from the outcome and from the results of this success, so they—we can also be supporting democracies, emerging democracies in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, in Macedonia, et cetera and et cetera, something that has been the world's problem. And I think the Balkan states are going to be an area of development, economic development and development of security.

I also want to assure you, and President Bush knows about it, that Poland has been functioning as an exporter of stability. We have been a unique state because, in the last 10 years, Poland has not changed its border by a single inch, and all our neighbors have changed. None of our neighbors have been neighbors of Poland 10 years ago, neither the east—Eastern Germany or the German Democratic Republic, neither the Soviet Union nor any other country. So this is a piece of evidence that you can export stability. You can be a pretty important factor contributing to security in Europe, but also in the Euro-Atlantic dimension.

And finally, I'd like to say that we talked about the cooperation with the Ukraine. Let me use this opportunity to say that Ukraine should play an even more important role in Europe and in the region, and I am convinced that we should be supporting and favoring all efforts aimed at furthering development and cooperation with Ukraine and cooperation with the United States. And I am convinced that, strategically looking at the future, we should not be in the position not to see the 50 million state located right in the heart of the European continent.

So, speaking in brief words, we have made a review of politics in the area, and perspectives are good. But I think they should be utilized in the best possible ways. And in that sense, the Polish-American cooperation is very, very important.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:03 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. President Kwasniewski spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to William R. McLucas, former Director, Division of Enforcement, Securities and Exchange Commission;

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. President Kwasniewski referred to Minister of National Defense Jerzy Szmajdzinski of Poland.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Aleksander Kwasniewski

July 17, 2002

We reaffirm the deep friendship and vibrant alliance between the United States and Poland. We are committed to freedom and democratic values, which form the basis of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. As we begin the 21st Century, all of Europe's peoples, for the first time in history, have an opportunity to live in democracies, at peace with themselves and their neighbors. The United States pays tribute to the people of Poland, who contributed so much to bringing an end to Europe's Cold War division and who led the way to the undivided Europe now taking shape. Today, Poland and the United States are determined to complete our task: to build the Transatlantic House of Freedom, open to all of Europe's peoples and prepared to meet the global challenges of the 21st Century. Both sides stress the paramount importance of strong and vigilant Transatlantic links for a successful response to the new challenges that we face.

We will meet the new challenges together. We must act decisively to win the war against global terror. Polish forces serve alongside United States forces in Operation Enduring Freedom. In November 2001, President Kwasniewski invited leaders from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe to identify concrete steps to defeat terrorism. The United States appreciates this initiative and welcomes follow-up meetings. Poland and the United States believe that these efforts can contribute significantly to controlling borders, cutting off terrorist financing, stemming the smuggling of individuals and equipment for terrorist purposes, and preventing bioterrorism.

In the face of terrorism and other new threats, NATO's traditional commitment to collective defense must also be carried out in new ways. We are determined to lead

NATO's adaptation to meet the new threats we face. NATO must develop improved capabilities and be able to respond, rapidly and flexibly, to threats from wherever they arise. We are determined to provide the resources needed to achieve strengthened capabilities and want to work jointly with other Allies to this end. As NATO adapts, the United States and Poland are transforming their militaries to make them as efficient, mobile, and well-equipped as possible. The United States and Poland have agreed to expand cooperation between our armed services both to deepen our military-to-military relations, and in particular to promote needed transformation in our defense. We hope this enhanced cooperation can be a model for activities with other Allies.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the NATO Alliance. The enlargement of NATO has already extended security on the European continent and will continue. At its Prague Summit, NATO will extend invitations to those European democracies ready to share in the responsibilities of NATO membership, and the United States and Poland have agreed on the desirability of a broad round of enlargement. The states aspiring to join NATO have worked hard to institute reforms, solidify the rule of law, and leave no doubt about the strength of their democratic institutions. Reforms must continue even after membership, just as Poland has continued its reforms since joining NATO in 1999.

We welcome NATO's new relationship with Russia. The NATO-Russia Council has great potential for NATO members and Russia to build common security against common threats, especially in combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. We also welcome an improved relationship between NATO and Ukraine. The United States and Poland share an interest in encouraging the aspirations of the people of Ukraine to prepare for a future in Europe. We agreed to work together to support Ukraine's efforts to implement needed economic and democratic reforms. Our two nations urge Belarus to join its neighbors in seeking a democratic and free market future.

Accession to the European Union is essential for Poland's future economic growth, and

benefits our bilateral relations as well as the trans-Atlantic relationship. The United States and Poland welcome the impending enlargement of the European Union as another signal of the deep roots across the European continent of free market principles and open societies. We seek stronger ties between the European Union and NATO. The prospects for overcoming the most serious challenges of the day are enhanced significantly when NATO and the EU cooperate in achieving common solutions.

The Polish-American economic partnership contributes to Poland's ability to realize its full potential as a future EU member state, and increases employment and high technology growth opportunities in Poland. We believe that Poland's aspirations to play a full role within the EU is fully compatible with its desire to remain a strong Transatlantic partner of the United States. Poland's continued growth and prosperity depend on a welcoming, predictable investment climate, and we have established an Economic/Commercial Dialogue to enhance our trade and investment relationship and to address specific issues of mutual concern. Commerce Secretary Evans hopes to visit Poland in 2003 as part of our overall effort to enhance our bilateral relations.

We welcome the contribution of the strong Polish-American community to building ties between our nations. For over 200 years the United States has been a home and a land of hope for generations of Poles searching for the American dream of liberty, freedom, justice, and prosperity. Today, their task is not only that of linking our two great democracies, but also one of global dimensions, to which Poles and Americans devote their energy in the name of the common values that Polish Americans have done so much to develop.

The United States and Poland have worked closely and productively, including with Jewish communities in both countries, to promote tolerance. We express satisfaction about the efforts made to preserve memories

of the Holocaust and support initiatives to expand education on the history of the Shoah. We renew our commitment to preserve and protect significant cultural heritage of mutual interest, and commend the progress achieved in this area through cooperation between Polish central and local institutions and U.S. public and private institutions.

The friendship between the United States and Poland is strong and enduring. We are united by ties of heritage, family, and faith. Bilateral relations between the United States and Poland are excellent, and we will work to strengthen those ties. Our common interests reinforce our relationship, and we reaffirm today our determination to work more closely as friends and allies in the future.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the Tel Aviv and West Bank Terrorist Attacks *July 17, 2002*

I offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those killed and to the wounded in the homicide bomb attack today in Tel Aviv and the attack yesterday in the West Bank. The American people and I condemn these despicable acts of terror.

Once again, terrorist violence directed against Israelis has taken innocent life. Peace cannot be built on a platform of violence against innocents.

These terrorist acts are also attacks on our efforts to restore hope to the Palestinian people. There is now broad international consensus—as evidenced by the meetings this week in Washington and New York—on the need to support Palestinian reform, address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, and restore momentum toward a two-state solution. As I said on June 24, the hopes of a few cannot be allowed to hold the hopes of many hostage.

Proclamation 7577—Captive Nations Week, 2002

July 17, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The United States is proud to stand on the side of brave people everywhere who seek the same freedoms upon which our Nation was founded. Each year, during Captive Nations Week, we reaffirm our determination to work for freedom around the globe. Created against the backdrop of the Cold War, the importance and power of Captive Nations Week continues to resonate in today's world.

In too many corners of the earth, freedom and independence are the victims of dictators driven by hatred, fear, designs of ethnic superiority, religious intolerance, and xenophobia. These despots deny their citizens the liberty and justice that is the birthright of all people. Some governments, such as those in North Korea, Iraq, and Iran, starve their people, take away their voices, traffic in terror, and threaten the world with weapons of mass destruction. In many other places, from Burma to Belarus, Cuba and Zimbabwe, people are denied the most basic rights to speak in freedom, and their daily lives are haunted by the fear of the secret police.

This week, America reaffirms our solidarity with and support for people living under conditions of servitude. They are the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity. History teaches us that when people are given a choice between freedom and tyranny, freedom will win. Recently, the world saw this in Afghanistan, where people took to the streets to celebrate the fall of their Taliban oppressors. Those in other lands seeking to unshackle themselves from dictatorship will also have America's support.

Twenty years ago, President Ronald Reagan said before the British Parliament at Westminster that "our mission today (is) to preserve freedom as well as peace. It may not be easy to see; but I believe we live now at a turning point." These words were a prelude to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Today, as the events of September 11 made

clear, we are at another turning point, where the world faces the prospect of dictators supplying the world's most dangerous weapons to their terrorist allies. These terrorists aspire to impose their brutal will on freedom loving people everywhere.

One of our greatest strengths in this struggle against a world of fear, chaos, and captivity is our commitment to standing alongside people everywhere determined to build a world of freedom, dignity, and tolerance. This week America affirms its commitment to helping those in captive nations achieve democracy.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959, (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 21 through 27, 2002, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their devotion to the aspirations of all peoples for liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:23 a.m., July 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 19.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President Kwasniewski

July 17, 2002

Thank you all. Mr. President and Madam First Lady, it's a great privilege for Laura and I to host you here in the White House. Tonight's dinner is a small way of saying

dziękuję for the warm hospitality you showed us last year in Warsaw.

Today, Poland and the United States are meeting the challenges of our times, sustained by bonds of kinship, culture, and commerce that unite our peoples. Two centuries ago, Poles fought for America's independence. Before and since, thousands of American communities have been enriched by the energies of millions of Poles who came here to settle.

Mr. President, tomorrow we'll travel to Michigan to visit one of those communities. But pride requires me to point out that the oldest permanent Polish settlement in America can be found in my home State. In the fall of 1854, more than 100 Polish families traveled to the prairies of south Texas, seeking greater freedom and opportunity. They arrived at their destination on Christmas Eve, and they christened their new settlement Panna Maria, or Virgin Mary. The town is still there, a living symbol of our common ties.

Just as Poles keep contributing to America's vitality, Poland keeps contributing to the vitality of the entire world. Poland's opposition to Soviet tyranny inspired half a continent and helped bring down an evil empire. And the passion for human dignity and iron integrity of a Polish Pope has added to the momentum of freedom around the globe. Freedom did not have to be imported into Poland. It is found naturally in the rhythm of every Polish heart, a commitment of conscience and faith stronger than the brutality of conquerors or the official lies of oppressors.

In 1989, Poles on all sides of the ideological divide made an historic decision to build a society based on democracy and human rights and the rule of law. Two years later, more than 100 political parties participated in Poland's parliamentary elections, including one party called the Beer Lovers' Party. We're watching to see how much beer you drink tonight, Mr. President. *[Laughter]* All but a handful of these parties were committed to a Poland founded on freedom.

In the decades since, Poland has continued to be an example for other nations seeking to claim their democratic future. And Poland has found what America has found, that de-

mocracy and free markets are honorable and just and indispensable to national progress.

America and Poland are joined by a commitment to helping each other along freedom's road. Thomas Jefferson once wrote to Kosciuszko and praised him for being true to a single object, the freedom and happiness of man. Today, this single object defines Poland, itself, and it defines the partnership between Poland and America. Together, we can and we will complete the unification of Europe. We will reach out to Russia and Ukraine, and we will win the war against terror.

Poland and America share a vision that is stronger than intolerance and hatred and bigotry. It is a vision of a world that is free and just, a world that respects people's dignity and rewards their enterprise and creativity.

Mr. President, let us toast to friendship between our countries. Tonight the old Polish saying has new meaning in a new century: For your freedom and ours.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jolanta Kwasniewska, wife of President Kwasniewski. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.

Remarks to the Polish American Community in Rochester, Michigan

July 18, 2002

The President. Thank you very much.

So I was telling the President of Poland, I said, "There's a lot of smart people in Washington, but not all the brains are in Washington. Why don't we get on the airplane and come out and see some other smart Americans?" It's an honor to be here. I want to thank you for coming. I appreciate the warm hospitality that you've shown me and my friend.

We had a heck of a dinner last night. It was a black-tie dinner, and I had the honor of sitting next to the First Lady of Poland. And it dawned on me after the dinner that he and I share a lot, starting with the fact that we both married really well. *[Laughter]* The First Lady of Poland sends her best, and

so does the First Lady of America, my great wife, Laura Bush.

I appreciate John and Michelle Engler. John mentioned that she is of Polish heritage. He forgot to say she's got some Texas blood in her, too. But I'm proud to call John and Michelle friends. I'm happy that Aleksander got to meet my friends here who have been doing such a fine job of running this State.

I want to thank Gary Russi, the host, the president of Oakland University. I know it's not easy to host an entourage, choppers and all the things that fly in here. But I want to thank you for providing this fantastic forum, a chance for us to talk about our mutual visions for a peaceful world. So I want to thank all those who helped here at Oakland to make this a successful trip.

I want to thank the Lalewicz. That would be the lady—the fantastic young lady who sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and her brother, Peter. I told the President he's going to see a budding star singing our national anthems, and she didn't let us down. I want to thank you, Olivia, very much for being here.

I appreciate some of the good folks who work here in Michigan—the Lieutenant Governor, Dick Posthumus, is here. Candice Miller is supposed to be here somewhere. I appreciate Candice—is the Michigan secretary of state.

I want to thank the Polish delegation. We've got a lot of the leadership who are involved in the President's Government. They've traveled with us from Washington today. I want to thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

Our Ambassador from Poland is here, Chris Hill. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. You're doing a fine job. I appreciate you coming.

I mean, when the President of Poland shows up, all the officials show up. We've got not only Federal officials and State officials, we've got L. Brooks Patterson, the Oakland County executive. We've got the mayor of Detroit. Mayor Kilpatrick, thank you for coming. I want to thank the mayor of Rochester for being here as well. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here, and the mayor of Rochester Hills is here as well.

And I want to thank you all for coming. It's an honor that you're here. We're thrilled you're here. It gives us a chance to talk about our vision for a peaceful world. There's a lot of war talk these days, as there should be, but it's all aimed at making sure the world is peaceful, peaceful not only for children here in America but peaceful for children in Poland as well. And it's kind of you all to give us a chance to come and to visit.

When we landed our chopper out there on the playing fields—or some kind of field—*[laughter]*—I know it was a field—*[laughter]*—we were met by two really fine Americans, Helen Suchara and Erin Chekal. Now they're here, and I want them to stand up here in a minute. But I want to describe to you their hearts. First, you'll see that Helen has lived a full life. But in the early nineties, she decided to go to Poland as a Peace Corps volunteer. She decided to take American values to her—the homeland of her ancestry, to talk about democracy and freedom, those very same values which the country embraces today. And Erin Chekal wanted to do the same thing. And so we've got two generations of Americans with us today who have volunteered their time to make not only America a better place but to help the country they love, Poland, become a better place. And I want you to welcome them. Thank you all for coming. *[Applause]*

Mr. President, the strength of our Nation is not our balance sheet; it's not our military. The strength of our Nation is the American people. The American people are generous people. They're kind people. They're courageous people. The true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of Americans from all walks of life.

It has been such an honor to welcome the President here to America. Laura and I went to Warsaw, by the way, as his guest and had a fantastic experience. We were—the people were great, and it was a wonderful time for us to begin a friendship that's an important friendship today.

And the friendship, though, between Poland and America goes back a long way. As Governor Engler mentioned, Poles fought for American independence, and in the century past, we had the privilege and honor of

helping Poland fight for her independence. We had the honor of repaying the favor, because we love freedom, and so do the Polish people. America is proud to call Poland a friend, a partner, and an ally.

The people of Poland and the people of America share strong bonds of kinship and culture and commerce. The sons and daughters of Poland, many of whom I'm pleased we have here today, Mr. President, have been enriching America throughout our entire history. [Applause] There's one or two sons here. Listen, they've contributed to every walk of life, Jan Karski, Ed Muskie, Bronko Nagurski. We had dinner last night with one, a great Polish American, Stan Musial. All throughout our society, Polish Americans have made a tremendous contribution, Mr. President, and we're proud of that contribution. As a matter of fact, it's the contributions from people from all walks of life which make America not only a unique nation but a strong nation.

Poland has given a lot to America, and Poland has given a lot to the world. For 50 years, the people of Poland waged an heroic struggle for freedom. For 50 years, they set an example of what it means to love freedom. It was Polish courage and conscience that caused an evil empire to fear freedom and eventually bring down the evil empire.

And Poland has given the world one of the greatest figures of the last century. The moral authority and iron integrity of a Polish Pope have stirred the forces of freedom throughout the world. Everyone who believes in human rights and human life and human dignity owes a great debt to Pope John Paul II. And I want to thank one of his most distinguished representatives here in America, His Eminence Cardinal Maida, for being with us today as well.

Poland is an example to all of Europe. After all, it's a strong democracy with a market economy. It's a force for stability within Europe, and it's a nation prepared to play an influential role on the world stage.

Five years ago, the United States proudly supported Poland's bid to join NATO. This year, Poland and the United States will meet in Prague and support NATO membership for all of Europe's democracies ready to share in NATO's responsibilities.

In this age, in this era, America needs allies who share the same views about the world's opportunities. We need allies who understand the world's dangers. When America was attacked, NATO and Poland, led by this good man, immediately declared that an attack on one of us was an attack on all of us. You need to know that Poland is standing strong—I mean, strong—alongside America in the war on global terror.

Poland has—Poland—

Audience members. Stop the war! Stop the war! Stop the war!

The President. Poland has deployed troops to Afghanistan, has shared intelligence, and cracked down on terrorist financing. You need to know that the United States of America will track the terrorists down, one by one, and bring them to justice. [Applause] Thank you all.

Mr. President, the people of America are deeply grateful for your support and the support of the people of Poland. See, a lot of people in our country, and perhaps yours, wonder why would, why would an enemy—by the way, nothing bunch of—nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers—strike America. And Mr. President, it's because they fear freedom. See, we believe in freedom of speech. We believe in freedom of the press. Like you, we love freedom, and if somebody attacks our freedoms, we'll stand tough and strong.

No, we're bound together in this war on terror. This President understands what I know, that we've entered a new type of war. We're hunting down people that will hide in a cave but send youngsters to their death—that's what they'll do. These are international criminals, and we're going to treat them like international criminals. We're going to get them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run until we bring them to justice.

We owe it to history; we owe it to our children and our grandchildren. Anytime anybody wants to affect the freedom of our people, they must pay a price, not because we seek revenge but because we seek justice.

I was explaining to the President yesterday that I've submitted a mighty hefty increase in our defense spending. I did so because anytime an American President commits one

of our troops into battle or into harm's way, that person deserves the best training, the best pay, the best equipment possible. And Mr. President, this significant increase, the largest since Ronald Reagan was the President, shows the world, shows our friends, and as importantly, shows the enemy that the United States is a determined, resolved nation. It doesn't matter how long it takes. There are no calendars on our desks in Washington that say, by such and such a moment we've got to quit. That's not how we think, Mr. President, and you know that. The increase in the defense budget says that we're in this for the long haul, that we owe it to a lot of people to be patient and resolved.

Mr. President, I'm telling you that this country is united. We understand this isn't a Republican war, a Democratic war. This is a war that will test the soul and conscience and strength of the American people. And Mr. President, America will meet the test.

We are united. We're a united country, and we're united with Poland. We will not permit the future to be defined by fear and chaos and hatred. We will define a future of greater development of democracy and a future of tolerance. We'll stand together, and, make no mistake about it, we will defeat global terror.

When I spoke to the faculty and students at Warsaw University last year, I said the question no longer is what others can do for Poland, but what America, Poland, and all of Europe can do for the rest of the world. Working together, we will build greater prosperity and greater hope to people of our respective nations and people all across the globe.

Poland has a leader it can trust. He's a good man. He's a man I'm proud to call friend. I'm proud to bring him to the great State of Michigan. I'm proud to introduce him to you. Ladies and gentlemen, President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Athletics Center at Oakland University. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewska; Gov. John Engler of Michigan, and his wife, Michelle; Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit, Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr., of Rochester; Mayor Pat Somerville of Rochester Hills;

baseball Hall of Fame member Stanley F. Musial; and Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.

Remarks at a Luncheon With Polish American Leaders in Troy, Michigan *July 18, 2002*

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for your warm welcome. My fellow club members—[*laughter*—thank you all for—

[*At this point, there was a disruption in the audience.*]

The President. Yes, sir, thanks. We—the President and I were just in the neighborhood, looking for a meal. [*Laughter*] So I just said, “Why don’t we stop over? I’m a member of a club in the area.” [*Laughter*] Stan, thanks for remembering my membership, and thanks for feeding us.

I appreciate you all coming out to greet my friend and a friend of America, the President of Poland, a fine leader and a fine gentleman.

I want to thank Stan and Sylvia. I want to thank all the folks who put on the dinner or—we call it “dinner” in Texas—lunch here in Michigan. And I want to thank my fellow Americans for coming out to say hello.

We had a wonderful dinner last night in Washington. We all wore our black ties. I rented mine right around the corner. [*Laughter*] But it was a wonderful occasion. And as much as I loved it last night, I was really looking forward to coming with the President here to Michigan, because there's a lot of great—there's a lot of great Americans who happen to be from Polish descent living here, and I thought it was a perfect place for him to come.

I want to thank Cardinal Maida for coming. He was—he came to dinner last night with us, and he jumped on Air Force One. We found plenty of room for him. [*Laughter*] But he's such a—such a dignified human being, and I'm proud to call him friend. And thank you for your leadership, sir.

I want to thank the Englers, our friends the Englers. The great Governor and the first

lady of the State of Michigan. They've been our friends for a long time. I know the Lieutenant Governor is here. I appreciate you being here, Dick. Thank you for coming, Dick Posthumus. Candice Miller, the secretary of state, I appreciate you being here.

We've got our Ambassador from Poland with us, Christopher Hill. He's doing a fine job. Chris, thank you for being here.

We've got a great delegation from the Polish Government with us, scattered throughout, I guess. Mr. Minister, thank you for coming. I appreciate you all being here.

I want to just tell you right quickly that America has got a strong, strong friend in Poland. The Polish Government and the Polish people are—they understand what we went through. They understand—they've had a history of people wanting to take away their freedoms too. See, we share that common bond.

And they also understand that we owe it to our children and we owe it to future generations beyond our children to hold people to account, to hold the killers to account, to bring the killers to justice in order to defend our freedoms. And that's what we're going to do.

Some predicted that the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more the American people would grow weary or kind of forget what happened. And Mr. President, you need to know that's not the case—that's not the case. Anybody attacks us and attacks our freedom, we don't forget that. And therefore, Mr. President, you're a guest in a country that is united and strong and resolved, resolved to keep our coalition together and resolved to defend our freedom, no matter what the cost. And Poland understands that, and for that we are grateful.

And so it's been our privilege the last 2 days to welcome the First Lady and the President, President Kwasniewski, here to the United States of America. It's been a great trip, and it's a chance for us to—chance for me to introduce him to you, my fellow Americans.

Mr. President, you're among some of the finest we have in our country, the good Polish Americans of the State of Michigan.

Would you please welcome the President of Poland.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:21 p.m. at the American-Polish Cultural Center. In his remarks, he referred to Stanley Grot, president, American-Polish Cultural Center, and his wife, Sylvia; Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit; Gov. John Engler of Michigan, and his wife, Michelle; and Jolanta Kwasniewska, wife of President Kwasniewski. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia and an Exchange With Reporters

July 18, 2002

The President. I have a short statement here, and then I'd be glad to answer two questions; I'll call on the people. Then we need to get to our meeting.

I want to thank the Ministers for coming today. Secretary of State Powell has been working hard to work on an initiative that we believe will bring peace to the Middle East.

Our vision of peace says that there ought to be two states living side by side in peace. Our vision for peace recognizes that there must be security in the region. Our vision for peace understands that too many Palestinians suffer; they suffer from lack of food and basic services. Our vision for peace understands that all parties have got responsibilities: The United States has a responsibility; the neighborhood has responsibilities; the Israelis have a responsibility; the Palestinians have a responsibility. And we will continue to work with all parties to achieve the pathway to peace.

And I want to thank the Ministers for coming. They represent governments that are anxious to work with us, anxious to work toward achieving the vision that we all hope will happen soon. It's in the best interests of the world that we do achieve peace in the Middle East, and I'm looking forward to continuing our dialogs.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Dick Keil [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, would you be willing to consider a permanent Palestinian state that included Chairman Arafat in some sort of ceremonial role or as President?

The President. As I mentioned—I think it was yesterday, I think, I had a press conference. My, time flies. The issue is bigger than any single person. And our discussions will center on how to have institutionals—institutions in place that will truly represent the will of the Palestinian people, that will give confidence to the world that we can spend money in a way that helps the Palestinians, that when we talk about security, there are security forces there aimed at protecting people from terrorist attack, as opposed to enabling people to stay in office.

You know, it's very interesting that these leaders came to our country to discuss peace, and the terrorists attacked. It's clear that a few want to damage the hopes of many. And by working to put institutions in place that will help on security and finances and government, institutions which will outlast any single leader—and so that's what we're going to discuss today.

Mark Smith [Associated Press Radio].

Middle East Security Arrangement/ Timing of Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the idea of having troops and others from the Egyptian and Saudi and Jordanian sides help train security forces for the Palestinians? And sir, yesterday there was another double suicide bombing just after you used the word “progress.” Do you think that's a coincidence?

The President. You know, I'm beginning to think that every time we have a high-level meeting, something happens. It's not coincidental. I think the enemies of peace try to send signals, try to derail peace, and try to discourage us. And one of the things I'm going to tell the leaders today is, we refuse to be discouraged. We're going to continue to work for peace, continue to push hard for peace, because we think it's a—we know it's in our vital interests.

In terms of who trains whom for security, that's part of the ongoing discussions, and that's what we want to discuss. George Tenet

has laid out a plan, and part of the plan is to work with the nations present here as to how to effect a security arrangement that will be effective and will work. That's what we want to do, and that's what we want to discuss.

Listen, thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The President met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Maher of Egypt; Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Muasher of Jordan; and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York

July 19, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thank you, General, and thank you all for such a warm welcome. I'm honored to be here. I've been looking forward to coming to Fort Drum.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. It gives me a chance to come to one of our Nation's finest military bases.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. But more importantly, it gives me a chance to speak to some of the finest Americans we have, our soldiers and their families. I'm proud of you. You have a vital mission, especially in this time of war. And you do it well, and you do the mission with honor.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. The 10th Mountain Division patch stands for the skill and it stands for the power of our military, and it stands for the best values of the United States of America.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Many of you just returned from service abroad in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Others have come home from duty in Kosovo or Bosnia.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. And the Sinai.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Troops from this base will be needed again in missions yet to come.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. But you have the Nation's gratitude for all you've done and the Nation's confidence in all you will do.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I want to thank General Huber for his service to our country. I want to thank Judy Hagenbeck, the wife of Major General Buster Hagenbeck, with whom I got to speak via one of these teleconferencing apparati. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank General Larry Ellis for his leadership. I want to thank Colonel John Kelly. I want to thank Major General Ken Lopez. I want to thank all those who wear the uniform, on behalf of a mighty nation.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I want to thank my friend Governor George Pataki of the State of New York. I appreciate you being here, Governor. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor, who is here. I appreciate members of the New York congressional delegation who have taken time out of their schedules to come, Senator Clinton, Congressman McHugh, Congressman Boehlert, Congressman Reynolds, Congressman Sweeney, and Congressman Walsh. I want to thank the State officials who are here. I want to thank the local officials who are here. And I want to thank the veterans who are here with us today.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I know Watertown, New York, is proud to call hundreds of the veterans citizen, and the American people are so grateful to your service.

I want to thank the family members who are here today. Our country depends upon those who wear the uniform, and our country depends upon their family members too. I want to thank you for the sacrifices that you make on behalf of a nation. I want to thank the wives and the husbands and the sons and the daughters. We appreciate the commitments you make to your family and to your country. This Nation is grateful to our military families.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. This great base, the 10th Mountain Division, has a special place in American military history. Under different

names, Fort Drum has given continuous service to the defense of our country since the beginning of the last century. The ranks of the 10th Mountain Division have given distinguished and at times heroic service for six decades. This unit has produced some of the finest soldiers ever to wear the uniform——

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. ——including a World War II veteran, one of the great living Americans, Senator Bob Dole.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. This division has now been called to play a central part in the first war of the 21st century. In the fight against terror, you are responding as you always have in times of danger. Because of you, and men and women like you in all branches of our military, we will defend this Nation, and we will defeat the enemies of freedom.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I can't imagine what the enemy was thinking. [*Laughter*] They must have thought we were so weak, so feeble a nation that we might, after September the 11th, file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They obviously had never been to Fort Drum. They didn't understand what I know, the character and the strength and the courage of the men and women of the United States military.

This war came upon us suddenly. The response has placed great demands on our military. Yet at every point in the chain of command, you were prepared for the orders that came. As Major General Hagenbeck has put it, when this division was called in September to deploy, nobody ever asked, "Are you ready?" It was assumed. And as the enemy found out, you were ready.

Within days, you stepped forward to guard against further attacks on the homeland. Within weeks, soldiers from Fort Drum were guarding bases in Uzbekistan and moving in to defeat a brutal regime in Afghanistan.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. You fought beside our allies in cold and rugged terrain, against trained and resourceful killers. You met the enemy half a world away, in his own element, yet the terrorists discovered no bunker could protect them.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Darkness couldn't conceal them.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. And there was no cave deep enough to save them.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. The 10th Mountain Division cleared over 100 caves used by Al Qaida, seized more than 500 stockpiles of enemy ammunition, patrolled over 500 miles of border trails to block fleeing enemy, helped build or repair tent hospitals and deliver over a million pounds of food. In the Afghan campaign, more than 150 soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division were decorated for their noble actions, including one lieutenant colonel who calmly inspired his troops during 18 hours of grenade attacks and withering small arms fire.

When the 10th Mountain Division first arrived in Afghanistan, the Taliban was in power. When some of you left, the Taliban was in ruins, and the Afghan people were liberated.

For some of you, this may seem like a long war, particularly ones who have had loved ones overseas. But we've been at it for only 10 months. We have a great deal to show for our efforts. Our country leads a mighty coalition of civilized nations, joined in facing a common threat, a real threat to humanity. We're uncovering terrorist cells all across the world, disrupting plots against us. We're seizing terrorist assets and keeping terrorists themselves on the run.

So far, more than—thousands of terrorists have been captured, and thousands others, like several in the Philippines just weeks ago, weren't that lucky.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. One by one, they are meeting their fate, a fate they chose for themselves. Around the world, terrorists are learning that the justice of the United States of America cannot and will not be escaped.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Some members of our coalition need America's aid and advice, and they're receiving it. Other nations need help training their armies to fight terror, and we're providing that. Some parts of the world, there will be no substitute for direct action

by the United States. That is when we will send you, our military, to win the battles that only you can win.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. At this moment, around 60,000 Americans are deployed around the world in the war against terror. We've given great responsibilities to them and to you. And those of us in Washington have great responsibilities of our own. We must never cut corners when it comes to our national security. We owe our military every weapon you need, every dollar it takes to fight and to win this war.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. We're making progress, and I appreciate the fact that Congress has stood behind me. I appreciate the support I've received in Congress. I've been able to rely on leaders of both political parties.

Earlier this year, I proposed the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the President.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I did so because our troops must be well trained, well equipped, and well paid in order to fight and win this war.

We're investing in our military so we can deploy swift and agile forces anywhere, any time they're needed. We're building precision weapons that can spare the lives of American soldiers and lives of innocent civilians in foreign lands.

We will multiply every advantage—every possible advantage—so that we're prepared for any enemy, any enemy of freedom.

Audience member. Let's get Saddam.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. In March of this year, I asked Congress to put defense appropriations at the beginning of the legislative line, not the end. I asked them to stop playing that old trick, "We'll hold defense last."

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I think it needs to be first.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. The House of Representatives responded. The Senate is still delaying. The Senate must act so that we can plan the war. The Senate must act, and it must act this month, on defense appropriations. Congress has the responsibility to put first things

first, and nothing comes before the freedom and the security of the American people.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. As we prepare our military for action, we will protect our military from international courts and committees with agendas of their own.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. You might have heard about a treaty that would place American troops under the jurisdiction of something called the International Criminal Court. The United States cooperates with many other nations to keep the peace, but we will not submit American troops to prosecutors and judges whose jurisdiction we do not accept.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Our Nation expects and enforces the highest standards of honor and conduct in our military. That's how you were trained. That's what we expect. Every person who serves under the American flag will answer to his or her own superiors and to military law, not to the rulings of an unaccountable international criminal court.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. This new war is going to take some time. We're in this for the long haul. After all, we defend our Nation we love. We defend the values we uphold. We love freedom—we love freedom. We love our freedoms, and we will defend them, no matter what the cost.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. The work has just begun. And what we have begun, we will finish.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. In Afghanistan, coalition troops still have critical work, and the dangers haven't passed. Elsewhere, new threats are taking shape.

In this war, there will be times of quiet, and there will be times of crisis, times that call for patience, and times that call for sacrifice. As members of our military, you understand this as clearly as anyone. You know the nature of the threat.

Terrorism is fueled by boundless hatred. Terrorism will be stopped by a mighty nation with a strong and ready military.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. We fight against a shadowy network that hides in many nations and

has revealed its intention to gain and use weapons of mass destruction. We're threatened by regimes that have sought these ultimate weapons and hide their weapons programs from the eyes of the world.

The same regimes have shown their true nature by torturing and butchering their own people. These tyrants and terrorists have one thing in common: Whatever their plans and schemes, they will not be restrained by a hint of humanity or conscience.

The enemies of America no longer need great armies to attack our people. They require only great hatred, made more dangerous by advanced technologies. Such enemies—against such enemies, we cannot sit quietly and hope for the best. To ignore this mounting danger is to invite it. America must act against these terrible threats before they're fully formed.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. We will use diplomacy when possible and force when necessary.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. We will prepare deliberately and act decisively.

Our commitment should be clear to all, to friend and enemy alike: America will not leave the safety of our people and the future of peace in the hands of a few evil and destructive men.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. In this war, we fight against the advance of terror and its agents. We also fight for the advance of freedom and human dignity. We do more than oppose an ideology of violence and hatred; we offer a vision of democracy and development that can overcome resentment and despair in every part of the Earth.

Seldom have the ideals of freedom been under greater threat. Seldom have the ideals of freedom had greater appeal. This Nation, this generation, you all have been entrusted with the ideals and with their defense. This is a charge we bear. This is a charge we shall keep.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Your duties will take you many places. In some places, you and your fellow soldiers may be the only representatives of justice and order. As members of our military, you will stand between American

citizens and grave danger. You will stand between civilization and chaos. And you will stand for liberty and tolerance and truth, the ideals of America and the hope of the entire world. Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division and men and women of the Armed Forces, I'm honored to serve with you.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. This is a decisive moment in the history of freedom. As your Commander in Chief, I leave you this message: Be proud, be strong, and be ready.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. May God bless you all. May God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. at Division Hill. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, USA, assistant division commander operations, and Sgt. Maj. Kenneth C. Lopez, USA, 10th Mountain Division; Maj. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, USA, commander, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum; Lt. Gen. Larry R. Ellis, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans; Col. John J. Kelly, USA, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Drum; and Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue of New York. An audience member referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 14

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

July 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then traveled to Birmingham, AL, where he participated in a roundtable meeting with business leaders at the Alys Stephens Center at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka at the White House on July 24.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic to Washington, DC, on September 18.

July 16

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then met with Members of Congress to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and a bipartisan group of her supporters from Texas, including Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison and leaders of the Texas bar.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdullah II of Jordan to the White House on August 1.

The President announced his nomination of Antonio O. Garza, Jr., to be Ambassador to Mexico.

July 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marion C. Blakey to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Pamela F. Olson to be Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger P. Nober to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board and, upon confirmation, to be designated Chairman.

July 18

In the morning, the President traveled to Rochester, MI, with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. Later, they traveled to Troy, MI.

In the afternoon, the two Presidents returned to Washington, DC.

July 19

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and then met with the National Security Council. Later, he traveled to Fort Drum, NY, where he viewed troop demonstrations and participated in a video-conference with Maj. Gen. Franklin L. “Buster” Hagenbeck, USA, commander, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, and troops deployed with him in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced that he has named Joseph O’Neill as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

The President announced that he has named Daniel Bartlett as Assistant to the President for Communications.

The President announced that he has named Michael Gerson as Assistant to the President for Speechwriting and Policy Advisor.

The President declared a major disaster in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on June 21–25.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 15

Glenn Bernard Anderson,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002, vice Yerker Andersson, term expired.

Glenn Bernard Anderson,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2005 (reappointment).

Milton Aponte,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2003, vice Audrey L. McCrimon, term expired.

Barbara Gillerist,
of New Mexico, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002, vice Lilliam Rangel Pollo, term expired.

Barbara Gillerist,
of New Mexico, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2005 (reappointment).

Graham Hill,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002, vice Hughey Walker, term expired.

Graham Hill,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2005 (reappointment).

Joel Kahn,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2004, vice Dave Nolan Brown, term expired.

Patricia Pound,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2005 (reappointment).

Marco A. Rodriguez,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002, vice Edward Correia.

Marco A. Rodriguez,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2005 (reappointment).

David Wenzel,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2004, vice Bonnie O’Day, term expired.

Linda Wetters,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National
Council on Disability for a term expiring
September 17, 2003, vice Gerald S. Segal.

Submitted July 16

Roel C. Campos,
of Texas, to be a member of the Securities
and Exchange Commission for a term expir-
ing June 5, 2005, vice Isaac C. Hunt, Jr.

Antonio O. Garza, Jr.,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of the United States of
America to Mexico.

Submitted July 18

Robert A. Junell,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Western District of Texas, vice Hipolito
Frank Garcia, deceased.

James E. Kinkeade,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Texas, vice Joe Kendall,
resigned.

Robert G. Klausner,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Wil-
liam D. Keller, retired.

Roger P. Nober,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Surface
Transportation Board for a term expiring De-
cember 31, 2005, vice William Clyburn, Jr.,
term expired.

Pamela F. Olson,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of
the Treasury, vice Mark A. Weinberger, re-
signed.

S. James Otero,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California, vice Rich-
ard A. Paez, elevated.

William E. Smith,
of Rhode Island, to be U.S. District Judge
for the District of Rhode Island, vice Ronald
R. Lagueux, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released July 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
Sri Lankan Prime Minister Wickremesinghe

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of
President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Repub-
lic

Released July 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-Cuba Policy and the Cuban
Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act

Fact sheet: Priscilla Owen

Executive Summary: National Strategy for
Homeland Security

Released July 17

Fact sheet: Poland: Economic/Commercial
Dialogue

Fact sheet: Poland: Transfer of Second Frig-
ate and Helicopters

Fact sheet: Poland: U.S. Department of
Labor Employment Initiative

Fact sheet: U.S.-Poland Military Cooperation
Initiative

Released July 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the District of Rhode Island,
the Central District of California, the North-
ern District of Texas, and the Western Dis-
trict of Texas

Released July 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Wisconsin

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, July 26, 2002

The President's Radio Address

July 20, 2002

Good morning. As Congress approaches the August recess, it must take decisive steps to provide economic security to the American people, to demand high ethical standards from corporate leaders, to promote economic growth and job creation, and to curb its appetite for excessive spending.

We must promote economic security by enforcing high ethical standards for American businesses. Unethical business practices by corporate leaders amount to theft and fraud. These practices are unacceptable, and we are fighting them with active prosecutions and tough enforcement by the SEC. We will defend the rights and interests of every American worker and shareholder, and we will not accept anything less than complete honesty.

The House and Senate have both passed strong corporate accountability bills that toughen penalties and provide transparency and hold corporate executives accountable for their behavior. I am confident that the differences between the House and Senate approaches can be bridged. Some in Congress have predicted that it will take 2 months for the House and Senate to send a bill to my desk. There is no good reason for the legislative process to take that long. I call again on Congress to pass a bill before the August recess. It's time to act decisively to bring a new era of integrity to American business.

We must also increase economic security for American workers through expanded trade. For over a year now, the United States Congress has debated trade promotion authority. This week, I met with Members of the House and Senate to urge them to resolve their differences and approve a bill. If Congress waits, less markets will be open to American goods, and less jobs will be created for American workers.

To promote our economic security, we also need to act on a terrorism insurance bill. Until Congress sends a bill to my desk, some buildings will not be able to get coverage against terrorist attacks, and many new buildings will not be built at all. Commercial development is stalling, and workers are missing out on these jobs. This year alone, the lack of terrorism insurance has killed or delayed more than \$8 billion in commercial property financing. Congress should pass a terrorism insurance bill without unnecessary measures that increase frivolous litigation.

Finally, we must promote economic security by enforcing fiscal restraint. Congress must control its enormous appetite for excessive spending so we can meet our national priorities and return to a budget surplus without undermining our economy. Unless Congress controls its spending, we will face a decade of deficits. I will insist on and, if necessary, I will enforce discipline in Federal spending.

This is a crucial moment for the American economy. The economic fundamentals are strong. Inflation and interest rates are low. Productivity is increasing, and the economy is expanding, which creates more jobs. While the economy is growing stronger, confidence in our free enterprise system is being tested.

Unethical business conduct that began in the boom of the 1990s is being uncovered. Investors have lost money. Some in retirement have lost security. Workers have lost jobs, and the trust of the American people has been betrayed.

As we face these economic challenges, my administration will do everything in its power to ensure business integrity and long-term growth. We must act quickly and aggressively on a variety of fronts to increase the economic security of the American people, and I ask the Congress to join me in this urgent task.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:50 a.m. on July 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Advanced Photon Source Lab in Argonne, Illinois
July 22, 2002

Stock Market

Q. A lot of people are losing their life savings in the market. What's your advice to them, pull out? Stay in? Put more money in?

The President. Well, I'm not a stockbroker or a stockpicker, but I do believe that the fundamentals for economic growth are real. And I believe Congress is going to get a bill that will help to take some of the uncertainty out of the market, and that bill is going to put some meaningful reforms in place.

And then, the investor is going to pick value, make decisions on value. And from what I hear, corporate profits are improving, which means values will be available for those who invest in the market.

Secondly, I fully understand some have diversified into bonds. And for those who have, their portfolios are better than those who have stayed only in equity. But I'm an optimist. I believe the future's going to be bright.

But look, you're talking to the wrong guy about what stocks to buy.

WorldCom

Q. Do you believe the country will feel the effects of today's WorldCom bankruptcy? Does that worry you?

The President. I think the market probably has already adjusted for that. What I'm worried about on the WorldCom bankruptcy is the employees that work for WorldCom. I worry that people will lose work. But the market has already, I suspect, has already anticipated the WorldCom decision.

The key is for Congress to get a bill. I talked with the Speaker about it today. He's optimistic that we will get a good bill. And

I meant what I said, I'd like to see the bill on my desk prior to the recess.

Department of Homeland Security Legislation

Q. Mr. President, is the September 11th deadline for getting homeland security bill through, is that—some are saying—is it realistic?

The President. Well, I think they made great progress. I know they made great progress in the House. And the Senate is going to take it up in the next 2 weeks. And I believe there's a good chance we can get—

Q. But would you rather—if it came to it, would you rather wait and make sure it was done right, or does it have to be done—

The President. Well, you're suggesting it's not being done right now in the House, and I'm sure those Members will—

Q. You never know what's going to happen in that Senate, sir—[laughter].

The President. I'm sure the Speaker appreciates that. But I do believe it's going to be done right. We're working closely with the Members. Hopefully, we can get it done by September the 11th. The key is to get it done.

Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

Q. Are you going to get trade promotion authority this week?

The President. Well, that's a good question. I talked to the Speaker about that. I'm anxious that they come together and get a bill up. It's important for our economy that we get a trade promotion authority. I know the Speaker's committed to getting a bill to the floor, once the conference finishes its work.

I met with the leaders of both the House and the Senate, both parties, and urged them to reconcile any differences and get the bill to the floor of the House before they go on recess. We'll just have to see. When I get back to Washington, I'm going to check in, because our people are working that bill hard, working the corporate responsibility bill hard as well.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill

Q. Mr. President, what do you say to the folks, the growing number of folks who are calling for Treasury Secretary O'Neill to step down?

The President. I say he's doing a fine job. And when the market goes up, I hope they will give him credit. If they're going to hold him accountable for a market going down, they ought to give him credit when the market goes up.

But I have all the confidence in the world in Secretary of the Treasury O'Neill. And I understand one newspaper was calling for his scalp, but you know, that's Washington, DC. That's what happens in that town.

Stock Market

Q. Mr. President, in that regard, after such a terrible week on the stock market last week, what's it going to take for investors to have the confidence to make that market go up again?

The President. Value. They're going to realize that there's values in the market. In other words, if they buy stock, they're buying value, as opposed to buying, you know, buying into a bubble.

And one of the things we can do in Washington is get a corporate responsibility bill passed, and I'm confident we will, which will take some of the risk out of the market. And the risk is that people won't be held accountable for misdeeds.

But people will be buying—buying in the market based upon the value. And what's happening is, corporate earnings are improving, so that the price/earnings ratios are improving. And I believe people are going to come back into the market. But listen, I'm not a stockbroker. I'm not a stockpicker. My attitude on Wall Street is, they'll buy you or sell you, depending upon if it's in their interest.

And you know, when I was—when I used to watch the stocks, I was in Midland, Texas, somewhat skeptical about what was taking place on the floors of these exchanges. But I know—I always knew—that you needed to buy on value, that the price relative to the earnings of the company needed to be in line with what they considered value. And I believe the values are improving. I know the economics, the platform for growth is in good

shape. Inflation is low. Monetary policy is sound. Fiscal policy is sound. Productivity is up. Orders for durable goods are up. We've got the platform for growth.

When the values get there, you'll see the market go back up.

Thank you.

What?

2002 Election

Q. Any concerns about the Republican Party here in Illinois? There's been a lot of—

The President. No, we're going to win the Governor's race.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:15 a.m. at the Argonne National Laboratory.

Remarks at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne

July 22, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please have a seat—[laughter]—unless you don't have a chair. [Laughter] Thank you all very much for welcoming me here. I'm honored to be here. I'm honored to be here with some of the finest Americans in our country.

We're in a new kind of war today. We face a ruthless and a resourceful enemy. We do. That's the reality of the 21st century. These people seek to acquire the most destructive of weapons because they hate freedom. They intend to spread fear and death around the world. To prevail in this war, we're going to take the battle to the enemy in foreign lands. To prevail in this war, we'll use our law enforcement and our intelligence gathering all across our country to prevent the American people from being harmed. And to prevail in this war, we will fight on the frontiers of knowledge and discovery.

In this new war, we will rely upon the genius and creativity of the American people. And that's why I'm here, to look in the eyes of those who possess the genius and the creativity of the American people. Our scientific community is serving on the frontlines of this war by developing new technologies that will make America safer. And as you tackle new scientific challenges, I want you to know, our Government will stand by your side to make

your job easier. It is in our interests that we work together.

I want to thank Spence Abraham for his leadership at the Department of Energy, and I want to thank all of you for working for the fine Department of Energy. I want to thank Tom Ridge for coming. He's a man—I asked him, I said, "You know, you need to serve your country." He was serving as the Governor of Pennsylvania. I said, "You've got a nice mansion over there." [Laughter] "It's heavy lifting, but we need you in Washington." And for the good of the country, he came to help us spearhead the effort for a Department of Homeland Security.

And I want to thank Dr. John Marburger, who is the Director of Office Science and Technology Policy. Dr. Marburger is a fine scientist who represents the best of American scientists in Washington, DC.

I appreciate the Speaker of the House being here. He's my friend. He's doing a fine job on behalf of the citizens of Illinois and the United States of America, Speaker Denny Hastert. And I want to thank Senator Durbin and Senator Fitzgerald for coming as well. I know they've got busy schedules. Thank you all for being here. I appreciate you coming. I appreciate Judy Biggert, Jerry Weller, and Mark Kirk, fine Members of the House of Representatives from Illinois, being here today. I look forward to giving them a lift back to Washington. [Laughter] It's a nice way to travel. I think you all will like it. [Laughter]

I want to thank the Governor, George Ryan, for coming. Governor, I appreciate your time. I want to thank the attorney general of Illinois, Jim Ryan, for coming as well. I want to thank Ray Orbach, who is the Director of Office and Science at the Department of Energy, who led us on our tour. And of course I've got to thank Dr. Gruner. If everybody had a spirit like Dr. Gruner, the world would be an incredibly happy place. We're proud of you, Hermann. Thank you for your service to the country, and thank you all very much.

The Argonne National Laboratory is a cutting-edge facility. You're on the cutting edge, and you've got a great history as well. It is a direct decedent of the University of Chicago laboratory, where in 1942 Enrico Fermi

and his colleagues achieved the world's first controlled nuclear chain reaction. This is a place where smart people work. [Laughter] It is the home of some of America's greatest scientists, who continue to dazzle the world with astonishing breakthroughs.

I've just come back from viewing some demonstrations of the great work done at national laboratories, whether it be here or Los Alamos or Sandia or others. The American people need to know we've got a lot of brain-power working on ways to deal with the threats that we now face as we head into the 21st century.

For example, I saw a warning and response system that will supply first-responders with timely and life-saving information in the event of a chemical attack on a subway or any other enclosed space. I saw a project that uses new advances in genetic research to identify and understand biological agents that could be used against us. I saw computer simulations to help policymakers and first-responders anticipate the effect of an attack of natural disaster and to develop life-saving plans. What I saw was new technologies that our scientists are developing to help us secure the homeland. America is grateful. It's grateful for your work. And our Government must be organized and focused to support these efforts.

Right now there are more than 100 different Federal agencies that have some role in the homeland defense of our country. And despite everyone's best intentions in those agencies, this inevitably leads to a dispersal of authority. Imagine, 100 of them scattered all over Washington, DC. It makes it hard to have accountability when you've got 100 agencies scattered around, and it's a drain on critical resources.

So I asked Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent, Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security with an overriding and urgent mission, with this primary focus: to secure the American homeland. There are agencies—once they're under this—in this new Department will have other missions, no question about it. But their primary mission is to recognize the new world in which we live. The world has changed, and so must our Government change with

it, in order to allow all of us who have responsibility to say to the American people, "We're doing everything we possibly can to protect innocent American lives." This Department of Homeland Security will foster a new culture throughout our Government, one that emphasizes cooperation and working together on behalf of the American people. And this Department will have four primary tasks.

First, it will work to control our borders. There needs to be much better cooperation amongst the agencies to make sure we know who is coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, why they're coming in the country, and are they leaving when they said they're going to leave the country.

We need to work—one of the primary responsibilities will be to work with State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. In other words, we need to be better coordinated with the brave first-time responders—that means police and fire and EMS teams which exist all across our country. We want to have them have the strategy necessary to respond, the tools to respond effectively, and to be coordinated not only at the Federal level, the State level, and the local level.

Thirdly, we need to merge under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, map those threats against our vulnerabilities, and address the vulnerabilities. So prior to September the 11th, we had the CIA collecting information, and we had the FBI collecting information, and sometimes they weren't talking all that much. Now they talk. Now they coordinate.

When I'm there in Washington, I meet every morning, face to face, with the Director of the CIA and with the head of the FBI. It's a way to make sure that, at least at the very top levels of Government, people are communicating, and we're sharing information. We need to do that throughout all our Government and the Department of Homeland Security. We need to be able to take the information—intelligence gathered from around the world, as well as at home, and understand what might or might not be happening. One of the key tools that we need to use effectively against the coldblooded killers who we're trying to chase down is the

capacity of our Nation to collect and analyze information.

And finally, we need our scientists to develop the kinds of technologies I saw today. We need to have an effective strategy of maturing up our brainpower with the problems we face, so as to stay on the cutting edge of technological change necessary to protect the homeland.

And this last point is an incredibly important point, and that's why I've come to this laboratory to make the point. *[Laughter]* It's a perfect place to make the point. We will harness our science and our technology in a way to protect the American people. We will consolidate most federally funded homeland security research and development to avoid duplication and to make sure all the efforts are focused.

You see, we need to learn to set priorities in our Government. And the number one priority is to protect America from attack, because we're at war. The Department of Homeland Security will work to create a long-term plan. And once you have the long-term plan with the goal of securing the homeland, then we can set funding priorities. We give our scientists the resources they require, and that's important for you to know—resources necessary to counter the chemical and the biological and the radiological and nuclear threats that our Nation faces. And these threats are real. And therefore, we need to stay focused, not only to make sure resources are spent but that critical research continues, because you all know better than anybody, when we research and we set priorities, this great Nation can achieve any objective.

We're making progress. We are making progress in Washington. I appreciate so very much the House select committee getting a bill out, and it's going to get to the floor. And the Speaker was telling me today that it looks like they may get a vote this week, and the Senate is working hard on it. Both Republicans and Democrats are working hard to reconcile any differences that may be had. It's important for people to understand, particularly in Washington, this Department of Homeland Security is not a good Republican idea; it's not a good Democrat

idea; it's simply an American idea. And they need to get their work done.

And as they do so, the new Secretary of Homeland Security must have the freedom and the flexibility to be able to get the right people in the right job at the right time, so we can hold people accountable in Washington. We need the freedom to manage. We don't need to be micromanaged. And that's sometimes what happens in Washington, DC. The new Secretary needs the ability to move money and resources quickly, to respond to true threats.

I understand why that may not happen sometimes in Washington, and it's because, for example, appropriators may not want the executive branch to have the capacity to make decisions necessary to make the Homeland Department work effectively. But we're in new times in America, and that requires new thinking. And Congress must give us the flexibility necessary to make the right decisions to achieve our goal, which is to protect the American people.

As well, this new Department must have every tool it needs to secure the homeland. This new agency should include all of the departments which protect our border—all of the departments, not just some, but all of the departments. That includes the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, the INS—INS inspectors, Border Patrol, and Customs agents must report to the same boss and work together for the same goals. And this new Department needs to be able to respond effectively to any attack that might come, so it must house FEMA in its entirety.

What I'm telling you is, I understand that these changes won't be easy for some in Congress, but for the sake of the security of the American people, Congress needs to give up some of its turf and recognize turf is not nearly as important as security for the people—security for the American people. We're in new times, folks. We're in a different world. We face an unprecedented threat, and we cannot respond with business as usual.

But I want you to know something, how I feel, and what I know. I know that the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt these coldblooded killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're

going to do. And it's going to take awhile. It's going to take awhile. Unlike past wars, where you could see platoons and battalions moving here, or airplane formations moving there, we're chasing down these people who are willing to hide in a cave and send youngsters to their death. That's the kind of people we're facing.

You know, these people hate—they hate America because we love freedom. They hate the fact that—as I look out, I mean, I can see people who worship an Almighty and some who don't, who worship an Almighty one way and others another way. They hate that. They can't stand a society which honors freedom, freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to express our opinions. That's what they hate, and they're going to hate us for a long time because those are the values we'll never relinquish in America.

We believe in tolerance in America. That's what we believe in. We respect the other person. We always don't agree, but we respect, and we tolerate. And we believe everybody ought to have access to the great American experience, regardless of how they're raised or where they're from. That's what we believe.

And any time anybody who tries to get us because of those beliefs—they're going to find something out about America. I don't know what was going through the minds of the enemy when they were plotting and planning. I don't know who they thought they were attacking. They must have thought this country was so materialistic, so self-absorbed that we would sit back and, you know, after the attacks, maybe file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* That's not the America I know. And that's not the America you're a part of.

Listen, when people come after us, we're plenty tough. We're a compassionate nation. And so we're on the hunt. You just need to know we're after them, one by one—one by one. And so long as I'm the President of this country, we're going to chase them down, one by one, to make sure the American homeland is secure.

And we're making progress. As I said in a speech in front of about 10,000 of our troops and their families in Fort Drum, New

York, last Friday: We've hauled in thousands—that means captured—[laughter]—and another couple of thousand weren't quite as lucky. We're making progress. Sometimes it's not quite as dramatic as, you know, the newscasters would like, because—they learned their lesson, by the way. They understand if they bunch up, if they get together, our military is going to find them. And it's not going to be a pleasant day when our military does find them, because we're good. I'm really proud of the United States military and those who serve.

And I'm proud of you all too. That's really what I'm here to tell you. I'm proud of you. We're depending on you to develop the tools we need to lift the dark threat of terrorism for our Nation and, for that matter, the world. All of us here today, whether we're scientists or engineers or elected officials, share in a great calling. It's an honor to participate in a noble cause that's larger than ourselves.

Audience member. God bless America.

The President. It's an honor to defend this Nation. It's a high honor to be called into action and to defend our Nation when it's threatened, and that's what you're doing. It's an honor to help protect the American people against the forces of evil.

History has called each of us to defend America. That's what's happened. History has called us into action in a time of great peril. The struggles against nazism and communism helped to define the 20th century. The war on terror will be the defining conflict of the 21st century. It's our solemn duty. It's our responsibility, and it's our great privilege to help America prevail in this war. And prevail we will.

May God bless you all. May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you very much. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:33 a.m. in a courtyard behind the Advanced Photon Source Building. In his remarks, he referred to Hermann A. Grunder, director, Argonne National Laboratory.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Continued Operations of United States Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

July 22, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of January 21, 2002, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1423 of July 12, 2002. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

Initially, the United States vetoed the U.N. Security Council Resolution authorizing Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months because it did not provide protection for U.S. forces participating in SFOR from the purported jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In U.N. Security Council Resolution 1422, the Security Council requested that the ICC not commence any investigation or prosecution in any case arising from acts or omissions relating to a U.N. established or authorized operation that involve current or former officials or personnel from a contributing state not a Party to the Rome Statute for a period of

12 months starting July 1, 2002; this resolution has the effect of prohibiting the ICC from commencing any investigation or prosecution of U.S. forces in SFOR for a period of 1 year. The Security Council further declared its intention to renew this resolution on an annual basis. In light of these protections for U.S. forces and personnel, the United States voted in favor of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1423.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 2,400 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 15 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 15,800 personnel. During the first half of 2002, 18 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, headquartered in the city of Tuzla. Additionally, U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 60 U.S. military personnel deployed to Hungary and Croatia to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

July 22, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 22, 2002.

Remarks on the Adoption Public Service Announcement Campaign

July 23, 2002

The President. Thank you, Laura. Laura loves children a lot, and I'm really proud to call her wife. And she's doing a fine job as our First Lady, and I'm proud of the job she's doing.

Here's what I love about adoption: It reveals the good heart of America. That's what adoption does. Extending the welcome of family to a vulnerable child is a great commitment, but it's an extraordinary act of love. Adoptive families and foster families deserve our Nation's thanks and our Nation's recognition. So, thanks.

Every year, American families adopt tens of thousands of children. Many of these children come from America's foster care system. Yet, there are many more in that system whose deepest desire is to become a member of a family. Today I'm proud to announce some steps that will make adoption easier and a more common part of our life in America.

But first, I want to thank Laura, and I want to thank Congresswoman Anne Northup, an

adoptive mom, for being here, State of Kentucky. And I appreciate Ben Cardin from Maryland being here as well. Thank you both for coming. I want to thank my Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, Larry Lindsey, for being here. Larry's an adoptive dad. Thank you for coming, Larry. I'm glad my sister-in-law Margaret is here, and Marshall. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate so very much Bruce Willis in his role in this, what you're about to see. It's awfully generous and kind of a person who is a busy person to say, "What can I do to help? How can I lend my fame to make America a better place?" And we appreciate that spirit of giving.

I also want to recognize the fact that his daughters are with us today, Rumer and Scout and Tallulah. I want to welcome you all. Tallulah—actually, Tallulah Belle—[laughter]—followed her dad's example of serving something greater than self in life. She wrote me a letter informing me that she and her Girl Scout troop had raised 36—money to buy 36,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to send to the children of Afghanistan. And that is—[applause].

And we want to thank Demi Moore for coming as well. Welcome to the White House, the mom of the three girls.

I appreciate so very much and want to welcome the families created through adoption who are with us today. It is our great privilege to welcome you to the people's house, and we hope you enjoy your stay as much as we are enjoying our stay. It's a beautiful place. [Laughter] And it's a great place to welcome some of our—America's heroes, people who are making a huge difference in the lives of our fellow citizens.

I also appreciate the Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau for their good work. I want to thank you all very much for helping to promote this noble cause.

Common sense and social science lead to the same conclusion: Children thrive in secure, loving, and stable homes. Providing that kind of home through adoption can be a long and a time-consuming process. I understand that. Adopting a child can add to the normal challenges of one's daily life. I fully understand that as well. Yet, adoption changes a

single life forever, and it brings countless blessings to the lives of parents.

Mitch Pearlstein and his wife, Diane, live in Minneapolis. They couldn't be with us today, but I want to share with you some of his—their quick story—their story in a quick way. They adopted their daughter, Nicole, when she was 5 years old. Nicole was born to a mom who used crack cocaine during her pregnancy and a dad who was a drug dealer. Nicole lived in more than a dozen foster care and emergency placement homes before she was adopted by Mitch and Diane. Here's what Mitch says: "Adopting Nicole was the most difficult thing we've done in our lives, period. And adopting Nicole was the best thing we've done in our lives, period." I bet some people here understand what they were saying.

As I mentioned, my brother Marvin and Margaret have two children who are adopted, and many members of my administration do as well. My Secretary of Commerce and great friend from Midland, Texas, Don Evans, adopted a little boy. And Larry and his wife have adopted children—three children. And many here have adopted. Adoptive parents have a special calling, and you deserve our gratitude.

There are many children in America, toddlers, teens, brothers and sisters who need to stay together, and children from every background. They urgently need love and permanent homes. Finding that home may determine a more hopeful course for their entire life. Right now there are about 130,000 children in our Nation's foster care system waiting to be adopted—130,000 precious lives hoping to find a permanent home. Good foster care is essential. Yet, children hunger for the stability of a permanent home, and every child deserves to be a part of a permanent, loving family. That's our hope.

Promoting adoption is an issue where all Americans of both political parties can agree. It's one of those issues—it's not a partisan issue. And for those of us who support the dignity of every human life, we have a responsibility to encourage hopeful lives for children who are born.

Earlier this year, I signed into law the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act, which supports adoption and post-adoptive services

to place children with loving families. It helps ease a child's transition into a new family. It helps ensure that families stay strong and intact. It also provides for educational and training vouchers to children adopted after the age of 16, as well as older foster youth.

The tax relief bill I signed into law last year eases the financial burden on families that adopt children. It doubled the maximum adoption tax credit up to \$10,000 for adoption-related expenses. And parents who adopt children with special needs will automatically get the full credit once the adoption is finalized.

These are practical ways to help. We're using the Tax Code to help, providing Federal dollars to help. We've eased the burdens on adoption, but now we must encourage more Americans to choose adoption. And that's what we're here to talk about today.

And so, today I'm pleased to announce the first Federal adoption Web site. It's called AdoptUSKids.org. In its first year of operation, the Web site will feature pictures and profiles of more than 6,500 children who are available for adoption as well as maintain a database of prospective adoptive parents who have been approved by the States.

AdoptUSKids.org will help overcome geographic barriers to adoption and shorten the time a child may have to wait in foster care. And that's important. In addition, the site is a great resource for families who have already adopted. I urge parents across America to visit this site and, as they visit the site, examine their hearts to find a place in their home for a waiting child.

Today I'm also unveiling a new public service announcement campaign to promote adoption. This PSA urges families to consider adopting children in foster care. It features the new Web site I mentioned and provides a toll-free number that families can call to receive useful information on how to adopt. The PSA will raise public awareness, and our hope is that they will make a difference in the lives of a lot of children.

I'm pleased to tell you that the PSA will feature two distinguished Americans. I hand-

picked them myself—[*laughter*]*—*well, not exactly. But Laura and Bruce Willis have agreed to serve in the PSA.

We all know Bruce is a tough guy on the—in the movies. Truth of the matter is, he has a tender heart. He has a tender heart for children. And I'm thrilled he's our new national spokesman for Children in Foster Care. It's my honor to welcome to the podium Bruce Willis.

[*At this point, actor Bruce Willis, spokesman for Children in Foster Care, made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Bruce. Now we're going to watch the PSA, I believe.

Mr. Willis. Yes. I'm pleased to announce this new adoption public service announcement.

[*The public service announcement featuring Bruce Willis and Laura Bush was shown.*]

The President. Looks like one of those Oscar-winning performances to me. [*Laughter*] Anyway, thank you both for doing this. I think it's going to make a big difference. I do. I want to thank you all for coming again.

You know, we live in a great country. It's a country full of really loving and decent people, and there's no doubt in my mind, when people hear the call, they will respond to the needs of a lot of our children, just like parents have here today. Laura and I had the honor of greeting some adoptive parents to the White House today, and we want to thank you all for coming.

May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to his brother Marvin Bush and his wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Marshall; actress Demi Moore; and Susan Lindsey, wife of Larry Lindsey. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Bruce Willis. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority With Respect to Concluding Amendments to the Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products From the Russian Federation

July 23, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce

Subject: Delegation of Authority With Respect to Concluding Amendments to the July 12, 1999, Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products from the Russian Federation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered that the Secretary of Commerce is designated and empowered to exercise, following consultations with the United States Trade Representative and other agencies as appropriate, the authority vested in the President to conclude amendments to the July 12, 1999, Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products from the Russian Federation in accordance with Article XI of the 1990 Agreement on Trade Relations between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and title IV of the Trade Act of 1974. The Secretary may exercise such authority without approval, ratification, or other action of the President.

As the Secretary of Commerce may direct, the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration is authorized to exercise the authority vested in the Secretary by this memorandum.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 25, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

July 24, 2002

Legislative Agenda

The President. Today I've had the honor of talking to Members of the United States Congress—these good folks happen to be Democrats—about how to leave behind a legacy of a more secure America. We're talking about an incredibly important piece of legislation that will be voted on this Friday. It's a legislation to create a Department of Homeland Security; it's really a piece of legislation to make America a safer place.

And I want to thank the leaders who are here for their willingness to put partisanship aside and focus on what's best for the American people. I believe we're going to get a good bill on Friday out of the House. I ask the Senate to vote on the bill before they go home for their August vacation.

Secondly, we're making progress on a piece of legislation which will enable us to say that we passed laws to help protect investors, 401(k) stockholders, from corporate fraud. This Government—this Government will investigate, will arrest, and will prosecute corporate executives who break the law. And the Justice Department took action today.

And finally, I am hopeful that after a lot of work, we can get a trade bill up on the floor of the House and the floor of the Senate before they go home for August as well. This is an important part of a legislative package necessary to help create jobs and keep the economy going.

Today was a day of action and a day of accomplishment in Washington, DC. And I want to thank the Members for that.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on Northern Ireland

July 24, 2002

I strongly support Prime Minister Tony Blair's statement in the House of Commons today. The United States joins with his Government and the Government of Ireland in

holding paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland accountable when there is clear, convincing evidence of their use of violence or preparations for it.

The United States strongly backs the Good Friday agreement as the blueprint for peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland. Since its signing 4 years ago, the agreement has brought significant gains to the people of Northern Ireland, and it is a beacon of hope for people everywhere seeking to overcome histories of violence, terror, and sectarian strife. It is the responsibility of all parties, including those associated with paramilitaries and those who are not, to work together to uphold the agreement and its institutions.

I condemn the recent violence that has marred the lives of the people of Northern Ireland, and I commend those political and civic leaders who have worked to stop it. Paramilitaries must end their violent activities, cease all preparations for them, and recognize the political process as the only valid vehicle for change. Those who cling to the violent ways of the past cannot be allowed to derail Northern Ireland's progress towards a more peaceful future.

Remarks at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina

July 25, 2002

Thanks for that warm welcome, and thanks for coming out today. I want to thank you all for fighting through the rain. It's part of my drought relief program. *[Laughter]* I do want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank all your fellow citizens for lining the road and being so gracious in their hospitality. I love coming to North Carolina. It's a fabulous State, full of fabulous people. I'm honored to be here.

And I'm glad my friend Tommy Thompson came with me. He was the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, and then I convinced him to come to Washington to head up the Department of Health and Human Services. I did so because I understand he knows health issues; he knows welfare issues; he knows a good system when he sees one and a system that needs to be reformed when he sees one. And I'm glad Tommy came to Washington.

He's doing a heck of a job on behalf of the American people, and I want to thank you, Tommy.

I want to thank Richard Budd and all the folks here at High Point University for giving me a chance to come and discuss some important issues that face our Nation. It's a beautiful campus. The gymnasium could use a little air-conditioning. *[Laughter]* We'll try to keep the hot air down to a minimum. *[Laughter]* But we're thrilled to be here on this fine campus.

I also want to thank Jeff Miller of the High Point Regional Health System for—*[applause]*. We just had a fantastic and very interesting discussion about problems that affect patients, patients in North Carolina, health care patients in Nevada, problems that affect our docs. And I want to talk about some of that in a minute. But we just had a great discussion. I want to thank all the doctors and my fellow Americans who were there to share with me their stories, some of which I will share with you in a minute.

I appreciate Don Palmisano, who is the head of the—president-elect of the American Medical Association out of New Orleans, Louisiana, who flew in for this event. I want to thank you for being here, Don, and I want to thank you for your support on the initiative which I'm fixing to talk about.

I also want to thank the mayors of some of the communities here. We've got the mayor of High Point, the mayor of Greensboro, and the mayor of Thomasville. I appreciate all three mayors coming. I want to thank my friend Elizabeth Dole for coming over today to say hello. I appreciate you being here, Elizabeth.

I want to thank members of the North Carolina health and medical community, all you who worry about your fellow Americans and who work hard to provide good, quality health care. Thank you for coming here today.

Every time I come to a community, I like to herald some of the heroes of the community. And today, when I landed in Air Force One, there to greet me was a citizen named Jane Lambert. She's a—she's been volunteering here in this community for 50 years. She has been working hard to make people's lives better. It didn't require a Government

law saying, "Jane, you will help people in need." It required a good heart.

Jane has worked with Girl Scouts. She's worked through her church to bring meals to people who need food. She is the kind of person I call a soldier in the army of compassion. The truth of the matter is, the reason I like to introduce the Jane Lamberts of the world is because the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens who love—[*applause*]. So I want to thank Jane. I think Jane is here. Where are you, Jane? Thank you for coming. Thank you for your work. Thank you for setting such a fine example, 50 years of service.

You know, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. And part of the good is for people to understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is a part of being a complete American. And Jane shows us what that means.

The security of our country is on the minds of a lot of our citizens. I want to talk a little bit about the security of America. It first starts with the homeland security. You hear a lot of talk about the President working with the Congress to set up the Department of Homeland Security, and we are. We're working hard on that. I just want to make sure that Congress understands that when we do create this Department, I've got to have the ability to manage the Department in a way to make the homeland more secure. I readily concede I didn't run for office saying, "Vote for me. I promise to make Government bigger." So I'm not interested in something big; I'm interested in something that works.

The number one priority of our Government is to protect the American people. We live in a new era. We're under the threat of coldblooded killers who hate America and hate our freedom. So our top priority, in all levels of government, has got to be to protect America. That's what we've got to do. I see some of our first-responders here, our police and EMS and firefighters. I want to thank you for the work you do.

We've got work to do in Washington. You just need to know that we've got a lot of good people, people who work for all levels of government, working overtime, working hard, to chase down any kind of lead that we get, any kind of hint. And we're following up on it.

Protecting our homeland is our most important priority. But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what this Government is going to do.

And I know this great State houses a lot of our military. And on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thanks to those who wear our uniform and to those who support those who wear our uniform.

And you need to know we're making pretty good progress. It's a different kind of war. It's hard to measure the results of this war based upon the old way of thinking. It used to be you could see tanks moving across a plain, and if the tanks made it to destination A, it was successful. This isn't the kind of war we're under. We're facing international criminals who hide in caves, send youngsters to their death, and think they can escape the long arm of justice of America. But they're not going to. No matter how long it takes—no matter how long it takes—this country will prevail.

And the reason why is, we love freedom. We love the values our country stands for. Anybody who wants to take our freedoms away is going to find a determined and tough and patient nation.

Secondly, a lot of people in this country are worried about the economy. They're worried about their job. I want you to know that I believe the economy is fundamentally strong. Our economy is growing. Inflation is low. We've got lower taxes, which help people keep their own money. And when you have your own money, it means you've got more money to spend. And when you spend that money for a good and service, it means somebody is going to provide a good or service for you. And as they provide a good or service, it means somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

We've got—the fundamentals for economic growth are strong. Employment is stabilizing. It looks like I'm going to have a bill on my desk very soon which will bring reforms to our corporate sector, which will mean that there will be accountability for chief executive officers and accountability for those who count the numbers, to make sure that our investors and employees across

America feel confident in what they're being told from corporate America.

It's a good piece of legislation. I look forward to signing it. In the meantime, you need to know that this administration will investigate, will haul in, and will prosecute any CEO which breaks the law.

The foundation for growth is there. But one of the things I think we understand is that without health security, there's no economic security. If we're not confident about our health care system, we won't be confident about the future of the country.

And we've got a problem. Right now, rising health care costs are undermining the availability of health care, of medical care, not only here in North Carolina but throughout our country. And the rising costs are forcing too many people to go without, and that's not right. That is a problem, and we need to address it soon rather than late.

As Tommy just told us, the report he put out from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that our badly broken medical liability system is responsible for higher costs for patients, for lower quality of care, and for decreased access. And I worry about it. I worry about it in big-town America, and I worry about it for small-town America.

I don't appreciate the fact that we see a health care system that is broken and riddled with bad—bad law, and we're not moving. And so one of the reasons I've come to North Carolina today is to lay down what I think we need to get done and call upon the Congress to act as quickly as possible to help us solve these problems. We're working hard to give more and more Americans access to quality care, and here are some of the initiatives.

America's seniors need an improved Medicare system which includes prescription drug benefits and a system which trusts our seniors to make the right decision for themselves. Medicare has worked in the past. Today, it is outmoded; it is antiquated. It is a great idea that needs to be modernized, and we're making progress. The House passed a bill. The Senate is squabbling about one right now. I think they can get something done. I hope I can report to the American people that we've finally begun to modernize

Medicare to include prescription drug benefits for all seniors.

Secondly, we need to allow small-business owners to pool insurance risk across jurisdictional boundaries. A restaurant in Raleigh, North Carolina, ought to be allowed to pool the risk with a restaurant in Crawford, Texas, so that the small-business owner and his or her employees can have affordable health care insurance.

We need personal health accounts to let workers pay smaller monthly premiums and save money for their medical costs. In other words, we've got to trust patients; we've got to trust the American people with their own money, to make their own decisions that best suit them for medical care.

And too many Americans are uninsured; I understand that. And that's why I called upon Congress to enact tax credits to enable the uninsured to buy the health care coverage they need and, at the same time, to expand what we call community health centers to provide quality care for low-income Americans. You see, we've got to make sure, for the efficiency of the system, that those poor folks who do not have health care get health care, but not in the emergency rooms all across America. The most efficient way to provide health care is in community health centers.

We're also, as you well know, getting a lot of health coverage to low-income Americans through Medicaid and uninsured children through Children's Health Insurance Programs.

And we're working hard to make sure health care is available, quality health care is accessible. Yet, any progress being made is being undermined, dramatically undermined by rising health care costs. And one of the main reasons that costs are rising is a broken liability system. And that's what I want to talk about today, what we ought to do about it.

First, too many lawsuits filed against American doctors are being filed that have no merit. Too many lawsuits filed against our doctors have no merit. But since it costs so much for doctors to defend themselves, they often settle cases, even though they have not committed a medical error. And the unpredictability of our liability system means that

even frivolous cases, even what we call junk lawsuits, carry the risk of enormous verdicts. In either case, health care costs rise for all of us, and you just need to know that.

Another cost driver is that the fear of even baseless lawsuits causes good doctors to order excessive tests and procedures and treatments. It's called defensive medicine. If you think you're going to get sued, you do everything you possibly can to prevent the trial lawyer from coming after you. Unfortunately, that costs patients a lot of money. Health care costs are up because docs are worried about getting sued and, therefore, oftentimes prescribe unnecessary and costly treatments.

Even when legitimate cases go to trial, the current system often doesn't serve the patient. Legal procedures are slow. It takes a long time. They can be very wasteful. And sometimes the lawyers take up to 40 percent of the verdict—40 percent. And while patients injured by a doctor's malpractice deserve fair compensation, there are too many cases of grossly excessive jury awards. And you know what I'm talking about. You hear them all the time these days, massive numbers laid out there. The thing that Americans have got to understand is, every one of us pay for those awards. Those excessive jury awards cost us all money, and it's part of why rising—why there's rising costs in the health care system.

Some insurers are now dropping medical liability coverage for doctors. Because of the system, insurers no longer insure docs. And they're hiking premiums as well. In your State of North Carolina, as well as eight other States, at least two companies raised liability insurance premiums more than 30 percent this year. You pay; you pay either as a patient, or you pay as a taxpayer. Higher and higher—because the reason you pay as a taxpayer is because your Government is paying a lot of health care bills.

Higher and higher insurance premiums make it nearly impossible for a lot of doctors to practice medicine, and if docs don't practice medicine, it's hard to have good health care. Without insurance, they cannot afford to treat patients. Without insurance, the trust between doctor and their patients becomes a broken trust.

Today, I mentioned, I had a discussion with some of the medical care providers and patients. There was a doctor here from Nevada. I don't know if you've been reading about what's taking place in Nevada, but they've got a real problem. As a matter of fact, an entire trauma center shut down because of medical malpractice. The fellow's name is Dr. Shelby Wilbourn, OB/GYN in Las Vegas. He had never been sued. He had never had a claim filed against him. Yet this year's insurance premium went from \$33,000 to \$108,000. The system needs to be fixed.

This poor fellow who had borrowed money to get out of medical school faced a choice. Does he want to run up a bunch of debt because somebody has threatened a lawsuit on him, or does he want to continue to practice his love, which is helping people, healing people? And so this month, he's closing his practice in Nevada, and he's moving to Maine, because the costs of doing business are about a quarter of what they were in Nevada. The trial lawyers, suit after suit after suit, have driven this good man out of Nevada. But more significantly, there are hundreds of patients who will miss his care.

Jill and Chet Barnes are with us. Jill is a student teacher, and her husband is a fireman. Actually, the fireman is not here; Jill is here. They live near Las Vegas, where her doctor left his practice in the State of Nevada because of high malpractice insurance rates. She's 8 weeks pregnant. She talks about the inability to find a doc. That's got to be really frightening for a young mom, not to be able to find a doctor with whom she can consult. She said that she found one doctor, but there's a limit to the number of deliveries this doctor can agree to take because of skyrocketing medical malpractice premiums. She now is driving to Arizona for an hour and a half—she's a teacher, and she's driving to Arizona to get her prenatal care. And she's worried. The medical system is hurting because of a lot of lawsuits driving up the cost of business. It's also making it hard for a lot of Americans to find quality care.

Laurie Peel had trouble finding a doc when she moved to Raleigh, because a lot of the practices were full. Then she ran into Dr. Schmitt. He's a nice fellow, OB/GYN. He agreed to take her on as a patient. They

got a wonderful relationship. He helped her a lot. He decided recently to go to Virginia, because of the high liability premiums here in North Carolina. He said, "It's no longer fun to practice medicine here." Not just here, it's no longer fun to practice medicine when there's a constant threat of a lawsuit hanging over your head. Laurie has to find a new doctor she can trust. Laurie's looking for a doc right now—yet another compelling, real-life story about what's taking place all across the country.

Fear of lawsuits is awful—also stifling innovation and the improvement of health care, which means sometimes patients aren't getting the best care possible. Here's why: If a hospital and a doctor share information about how they can serve their patients better, under the current systems, lawyers can use those discussions and that information to file lawsuits. If you sit down to decide how best to improve the practice, that becomes a piece of evidence in a lawsuit. And therefore, a lot of good folks, like the good folks at High Point Regional Health System, think long and hard about making changes.

I met with Paula Szytko today. She's a fine doctor. They've been warned, anytime they write anything down about improving the health care in this town, it can be given to lawyers who are fishing for lawsuits. And that's not right; it's just not right. The system is broken. It puts a burden on taxpayers, and we need to do something about it.

People say, "Well, is it a Federal responsibility? Should the Federal Government act on this problem?" And the answer is yes, and I tell you one clear reason why, besides my deep concern for our fellow citizens and whether or not they can find health care. The Federal Government uses taxpayers' money to fund health care programs, Medicare, Medicaid, children's health care, veterans' health care, military health care. And any time a frivolous lawsuit drives up the cost of health care, it affects the taxpayers. It is a Federal issue.

It is estimated that frivolous lawsuits drive up the cost of Government health programs by over \$25 billion every year. It's a national problem that requires a national solution. And it is my honor to come here today to describe what I think that solution is. The

Federal Government ought to set a minimum Federal standard to reform the medical liability system. That's what we ought to do.

We must, of course, protect any injured patient's right to a fair trial and fair compensation, including full compensation for economic damages. Anybody who goes into court and wins their case ought to get full economic damages. At the same time, we must prevent excessive awards that drive up costs, encourage frivolous lawsuits, and promote drawn-out legal proceedings. And that is why we need a reasonable Federal limit on noneconomic damages awarded in medical liability lawsuits, and the reasonable limit, in my judgment, ought to be \$250,000.

And we need a cap or a reasonable limit on what they call punitive damages. Doctors ought not—ought to be judged based upon clear misconduct. And our Federal Government ought to put a cap on punitive damages as well.

And finally, it's important to understand that in many cases, the current system forces doctors to pay damages for harm they do not cause. And therefore, we need what was called joint and several liability reform in Washington, DC, as well.

And finally, this law ought to include the ability for doctors to evaluate and hospitals to evaluate their practices so they can improve care without having the discussions discoverable for lawsuits. I mean, what we've got to focus on in America—what we've got to focus on is what's best for the patients. And what's best for patients is affordable health care.

We can get this job done. In California, when they had a problem with their medical malpractice insurance premiums, they put a law in place, and it worked. This is a reasonable law. This says that what we want is quality health care, not rich trial lawyers. What we want is people to feel comfortable with their system. People who are injured ought to be able to take their case to court, no question about it. But we've got to understand that frivolous lawsuits clog our courts and deny people with legitimate claims.

Doctors who practice bad medicine ought to be held accountable, no question about it. It's important for the system that they be

held accountable. But what we need is a system that doesn't drive people out of medicine and doesn't hurt patients. And the Federal Government needs to act, and the Congress needs to get a bill to me before they go home next—this late fall, a bill that will protect the American patients from medical malpractice.

I believe that when we pass this law, the system will be much better, and people will feel more secure. And that's what I'm interested in. I want the homeland to be secure. I want our fellow citizens to feel economically secure. I want the health care systems to continue to be the best in the world.

You know, I like to remind my fellow citizens of this: When the enemy hit us, they thought they were—they must have thought they were hitting a weak nation. Speaking about lawsuits, they probably thought all we would do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand America, did they? They didn't understand, when it comes to defending freedom, we're plenty tough. But what they didn't also understand is that out of this evil done to our country we believe can come some good.

See, one of the interesting things that's happening in this country is that people understand that to be a patriotic citizen no longer means putting your hand over your heart—and by the way, saying, "one Nation, under God." [*Applause*] Thank you. But being a patriot means you're willing to help a neighbor in need, to serve something greater than yourself in life. That's what a patriot is.

You know, I was out at the airplane today, and I met the dad of a young boy and girl whose wife, Sandy, was on Flight 93. And Phil was there, and I appreciate him being there. And it just reminded me, seeing Phil Bradshaw, that the country understands that when you serve something greater than yourself in life, it's a part of being a great citizen. Obviously, these citizens made the ultimate sacrifice of personal responsibility, taking an airplane into the ground to save somebody's life. But I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, as people realize that serving something greater than yourself in life is a noble calling, an important part of being an American.

So today, as I want to thank you again for coming, I hope that if you see somebody in need, you'll help them. If you find a child that can't read, help them read. If you know a shut-in who needs somebody to love them, tell him you love him. If you're a mom or a dad, love your children with all your heart and all your soul. It's a—this country has got problems, but we're going to solve them, because we're the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the James H. and Jesse E. Millis Athletic/Convocation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Budd, board of trustees chairman, High Point University; Jeff Miller, president, High Point Regional Health Systems; Mayor Arnold J. Koonce, Jr., of High Point; Mayor Keith A. Holliday of Greensboro, NC; Mayor Hubert M. Leonard of Thomasville, NC; senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole; John W. Schmitt, M.D., faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Virginia; and Phil Bradshaw, whose wife, Sandy, was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, PA, on September 11, 2001.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002"

July 25, 2002

I commend the House of Representatives for its overwhelming bipartisan passage of reforms to hold corporate America accountable. This legislation will protect investors, crack down on fraud and wrongdoing, and provide tough oversight of the accounting industry. Leaders in Congress heeded the call to put the interests of investors and employees first. I look forward to prompt action by the Senate so that I can sign this important legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002."

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002”

July 25, 2002

Today’s passage by Congress of corporate accounting reforms is a victory for America’s shareholders and employees. House and Senate passage of this legislation demonstrates what can happen when leaders work together to solve problems. I look forward to signing these important reforms into law. In February I also proposed tough changes to reform employee pension programs, and the House quickly responded. I urge the Senate to act before they recess to protect the savings of America’s workers.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.”

Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Dole in Greensboro, North Carolina

July 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much, Senator. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you all for coming. I’m here for this reason: It is important for North Carolina, it is important for our country that Elizabeth Dole become the next United States Senator from North Carolina. And I want to thank you all for helping. And there’s no doubt in my mind, with your help and her hard work, she’s going to win.

She married well. [*Laughter*] But Bob got the better end of the deal—[*laughter*]—just like I did when I married. [*Laughter*] I’m sorry that Laura isn’t here tonight. She is—but she sends her love to Elizabeth and her thanks to you all. I’m really proud of Laura. She is, in my unobjective judgment, a great First Lady, no question a great wife. She’s a great wife. She’s come a long way from being a public school librarian in Texas—[*laughter*]—one who, frankly, didn’t like politics too much and didn’t really care for politicians either. [*Laughter*] But here she is, the First Lady of the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and she’s doing a great job, and she sends her best.

I know you all will join me in wishing Jesse Helms all the best, and he needs to get back to Washington. We need his vote—[*laughter*]—and he will be. And I appreciate so very much Lauch Faircloth for being here and former Senator Jim Broyhill as well. Thank you both for coming, and thank you for your service.

I want to thank all the folks who are involved with the Republican Party of the great State of North Carolina. I want to thank Bill Cobey and Linda Shaw, and I want to thank all the grassroots workers who are here. You know, you win a campaign if you can get people to show up to lick the envelopes and to make the phone calls and to hold the signs and to turn out the vote. The grassroots are excited here in North Carolina because they’ve got a candidate who is an exciting candidate and somebody who is going to make a big difference. So I want to thank you all for what you’ve done and what you got to do between now and November. I want to thank Fred Blackman for being the master of ceremonies of this event. I want to thank all the sponsors and the cohosts and the people that have done an extraordinary job of supporting Elizabeth Dole. Thank you for having me.

She is a—she’s got a lot of great experience, and that matters in my judgment. You know, the thing I love about Elizabeth is she’s constantly breaking what they call the glass ceiling. She shows what is possible. And that’s important, particularly for a lot of young women looking for a role model, somebody who has done a—[*applause*]—a person of accomplishment. In Washington, we’ve got a lot of good talkers, but we need doers, people who can get the job done. And Elizabeth Dole is that kind of person.

She is not only a trailblazer; she is a—she’s got a deep, abiding passion for people from all walks of life. Her compassion is real, and it’s heartfelt. When Elizabeth goes walking down the streets of smalltown North Carolina, for example—and I understand she’s doing a lot of that—she doesn’t ask somebody when they shake their hand, “Are you a Republican? Are you a Democrat?” She looks them in the eye as a fellow American, wanting to represent all the people of this

good State in Washington, DC. No, the people in North Carolina, when you find a good one like Elizabeth, you need to send her up there to represent your State and your country. And I'm confident you will.

Elizabeth and I understand the importance of agriculture to North Carolina and America. I had the honor of speaking to some FFA leaders today in Washington before I came up here. I reminded them that agriculture is not only important for our economy; it's important for our national interest. Imagine if we didn't have enough food to eat; we'd be in a bind. And it's important to always keep agriculture in the forefront of economic policy. But it's also important to remember that on our farms and ranches, we find good old-fashioned American values.

I know the people here are hurting because of the drought. I tried to do my part today with some rain. [Laughter] But it wasn't enough, so this week Ann Veneman has approved a request for Federal drought relief. I approved it for 73 counties. It's emergency assistance to pay living expenses and production costs and help refinance debt for the hard-struggling farmers here in your State. We also opened up a—[applause]

That's the kind of Senator you want, somebody who is a practical person, who is able to deal with the problems that confront the people of this good State. And we talked about drought relief, and I assured her we were sincere in our attempts to help the farmers through this difficult period.

Today I also had the honor of going out to High Point to talk about an important issue, and that's health care. Elizabeth and I talked about that. She and I are on the same wavelength. We want people to have health care that is affordable, and we want people to have a good relationship with their doctor. And one of the problems we face all across America is that we've got too many lawsuits, too many people suing our docs and hospitals, too many junk lawsuits that are causing our doctors to have to practice what they call defensive medicine for fear of getting sued, which then runs the cost of health care up on the citizens.

People say, "Well is this a Federal issue?" Of course, it's a Federal issue. The frivolous lawsuits that are filed all across the country

cost the Federal Government over \$25 billion a year. That's \$25 billion of your dollars. See, we pay Medicare, and we pay Medicaid, and we pay for the veterans, and we pay for our military. And all these junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, which hurts our patients. And so, therefore, it's time for the Federal Government to act.

Today I proposed Federal tort reform for medical malpractice, and I asked the Congress to join me. That's the kind of item I need Elizabeth's help on in Washington, DC. We've got a lot on our—we've got a lot on our plate up there. And it's going to be good to have a good, steady Senator there.

We need freedom for our taxpayers—real freedom. We passed a tax relief plan, but because the Senate has got arcane rules, the tax relief goes away at some point in time. And that's not right. In order to plan, we need the tax relief permanent. In order to get rid of the awful death tax, we need to make sure that it is repealed permanently. We need a voice in the Senate who understands that.

We need to make sure that we free Americans from dependency upon Government, so when we reauthorize welfare, we insist upon work, and we provide help to people so they can find work. We need a Medicare plan that is modern. You know, Medicare is a great idea, except that it's antiquated. It was made for another time. It's time to reform Medicare so seniors have got prescription drugs and more options from which they can choose. It is time the Federal Government trusts the American people.

You know else why I need Elizabeth Dole? I want my judges to get a fair hearing. I picked—I've nominated good people to serve on the bench, good, qualified, distinguished Americans, like Terry Boyle. I put his name out there 14 months ago, and he can't get a hearing. I nominated a fabulous woman from Texas named Priscilla Owen, a great jurist ranked at the highest rating by the ABA, ran twice statewide in Texas and won. And yet, when you listen to the rhetoric up there, it's all politics in Washington, DC. They're not willing to give these judges their fair shake and a fair due. It's time to get the Senate in the hands of people who will approve the good jurists I send, so we can have

a Federal bench that will not legislate—from which it will not be—will not legislate from but will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States of America.

Our economy is getting stronger. The foundations for growth are there. Inflation's low; we've got good monetary policy, got good tax policy; the productivity of the American worker is up. And today, thankfully, the Senate and the House passed corporate legislation which will insist upon holding people accountable for being honest with the American people, honest about their assets, honest about their liabilities. And I want to assure you what took place yesterday will continue to take place. This administration will investigate, will arrest, and will prosecute chief executive officers who break the law.

Elizabeth knows what I know—is that this country is still in danger of attack. We're fighting an enemy who is incredibly ruthless. They don't value human life like we value human life. They hate freedom. They cannot stand the thought that in our great country, we worship an Almighty God freely, that we respect all religions in America, that we're not ashamed of our religious beliefs and our tolerance. They can't stand the thought that we have an open debate in our society. They don't like the free press. They don't like anything we stand for because we believe in freedom, and therefore, they still have designs on attacking America. And we will do everything we can to protect our homeland. It is, by far, the most important job I have.

We're making pretty good progress. A while ago I proposed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. I want to tell you right quick why I did. There are over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have got some part of the—of protecting the homeland. They're scattered everywhere. They're all over the place. In order to make sure that the number one priority of the primary agencies involved with homeland security is the protection of the American people, they ought to be under one boss. We ought to put those agencies under one Cabinet position. It's important to do so for reasons of accountability, but it's also important to do so to make sure we change cultures in Washington, DC.

And we're making some progress. This is not a Republican idea, by the way, or a Democrat idea; this is an important idea for all of America. And as the Congress debates the issue, it is so important for them to give me the ability to manage this Department, so I can come before the American people and say, "We've got the tools necessary to protect the homeland."

You need to know that there is a lot of really fine Federal Government employees working a lot of hours to protect you; they really are. We can just do it a better way and a better job. We're running down every hint. We're running down every lead. If we get a sniff from something abroad, the information is now shared on a timely basis with our FBI, for example. And we're just—we're on full—full alert. We're chasing everything down. We're spending a lot of time on the subject.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to defend our freedom, the best way to make sure America is as safe as possible is to hunt these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that is exactly what the United States and our friends are going to do.

It's a different kind of war. We're facing people who hide. You know, they don't have armies and tanks and equipment. It doesn't take much for them to strike. They—as I like to tell people, these are the ones that hide in a cave and send youngsters to their death. They hijack a great religion and then tell kids to go kill themselves. That's the way they are. And they're still out there. A lot of them were trained in these Al Qaida camps. But we're making good progress. You just need to know, we've got over a couple of thousand of them captured. And just about that many weren't quite as lucky.

And it's not just us. We've put together a vast coalition of countries that understand the stakes; they understand that this is a defining moment in the 21st century. The doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, feed a terrorist, or hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists—it still holds. And so does the doctrine, either you're with the United States and those of us who love freedom, or you're not with the United States and those of us who love freedom.

Our first action was to rout the Taliban. They harbored terrorists; they fed terrorists; and they were treated just like the terrorists. And thanks to the mighty United States military, we routed the Taliban.

I want the youngsters here to understand that your country did not go into Afghanistan as conquerors. We went in as liberators, and we freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. For the first time, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, young girls get to go to school in Afghanistan. We're working with the interim—with the Government of Chairman Karzai. We're helping to feed the people. We're helping to provide infrastructure. We're doing everything we can to enable this country, this war-ravaged country, to develop into a hopeful place.

But in the meantime, there are still Al Qaida people in the country. And so you'll see—sometimes you'll see and sometimes you won't see the fact that our military is still hunting them down. When we figure out they are somewhere, that's where we're going to be. One time, they tried to group up in the Shahi-Kot Mountains. That's the last time they made that decision. *[Laughter]*

The other thing we're doing is we're denying them sanctuary. See, once you get them on the run, then they're looking for safe haven. So our strategy is to remind other nations that we don't want them to have safe haven. The other day, the Philippine Government went after this group called Abu Sayyaf* and got their leader. This was the group of people that killed Mr. Burnham out of Kansas. I met his—by the way, I met his wife in the Oval Office, Gracia Burnham. You talk about a fabulous woman, who believes deeply in the Lord. Her heart is right. She is strong. She told me—she said, “Mr. President, I appreciate the fact that you and the Government, and the Government of the Philippines did everything you can to rescue us.” I told her, I said, “You just need to know, because of our working with the Philippine Government, there's one less terrorist available to kill somebody.”

* White House correction.

We're making progress. We're making it clear that if you try to provide sanctuary for these people, you'll be dealing with the United States of America. This is a pledge I have made not only to those who have lost life on September the 11th and others, but it's a pledge I make to our children and grandchildren. We owe it to future generations to be tough and resolved and dedicated to protecting our freedom, no matter what the cost.

And that means dealing with nations which harbor and develop weapons of mass destruction. We must not, for the sake of the future, and we cannot allow the world's worst leaders to threaten America or our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. I'm a patient man. I intend to use all the tools at our disposal. But for the sake of freedom, for the sake of what's right, for the sake of a—for the sake of history, we're not going to let the world's worst leaders threaten America with the world's worst weapons.

I'm incredibly proud of our country. It's a great country, because we're great people. You know, I just cannot imagine what the killers were thinking. They were sitting around in some cave, probably, saying, “You know, if we attack them, they won't do anything. You know, they may file a lawsuit.” *[Laughter]* “They'll just sit back. They're so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so self-ish, they're not—they're not going to defend anything.”

What they didn't realize is they were attacking a great nation. What they didn't realize is that we're people who will defend our freedom at all costs. But as importantly, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that when our country—*[applause]*—I believe that as we remain tough and resolved and lead a coalition that understands the true threats we face in the 21st century, we can achieve peace.

And my goal is peace. I want there to be peace in the world. I know there are going to be some tough moments. There are going to be some high hurdles to cross. But my vision is one that says the world can be peaceful. I believe that. And I believe by routing out the terrorists, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for our country; we can

achieve peace for our friends and allies; we can achieve peace in places like the Middle East or in South Asia as well.

And at home, we can accomplish a lot. See, out of the evil done to America is coming good, because people are taking an assessment of what's important in life. They've stepped back after September the 11th and taken kind of an assessment of their personal balance sheet, and realize it's not just dollars and cents, that life is not just money, that in order to be a complete person, life is serving something greater than yourself. And that's what's happening in America.

That's why I feel so strongly that we must have what I call a Faith-Based Initiative. Because I understand in America, in spite of our wealth, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness, addiction and loneliness, but these are Americans we're talking about. In our country, when one hurts, all of us have got to hurt in America, as far as I'm concerned. And therefore, the good that can come out of the evil will be when Americans put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you, brother," or when they mentor a child, or when moms and dads renew their effort to be as great a parent as they can possibly be. You see, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul.

It's happening in America, all across this land. People from all political parties, from all walks of life, are saying, "What can I do to make America a better place? How can I serve something greater than myself in life?"

One of the reasons I first got into politics is because I was worried about a culture which had clearly said, "If it feels good, go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I wanted to help be a part of a change of a culture which says, "We're all responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we all have responsibilities, that serving something greater than yourself is a part of being an American."

Perhaps that lesson came home most vividly to me, and I'm sure to you, about what took place on Flight 93. I happen to think it's a defining moment for the culture of our country. People flying across this country re-

alized that a plane was going to be used as a weapon, perhaps a weapon on the White House or on the Capitol. They were on their cell phones with their loved ones; they said, "I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they took the plane in the ground, to serve something greater than themselves.

This country—out of the evil done to this country is coming incredible good, an understanding that to be an American means to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. When the enemy hit us, they didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

It's my honor to be here with you tonight. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Grandville Ballroom at the Grandover Resort and Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to former Senators Bob Dole and Lauch Faircloth; Bill Cobey, chairman, and Linda O. Shaw, national committeewoman, North Carolina Republican Party; and President Hamid Karzai of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan.

Remarks on Proposed Legislation To Establish the Department of Homeland Security

July 26, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. I appreciate so very much being joined here by firefighters and police officers and emergency personnel, public officials at the local level, the State level—I know we've got some Governors here. And I want to thank you all for coming.

We're on the cusp of doing something right for America. And I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation, the head of the Office of National Drug Policy. I appreciate Kay James being here. I want to thank Tom Ridge for his hard work.

But most importantly, I want to thank the Members of Congress who got up pretty early after not much sleep—[laughter]—for

your hard work and your care for our country. I see Senator Lieberman, who is really working hard in the Senate to cobble together a homeland security bill that will work. I appreciate Senator Nickles being here as well; Senator Bennett from Utah. Thank you all for coming.

I really want to thank Chris Shays and Jim Gibbons for coming, and Mac Thornberry as well—the three fine Republican Members, along with Steve LaTourette. But I also want to thank Ellen Tauscher from the State of California. She's been working really hard to make this bill a bipartisan bill, where the American people can see both Republicans and Democrats working together to do what's right for the country. I really want to thank you all for coming.

I also want to thank the heads of agencies who are here. Jim Loy, who's the Under Secretary for Transportation, Chief Operating Officer of the Transportation Security Agency—served our country nobly as the—running the Coast Guard and has now put on another uniform called a coat and tie. [Laughter]

I want to thank Tom Collins, who does head the Coast Guard, Robert Bonner, who runs the Customs. I want to thank Jim Ziglar for running the INS. I appreciate again my Governor friends, Rowland, King, and Patton for coming up today. And I also want to thank my Mayor, Anthony Williams, the Mayor of Washington, DC.

I want to acknowledge Mike Carona of Orange County, California, who's with us, the sheriff. Where are you, Mike? There you are, Mike, looking right at you. I appreciate you coming. He represents the local officials, what we call in Texas the high sheriffs. He's the fellow who recently apprehended the killer of Samantha Runnion there in California. I want to congratulate you for your good work, helping make your community as safe as possible.

America, we're in our 10th month on the war on terror. And we've got a great deal to show for our efforts. We're making progress. And that's important for the American people to know. Our country continues to lead a mighty coalition of civilized nations, all joined in facing a common threat to humanity.

This is the first war of the 21st century, and we're making progress. We and our allies have uncovered terrorist cells all across the world. We're disrupting plots. We're doing a pretty good job of seizing their assets and cutting off their money. And we've got them on the run. See, these are international killers. That's all they are. And we're getting them on the run. So far we've captured over 2,000 of the terrorists, and just about that many weren't quite as lucky. But there's still a lot of them out there.

And what you need to know as leaders in your communities is that, no matter how long it takes, we're going to run them down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And we do so not only to defend freedom and civilization, itself; we do so to protect the American people, which is our highest calling.

We defeat the threat abroad, and we're doing a pretty good job here at home as well. Congress has passed new laws to help. Congress has already acted to help our law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute terrorists. Congress responded quickly after September the 11th in a fashion that made me proud, and I know that made the American people proud.

We've strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We've stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism. We've developed new technologies to help first-responders identify and react to attacks. We've dramatically improved information-sharing amongst our intelligence agencies. Governor Tom Ridge has produced the first comprehensive plan in our Nation's history to protect America from terrorist attack. It's a good piece of work, and I appreciate you and your staff, Tom, for working hard on it.

We're taking urgent measures against clear vulnerabilities, and now we must also prepare our Government and our people for the long-term vigilance that the new threats will require. I say "long-term" because this is a determined enemy we face. This isn't just a one-battle war. This is a war that will occupy not only our time, but will occupy the time of future Presidents and future Members of the United States Congress and future agency heads. The number one priority

of this Government and the future Governments will be to protect the American people against terrorist attack.

And so, therefore, I believe it's important, we must create a Department of Homeland Security to prepare America for the permanent duty—for the permanent duty—of defending the homeland. And these Members here today agree with me. We need this Department for one main reason: America needs a group of dedicated professionals who wake up each morning with the overriding duty of protecting the American people.

The agencies in this Department will have other duties—no question about it—but no higher responsibility. Protecting American citizens from harm is the first priority, and it must be the ruling priority of all of our Government.

The Department of Homeland Security will have four primary tasks. It will control our borders and prevent terrorists and weapons from entering our country. The way I like to put it is, we need to know who's coming in and why they're coming in and what they're bringing in with them, and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave.

Secondly, the new Department will work with our incredibly brave and dedicated first-responders, many of—the representatives of whom are on the stage with me today. We need to be able to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. We need good cooperation between the Federal Government, the State governments, and the local governments.

We bring the best scientists together to develop technologies that will detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and to discover drugs and treatments to protect our citizens. We need to harness the great genius of the American people to make sure that it's focused on the true threat of the 21st century.

And for the first time, this new Department will merge under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, to map those threats against vulnerabilities, and then to act to secure America. The Department of Homeland Security will draw on the knowledge and experience of every sector in America. We'll work

in a collaborative way with the people who care about America, and that's the American leadership and the American people, at all levels of government.

This administration is working with Congress to forge a bipartisan bill, and I want to appreciate the members of both parties for coming this morning. I believe we're making good progress. And of course, being the modest fellow that I am, I'm willing to recognize a good idea even if it comes from Congress. [*Laughter*] Yet, it's important to understand this: I'm not going to accept legislation that limits or weakens the President's well-established authorities—authorities to exempt parts of Government from Federal labor-management relations statute—when it serves our national interest.

Every President since Jimmy Carter has used this statutory authority, and a time of war is the wrong time to weaken the President's ability to protect the American people. And as Congress debates the issue of how to set up this Department, I'm confident they're going to look to me to say, "Well, is it being done right," after they got the bill passed. And therefore, it is important that we have the managerial flexibility to get the job done right. We can't be—we can't be micromanaged. We ought to say, "Let's make sure authority and responsibility are aligned so they can more adequately protect the homeland."

Now, look, I fully understand the concerns of some of the unions here in Washington. Somehow, they believe that this is an attempt by the administration to undermine the basic rights of workers. I reject that, as strongly as I can state it. I have great respect for the Federal employees. I travel the country as one of them, talking about how we need to work together to protect the homeland. I think of the times I've gone to Coast Guard cutters or gone to ports of authority or gone to our labs or seen our first-responders, many of whom happen to be a member of the union. Never have I said, "Show me your card." I've always said, "Thanks for being a proud American and for working hard for the American people."

So the notion of flexibility will in no way undermine the basic rights of Federal workers. Workers will retain whistle-blower protection, collective bargaining rights, and protection against unlawful discrimination. The new Secretary must have the freedom to get the right people in the right job at the right time and to hold them accountable. He needs the ability to move money and resources quickly in response to new threats, without all kinds of bureaucratic rules and obstacles. And when we face unprecedented threats, like we're facing, we cannot have business as usual.

I am—I appreciate the work of Senator Lieberman. He's working hard. I am concerned, however, the way the committee has passed out the homeland security bill. The bill doesn't have enough managerial flexibility, as far as I'm concerned. I look forward to working with the Senator and the Republican Members to get the bill right, to make sure that when we look back at what we've done, we will have left behind a legacy, a legacy that will allow future Senators and future Members of the House and a future President to say, "I can better protect the homeland, thanks to what was done in the year 2002."

It's very interesting that Harry Truman took on the same task. And as I understand, it was on this day 55^{*} years ago that he signed the National Security Act of 1947. It was an act that helped win the cold war by consolidating the Navy and the Army and the newly independent Air Force into what was interestingly called the National Military Establishment. [*Laughter*] It's now known as the Department of Defense. [*Laughter*]

But he thought boldly, and so did the Members of Congress. They recognized that after World War II, we were going to enter into a new era. And therefore they adjusted the sights of the Federal Government. That's what has happened now. History has called us into action. We're entering a new era, and we must adjust our sights, and we must respond.

And I know the Members here, and I know the Members on the floor that are working hard. And I'm confident we will re-

spond in a way that will make America proud—America proud of our efforts to come together but, more importantly, America more secure in the knowledge that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless your work, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:44 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut; Gov. Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; Michael S. Carona, sheriff-coroner, Orange County, CA; and Alejandro Avila, who is accused of the July 16 murder of 5-year-old Samantha Runnion in Stanton, CA.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26, 2002

Well, thank you all for coming, and welcome to the White House. We like to call this the people's house, and we're glad you're here. Today we celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation that opens the door for more than 50 million people living with disabilities—50 million Americans.

For 12 years, the ADA has proven that when people are treated with dignity and respect, our entire Nation benefits. And the best way to celebrate the progress the ADA has made is to continue and build on that progress.

I want to thank the Attorney General for coming today. I thank Elaine Chao for being here, Mel Martinez and Norm Mineta, Tony Principi, all members of my Cabinet. I appreciate Senator Bob Dole joining us today. I missed you yesterday in North Carolina, but thanks for coming. I appreciate so very much the leaders of the United States Congress who are here today with us, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. Thank you all for taking time from what appears to be a pretty hectic time to lend your support and commitment to this vital goal, that all Americans are welcomed in America.

^{*} White House correction.

I appreciate Dick Thornburg, who was the Attorney General when my dad was the President when the ADA was signed, and he helped very much make sure that it was all done in a way that would pass muster. I thank him for being here as well.

I want to thank Cari Dominguez, who is the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for coming; thank Kay James, who is the Director of Office of Personnel Management, for coming.

I also want to thank Lex Frieden for being here as well. Lex is a representative of the Dart family. Justin Dart passed away on June 22d, 2002. He was known by many as the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He had a huge impact on our Nation. We mourn his loss, and we thank Lex for being here.

The ADA is one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history. It has made our schools and workplaces more welcoming. It has changed attitudes that once seemed unchangeable. And the ADA has given opportunity to some exceptional Americans.

Today I'm joined on stage by some exceptional Americans. They are participants in the National Youth Leadership Network, an organization sponsored by the Federal Government and committed to advancing the next generation of disability leaders. Through their hard work and determination, each of them embodies the true spirit of the ADA.

William Le'Ron Jackson, seated right here to my right—oh, yeah. Let me tell you what he said: "In spite of all the barriers I have encountered, I always hear my mother's voice saying, 'Le'Ron, keep reaching up.' And that is exactly what I plan to do." This fall, Le'Ron is returning to college to continue reaching toward his goal of becoming a paralegal. When he's not studying, he's an active volunteer in his community. Le'Ron Jackson is an example of how the ADA changes lives. He is a role model for all Americans with and without disabilities. Thank you for being here.

The ADA has given greater hope and dignity to countless Americans. Yet, our work is not complete. Too many individuals still find it difficult to pursue an education or own a home or hold a job. We must continue to

remove the artificial barriers to achievement that remain.

Last year, my administration unveiled the New Freedom Initiative, an effort to continue on the hopeful path of the ADA. This initiative gives people with disabilities increased access to new technologies for independent living, greater educational opportunities, better access to the workplace and community life.

For too many individuals with disabilities, inadequate transportation limits access to schools and churches and jobs, and this is one obstacle the New Freedom Initiative addresses. The 2003 budget I submitted provides \$145 million for alternative transportation and innovative transportation grants, so that people with disabilities can work and participate more actively in their communities. And I urge the Congress to fully fund my New Freedom Initiative budget requests.

And when Americans with disabilities participate in their communities, they should not be penalized. Today, Medicare recipients who are considered homebound may lose coverage if they occasionally go to a baseball game—which, of course, I encourage them to do—[laughter]—or meet with a friend or go to a family reunion. New technology is allowing even the most significantly disabled Americans to be more mobile. That's just a fact. And they should not be forced to trade their benefits for a little freedom. So today I announce we're clarifying Medicare policy, so people who are considered homebound can occasionally take part in their communities without fear of losing their benefits.

We're also determined to help people like Le'Ron to their full potential, by expanding educational opportunities. In both my budgets, I've asked for increases in special education grant funding of \$1 billion. These are the largest increases ever proposed. In addition, I created the Commission on Excellence and Special Education, to recommend policies to improve the educational performance of students with disabilities. The Commission provided excellent recommendations in its recent report. And I look forward to working with Congress, and I hope Congress will closely examine those findings when it considers the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

You know, when my father signed the ADA into law in 1990, he said, “We must not and will not rest until every man and woman with a dream has the means to achieve it.” Today we renew that commitment, and we continue to work for an America where individuals are celebrated for their abilities, not judged by their disabilities.

Again, I want to welcome you all here. I want to thank those who were pioneers in this landmark legislation for being here to celebrate this anniversary. I am now pleased to sign a proclamation in honor of the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7579—Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history. In the 12 years since President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law, more people with disabilities are participating fully in our society than ever before. As we mark this important anniversary, we celebrate the positive effect this landmark legislation has had upon our Nation, and we recognize the important influence it has had in improving employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications for those with disabilities.

Today, Americans with disabilities enjoy greatly improved access to countless facets of life; but more work needs to be done. We must continue to build on the important foundations established by the ADA. Too many Americans with disabilities remain isolated, dependent, and deprived of the tools they need to enjoy all that our Nation has to offer.

My Administration is committed to removing the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from realizing their full potential and achieving their dreams. The New Freedom Initiative, which I announced last year, builds on the hopeful path of the ADA. It provides Americans with disabilities increased access to assistive technologies, expands educational options, and increases opportunities for them to integrate into our workforce. We are committed to ensuring the delivery of vital services to disabled persons in an integrated, community-based setting.

My Administration will continue to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will work with businesses and State and local governments to increase partnerships that promote the purposes of the ADA. Together, we are working for a day when all people with disabilities are able to live and work with dignity, freedom, and independence and realize their potential as fully integrated members of our society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2002, as a day in celebration of the 12th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call upon public officials, business leaders, people with disabilities, and all Americans to pursue the ADA’s full promise of equal opportunity and to celebrate the expanded freedom that the ADA has brought to American life.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:52 a.m., July 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Exchange With Reporters Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference

July 26, 2002

Legislative Agenda

Q. How are you doing, Mr. President?

Q. Would you talk for a moment, please, sir?

Q. Mr. President, what did you tell the conference today?

The President. You know, it's been an amazing week. A lot has gotten done here in the Congress, and I want to thank both the Republicans and Democrats. I think—I know the American people expect their elected Representatives to work together to get some things done, get the homeland security bill. We're even going to get trade promotion authority, which will be good for jobs and American workers. We've got a corporate responsibility bill. It's a good piece of legislation, overwhelmingly supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

The American people saw last week that this administration and the Justice Department will track down those—prosecute those CEOs who break the law. We're making good progress here. I want to thank the Members of the House; I talked to them about how pleased I am with the progress we're making.

Q. What about prescription drugs on the Senate side, sir?

The President. Well, we'll see what comes out. [*Inaudible*—prescription drugs and Medicare. I've said that since I became the President, and we'll see what happens.

Right now I'm focused on the trade vote. We're going to get a free trade agreement, which is very important for jobs and workers, very important for our farmers and ranchers, and it's very important for our economy. We're going to get a good homeland security bill. And as you know, we've got a good corporate responsibility in a bipartisan bill.

So a lot has taken place here, and I'm real proud of the Members of both parties.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:35 p.m. at the Capitol. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Create a Department of Homeland Security

July 26, 2002

I commend the House of Representatives for acting quickly to pass landmark legislation to create a Homeland Security Department. This legislation represents the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s. Our Nation needs a new department with the overriding mission of protecting the American people from the threats of terrorism.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter weapons of mass destruction, and enhancing our preparedness and response capabilities.

The House bill also provides the Secretary of Homeland Security managerial flexibility needed to build and maintain a department capable of responding rapidly to the terrorist threats of the 21st century.

The House has shown a strong commitment to improving the security of the American people, and I urge the Senators to do the same before they leave for the August recess.

Proclamation 7578—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fifty-two years ago, armed forces from North Korea shattered the peace as they crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. A 22-country force assembled to face this Cold War challenge, and the majority of them were Americans. The brave men and women of this coalition fought courageously to defend a population facing tyranny and aggression, and they succeeded in defeating the invading forces.

During the Korean War, approximately 1.8 million members of the United States Armed Forces fought in places such as Pork Chop Hill, Pusan Perimeter, and the Chosin Reservoir. During the intense fighting, approximately 34,000 American lives were lost in combat; 92,000 were wounded; and more than 8,000 listed as missing in action or taken prisoner. Their distinguished service reminds us of the words engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington—"Freedom Is Not Free."

As we face the challenges of a new era and a new war, we look to America's Korean War veterans for their example of dedication and sacrifice in defending freedom. These men and women faced a formidable adversary and endured harsh and bitter conditions in upholding our Nation's heritage of valor, tenacity, and honor during this important stand against Communist aggression. For their gallantry in action, 131 servicemen earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. More than 90 of them received the award posthumously.

Forty-nine years ago, the Military Armistice Agreement ended the fighting and stopped the spread of Communism in Korea. In order to thank and honor veterans of the Korean War and their families, America will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War through November 11, 2003. Today, as the Republic of Korea stands as a strong, democratic, and progressive nation, we thank our Korean War veterans for serving our Nation and the world with courage and distinction. These patriots advanced the principles and ideals upon which our Nation was founded, and they helped promote liberty, opportunity, and hope.

The Congress, by Public Law 104-19, as amended (36 U.S.C. 127), has designated July 27, 2002, as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2002, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to

our distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies and interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on July 27, 2002, in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Proclamation 7580—Parents' Day, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Parenthood is a profound blessing, bringing with it responsibilities that are both challenging and rewarding. The care, dedication, and attention of parents are critical to their children's success. As they teach, guide, and nurture, parents help their children to realize their potential and achieve their dreams. Parents also play a critical role in shaping their children's character by sharing important life-lessons and values and showing them how to love and care for others.

As we face the challenges of a new era, families remain the foundation of our civil society; and parents are the cornerstone of strong families. This important responsibility often presents difficult problems and trying circumstances as parents balance competing demands such as making a living, raising their children, and participating in their communities.

Our Nation has made great progress in recognizing the importance of effective parenting, but there is still much to do. My Administration is committed to promoting a

healthier society by helping parents build stronger families. Many studies have shown that children do better in two-parent households where the parents are married; and as part of our plan to promote the well-being of children, I have committed significant resources to programs that encourage healthy and stable marriages. While no law can ensure that people love one another, we can support initiatives that help couples learn how to build successful marriages and be good parents.

My Administration supports community-based efforts that help delinquent fathers improve their lives so they can become effective parents. With job training, employment, counseling, and career advancement education, we hope to make it easier for more fathers to have positive relationships with their sons and daughters. We have also taken important steps to empower and inform parents through the No Child Left Behind Act, ensuring that they will be vital partners in their children's education. Further, every child in America deserves to live in a safe, stable, and loving family; my Administration is committed to increasing public awareness about the importance of adoption and to encouraging Americans to consider adopting children. By pursuing these significant measures, we increase compassion in our society, and we make America a better place for all.

The nurturing and development of children require widespread investment, focus, and commitment. While Government plays an important role in this process, citizens, schools, and civic institutions must also assist parents by reaching out to help meet the needs of young people in their communities. By working together to provide for our children, we will show them the way to a brighter future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 28, 2002, as Parents' Day. I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the millions of mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive, foster parents, and stepparents, whose selfless love and determined efforts

influence lives for the good of their children and our Nation. I also urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to our parents, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 31.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 21

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

July 22

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Argonne, IL, and later returned to Washington, DC.

July 23

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to discuss cooperation against terrorism and Secretary of State Colin Powell's upcoming visit to Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met first with House Democrats and then with House Republicans to discuss homeland security. Later, he dropped

by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President Rafael Hipolito Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic to discuss trade negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Susan Schanlaber (historic preservation expert) and Emily Anne Rich Summers (public representative) as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

July 24

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt to discuss foreign policy issues, including events in the Middle East, and the congressional agenda. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka to discuss efforts to resolve the civil conflict in Sri Lanka and other issues. He then met with a group of Cabinet ministers from Afghanistan who were in Washington, DC, to attend a summit on recovery and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President met with American missionary Gracia Burnham and other members of the Burnham family to express his condolences concerning the death of Gracia's husband, Martin, during the June 7 effort to rescue the couple from the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group which held them hostage in the Philippines. Later, in the Cabinet Room, he met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss homeland security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joaquin F. Blaya to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to nominate Juanita Alicia Vasquez-Gardner to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation (State court representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Lyle Richard Brown as U.S. Commissioner and Presiding Officer of the Upper Colorado River Commission representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the National Cancer Advisory Board: John Edward Niederhuber, Marlys Jane Popma, and Franklyn Grenfel Pendergast (public representatives); Moon Shao-Chuang Chen, Jr., and Lydia Ryan (science/environmental carcinogens representatives); and Kenneth Harvey Cowan and Jean Bayhi deKernion (science representatives).

July 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he spoke to National Future Farmers of America State President's Conference participants.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to High Point, NC, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on medical liability reforms at High Point Regional Hospital. Later, he traveled to Greensboro, NC.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 26

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with American Legion Boys Nation and Girls Nation participants.

The President announced his intention to nominate James C. Miller III to be a Governor on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint David Brady as a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 24

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2002, vice Carl Spielvogel, re-
signed.

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2005 (reappointment).

Johnny Mack Brown,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for
the District of South Carolina for the term
of 4 years, vice Israel Brooks, Jr., term ex-
pired.

Peggy Goldwater-Clay,
of California, to be a member of the Board
of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholar-
ship and Excellence in Education Founda-
tion for a term expiring June 5, 2006 (re-
appointment).

Robert Maynard Grubbs,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of Michigan for the term of 4
years, vice James Douglas, Jr., term expired.

Denny Wade King,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Marshal for the
Middle District of Tennessee for the term
of 4 years, vice Edward Scott Blair, term ex-
pired.

Juanita Alicia Vasquez-Gardner,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship
Foundation for a term expiring December
10, 2003, vice Steven L. Zinter, term expired.

Submitted July 25

Sandra J. Feuerstein,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of New York, vice
Thomas C. Platt, Jr., retired.

Kent A. Jordan,
of Delaware, to be U.S. District Judge for
the District of Delaware, vice Roderick R.
McKelvie, retired.

Jeffrey S. White,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Northern District of California, vice
Charles A. Legge, retired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released July 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.J. Res. 87

Fact sheet: Helping Children and Building
Families Through Adoption

Released July 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Mar-
shals for the Eastern District of Michigan,
the District of South Carolina, and the Mid-
dle District of Tennessee

Fact sheet: President Proposes Minimum
Standards for Medical Liability

Released July 25

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the District of Delaware, the
Northern District of California, and the East-
ern District of New York

Released July 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Personnel Management Director Kay James on legislation to establish the Department of Homeland Security

Fact sheet: Honoring the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982

S. 2594 / Public Law 107–201
Support of American Eagle Silver Bullion Program Act

Approved July 24

**Acts Approved
by the President**

H.R. 2362 / Public Law 107–202
Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act

Approved July 23

H.J. Res. 87 / Public Law 107–200
Approving the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for the development of a repository for

H.R. 3971 / Public Law 107–203
To provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or turnover

Week Ending Friday, August 2, 2002

The President's Radio Address

July 27, 2002

Good morning. This week, the Federal Government took decisive action against corporate fraud and abuse. The Justice Department arrested several executives who used a public company as a personal loan agency, while hiding their actions from investors and employees. Additional investigations coordinated by our Corporate Fraud Task Force are underway across the country. It should be clear to every shareholder, investor, and employee in America that this administration will investigate, arrest, and prosecute corporate executives who break the law.

During the last several months, I've called on Congress to pass strong reforms to hold corporate officers accountable for their actions. This week, Members of Congress responded to that call. The House and the Senate passed bipartisan reforms, increasing the penalties for corporate wrongdoers and creating tougher standards for corporate auditors, so that investors and employees can trust the accounting statements of their public companies. This legislation will help reassure Americans that our economic system is sound and fair. I thank the Congress for their hard work, and I look forward to signing the bill next week.

Members of the United States Senate have one more week before they head home for August recess. I urge them to take up several important issues. The Senate should pass trade promotion authority, which will give me a stronger hand in negotiating foreign trade agreements. Trade agreements create good jobs and economic growth, because they open new markets to America's farmers and ranchers and manufacturers. I urge the Senate to get a final bill to my desk so I can immediately take action that will create jobs and strengthen the economy.

The Senate should pass the defense appropriations bill, which includes the largest increases in defense spending since the Reagan years. Our military needs to plan for a long war on terror and prepare for all the missions that lie ahead. The House passed its defense appropriations bill in June. Now the Senate must make the defense of our country a top priority.

The Senate should not go home before approving a new Department of Homeland Security. This Department will coordinate our Nation's response to grave national threats, to anticipate our enemies, analyze our vulnerabilities, and act forcefully to address them. And the Senate must give the Department of Homeland Security all of the authority and flexibility it needs to protect the American people.

And the Senate should protect the retirement security of American workers. In April, the House passed pension reforms based on my proposals, to give workers more timely information and greater control over their own retirement funds as well as access to professional investment advice. America's retirement security is too important to fall victim to political game playing, and the Senate must act now.

By taking action on these issues, the Senate can advance our national priorities of defending freedom, protecting our homeland, and strengthening our economy. The Senate now has one week left to make progress for the American people, and I urge them to seize the opportunity.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:45 p.m. on July 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 27. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Trade Promotion Authority
Legislation**

July 27, 2002

For nearly 10 years, America has lacked trade promotion authority and the ability to fully take advantage of trade opportunities. I commend the House and Senate conferees for their leadership in reaching a landmark agreement on TPA, which will open markets, expand opportunity, and create jobs for American workers and farmers. The House has shown a commitment to getting something done on behalf of the American people, and I urge the Senate to vote on this good bill before the Senate goes home for the August recess.

**Remarks at West Ashley High School
in Charleston, South Carolina**

July 29, 2002

Thank you all very much. It's great to be back in Charleston. I want to thank you for taking time out of your day to come by and say hello. It's good to be back to the place where my mother graduated from high school. She must have learned there that if you ever get to be a mother, make sure you tell your oldest son what to do all the time. *[Laughter]* I'm still listening.

I am so honored that Tommy traveled down with me. You know, Tommy and I were fellow Governors. I knew he had a good record as the Governor of Wisconsin in helping move people from welfare to work. So that when I—one, I asked Tommy to join us as the Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services, because I know—I know his passion for helping people in need, and I know his philosophy. And so I want to thank Tommy for agreeing to leave the life he had there in Wisconsin and moving to Washington, DC, and serving our Nation with such class and such distinction. I appreciate you, Mr. Secretary.

I want to thank some of the members of the mighty South Carolina congressional delegation who have joined us here today, Congressmen Brown, Wilson, Graham, and DeMint, who represent your State with such

class. And I appreciate you all coming. And it's good to see that my friend the Lieutenant Governor, Bob Peeler, is here with us as well. Thank you, Bob, appreciate you coming.

And I want to give a special thanks to Bob Olson, the principal of this high school. I know it's not easy to host a Presidential visit. The entourages are quite large. But you all have done a fabulous job. It's such an honor to be here in this high school. I want to thank you for—Bob, you and the teachers, all the folks who work here—for being involved in education. There's nothing more important to make sure that every single child in America gets a quality education.

I just had what they call a roundtable discussion about some of the programs that are taking place here in South Carolina, programs all aimed at helping people help themselves. I don't have time to go through all the stories, but there are some remarkable people that joined us today, those who have worked hard to get off welfare to succeed and those kind, compassionate souls who are helping them. And I want to thank the participants for coming today. I really appreciate our discussions.

I also met Steve Riggs, who is a volunteer here in South Carolina. He came out to Air Force One. Steve's job is to—as a volunteer is to work with the South Carolina military department, which reenacts moments of American history. Steve believes it's important to teach history—live history, or history that—through people wearing uniforms, so they can see history come to life. He believes it's important to teach our youngsters values that they can hold dear for the rest of their life. Steve decided to do this on his own. It didn't require any Government edict or any proclamation. He's a volunteer to make South Carolina the best State it can be. And I'm honored you're with us today, Steve. Thank you for coming.

The reason I like to talk about people like Steve—and many of the people I met this morning share the same concept that one person can do something to help change America, and each of us have got to be a person helping to change America. If you want to fight evil, if you want to join the war on terror, do some good in your society. If you want to send a message to the evil ones

who attacked us, one way to do so is to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's what's happening all across America.

I can't imagine what went through the mind of the enemy when they attacked us. They must have thought America and Americans were shallow people, so materialistic that when it came to defending something we hold dear, we'd just kind of file a lawsuit or, you know, wring our hands, be afraid of our shadows. But they didn't understand America, see. And they're learning a pretty tough lesson about this country: When it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to defending that which we hold dear, we're plenty tough, and we're determined, and we will succeed.

Now, we're making progress on the war against terror. It's a different kind of war. Steve reenacts battles where there used to be infantries moving against infantries and artilleries moving against artilleries and flights of aircraft flying all over the—this is a different type of war. These folks are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who—they'll send youngsters to their death, and they'll hide. And so this country, in order to protect America, is going to hunt them down, one person at a time, no matter how long it takes—one person at a time.

I know this is a great military town, and I want to thank all of you who have got loved ones in the United States military. Please pass on from their Commander in Chief that we're proud. We're proud of their service, and we're proud of their sacrifice.

We're making progress on our economy. The foundation for growth is strong in America. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Monetary policy is sound. Fiscal policy is sound. Productivity is up. And tomorrow I'm going to sign a bill that says as clearly as we can possibly say it out of Washington, DC—by the way, a bill supported by both Republicans and Democrats—that if you're a CEO and you think you can fudge the books in order to make yourself look better, we're going to find you; we're going to arrest you; and we're going to hold you to account.

And as Tommy mentioned, we're making great progress on helping people help themselves, so they do not become dependent

upon Government. We're helping people become independent people, so they can realize their full human potential.

The welfare reform is a true success story. Since the passage of the bill in 1996, welfare caseloads have dropped more than 50 percent. It's a remarkable achievement—50 percent fewer people on welfare. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty than in 1996; 2.8 million fewer children live in poverty. And that's positive for America. And an incredibly vital statistic is, the percentage of African Americans and children in poverty is the lowest ever.

The success of welfare reform is not in the numbers, however. The success of welfare reform is not in the caseloads cut. The success in welfare reform is the number of people whose lives have been changed in a positive way. That's the success. And we've got many success stories in South Carolina and all across the country. I'm sure there are some here who I haven't had a chance to meet.

Today I did meet Lushanda Bright. She talked about her life and her story. First of all, she had the toughest job in America, which is being a single mother. That's the hardest work in this country, by the way, is trying to raise your children on your own. And that's what she was doing. She was a 24-year-old at the time. She had two young children. She was on unemployment benefits, and they were about to run out in August. But she didn't just want a job. She wanted to do something better for herself and for her children. And so she hooked up with a group here, all aimed at helping people go from welfare to work, a group that came to be after the '96 law, because the Federal Government finally in its wisdom said, "We ought to trust the local people to help, the local people to design the programs that best work for South Carolina, people we're trying to help; that all knowledge isn't in Washington, DC. As a matter of fact, the more we trust the local people, the more likely it is that good programs will spring forward to help the Lushanda Brights of the world."

And such a program is called Moving Up. And they helped Lushanda. They asked what she wanted. They asked what they could do

to help. She enrolled in Northeastern Technical College. She completed several courses on medical insurance and billing—by the way, while working at a convenience store and being a mother of two. Today, she has a full time job at Marlboro Park Hospital. In the fall she's going back to school to continue her education. And here's what she had to say: "A whole lot has changed for me. My life has turned around. It was hard, but I went from having nothing and ended up with a job I love."

Lushanda, thank you for coming. Thank you for sharing with us. I appreciate you being here.

These are the human stories. These are stories which are repeated over and over again all across America because of a philosophy inherent in the 1996 welfare reform bill that says people can achieve, just give them a chance. Help people help themselves, and amazing things will happen in America.

I understand leaving welfare is not easy, but it's an essential step toward independence from Government. Work is the pathway to dignity and to freedom and to self-respect. The stories that you hear across America are a tribute to personal effort. They're a tribute to the organizations which help them, and they're a tribute to the businesses which employ the people who want help. They're a tribute to corporate America, which understands there is a responsibility not only to be honest about the books but a responsibility to help in the communities in which they exist by helping people who want to help themselves.

And so the welfare reform bill passed in '96 is a real success. And so the fundamental question facing the country and facing the Members of Congress is, what to do when the bill becomes—comes up for reauthorization. In other words, the way things work in Washington is, if you pass a law, sometimes it doesn't exist forever. In this case, this requires a reauthorization. And Congress has got to choose whether or not we will continue to reform to help people, or will law undermine the clear successes that have taken place since '96? That's the fundamental choice facing your elected Representatives.

I believe that compassionate welfare reform must move forward, to strengthen work,

to insist upon work as one of the benchmarks for success, because I believe work increases somebody's self-worth and dignity. I know that the welfare bill, the reauthorization, needs to encourage marriage and family. In order to help people, we also have got to start with our youngsters early, and the welfare reform effort, the reauthorization, must support effective teen abstinence programs. I urge Congress to join me on these principles, these practical ways to help make America a better place.

Congress must always remember that when they write law, that we've got to trust the local folks as well, that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to trying to help people help themselves, that the more flexibility there is for people at the local level to design programs that work, the more likely it is we'll achieve national objectives, which is fewer people on welfare, more people working; fewer people despondent, more people hopeful; fewer people addicted, more people free—free to realize the great potential here in America.

And so we—and we made some work—made some progress. The House of Representatives, these Members here, stayed with us on a very important bill that—on the reauthorization bill which supports stronger work requirements.

Today, for example, on the average in the State—States require work of only about 5 percent of the adults on welfare. In other words, the goal is incredibly low. If you require work from only 5 percent of the adults on welfare, you're likely to achieve that objective. That means a lot of other people aren't working, and that's not right. Every State should be required within 5 years to have 70 percent of the people on welfare working.

That's not just a statistic, however. Inherent in the 70 percent number means that we've got to help people at the same time, that we've got to provide the resources, the flexibility—and the flexibility so we can help people find work. Programs like Moving Up work, and we've got to encourage programs such as that, not stifle them but encourage them.

And here's what I mean by work—that means 40 hours a week. Now, I fully understand some people need help, and so as part of the 40-hour workweek, 16 of those hours can be hours spent on job training or education, on skills, on going to courses which help on changing skills. It is so important that we have high standards, flexibility, but also recognize that people need help. People that want to work, and on welfare, many times don't understand how to even get started. Many of them haven't even graduated from high school. And that's why the proposal also recognizes that an adolescent mom, for example, can meet her work requirements and still be helped, by attending high school.

There are some in our society who are addicted. They might want to work, but they've got to deal with their addiction first. And so part of the work requirements can be 3 months in full-time drug rehabilitation programs.

The point is, is that we've got to give people the tools necessary to improve their lives and at the same time understand how important work is in freeing people from the clutches of our Government. And Congress must hear that message when it comes to work.

It is also important to understand that a more hopeful society is one in which we encourage strong marriages and families. I understand building and preserving a family is not always possible; I know that. But it should be a national goal. We ought to aspire for what's best, and what's best is for our families to remain intact.

All you've got to hear is from the man I met today, Patrick, talk about the fatherhood initiative. He talked in compelling terms about what it's like to have dads want to be a dad and, when Dad is reunited with their families, how vital and how real that person's life becomes and, more importantly, how hopeful the life becomes for the children. He works for the Sisters of Charity Foundation on the Fatherhood Initiative. There are such initiatives throughout our society—many in the faith community, by the way—initiatives that ought to be supported by the Federal Government.

And so, therefore, the bill that the House passed, that I proposed—in my budget, I

have \$300 million on an annual basis to support education programs and counseling programs, out of the faith community and out of the charitable community and out of the government community, all aimed at encouraging marriage, all aimed at helping couples to build and sustain healthy marriage in our society. Families are important for our children. Families are important for American women and American men. Families are important for America.

In order to help people help themselves, I strongly believe that we must encourage teen abstinence programs. We've got to help people understand that, one, it's okay to abstain, and secondly, having a baby out of wedlock early in life is going to make it awfully tough—awfully tough on the child, awfully tough on the mom. We've got to make it clear that we've got a health issue when it comes to sexually transmitted disease, and that we've got to deal with it in an upfront way with our youngsters.

You know, I've heard all the talk about the abstinence programs and this, that, and the other. But let me just be perfectly plain. If you're worried about teenage pregnancy or if you're worried about sexually transmitted disease, abstinence works every single time.

The citizens of this State understand—which is what I said—citizens, by the way, from all walks of life understand what I just said. You've got one of the finest teen abstinence education programs in the Nation. A lot of States are turning to you for advice. You know this, that when our children face a choice between exercising self-restraint and engaging in harmful behavior, the Government should not be neutral.

People say, "Well, do you have enough money in the budget to meet your goal?" Well, the budget I submitted and the one passed by the House spends \$17 billion a year on welfare for 2003. Now, that's the same amount that was spent in '96, but the difference is, the caseloads have dropped by half. So you've got the same amount of money with half the clientele, which means there's a—like, for example, on the average, across the country, \$16,000 per family will be spent on helping people help themselves, as opposed to \$7,000 in 1996. Here in the State of South Carolina, the amount of

money per family would double from '96 to today, from \$4,200 to \$10,700 per family to help. No, there's ample money in the budget, because of the successes of the past, because there's fewer people to help. If you keep the funding constant, you've got more money to help. And so that shouldn't be an excuse for people not to move forward with a reform package that works.

Now, the Senate is writing a bill, and I want to share with you some of my thoughts about the bill that the Senate is writing. First, I believe the bill is a retreat from the success. I believe they're not moving forward. I believe, if the bill goes through the way they've written it, it's going to go back—we're going to go backward here in America. And the bill would hurt the very people we're trying to help.

For example, the bill that passed the Senate Finance Committee has so many work exceptions that it would result in many fewer welfare recipients moving from welfare to work. There are so many exceptions, so many loopholes, so many ways out of holding people to high standards, that fewer people would actually be moving from welfare to work. And that's not right. That hurts our fellow Americans. There are so many loopholes that a State could meet its work requirement without having even one person working at a job.

Now, let me give you an example. Under the way they're kind of writing it right now, out of the Senate Finance Committee, some people could spend their entire 5 years—there's a 5-year work requirement—on welfare, going to college. Now, that's not my view of helping people become independent. And it's certainly not my view of understanding the importance of work and helping people achieve the dignity necessary so they can live a free life, free from Government control.

I'm also—I'm not happy with the fact that they reduced the amount of money by a third, available to promote healthy marriage. That doesn't make sense to me. As a matter of fact, some of the money that they believe they ought to be spent on so-called family building will go to programs that have nothing to do with promoting marriage.

On top of that, the Senate bill is weak on the budget. In other words, they're saying, "We've got to spend a bunch more money in order to make us feel better and make things work better." We don't need that. What we need is focus on what works, focus on reforms, focus on flexibility, focus on elevating the programs that have been proven over the last years to help people. We need a welfare bill that's strong on work, not weak on work, strong on marriage, and a welfare bill that's good for the taxpayers. And the Senate needs to do the right thing in order to help with these reforms.

And finally, encouraging work and supporting families and effective teen abstinence program is not enough. That's not enough. They're not enough. We need more. An abandoned child needs something larger and more important than welfare reform. She needs a loving mentor. She needs somebody who is willing to put their arm around a child and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" People who struggle with addiction or who are victimized by abuse need more than a check. They need personal support and concern and care and compassion.

This city is known as the Holy City because of your many churches. It's also known as the Holy City because of the many good deeds done by the citizens here, charities and faith-based groups. What we must understand in our society, faith-based programs and charities fill needs that no welfare system can fill, fill the needs that no matter—[*ap- plause*]*—the programs fill the needs that no carefully designed program out of Washington, DC, can meet. Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope into people's hearts. It cannot put faith into people's lives.*

I'm a strong proponent of the faith-based groups in America, because they're reclaiming America one block at a time. They're helping save one life at a time. They understand the power of changing a person's heart is a way to freedom and independence and to better behavior. No, our Government should not fear faith-based programs in America; we ought to welcome them.

Faith-based programs ought to be treated equally with nonfaith-based programs. We ought not to ask the question, "Who?" We

ought to ask the question, "What works?" If your program is a faith-based program and it changes people's lives and they become less addicted, we ought to say thank you, and you can have equal access to money, and you don't even have to change your mission. We understand the power of faith in our society, and we ought to welcome it.

I understand the strength of America. The strength of America is our people. It's not our Government. It's the people. And ours is a compassionate and decent nation. You know, I said earlier, out of the evil done to us will come some good. People in America understand that we're into a different era, we're heading into a different culture. It's one that says, "Serving something greater than yourself is an important part of being an American." It's a lesson that came through on Flight 93. People flew an airplane in the ground to save other's lives.

That example is one that I think is going to stand like a beacon for future generations to understand what it means to be an American. It means that you, of course, make a living for your family. But it also means that when you find a neighbor in need, you love that person. It also means that while one of us can't do everything, each of us can do something to change America, one soul at a time.

Out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because our fellow citizens have taken a step back, taken an assessment of what's important in life, and realized serving our Nation means helping somebody in need. The old culture used to say, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I sense a new change in America, where each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. Each of us are responsible for loving our children, if we're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, loving our children with all our heart and all our soul. And each of us understands that in order to be a patriotic American, we must love our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves, help a fellow American in need.

And that's happening all across our country. I want to thank those of you who are doing just that. I want to thank you for hearing the call. I want to thank you for setting

an example. I want to thank you for being a part of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Patrick J. Patterson, program assistant, Sisters of Charity Foundation. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Sanford in Charleston

July 29, 2002

The President. Well, thank you, Governor. *[Laughter]* I want to thank you all for coming. I'm really glad to be back in South Carolina. I've got a lot of fond memories here, if you know what I mean. *[Laughter]* And we've got a lot of friends here, too. It's a great State. After all, it's the State where my mother went to high school.

But it's an honor to be here to work for the next Governor of the State of South Carolina. I want to thank you all very much for supporting Mark. You know that when you find a good one, you've got to help him, and you've found a good one in Mark Sanford.

I particularly thank those who are going to put up the signs and lick the envelopes and make all the phone calls, those tireless workers at the grassroots level who can decide the fate of an election. You've got a vibrant Republican Party here in South Carolina. You've got a lot of folks who never get thanked enough. And so not only do I want to thank those who have helped Mark financially, I want to thank those of you who are going to put some shoe leather out there to work hard to make sure that you turn out the vote next November. It's important for our country; it's important for this State that this good man become the next Governor of the State of South Carolina.

And I love a family man. They started coming through the photo op line; I never thought the Sanford kids were going to stop.

[*Laughter*] But it was an honor to meet Marshall, Landon, Bolton, and Blake, but more importantly, the mom, Jenny Sanford, the great future first lady of the State of South Carolina.

We both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I'm sorry the First Lady is not here with me. She's hiking. But I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She's doing a fabulous job as the First Lady of the United States. Who would have thought a former public school librarian, who didn't like politics or politicians—[*laughter*—would be where she is? Thank goodness. She's doing great.

A lot of you who I met earlier said they're praying for me and praying for my family. It's the kindest gift you can give a President and his family, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers.

I want to thank members of the fine South Carolina delegation who are here. That would be Congressman Henry Brown, right here from Charleston; Congressman Joe Wilson, I first met him one time when I was marching with him in the Okra Strut in Irmo; Congressman Jim DeMint, from up north—[*laughter*—and the next United States Senator from South Carolina, Lindsey Graham.

I appreciate some of the State folks showing up, too. There will be two former Governors here, Carroll Campbell and Jim Edwards. I want to thank them both for being here. And Mark, when you win, you need to ask their advice. They were great Governors for the great State of South Carolina. I also want to thank Iris for being here as well. Iris, it's great to see you again. And I want to thank Ann Edwards as well.

I also want to thank my friend the Lieutenant Governor, Bob Peeler, for being here as well. Thank you for coming, Bob. And I want to thank you and the attorney general, Charlie Condon, for working hard to unite the Republican Party.

And I know the Speaker is here.

Mr. David H. Wilkins. Yes, sir.

The President. Mr. Speaker—oh, there you are. [*Laughter*] I appreciate you coming. It's great to see you again, friend; great to see your great wife. Tell those boys of yours hello for me.

I also want to thank Gresham Barrett, who's going to become the—who is the Re-

publican candidate for the third congressional district. We're pulling for you, Gresham. We wish you all the best. Thank you for being here.

I think it's fairly important to have somebody who is going to be your Governor who is willing to change the tone if the tone is divisive. See, what we need is more people in public office who understand it's important to unite people to get things done. And there's nothing worse than old-style politics, the politics that wants to pit one group of people against another; the politics that says it's much better to call somebody names than to lead.

And when Mark says he wants to change the tone in the statehouse in South Carolina, I believe him. And I believe it will be important for the people of South Carolina to have a change of tone in the capital, so he can get some things done on behalf of all the people of this State. Not just the Republicans but all the people of South Carolina need a Governor who's willing to set big goals, a strong agenda, willing to bring people together to work toward those goals.

And there's nothing more important than to making sure that every single child in this State gets a good, quality education. We passed some good legislation in Washington. And one of the things that legislation does is passes power out of Washington, so that the local folks can figure out the path to excellence for every child. And I'm confident in saying to the people of South Carolina, flexibility, with Mark as the Governor, will make it more likely that every child in this State will be educated.

It also means you better have somebody as the Governor who believes every child can learn. It means setting the highest of high standards. You see, I found out as the Governor of Texas, and I have learned as the President, if you set the bar low, if you don't believe everybody can learn, you're going to get bad results. If you have low standards for every child, if you believe, "Oh, there are some kids in my State who can't learn," guess what's going to happen. Certain of the children won't learn. And the people will be satisfied with just passing kids through the system, as if they don't matter.

No, I believe it's important to put people in office who set the highest of high standards, who believes every single child can learn, and who's willing to measure to determine they are. I think it's so important to have a Governor who believes in strong accountability, who wants to measure early whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract, and if they can't, do something about it early, before it's too late.

It is so fundamentally important that we view each child as a child of potential, and that we determine whether or not the child is learning. And if they are, praise the teachers. But if we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and in schools that won't change, you better have a Governor who's willing to blow the whistle on failure. Every child matters, and no child in South Carolina or no child in America should be left behind.

I appreciate having a man who understands the money he's spending as your Governor is not the government's money. It's the people's money. And he's a man who set a good example. I was impressed when I read that he held his office expenses down, maybe thought the Government was writing too big a check for the expenses there when he was a Congressman, saved a million and a half dollars of taxpayers' money and gave it back into the till, put it back in.

He understood that when he got a pay raise, that rather than accepting the raise, he'd give it to charity. He's a man who leads by example. And I think the people of South Carolina ought to pay attention to that example, because I know firsthand that there's always a budget crisis if you have a Governor who's saying, "Everything matters. We're not going to set priorities." It's important to have somebody who's fiscally sound with the people's money, who understands whose money it is and is willing to set priorities.

We need a little of that in Washington, DC. It seems like every program that comes along is something that needs a little extra money. In order to make sure that we hold the line in Washington or hold the line in South Carolina, that's why they give the chief executives the veto. And I'm confident this man will use his powers wisely to protect the taxpayers' money, for the good of all people who live in the State of South Carolina.

And so I'm proud to be here to support Mark. And I ask you to work hard. It's a tough run when you're running against somebody who has been there for a while. It's never easy. But I'm convinced he's going to win, and I want to thank you for helping him win.

We've got a big—we've got a lot to do in Washington. Before they run me out of here, I'd like to tell you how I think things are going in the Nation's Capital. First, I know there's a lot of concern about our economy. After all, if somebody wants to work and can't find a job, can't find work, that's a concern. It's a concern of mine to know that there are Americans who are still looking for a job and can't find one. And we need to do something about it. We need to make sure that the foundation that we've put in place for job creation remains strong. And I believe the foundation is strong for economic growth. After all, inflation is down, and interest rates are low. We've got wise monetary policy. I strongly believe the fiscal policy we put in place—which is giving people some of their own money back so they can spend it, as opposed to the Government—made eminent sense for economic vitality and job creation. And the Congress now needs to make those tax cuts permanent so people can plan.

The Senate, when they get moving, is going to get me a trade bill so we can open up markets, which will create jobs for workers all across the country. We need to get a terrorism insurance bill out that doesn't reward the trial lawyers but in fact encourages construction projects to go forward that can't get insurance.

And tomorrow I'm signing a good bill. It's a bill overwhelmingly embraced by Republicans and Democrats that says loud and clear to corporate America, we expect you to be responsible. We expect you to be responsible with the people's money. We expect you to be responsible for the shareholders and your employees. And if you're not, we're going to investigate you, arrest you, and prosecute you, if you don't uphold your responsibilities.

I'm optimistic about our economic future, and I'm optimistic about the security of our homeland as well. You need to know that we face an enemy that are—coldblooded killers,

the best way I can describe them. These are people that hate freedom. They hate what we stand for, and they can't stand the fact that we are tolerant of each other, that we worship freely and speak our minds. They hate that. And therefore, so long as we're willing to defend our freedom, they'll come after us.

But they also didn't understand America. I just can imagine their meetings. They must have sat around saying, "Well, we attack them, they probably won't do anything. It's such a materialistic society. You know, Americans are so self-absorbed, so selfish, so worried about their own bottom line that they'll just—oh, they may file a lawsuit or two"—[laughter]—"but that's all they'll do." They didn't understand the nature of this country. They didn't understand that when somebody attacks our freedoms, when somebody tries to take away the values that we hold dear, we're plenty tough; we're plenty resolute; and we're plenty strong.

At home we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland by chasing down any kind of lead, any kind of hint, any kind of—any bit of evidence that somebody might be trying to do something to the American people. Our most important priority in Washington is to protect the innocent lives of the American people.

As you know, after a lot of thought and study, I decided to form what I call the Department of Homeland Security. And the reason I did is because there's hundreds—over 100 agencies all involved with securing the homeland in Washington. They're scattered all over the place up there. And when you've got so many agencies, it makes it awfully hard to hold people accountable. I believe in aligning authority and responsibility in order to get good results. And so I've asked Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security so we can better coordinate the efforts to secure the homeland.

You see, we need to know who's coming in our country and why they're coming in and what they're bringing in and if they're leaving on time. So we need to reform the border security of the United States of America. We need to have an effective strategy dealing with the heroic first-responders in

South Carolina and all across America—those would be your police officers and your firefighters and your EMS teams—so that if there's an emergency, there's an adequate response. We need to be able to better deal with the potential threat of weapons of mass destruction. And we need—we need to be able to take all the intelligence gathered from different agencies and analyze them and address vulnerabilities to the United States of America. That's what we need.

We need somebody who I can hold accountable. We need to be able to say to the American people, "We understand our most important priority is to protect our country, and therefore we formed a Department of Homeland Security with a variety of agencies underneath the umbrella, all of which have got one responsibility, a primary responsibility. And that's to protect the homeland."

And I want to thank the House for moving, and I hope the Senate gets me a bill soon which will give me the ability to run the Department and give me the ability to be able to say to the American people, "We put politics aside and focused on securing our homeland as the most important priority in Washington, DC."

But the best way to protect our homeland is to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what our country is going to do. And we're making progress. This isn't one of those wars where, you know, you can watch everything on TV or a war where they will eventually study—they've had mass movements of infantry and artillery and squadrons of aircraft flying all over the place from one point to another. This is a war where we're literally chasing them down and treating them like they are, which is international criminals. That's all they are.

And we're making pretty good progress. We've—we, when I say "we," we've got a mighty coalition of freedom-loving countries who've joined us, and others who have heard the message, "Either you're with us, or you're with the other ones." And by the way, that doctrine still holds. Either you're with the United States, or you're not. Over a couple of thousand of them have been captured. And just about that many weren't as lucky. And our friends are still—still understand the stakes.

You know, I was a little worried about, the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more likely it is people would forget the horror. But the coalition is still strong. And the reason it's strong is because the American people are strong. The American people are united; the American people are resolved. The American people understand the stakes, that we're fighting for freedom itself, that we're fighting for civilization.

A good example of that came in the Philippines a while ago. The President of the Philippines asked for some help, would we help her—she asked if we'd help her train some of her troops, and I said, "You bet. Either you're with us, or you're with the other guys, and we're willing to help." And as a result of the bravery of the Philippine troops and the skill of our troops training them, they brought to justice, in the ultimate way, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf* group, which is an Al-Qaida-related organization.

In other words, what I'm telling you is, is that we're denying them sanctuary. We routed them out of—we routed the Taliban. If you harbor a terrorist, you're a terrorist. The Taliban found out what we meant. We got them on the run. Sometimes they light, and we figure out where they are, and the brave United States military will chase them down. Sometimes they're scrambling around. But wherever they try to go, we're going to get them, no matter how long it takes, because you see, history has called us into action. This is a defining moment. The 21st century will be decided as to how the United States responds. And so long as I'm the President, we're going to respond in a determined, focused, effective way—by defending freedom, no matter what the cost.

And that includes understanding we cannot let the world's worst leaders blackmail the United States or our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. And so I want to share with you my thinking. My thinking is, we owe it to our children and our grandchildren to do everything we can to disrupt known terrorist groups, to find folks that think they want to team up with terrorist groups, that we owe it to our future to use our standing and our might and our

wealth to define the 21st century as one which will be peaceful and hopeful and, most importantly, free.

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I truly believe that. I can say that with confidence. I believe that, when we remain strong and forceful and tough and resolved, that we can bring peace not only to the United States but into parts of the world which may never dream they'll have peace. I believe, by the United States taking a leading role and standing on principle and speaking clearly, that we can help achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia. You need to go home and tell your kids or your grandkids that the reason we fight the way we fight is because of peace. And this can happen, and I believe it will happen.

And here at home, you've got to understand—and I know you do—that in spite of our wealth, in spite of our prosperity, there are pockets of despair and pockets of hopelessness, pockets of addiction, pockets where people say, "America's not meant for me." But I believe out of the evil done to America, this good will happen: that our fellow citizens will understand that by loving a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, they can help eradicate that despair; that by unleashing the great faith-based institutions which exist all across America, we can bring hope where there's darkness; by calling upon the best of America, the great character of the American citizens, the understanding that when one of us suffers, all of us suffers, that we can change this country one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

You saw the great spirit of America recently in Pennsylvania. When their miners were trapped, people prayed for their deliverance. Americans spent hours trying to figure out how best to save those miners, came up with a plan, successfully got each and every one of them out. I want to thank God for the prayers of the American people for helping them, and thank God for their savior—their saving. That's the kind of country we live in. It's a country fundamentally strong and great.

I believe out of the evil done to America, the culture of our country is changing from one which has said, "If it feels good, go ahead and do it, to—if you've got a problem blame

* White House correction.

somebody else,” to a culture which says, “Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.”

You see, there’s an understanding after September the 11th, after the evil people hit us, that serving something greater than yourself is a part of being a patriotic American. That came home most clearly to me, most vividly to me, when I heard the story of Flight 93, where average Americans were flying across the land. They found out their plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, “Let’s roll.” They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. That example will shine brightly for a lot of Americans, including me, that in order to be an American, in order to understand and help people realize the full potential of our country, it’s important to serve something greater than yourself. Now, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this is such a good and compassionate and decent country.

Thank you all for coming to help Mark. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. at the North Charleston Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Iris Campbell, wife of former Gov. Carroll Campbell of South Carolina; Ann Edwards, wife of former Gov. Jim Edwards of South Carolina; David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives, and his wife, Margaret Susan Wilkins; Gov. Jim Hodges of South Carolina; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Implement the Clear Skies Initiative

July 29, 2002

Today I am pleased to announce that Environmental Protection Administrator Whitman has submitted legislation to Congress to implement the Clear Skies Initiative I proposed in February. Since February, my administration has been working to develop legislation that meets our common commitment to cleaner air for all Americans. I also

am pleased that Chairman Billy Tauzin and Chairman Joe Barton introduced this legislation in the House on Friday and that Senator Bob Smith will introduce it in the Senate today on behalf of the administration. Clear Skies will cut powerplant emissions by 70 percent—much further, faster, more certainly, and more cost-effectively than current law.

America has made significant progress over the last 30 years in our quest for cleaner air, and we have learned a lot about what approaches work best. Now is the time to put those lessons to use. Building upon the success of our most effective clean air program, we have crafted a new “Clean Air Act” for the 21st century, one that will do more to clean up emissions from powerplants than ever before. In the next decade alone, Clear Skies will eliminate 35 million more tons of pollution than the current Clean Air Act, bringing cleaner air to millions of Americans. Clear Skies will also help save our forests, lakes, streams, and coastal waters from acid rain and nitrogen and mercury deposition. And Clear Skies will do this through the use of a market-based system that guarantees results while keeping electricity prices affordable for the American people. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to deliver the health and environmental benefits promised by passage of Clear Skies legislation.

Proclamation 7581—The Bicentennial of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2002

July 29, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For two centuries, the United States Patent Office has played a vital role in the scientific, technical, and economic development of our Nation by granting inventors patents for their inventions. As Abraham Lincoln once stated, patents “added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius.”

The first Patent Act of the United States was signed into law by President George

Washington on April 10, 1790. Under this legislation, patent applicants petitioned the Secretary of State for the grant of a patent. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of War and the Attorney General, determined whether the invention or discovery was “sufficiently useful and important.” At that time, both the President and the Secretary of State signed patents.

As the number of applications for patents grew, it became necessary to develop an organized review process to handle the increasing volume. In 1793, the law was changed to eliminate examinations, and the job of receiving and granting patents was given to clerks in the Department of State.

On June 1, 1802, the Secretary of State appointed Dr. William Thornton to serve as the first clerk at the Department of State. In that position, Dr. Thornton was solely responsible for receiving and recording patent applications and issuing patents, and his office effectively became the first patent office. From this simple beginning, the Patent Office has grown to become a modern institution of ideas and innovations.

For 200 years, millions of inventors have sought to protect their inventions through the American patent system. These patented inventions include Thomas Edison’s electric lamp, Alexander Graham Bell’s telegraphy, Orville and Wilbur Wright’s flying machine, John Deere’s steel plow, George Washington Carver’s use of legume oils to produce cosmetics and paint, and Edwin Land’s Polaroid camera.

In 1881, the functions of the Patent Office grew to also include the registration of trademarks. Today, the United States Patent and Trademark Office annually receives more than 326,000 patent applications and 232,000 trademark applications. Since the signing of the first Patent Act over two centuries ago, more than 6.3 million United States patents have been issued. The United States Patent and Trademark Office represents one of the largest repositories of scientific and technical knowledge in the world, and much of this information is available on the Internet. Similarly, 2 million current trademark registrations are also available online.

As the Patent Office enters its third century, we commend the important work of the

United States Patent and Trademark Office that supports scientific, technological, and intellectual property developments; promotes growth in our economy; and encourages increased prosperity for our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the Bicentennial of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. I call upon all Americans to recognize this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, thereby honoring the Office’s many scientific, economic, and cultural contributions to our Nation and the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 31.

Remarks on Signing the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 July 30, 2002

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to this historic occasion.

During the past year, the American economy has faced several sudden challenges and proven its great resiliency. Terrorists attacked a center and symbol of our prosperity. A recession cost many American workers their jobs, and now corporate corruption has struck at investor confidence, offending the conscience of our Nation. Yet, in the aftermath of September the 11th, we refuse to allow fear to undermine our economy, and we will not allow fraud to undermine it either.

With well-timed tax cuts, we fought our way out of recession and back to economic growth. And now with a tough new law, we

will act against those who have shaken confidence in our markets, using the full authority of Government to expose corruption, punish wrongdoers, and defend the rights and interests of American workers and investors.

My administration pressed for greater corporate integrity. A united Congress has written it into law. And today I sign the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This new law sends very clear messages that all concerned must heed. This law says to every dishonest corporate leader: "You will be exposed and punished. The era of low standards and false profits is over. No boardroom in America is above or beyond the law."

This law says to honest corporate leaders: "Your integrity will be recognized and rewarded, because the shadow of suspicion will be lifted from good companies that respect the rules."

This law says to corporate accountants: "The high standards of your profession will be enforced without exception. The auditors will be audited. The accountants will be held to account."

This law says to shareholders that "the financial information you receive from a company will be true and reliable, for those who deliberately sign their names to deception will be punished."

This law says to workers: "We will not tolerate reckless practices that artificially drive up stock prices and eventually destroy the companies and the pensions and your jobs."

And this law says to every American: "There will not be a different ethical standard for corporate America than the standard that applies to everyone else. The honesty you expect in your small businesses or in your workplaces, in your community or in your home, will be expected and enforced in every corporate suite in this country."

I commend the Congress for passing a strong set of reforms. I particularly thank Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Mike Oxley. Both are very thoughtful and were persistent voices for reform. They are true advocates of corporate integrity. I appreciate their working together to send a signal to the rest of the country that it's possible in Washington, DC, to set aside partisan dif-

ferences and to do what's right for the American people. I also appreciate the bipartisan leadership in the Congress, and I particularly thank Senator Daschle and Senator Lott who are with us here today.

I want to thank members of my Cabinet who worked on this bill: Secretary of Treasury O'Neill and Attorney General Ashcroft, Secretary Evans, Secretary Chao. I appreciate the FBI Director being here, along with the Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission, Harvey Pitt. I appreciate the Corporate Fraud Task Force members who are here. I want to assure the American people, they're just getting started.

America's system of free enterprise, with all its risk and all its rewards, is a strength of our country and a model for the world. Yet, free markets are not a jungle in which only the unscrupulous survive or a financial free-for-all guided only by greed. The fundamentals of a free market—buying and selling, saving and investing—require clear rules and confidence in basic fairness.

The only risks, the only fair risks are based on honest information. Tricking an investor into taking a risk is theft by another name. Corporate executives must set an ethical tone for their companies. They must understand the skepticism Americans feel and take action to set clear standards of right and wrong. Those who break the rules tarnish a great economic system that provides opportunity for all.

Their actions hurt workers who committed their lives to building the company that hired them. Their actions hurt investors and retirees who placed their faith in the promise of growth and integrity. For the sake of our free economy, those who break the law, break the rules of fairness, those who are dishonest, however wealthy or successful they may be, must pay a price.

Today we are taking practical steps to encourage honest enterprise in our Nation. Under this law, CEOs and chief financial officers must personally vouch for the truth and fairness of their companies' disclosures. Those financial disclosures will be broader and better, for the sake of shareholders and investors.

Corporate officials will play by the same rules as their employees. In the periods when

workers are prevented from buying and selling stock in their pensions or 401(k)s, corporate officials will also be barred from any buying or selling.

Corporate misdeeds will be found and will be punished. This law authorizes new funding for investigators and technology at the Securities and Exchange Commission to uncover wrongdoing. The SEC will now have the administrative authority to bar dishonest directors and officers from ever again serving in positions of corporate responsibility. The penalties for obstructing justice and shredding documents are greatly increased. Corporate crime will no longer pay. CEOs who profit by betraying the public trust will be forced to return those gains to investors. And the maximum prison term for common types of fraud has quadrupled from 5 to 20 years.

For the first time, the accounting profession will be regulated by an independent board. This board will set clear standards to uphold the integrity of public audits and have the authority to investigate abuses and discipline offenders. And auditing firms will no longer be permitted to provide consulting services that create conflicts of interest.

This law gives my administration new tools for enforcement. We will use them to the fullest. We will continue to investigate, arrest, and prosecute corporate officials who break the law. The Corporate Fraud Task Force I established is now hard at work, overseeing investigations of alleged fraud and insider trading. More than 200 Federal prosecutors are at work detecting and punishing corporate crimes. Every corporate official who has chosen to commit a crime can expect to face the consequences. No more easy money for corporate criminals, just hard time.

As the work of enforcement proceeds, I hope Congress will join me in other important efforts to protect the savings and investments of Americans preparing for retirement. We've seen how workers can lose a lifetime of savings overnight, locked into pension plans without adequate choices and information.

Workers should be able to sell company stock and diversify into other investments after 3 years in their own company's plan. They should receive updates on their retire-

ment accounts, not once a year but every 3 months. They should have access to sound investment advice. I have proposed pension protection reforms. The House has passed them. I hope the Senate takes them up soon.

We must also work together to promote more growth in the economy and jobs for the American people. The fundamentals of our economy are sound. After all, sales of automobiles and new houses are on the rise. New unemployment claims have been falling since April. Inflation is low. Productivity is increasing, and growth continues. Those are signs of strength in our economy, and with the right policies, we can build on it.

We must continue to work to control Federal spending and make the tax cuts permanent, so Americans can save and plan for their own future. We must tear down trade barriers, so people everywhere can buy American. We must make terrorism insurance available to spur more construction. And on energy, we must encourage conservation through new technology and produce more energy at home, to give our economy safe and steady sources of power and make our country less reliant upon foreign sources of power.

The attacks against our economy in the last year have caused deep hardship and highlighted the economy's fundamental strength. The American economy is more diverse and more innovative than ever before, and its greatest strength, the people who make it work, are better trained and more productive and more highly skilled than ever before.

Whenever we face challenges, from the fear that threatened our economy after September the 11th to the fraud that threatens investor confidence today, we've tackled them head on. The American economy depends on fairness and honesty. The vast majority of businesses uphold those values. With this law, we have new tools to enforce those values, and we will use those tools aggressively to defend our free enterprise system against corruption and crime.

It is now my honor to sign the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 3763, approved July 30, was assigned Public Law No. 107-204.

Statement on Signing the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

July 30, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3763, “An Act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws, and for other purposes.” The Act adopts tough new provisions to deter and punish corporate and accounting fraud and corruption, ensure justice for wrongdoers, and protect the interests of workers and shareholders.

Several provisions of the Act require careful construction by the executive branch as it faithfully executes the Act.

The legislative purpose of sections 302, 401, and 906 of the Act, relating to certification and accuracy of reports, is to strengthen the existing corporate reporting system under section 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe this Act as not affecting the authority relating to national security set forth in section 13(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

To ensure that no infringement on the constitutional right to petition the Government for redress of grievances occurs in the enforcement of section 1512(c) of title 18 of the U.S. Code, enacted by section 1102 of the Act, which among other things prohibits corruptly influencing any official proceeding, the executive branch shall construe the term “corruptly” in section 1512(c)(2) as requiring proof of a criminal state of mind on the part of the defendant.

Given that the legislative purpose of section 1514A of title 18 of the U.S. Code, enacted by section 806 of the Act, is to protect against company retaliation for lawful cooperation with investigations and not to define the scope of investigative authority or to grant new investigative authority, the executive branch shall construe section 1514A(a)(1)(B) as referring to investigations authorized by the rules of the Senate or the

House of Representatives and conducted for a proper legislative purpose.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 30, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3763, approved July 30, was assigned Public Law No. 107–204.

Remarks on the USA Freedom Corps Public Service Campaign

July 30, 2002

The President. Thanks. Thanks for coming to the White House. Welcome, and thanks so very much for your good works and your commitment to serve others.

The men and women in this room and the members of my administration are working to foster a culture of service, of citizenship, and of responsibility for decades to come. You’re part of a cultural change that will make America a much better place.

I—today I’m going to announce some new steps that the USA Freedom Corps will be taking to make service a more central part of American life. I want to thank Gale Norton, a member of my Cabinet, the Secretary of the Department of Interior, for being here. I appreciate one of the newest television stars, Bob Dole—[laughter]—being here. Thank you, Senator. And it’s good to see my friend Steve Goldsmith, who’s the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation of National and Community Service; and its CEO, Les Lenkowsky. Thank you all for being here as well.

I appreciate the many foundations and organizations who are represented here today that have supported the Corporation for National Community Service. The Network for Good, which is a nonprofit organization—it has been a strong supporter of our call to service from the very start. I want to thank the Walt Disney Company. I appreciate so very much the U.S. Department of Justice for sending representatives here. I want to thank the UPS Foundation. I want to thank Peggy Conlon, who is the president and the

CEO of the Ad Council. I want to thank the members of the Ad Council who have done some pretty good work, as you'll see here in a minute.

I appreciate very much the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network members who are here. I want to thank the representatives of television, print, and radio as well.

You know, none of us would ever wish the evil that was done on September the 11th; yet out of the tragedy can come great good. I believe that from the bottom of my heart. Out of the evil done to America will come some good. Challenging times test the character of individuals and test the character of our Nation. In the aftermath of September the 11th, Americans have responded with courage and compassion, with great resolve and determination.

The last 10 months have offered us a glimpse of what a new culture of service can be. And we're not going to let this moment pass. We'll sustain and extend the best that has emerged in our country. And there are good reasons for every American to serve our Nation. We serve because it's important to our neighbors. We understand that serving others meets needs that a Government can never fulfill. You see, Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. The need for kindness and for understanding and for love is not a Government function. It's a human function. And that's why we serve our neighbor.

We serve because it's important to our own character. Acts of compassion add direction and purpose to our lives. Serving something greater than yourself in life is part of a fulfilling life. And finally, we serve because it's important to our country. Our Nation is the greatest force for good in history, and we show our gratitude by doing our duty. We express our love for America by loving Americans.

Six months ago in my State of the Union Address, I issued a call to service. I asked every American to commit at least 2 years, 4,000 hours over the rest of your life, to service for neighbors and our Nation. To encourage service, we established what we call the USA Freedom Corps, ably headed by John Bridgeland.

The USA Freedom Corps is matching potential volunteers with local charities. It is encouraging participation in the new Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps. We're promoting service to prepare for crises at home, to strengthen our communities, to help people in need, and to extend American compassion throughout the world.

The response to the call to service has been strong, and it can get stronger. VolunteerMatch, a group that matches volunteers to charities on the USA Freedom Corps Web page, reports that referrals have increased by more than 70 percent over last year.

I want to thank my fellow Americans for answering the call to service, because Americans in record numbers are now being directed to local service opportunities. Since the State of the Union Address, more than 66,000 people have requested applications for the Peace Corps—66,000. Applications to join AmeriCorps are up by nearly 90 percent. More than 45,000 Americans have signed up to participate in the new Citizen Corps. And visits to the Senior Corps Web site have increased by almost 60 percent.

Individuals and nonprofit organizations and businesses have stepped forward to offer pledges and new commitments and ways in which citizens can meet the 2-year call. Businesses are offering employees annual paid leave to perform community service. I think it's a movement that's just beginning here in the country, and I want to thank those corporate leaders who understand that responsibility not only to shareholders is important, but responsibility to communities in which they exist is equally as important.

We're looking for ways to make service count positively in getting a job. In other words, corporate America views that as an important part of a complete employee. Promoting service is really what corporate responsibility means.

The United States Congress is also meeting its responsibilities. Congress is providing \$25 million this year to support Citizen Corps so that Americans can be trained in emergency response and can support first-responders. Good progress is being made to renew the promise of the Peace Corps and

double the number of volunteers over the next 5 years.

I hope Congress will soon pass, so I can sign into law, the bipartisan “Citizen Service Act,” which incorporates many of the principles to strengthen and reform national service programs. It should be an interest to Members of Congress that all 50 Governors also have urged Congress to strengthen these important programs. Congress needs to act for the good of service for the United States.

Since January, this Nation has made tremendous progress in serving others, yet I fully recognize more needs to be done. Today I’m pleased to announce a public service advertising campaign, developed with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Ad Council. This campaign rests on a single, simple principle: Everyone can do something.

And today I’m pleased to unleash the TV ads. It’s a private showing, first of its kind. *[Laughter]* This is one part of an effort that includes radio and print and the Internet. To support Americans who will respond to the call to service, we are launching the new USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network, which is the most comprehensive volunteer clearinghouse ever. The network connects Americans to service opportunities throughout more than 50,000 organizations, including America’s Promise and the National Mentoring Partnership, the Points of Light Foundation, SERVENet, and the United Way and VolunteerMatch.

This network is now accessible through the newly redesigned USA Freedom Corps Web site, usafreedomcorps.gov. If you want to serve in a soup kitchen or mentor a child in your local community, call up the Web page, and you can find out where to go. If you want to take a full year and serve in the Senior Corps, America Corps, this is where you can find opportunity to do so. If you want to help people overseas through the Peace Corps or other organizations, usafreedomcorps.gov will tell you what’s available.

You know, one of the main reasons people give for not volunteering is that no one has asked them to do so. I’m asking. Another reason is that they don’t know where to start. This public service advertising campaign will

ask Americans to serve, and through the USA Freedom Corps Web site, they have a place to start.

These ads are important to America. And I urge television networks and major affiliates and radio stations and newspapers to run them. By broadcasting these PSAs, they promote the common good for our Nation. By broadcasting these PSAs, they will help show the world and our fellow Americans that out of the evil done to our country can come some incredible good.

It’s now my pleasure to play four new public service announcements featuring some fine Americans. I’m not sure Mariano Rivera is an American citizen, but he’s a fine New York Yankee—*[laughter]*—Angie Harmon, John Glenn, and Bob Dole. So now we’ll watch the PSAs.

[At this point, the public service announcements were shown.]

The President. I want to thank you all for coming. I hope you enjoy a little reception we’re throwing for you at the State Dining Room. But in the meantime, thank you for your love for the country. Thank you for helping people in need. May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actress Angie Harmon; and former Senators John Glenn and Bob Dole. He also referred to H.R. 4854, the proposed “Citizen Service Act of 2002.”

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

July 31, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. First, I want to condemn in the strongest possible terms the attack that took place in Israel. There are clearly killers who hate the thought of peace and, therefore, are willing to take their hatred to all kinds of places, including a university. And this country condemns that kind of killing, and we send our

deepest sympathy to the students and their families.

I also want to make it clear to the killers, they won't stop us from rallying the world to fight their kind of terror, nor will they stop us from having a vision of peace.

I look forward to continuing to work with all responsibility parties in the region, starting to insist that they work with us to stop this terror—use all their power to stop organizations such as Hamas from taking innocent life. And at the same time that we do so, we must continue to work to put the institutions in place necessary for the evolution of a state which can live at peace with Israel.

Secondly, we met today and talked about our economy. There is some statistics out today that showed our economy continues to grow. Second quarter growth was 1.1 percent. When you combine that with the first quarter growth, it's a 3-percent growth. This is a positive trend. We're heading in the right direction. But the growth isn't strong enough, as far as I'm concerned.

And so I look forward to working with Congress to pass a trade bill, a bill which will be good for American workers, American farmers, American ranchers. I look forward to working with Congress to pass a terrorism insurance bill, a bill which will help stimulate construction work, which will help our workers—those who build buildings, and construction people who work on projects. I look forward to working with Congress to show fiscal restraint when it comes to budgeting and spending the taxpayers' money. I believe Congress ought to make the tax cuts permanent, so our small businesses and taxpayers can plan with certainty.

As well, we discussed this Corporate Fraud Task Force with the Attorney General, and he and I share the same strong commitment to ferret out those who have cheated employees and workers and bring them to justice, which we will continue to do.

So I appreciate my Cabinet coming and sharing ideas about how we can continue the positive trends, so that the people who want to find a job can find one here in America.

I'll answer some questions. Lindlaw [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Foreign Tax Havens

Q. Mr. President, what's your position on American companies moving their headquarters to foreign tax havens? Should it be outlawed? Did Harken do this while you were a director?

The President. Moving their headquarters?

Q. Yes, to foreign tax—

The President. I don't recall Harken moving their headquarters. I think there was an issue over an arrangement with Bahrain, a drilling venture there, which I opposed, as you may recall, when I was a director of the company.

Q. Should the practice be outlawed now?

The President. I think we ought to look at people who are trying to avoid U.S. taxes as a problem. I think American companies ought to pay taxes here, and be a part—good citizens. But as far as the Harken issue, we'll try to answer all your questions on that.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Excuse me for a second.

Q. I'm sorry, sir.

The President. Yes.

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. The Jordanian Foreign Minister is pressing for a detailed work plan for a Middle East peace accord. Is this something that's worth pursuing?

The President. Well, I think it's interesting. What's worth pursuing is a detailed plan toward achieving these objectives: a security force that exists to fight terror, not keep certain officials who haven't been able to deliver on the war against terror in office, a security force that will cooperate with people who care about achieving peace and will provide security, not only for the Palestinians but for the neighborhood; secondly, progress toward the writing of a constitution, which will enable a state to evolve that is—that will be at peace with its neighbor. These institutions, by the way, are incredibly important to—because it's—peace is bigger than an individual. There needs to be institutions in place that last longer than a particular individual.

And the Palestinians—the voice of the Palestinians, those who desire peace, needs to be heard. And so reform of these institutions

are an incredible part of achieving what I believe His Majesty wants, which is two states living side by side in peace. Eventually there will be a peace conference, but there needs to be steps leading up to the peace conference, where all of us do our jobs about putting those institutions in place that will lead to peace, so that we all have confidence.

Listen, one of the things that we care deeply about is the plight of the Palestinian family and Palestinian people. These people live in squalor, and they're poor, and they're downtrodden. And there's nothing more that we'd like to do is to work with our friends to provide humanitarian assistance, a strong package of aid to help these poor people that have, frankly, been used as pawns in the peace process over the decades.

However, it's so important before we spend money that we're confident the money is not going to be stolen, that it be—that the anti-corruption reforms be in place. So these are all steps necessary, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], to get to where we want to get.

Yes, Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Consumer Confidence/National Economy

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned at all that consumer confidence, which came in at kind of a low number yesterday, is a harbinger of things to come, particularly as people watch their stock portfolios erode and vanish? Will this make them less likely to spend and put more pressure on the recovery?

The President. I think—look, let me just give you my own consumer confidence index. I am positive about the—our economy. I feel very optimistic about it, because I look at the facts. And the facts are that inflation is low; interest rates low; productivity is high. We're going to get a trade bill which will help, presuming the Senate acts this week. I feel strongly that they're—that having—now it turns out, having been through three quarters of negative growth, when I first came into office, we've had three quarters of positive growth. I think that's the right trend, Dick.

So I'm optimistic about this, and I think when the American people take a look at the facts and are confident about those facts, like

I am, they will—they're going to realize we've got a bright future ahead of us. And I am upbeat. And I think most of the people around this table are upbeat about the prospects for people being able to find work.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. During the exchange, a reporter referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Muasher of Jordan.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol To Amend the International Air Carriage Rules Convention

July 31, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol to Amend the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air Signed at Warsaw on October 12, 1929, done at The Hague September 28, 1955 (The Hague Protocol). The report of the Department of State, including an article-by-article analysis, is enclosed for the information of the Senate in connection with its consideration of The Hague Protocol.

The Warsaw Convention is the first in a series of treaties relating to international carriage by air. The Hague Protocol amended certain of the Warsaw Convention articles, including several affecting the rights of carriers of international air cargo. A recent court decision held that since the United States had ratified the Warsaw Convention but had not ratified The Hague Protocol, and the Republic of Korea had ratified The Hague Protocol but had not ratified the Warsaw Convention, there were no relevant treaty relations between the United States and Korea. This decision has created uncertainty within the air transportation industry regarding the scope of treaty relations between the United States and the 78 countries that are parties only to the Warsaw Convention and The Hague Protocol. Thus, U.S. carriers may not be able to rely on the provisions in the Protocol with respect to claims arising from the transportation of air cargo between the

United States and those 78 countries. In addition to quickly affording U.S. carriers the protections of those provisions, ratification of the Protocol would establish relations with Korea and the five additional countries (El Salvador, Grenada, Lithuania, Monaco, and Swaziland) that are parties only to The Hague Protocol and to no other treaty on the subject.

A new Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal May 28, 1999 (the "Montreal Convention") is pending on the Senate's Executive calendar (Treaty Doc. 106-45). I urge the Senate to give its advice and consent to that Convention, which will ultimately establish modern, uniform liability rules applicable to international air transport of passengers, cargo, and mail among its parties. But the incremental pace of achieving widespread adoption of the Montreal Convention should not be allowed to delay the benefits that ratification of The Hague Protocol would afford U.S. carriers of cargo to and from the 84 countries with which it would promptly enter into force.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to The Hague Protocol and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 31, 2002.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iraq**

July 30, 2002

On August 2, 1990, by Executive Order 12722, President Bush declared a national emergency with respect to Iraq pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iraq. By Executive Orders 12722 of August 2, 1990, and 12724 of August 9, 1990, the President imposed trade sanctions on Iraq and blocked

Iraqi government assets. Because the Government of Iraq has continued to engage in activities hostile to U.S. interests, the national emergency declared on August 2, 1990, and the measures adopted on August 2 and August 9, 1990, to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond August 2, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Iraq.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 30, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:51 a.m., July 31, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 1.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
the Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Iraq**

July 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iraq emergency is to continue in effect beyond August 2, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on August 1, 2001, (66 *Fed Reg.* 40105).

The crisis between the United States and Iraq that led to the declaration of a national emergency on August 2, 1990, has not been resolved. The Government of Iraq continues

to engage in activities inimical to stability in the Middle East and hostile to U.S. interests. Such Iraqi actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iraq and to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on the Government of Iraq.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 1.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iraq**

July 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 1.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Libya**

July 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 1986.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 1.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt
the Middle East Peace Process**

July 31, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 1.

**Remarks Prior to a Meeting With
King Abdullah II of Jordan and an
Exchange With Reporters**

August 1, 2002

President Bush. Before I welcome His Majesty back to the Oval Office, we will take two questions apiece after our opening statements.

First, Your Majesty, welcome back. I look forward to a good and fruitful discussion about our common interests. Obviously, your neighborhood is still a dangerous place. Today in America we mourn the loss of American lives. My prayers and sympathies go to the loved ones of those who were killed by terrorists—who must hate the thought of peace, who must firmly believe that violence is the best hope for mankind in that part of the world—a concept I strongly reject. It's a concept that is just foreign to peace. And therefore, the first thing we must do is to work hard as a team to uphold our responsibilities and fight off terrorist activities that kill innocent life.

I look forward to talking to His Majesty about how to move the foundations of peace, the prospects of peace forward in the Middle East. That's going to, of course, be discussions about a security force in the Palestinian territory that will be able to help deal with those who want to destroy the prospects for peace. I want to thank His Majesty for working with CIA Director Tenet to strategize about how to best help the Palestinians have a more secure future.

We'll also be talking about the plight of the Palestinian people, how sad it is that for too long the Palestinians have suffered. They've been pawns in the game of foreign policy, and we want to help them.

It's going to be very important for us as we go forward to have confidence, however, in the Palestinian government that emerges. We want to have confidence that the money that we eventually will spend to help the Palestinian people is spent on the people. We

want to have confidence that those who emerge to lead the Palestinian people are—long for peace and want to coexist side by side in peace with Israel.

And so, Your Majesty, welcome back. I look forward to a good and fruitful discussion.

King Abdullah. Thank you, Mr. President. Again, it's a delight to be back with you here, especially to discuss your tremendous commitment to bring peace and stability to our region. You have really given us hope that once and for all we will be able to move forward as Arabs and Israelis, to be able to live in harmony and have a tremendous future.

We're here, obviously, to discuss how we can best move the process forward, but again, the President's very strong commitment to assist alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people, which is of tremendous importance, and we're very grateful for that. So I'm looking forward to——

President Bush. Thanks.

King Abdullah. ——fruitful discussions.

President Bush. Barry [Barry Schweid, Associated Press].

**American Victims of Hebrew University
Bombing**

Q. Mr. President, with American victims now—and of course, you've touched on this, and I'm sure I know how you feel about it—but does this raise the war on terrorism to a new level? Is there something the U.S. must do to respond to the murder of Americans now?

President Bush. Well, Barry, we are responding to the murder of Americans. We're responding all across the globe to murders of Americans. We responded in Afghanistan to murders; we responded in the Philippines; we will—we're responding by working with our Arab friends and Israel, of course, to track these people down. The war on terror is fought on many fronts. And I just—I cannot speak strongly enough about how we must collectively get after those who kill in the name of—in the name of some kind of false religion.

I just—I grieve for all people whose lives are taken by terrorist activities. I'm particularly sad today because of the American families who cry today, weep at the loss of a loved one, because there's some fanatic who believes that killing innocent life is positive. It's incredibly negative.

And so, yes, Barry, we're committed to the war on terror and to fighting the war on terror and to winning the war on terror. And this bombing in Israel showed how tough it's going to be, but this country is tough and united and strong, Your Majesty.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, you've recently articulated your vision for peace in the Middle East. However, an action plan is still needed to be crystallized.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. So, you know, is there any framework for such a plan? And what are the guarantees that both sides would be committed to that plan?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I'm committed to peace; that's—I can speak for myself. And I'm committed to a vision of two states respecting each other, two states living side by side in peace. Secondly, there is an action plan going forward, and that's what I'm going to review with His Majesty.

Step one is to develop a security force that actually serves the people, not a particular leader. The security force must be designed to fight off terror, not designed to serve the whims and interests of a—of one person.

Secondly, we've got to work together to develop a constitution, so that the institutions of a new state are bigger than any one person. And that's very important.

Thirdly, that we've got to make sure that there is the capacity for the Palestinian Authority to spend money in a way that—and account for money in a transparent way that will give us all confidence that when we try to help the Palestinian people, the money goes to the people.

At the same time, as I mentioned in my talks, I do believe that we can get to a so-called conference within the 3-year period of time. But before—what has to happen is, we must have confidence in a state.

Now, there are some who will say, "Well, you know, there's only one person that could conceivably make this happen from the Palestinian side." I just simply don't believe that. I believe there's all kinds of brilliant and smart and capable Palestinians that, given the chance, given a chance to emerge—and by the way, people committed to peace—and given the chance to articulate that vision of peace, will do so.

And I look forward to working on this—on the vision. It's the right vision. It will lead to peace.

All parties have responsibilities, by the way, and we will continue to insist that people uphold their responsibilities.

Yes, Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Hebrew University Bombing

Q Mr. President, thank you. I can't see you there. Israel has said it will respond militarily to yesterday's attacks. Do you support this, and is it the right thing to do at this time?

President Bush. Israel must defend herself, but as I say to all parties involved, we must keep the vision of peace in mind. We must be committed to peace. We must understand that the consequences we take to make the area more secure also must be—these decisions to make the area more secure must be made in the context of peace for the long run.

And I'm just as angry as Israel is right now. I'm furious that innocent life is lost. However, through my fury, even though I am mad, I still believe peace is possible. And I will—and I know that we can improve the conditions of everybody in the region by working toward a vision that is hopeful and optimistic and not letting the terrorists destroy the possibility for peace.

King Abdullah. Mr. President. I have to support the President's vision that he does understand that, the suffering that Israelis and Palestinians and Arabs are going through in the Middle East. And what has been so reassuring to me is that the President has the commitment to work very hard with his Government to give the hope for Arabs and Israelis to be able to move to the future.

And we have always been working very closely with the President, and he does have

the courage and conviction to stand up for the hope that we've all had in him and his Government to bring peace and prosperity to the Middle East. And we're very grateful for your position on that.

President Bush. Have you got a final question?

Iraq

Q Mr. President, you seem to—the two of you seem to disagree on Iraq. Are you going to discuss those disagreements? And could you maybe elucidate on those disagreements?

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that, John [John Cochran, ABC News]. The policy of my Government, our Government, of this administration, is regime change—for a reason. Saddam Hussein is a man who poisons his own people, who threatens his neighbors, who develops weapons of mass destruction. And I will assure His Majesty, like I have in the past, we're looking at all options, the use of all tools. I'm a patient man, but I haven't changed my opinion since the last time he was in the Oval Office. And one of the things we will do is consult with our friends, but he just needs to know how I feel. He knows how I feel, I have had the opportunity and the honor of explaining that to him before. And he'll find out I haven't changed my mind.

King Abdullah. All I'd like to say is that, again, what I've found from day one with the President is, he understands the bigger picture and that at the end of the day, peace and stability for the Middle East has been at the forefront of his mind. And so we have many areas where we find common base to be able to move the region forward.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Senate Leaders

August 1, 2002

[The conversation is joined in progress.]

Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

The President. Chairman Baucus, and Grassley—

Senator Charles E. Grassley. We're here.

The President. And I understand Trent Lott is there as well.

Senator Trent Lott. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Well, thank you three very much for your leadership. I want to congratulate you all for achieving an historic—historic moment in our Nation, because what you all have done is, you've made it much more likely somebody is going to be able to find work, and some farmer is going to be able to sell his product, and some nation is going to be able to trade with us, which will help lift them out of poverty.

I want to congratulate you very much for your fine work, on your bipartisan effort. Max and Chuck worked well together, and I'm just calling to congratulate you and thank you, for a grateful nation.

Senator Lott. Mr. President, this is Trent. I want to thank you for your leadership. You came to town saying this is something we needed to do; we needed to give this authority back to our President. And because you continued to push for it and emphasize what it will mean to American families and workers and farmers and ranchers and business men and women, we got it done.

And I want to say that I certainly agree when you give credit to Chairman Baucus and to Senator Grassley. They were very persistent. They worked with our House colleagues—Bill Thomas obviously did a great job. And your representatives here, Secretary Evans and Ambassador Zoellick, they were there, many times at all hours. Sometimes we were trying to bait them, but they did a great job. [Laughter] And I think this is a great moment for our country. And we can get back into promoting trade worldwide.

The President. Well, we really can. Thanks for saying that, Trent. I appreciate—it's a team effort, and the House gets a lot of credit, and Max and Bill Thomas stayed up late one night and got it done.

Senator Max Baucus. That's right, Mr. President, though I must say it was more than one night, regrettably. [Laughter]

The President. Well, that's why they've got August breaks.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, you're our leader here. You got us going, and we all deeply appreciate that. I think this legislation is going to help restore American trade prestige worldwide, something we desperately needed. It also will help give the economy a boost. And third, it will help protect American workers displaced by trade and help build that consensus, for that is so needed for strong, aggressive trade legislation to open markets overseas for America.

I want to thank you so much for your strong, bipartisan approach to this. And I might say, Mr. President, we've now given you the authority, so we're kind of expecting you to kind of help negotiate these really good, strong trade agreements.

The President. Well, I—

Senator Baucus. And when you do, we're going to be there backing you up to help to make them as strong as they can be.

The President. Thanks, Max. I accept it. You've got Zoellick sitting right there—of course, he's going to be our point man on trade. And he now—he's got his running shoes on. He's going to hit the ground running to bring us some good trade agreements. And I appreciate that very much.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, I'll give you time to think about this, but do you have a nickname for this trade bill?

The President. Not yet. *[Laughter]*

Senator Baucus. I'm sure you will a little later on.

The President. Not yet, Maxie.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

Senator Lott. This is a jobs bill, isn't it?

The President. It's a jobs bill.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

The President. It sure is. How's Senator Grassley doing? Are you there, Senator?

Senator Grassley. Yes. Well, for sure, this is going to put America in the middle of all of the free trade agreements now that are being negotiated. And the United States won't be left out, as we have been so much of the 190 that have been approved. But most importantly, I appreciate your recognition—and I know you know it, but I'm glad you said it, as well—the bipartisanship that you have to have to get anything done in the

United States Senate. And that tradition is no stronger on any issue than on trade.

And working with Senator Baucus to make this happen has been a real privilege, and working with you as well. So thanks to both of you for your leadership.

The President. Well, thank you all very much. I'm proud of you. I look forward to signing the bill soon. And I look forward to bringing some trade agreements back to the Congress that will help workers and farmers and ranchers.

So, good work. You did your jobs. Go on home and take a break now.

Senator Grassley. You bet.

Senator Baucus. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you all. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on Senate Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

August 1, 2002

The Senate's bipartisan passage of trade promotion authority completes an accomplishment that has eluded Congress since 1994 and is a major victory on behalf of working Americans. With TPA, we will open markets to create high-paying jobs and provide new opportunities for America's farmers and workers. I thank the House and Senate for passing TPA so that we can work together to advance America's free trade agenda. With this important tool, we will promote prosperity in the United States, progress in our hemisphere, and freedom throughout the world.

Statement on Senate Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

August 1, 2002

I applaud the Senate for answering my call to quickly pass the Defense appropriations bill. With our Nation at war, it is imperative that we address the important priority of ensuring that our troops have the resources they need. I urge the House and Senate to resolve their differences promptly and send a bill to my desk in early September.

Remarks on Departure for Kennebunkport, Maine

August 2, 2002

Legislative Agenda

The President. August was a month of accomplishment here in Washington. Today I signed a supplemental which provided needed money for our military, money for the ongoing war on terror, and money for homeland security. Next week I'm going to sign a trade promotion authority bill, which is very important for American workers.

Today the statistics are out that show that the unemployment rate is holding steady. We've got a lot of work to do to make sure people can find work, and this trade bill is going to help a lot. It's going to help our ranchers. It's going to help our farmers. It's going to help people find jobs.

I signed a bill that says loud and clear that if you try to fudge the numbers, if you're a CEO of an American corporation and you don't tell the truth, you'll be held to account.

And when you look at these accomplishments, and you couple them with the tax cuts, the education bill, the brownfields legislation, it goes to show what is possible when people in this town set aside politics and focus on doing what's right for the American people. It goes to show that when we put our partisanship aside, when people stop all the yelling and hollering and finger-pointing and say, how can we help the American people, we can get a lot done in this town.

I pledge to the American people, I'll continue leading Washington by defusing all the ugly talk, by keeping big goals in mind, by always remembering we're here to represent the American people.

I hope you all have a fine weekend. I look forward to seeing you on Monday, and then I'll be signing that trade bill on Tuesday.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 27

In the very early morning, the President had telephone conversations with Members of Congress concerning trade promotion authority legislation.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Andrews Air Force Base, MD, where he played a round of golf with Republican House Members Michael G. Oxley, Dan Burton, and Tom DeLay.

July 28

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with American cyclist Lance Armstrong to congratulate him on winning his fourth Tour de France earlier in the day.

July 29

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Charleston, SC, where he participated in a round-table discussion on welfare reform. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 30

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In an afternoon ceremony at the White House, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Levan Mikeladze of the Republic of Georgia; George Savvaides of Greece; Andrew Mhando Daraja of Tanzania; and Daniel Ayalon of Israel.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic at the White House on September 23.

The President announced his intention to nominate D. Jeffrey Hirschberg to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his designation of Donna M. Erwin as Acting Special Trustee of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior.

July 31

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City. Also in the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, he met with a group of Republican Senators to discuss trade promotion authority legislation. Later, he met with another group of Republican Senators to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy P. Jacklin to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.

August 1

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the Homeland Security Council. Later, he dropped by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President had a lunch meeting with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill to discuss the national economy. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President signed H.R. 3487, the Nurse Reinvestment Act.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gordon Wadsworth Fassett as a Federal Commissioner and Chairman of the Red River Compact Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles W. Grim as Interim Director of the Indian Health Service at the Public Health Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint Erneido Andres Oliva and John Philip Reberger as members of the Board of Governors of the United Service Organizations, Inc.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia on August 6: John P. Walters (delegation leader), V. Manuel Rocha, Mark E. Souder, and Adolfo A. Franco.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia on August 7: Robert B. Zoellick (delegation leader), Anne Patterson, Mark E. Souder, John P. Walters, Paula Dobriansky, Otto J. Reich, Adolfo A. Franco, and John F. Maisto.

August 2

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with the U.S. men's World Cup soccer team.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Kennebunkport, ME.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome President Jiang Zemin of China and his wife, Wang Yeping, to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on October 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wayne Abernathy to be Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph Huggins to be U.S. Ambassador to Botswana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ruth Y. Goldway to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Postal Rate Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 31

D. Jeffrey Hirschberg,
of Wisconsin, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2004, vice Marc B. Nathanson, term expired.

Nancy P. Jacklin,
of New York, to be U.S. Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a

term of 2 years, vice Randal Quarles, resigned.

Submitted August 1

Wayne Abernathy,
of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Sheila C. Bair.

Antonio Candia Amador,
of California, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Jerry J. Enomoto, term expired.

Wendy Jean Chamberlin,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Lori A. Forman.

Rosemary M. Collyer,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Thomas Penfield Jackson, retired.

Seth Cropsey,
of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau, Broadcasting Board of Governors (new position).

Charles E. Erdmann,
of Colorado, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of 15 years to expire on the date prescribed by law, vice Eugene R. Sullivan, term expired.

Gregory L. Frost,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, vice George C. Smith, retired.

Mark E. Fuller,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, vice Ira DeMent, retired.

Ruth Y. Goldway,
of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for the term expiring November 22, 2008 (reappointment).

Joseph R. Guccione,
of New York, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Russell John Qualliotine.

Richard J. Holwell,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, vice Barrington D. Parker, Jr., elevated.

Joseph Huggins,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana.

Thomas Dyson Hurlburt, Jr.,
of Florida, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Don R. Moreland, term expired.

Bruce R. James,
of Nevada, to be Public Printer, vice Michael F. DiMario, resigned.

Robert B. Kugler,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Joseph E. Irenas, retired.

Carol Chien-Hua Lam,
of California, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Alan D. Bersin, term expired.

Jose L. Linares,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Alfred J. Lechner, Jr., resigned.

Christina Pharo,
of Florida, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice James A. Tassone.

Dennis Arthur Williamson,
of Florida, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice James W. Lockley, term expired.

Freda L. Wolfson,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Nicholas H. Politan, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic to Washington

Announcement of nominations of U.S. District Judges for the District of Delaware, the Northern District of California, and the Eastern District of New York

Fact sheet: President Celebrates USA Freedom Corps Six-Month Anniversary with New Public Service Ads and Breakthrough Web Site

Released July 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Eastern District of California, the Southern District of New York, the Middle District of Florida, the Southern District of Florida, and the Northern District of Florida, and of U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California

Announcement of nominations of U.S. District Judges for the Southern District of Ohio, the Middle District of Alabama, the District of New Jersey, the Southern District of New York, and the District of Columbia

Released August 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's signing of H.R. 4775, the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Jiang Zemin of China to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX

Statement by the Press Secretary: Democratic Republic of the Congo Peace Agreement

Fact sheet: A Record of Accomplishment for the American People

Announcement of nomination of Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 30

H.R. 3763 / Public Law 107-204
Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Approved August 1

H.R. 3487 / Public Law 107-205
Nurse Reinvestment Act

Approved August 2

H.R. 4775 / Public Law 107-206
2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States

Week Ending Friday, August 9, 2002

The President's Radio Address

August 3, 2002

Good morning. We've had a month of accomplishment in Washington. Congress acted on several important proposals to strengthen our national security and our homeland security and our economic security. Republicans and Democrats worked in a spirit of unity and purpose that I hope to see more of in the fall.

I requested more money for our military and for our homeland security, and Congress provided crucial funding to continue military operations, to train and equip medics, police officers, and firefighters around America, and to support the Coast Guard operations that protect our ports and coasts.

I proposed tough new standards for corporate executives and accountants and increased penalties for fraud and abuse. Congress responded with strong corporate accountability reforms, which I signed into law on Tuesday. And we are rigorously enforcing the laws against corporate crimes with new arrests just this week.

For nearly a year and a half, I've been pressing Congress for trade promotion authority so I can aggressively push for open trade with other nations. This week, the Senate followed the lead of the House by giving me that authority, which I will sign into law next week. Expanded trade will mean more business for America's farmers and ranchers and manufacturers, better buys for American consumers, and good jobs for America's workers.

Together, we made significant progress on national priorities. Yet, when Congress returns from its summer recess, important work remains. In March, I urged Congress in a time of war to pass the defense budget first. After 4 months, the House and the Senate have acted on their own bills—but they have not sent me a final bill that works out their differences. When the Congress returns

in September, its first priority should be to complete the defense budget so our military can plan for and pay for the war on terror and all the missions that lie ahead.

The Senate should also act quickly to pass a bill authorizing the new Department of Homeland Security, which it failed to do before the recess. This Department will consolidate dozens of Federal agencies charged with protecting our homeland, giving them one main focus: protecting the American people. And when we create this Department, the new Secretary of Homeland Security will need the freedom and flexibility to respond to threats by getting the right people into the right jobs at the right time, without a lot of bureaucratic hurdles. The Senate must understand that the protection of our homeland is much more important than the narrow politics of special interests.

Congress should also act to strengthen the economic security of all Americans. The Senate must pass reforms to protect workers' savings and investments and reform Medicare to include prescription drug benefits. Both Houses must reach a consensus on final terrorism insurance legislation to spur building projects and create construction jobs. And they must agree on a comprehensive energy bill that will increase production and promote conservation and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources.

And as we work to strengthen America's economy, we must remember Americans who are struggling. The Senate should follow the House's lead and pass welfare reform that encourages work and promotes strong families. And they should pass legislation to promote the vital work of private and religious charities and helping disadvantaged children and people struggling with addiction, the homeless and many others.

I know, in the fall of an election year, the tendency is to focus more on scoring political points than on making progress. I hope the Congress will reject this approach. In the last

month we've proven how much we can get done when everyone in Washington works together on behalf of the American people. Come September, I look forward to working with the Republicans and Democrats to build on that progress.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:04 a.m. on August 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Susan Collins in Prout's Neck, Maine *August 3, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Well, thank you all very much for that wonderful welcome. This probably is the first political event I've ever traveled to by boat. [Laughter] And I want to thank the boat's captain, "Number 41." You're never supposed to drive a boat wearing a tie. [Laughter] That's why he doesn't have one on. [Laughter]

But as you can see, we—the best of our family isn't with us. My mother is back there in Kennebunkport, and the great First Lady of the United States is in Texas. But if they were here, I can assure you, they would say what I'm about to say—that Susan Collins is a great United States Senator, and Maine needs to send her back to the Senate.

Both of us are really proud to be here to campaign on her behalf. We want to thank you all very much for helping her. We—I urge you to make sure that you continue working for her. For those of you who lick the envelopes and make the phone calls and put out the signs and turn out the vote, get your uniforms on, because you win in all States, but particularly in Maine, through grassroots politics. You win because you energize the voters. You win because you remind the people of what a fine person you have as a United States Senator. So thank you for what you have done on behalf of Susan Collins, and as importantly, thank you

for what you're going to do to make sure this fine lady returns back to the United States Senate.

And I appreciate her mother and dad driving all this way. It is a long way. [Laughter] That's a 5½ hour drive. But it's wonderful to meet the Collins family, all of them. And it says something to me that, you know, Mom and Dad and brothers are willing to stand by their sister and/or child to do whatever it takes to help out. To me, that's what family is all about, and I appreciate so very much the Collins family for being here today, and thank you for supporting your little girl.

Maine's got two fantastic United States Senators. Olympia Snowe is a capable lady. Olympia and Susan make a formidable team on behalf of the citizens of Maine, and it would be wise for Maine not to break that team up. It would be wise for the people of this State to make sure that they send somebody back to Washington who understands that to get things done, you've got to work with people of both parties, and who solidly rejects, like I reject, the same old, tired politics of tearing somebody down to get ahead.

Susan Collins, she's a breath of fresh air in Washington, DC. She's kind of an independent thinker, I might add. [Laughter] I don't do everything she says. [Laughter] She doesn't do everything I say. [Laughter] But she's an ally, and I'm proud to call her friend.

I want to thank very much Steven Joyce and Kevin Raye for tossing their hats in the ring. Steven is running for the Congress, Maine 1; and Kevin is running for Congress, Maine 2. Thank you all for coming; we hope you win. We look forward to seeing you in Washington—appreciate it.

It's nice to be here with the next Governor of the State of Maine, Peter Cianchette. [Laughter] I want to thank the party officials who are here. I want to thank Kathy Watson, who's the chairwoman of the Republican Party of Maine—Kathy, thank you for your hard work—and Jan Martens Staples, who's the national committeewoman.

I want you to know that in Washington, they've got a lot of pretty good talkers, you know, people who can give a fine speech. But somehow, behind all the rhetoric, they don't get much done. That's not the way

Susan Collins is. She gets a lot done. Let me talk to you about a couple of issues that's dear to her heart and dear to mine.

First of all, we passed a really good education bill this year. It was called No Child Left Behind. And the reason why it was called that is because Susan and I believe that when we get it right, that we can make sure no child gets left behind in America. It means we've got to set high standards and high expectations for every child who lives in America. It means we've got to trust the local people to run the schools, that we understand that you're not going to have quality education if you try to run the public schools out of Washington, DC. And it means you've got to hold people to account by insisting upon measuring.

See, we want to know. We want to know whether every child is learning how to read and write and add and subtract. And if not, we're going to blow the whistle on failure. If not, we're going to insist that people change. This business about shuffling children through the schools has got to end in America, to make sure no child is left behind. And Susan Collins understands that.

An integral part of the education bill was what we call Reading First. It's a national focus on making sure that every child—not a few but every child—learns how to read. And Susan Collins put her stamp on one of the most important education bills in our Nation's history by leading the charge for the Reading First Initiative. The people of Maine owe her a debt of gratitude, and so do the people of America, for this piece of legislation. I want to thank you, Susan.

And I appreciate her work on making sure our seniors are well treated. Susan insists, like I insist, that the Medicare program be modernized. We recognize the Medicare program has fulfilled a mission, but it's old, and it's stale, and it's tired, and it's not doing its job for our seniors. Medicine has changed, but Medicare hasn't. And we need to make sure that we've got prescription drug coverage as a part of Medicare for every senior in America, and Susan Collins is leading the charge.

We just passed a good piece of legislation that says to corporate America, if you cheat, if you fudge the books, if you don't tell the

truth, we're going to hold you accountable. And Susan Collins was a part of that legislation. And you need to know we're going to investigate them, and we're going to arrest them, and we're going to prosecute those who have broken their trust with shareholders, employees, and the American public. And I want to appreciate your work on that bill, Susan.

And I appreciate your understanding that Government doesn't create wealth; that's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. Our role is to make sure the climate for economic growth is strong. And it is. Interest rates are low. We've got good monetary policy. I can assure you, I will use the veto, if necessary, to make sure we don't overspend in Washington, DC.

We just passed a trade bill for the first time in a long time. I want to thank Susan for her support on that trade bill. Opening up markets for American goods, for products produced in Maine, for agricultural products produced in this State, is good for workers. It's so important that we not wall ourselves off from the rest of the world. It's important that we be confident. And when you're good at something, you ought to promote it. And we're good at a lot of things in America, and we need to be selling our goods and services all across the world. I want to thank the Senate and the House for giving me trade promotion authority. I'm going to sign the bill on Tuesday, and this bill will be good for American workers.

There's some other things we can do when the Senate and the House gets back. We need to pass a terrorism insurance bill to make sure that large construction projects can go forward. We want our hardhats working in America. We want our working people out there. We want there to be jobs. And the Senate and the House needs to act. They need to think about workers, not about trial lawyers, when it comes to passing good pieces of legislation like the terrorism insurance bill.

And you know something, it turns out Vice President Cheney was right. He said, when we first got here, it looked like we might be

in a recession. Of course, some people didn't appreciate him saying that. And then all of a sudden, the statistics came out recently, which showed that the first three quarters of my administration were negative growth. We did, in fact, inherit an economic slow-down.

And thank goodness, thank goodness I convinced the Congress to let the people keep more of their own money. Thank goodness we had a tax cut. There are some people in Washington that read a different textbook than Susan and I do. They think if you raise people's taxes, it's going to be good for the economy. What we believe is that when you let somebody have their own money, keep their own money, it means they're going to demand a good and a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good or service. And if somebody produces a good or a service, it means somebody is going to be able to find work. That's what that means. For the good of the American economy, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

One of the worst taxes we have in America is the death tax. The death tax taxes a person's assets more than once. You know, some of us are worried about people being forced to sell their farms or their ranches because of the death tax. And so the Senate did a smart thing, and the House did a smart thing. It repealed the death tax. But, because of a quirk in the law, because of the Senate rules, the death tax comes back to life after 10 years. It is important to get rid of this tax once and for all. It's important for the small-business owners in America; it's important to ranchers and farmers to permanently repeal the death tax.

The economic security of our people is a vital issue, and I will continue to work with Congress to make sure we pass needed legislation to keep our economy growing. Listen, anytime anybody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem, as far as I'm concerned. So when Congress gets back, we'll continue to talk about ways to make sure that the environment for economic growth is strong and viable.

We've also got a significant issue, obviously. The biggest issue that I confront is to make sure the homeland is secure. The big-

gest issue, the biggest challenge that we face, the President and the Congress, is to prevent the killers from taking American life again. That's the biggest challenge.

And you need to know—you need to know there's some fine people in your Government doing everything they can to run down any hint or any lead, any evidence whatsoever, to make sure that they don't hit us again. It's a big chore. But there are a lot of fine Americans working hard to enable me to say that we're doing everything we can to protect you.

But there's something else we need to do. We need to reorganize our Government to make sure that the homeland security function is the number one priority of many of our Federal agencies. You see, right now in Washington, there's over 100 agencies involved with the defense of our homeland. They're scattered everywhere. It makes it awfully difficult to hold anybody accountable.

And so for the sake of changing the culture of many agencies, for the sake of insisting that the homeland security is the number one priority, I've asked Congress to reorganize much of our Government under one Cabinet agency called the Office for Homeland Security. It is vital Congress gets it right. The House passed a good bill. I have listened to some of the Senate debate. They seem to think that political turf is more important than the security of the homeland. I will not accept a bill that doesn't allow me to adequately manage people and resources to better protect the homeland. The Senate must not protect their own turf; they must work to protect the American people.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. And they're out there, and they're tough, but not as tough as the United States of America. You've got to understand the nature of the enemy. They hate freedom. They hate the fact that we worship freely in America. They can't stand the thought that we have open debate, that we have a free press. They hate everything we stand for. And therefore, they're relentless. But so are we—so are we.

You know, this is a different kind of war. I'm standing up here with a great World War

II veteran. In those days, they would occupy battlegrounds, and they would move tanks across fields and formation of aircraft. This is a different kind of war. This is the first war of the 21st century. This is a war where the so-called leaders of the enemy send youngsters to their death, and they, themselves, hide in caves. Oh, sometimes they group up. And when they do, they pay a significant price.

But this is a war that's going to require a different way of thinking. It means we've got to have the best intelligence in the world. It means we've got to—and we will—maintain a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries and make sure the doctrine, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," sticks. This is the kind of war where sometimes you'll see our victories, and sometimes you won't. It's an international manhunt, is what it is. And we've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run. And so, as long as I'm the President of the United States, we're going to run them down, one by one, in order for America to be free.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. We've captured—and I say "we;" it's not just America. I can point to country after country that has responded to our call. We've captured over a couple thousand of their leaders, of their combatants, and just about as many weren't quite as lucky. Our strategy is clear. I say this as often as I can: If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban know exactly what I'm talking about now.

And I want the youngsters here to understand that your great Nation did not go into Afghanistan to conquer anybody. We went into Afghanistan to liberate—to liberate a people from the clutches of the most barbaric regime in history, in modern history. And we did.

But we've got a lot of work to do, and we're going to do it. I ask the Congress for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. And thanks to leaders such as Susan Collins, the Senate voted, and the House voted, significant increases. And now, when they get back, for the good of the war and for the good of the country, they need to reconcile their

differences and get a defense appropriations bill on my desk as soon as possible.

But Susan understands what I understand. She supported this increase in defense spending because anytime we commit an American service man or woman into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible.

And secondly, it's a signal to our friends and it's a signal to the enemy that we're not quitting. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, oh, by such-and-such a day, you've got to quit, Mr. President. When it comes to our freedom, America doesn't quit. When it comes to upholding our obligation to future citizens of our country, we don't quit. When it comes to chasing down people who would harm Americans, we don't quit, much to the chagrin of the enemy.

Our task and our responsibility to history is more than just an Al Qaida network. We owe it to the future of civilization not to allow the world's worst leaders to develop and deploy and therefore blackmail free, loving countries with the world's worst weapons. I'm a patient man. I'm a patient man. I've got a lot of tools at my disposal. But I can assure you, I understand history has called us into action, and this country will defend freedom no matter what the cost.

I believe strongly that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. I believe that as this Nation leads the world, that we can achieve peace. I know that as we remain strong and united and focused on fighting terror, on spreading democracy, on embracing the values we love, that we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace in parts of the world where peace may be an afterthought to so many. See, I believe by leading the coalition for freedom, we can achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia. We can achieve peace not only for our homeland but for our friends and allies.

No, out of the evil done to America can come some great good, not only abroad but here at home as well. It's so important for all of us to remember that, in the midst of our prosperity, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are pockets of addiction. People say, "American Dream," and we've got people in America saying, "What

does that mean? It certainly doesn't mean anything to me."

No, out of the evil done to America can come some great good, because Americans are beginning to understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is an important part of being an American. People ask me, "What can I do to help on the war against terror?" I tell them, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil—[*applause*]. If you want to fight evil, mentor a child. If you want to do some good, go into a shut-in's home and say, "I love you." If you want to be a responsible American, go into your church or your synagogue or your mosque and say, "How can I help somebody in need?" You see, out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, because we can change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. And that's what's happening in this country.

I ran for Governor of Texas for a lot of reasons, but one main reason was, I was worried about a culture which had clearly said to Americans from all walks of life, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem blame, somebody else." I wanted to be part of a culture shift that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if you're a mom or a dad, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a responsible citizen, you're responsible for making sure the community in which you live is a place of bright lights and hope and optimism, that you have a responsibility to help a neighbor in need. And that's happening. Out of the evil done to America is good, because people are now beginning to understand that shallow materialism is not what life is about, that helping somebody and helping our great Nation realize its full potential is the culture of America.

You know, it brought home to me most vividly when Flight 93 was driven into the ground. We had people on an airplane who told their loved ones goodbye. I want it noted, they said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They served something greater than themselves in life. I think this is going to be a defining moment in America's cultural history, because we vividly got to see

what it means to be a true and patriotic American.

No, out of the evil done to America—out of the evil done to this country will come incredible good, because this is the finest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for helping Susan. God bless. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. in the Ocean Overlook at the Black Point Inn. In his remarks, he referred to Don and Patricia Collins, parents of Senator Collins.

Exchange With Reporters in Prout's Neck

August 3, 2002

President's Vacation

Q. Relaxing a bit?

The President. What?

Q. You've got your shirt off.

The President. If you sweated through your shirt as much as I've sweated through mine, it would be off too.

Iraq

Q. Can we ask about Iraq for a second?

The President. No. You heard what I said in there. I'm a patient man. I'll use all the tools at our disposal. Nothing's changed.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5 p.m. at a boat dock near the Black Point Inn. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Bombings in the Middle East in Kennebunkport, Maine

August 4, 2002

Good morning. I'm distressed to hear about the latest suicide bombers in Israel. For those who yearn for peace in the Middle East, for those in the Arab lands, for those in Europe, for those all around the world who yearn for peace, we must do everything we possibly can to stop the terror.

There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process that we have started, and

we must not let them. For the sake of humanity, for the sake of the Palestinians who suffer, for the sake of the Israelis who are under attack, we must stop the terror.

I call upon all nations to do everything they can to stop these terrorist killers.

Thank you.

Now watch this drive.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Club, prior to a round of golf. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Rescued Coal Miners and the Community in Green Tree, Pennsylvania

August 5, 2002

Thank you very much. Governor, thanks for your introduction. Thanks for your calm in the midst of crisis. I want to thank you and all the good folks here in the State of Pennsylvania who rallied to save the lives and help save the lives of nine valuable citizens.

Today we're here to celebrate life, the value of life, and as importantly, the spirit of America. I asked to come by to meet our nine citizens and their families because I believe that what took place here in Pennsylvania really represents the best of our country, what I call the spirit of America, the great strength of our Nation. So I want to thank you all for coming, for giving me chance to—and giving me a chance to come and share with you the optimism and joy of a historic moment.

First I do—I want to thank Dan Walsh of the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company for opening up this beautiful house and inviting all these folks here. Dan, I want you to know I'm a proud supporter of the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department. I understand how important firefighters are, paid or volunteer. And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank all the folks who work here at the Green Tree and all those first-responders who are here with us today. Thank you for being here.

I want to thank Elaine Chao of my Cabinet, and Dave Lauriski, who is the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administrator, for being here. They tell me,

Dave, you did a fabulous job. And on behalf of our Nation, that's what we expect you to do. *[Laughter]* Thanks for your good work.

I appreciate Members of the United States Senate, Senator Specter, and Congresswoman Hart and Congressman Chabot, for coming. I appreciate the Attorney General being here. I appreciate State Senator Earll being here.

I want to thank some special citizens who have come today. They're what we call Freedom Corps greeters. They came out to the airport to say hello to me. They represent a program called Jumpstart. These are AmeriCorps workers. They're also college students—well, at least five of the six are college students. One is a graduate of Penn State; the other go to the University of Pittsburgh.

The reason I'm—asked them to join us here is because I want you to know, America can be saved, one person at a time. You see, this great society of ours can be changed, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And as we're here to celebrate the victory of life, we've also got to understand there are some lives who are troubled, some lives who are despondent. Some people wonder whether not America is meant for them; they live in pockets of hopelessness and despair. And these six heroic students, people who have said, "Listen, serving something greater than myself in life is an important part of being a citizen," have been a part of what's called Jumpstart. They're tutors to young kids, to make sure the kids have a chance to learn to read and write and add and subtract, have a chance to be a part of this great American experience. And so I want to thank these soldiers in the armies of compassion for setting a great example for their fellow college students and for some of us old folks as well. Thank you all for coming, appreciate you being here.

As I said, we're here to celebrate the spirit of America, and it's represented by a lot of folks here, a lot of people involved with what took place here in Pennsylvania and Somerset. First, the spirit is best represented by the first-responders, the people who were at the site, you know, people who heard the call that one of my neighbors is in trouble, a fellow American is in need. We've got nine

people trapped below the earth who might lose their life, and your fellow Americans came to your rescue. They came to work hour after hour, many of them volunteers. None asked, "Where am I going to get my next paycheck from?" All asked, "What can I do? What can I do as an American to help a neighbor in need?"

And so to the first-responders here, I want to thank you for your spirit. For those who volunteered hour after hour to save a fellow citizen, somebody you didn't even know, but were willing to sacrifice on behalf of that citizen, thank you for a grateful nation—from a grateful nation. Thanks for the example you set. Thanks for showing our fellow citizens that by—serving something greater than yourself is an important part of being an American. I truly believe the effort put in will serve as an example for others in a time of crisis.

The spirit of America, the best of America was represented by those who spent long hours worrying about the lives of their fellow citizens. The best of America was also represented in the technology and know-how of our mine safety folks, those who, on a moment's notice, used their skill to devise a way to save life, took a look at the situation, reacted to the environment, predicted what might happen miles below the earth, and responded, and then rallied others. They set up a plan and a strategy. They're—our folks are world-renowned for mine rescue, and the Nation saw why. And there are nine lives here to testify that we're some of the best at rescuing our fellow citizens. The best of America really is the use of our technology and know-how to save lives and to help others in need.

The spirit of America can best be seen with the families who are here. A strong America is America based upon strong families. A strong future for our country depends upon the strength of our family—husband loving wife and wife loving husband, husband and wife dedicating themselves to their children. The spirit of America was represented as family members, wives and sons and daughters and moms and dads, prayed for the safety of their loved one. They spent hours worrying about the lives of somebody they called "loved one." And out of this near tragedy

comes the living example of the importance of family.

It was my honor to meet the family members here today. I appreciate—and I know your dads and your husbands appreciate much more than me—the fact that you—the energy you spent on seeing that they came out of that hole alive was an important part of rallying the—rallying the country.

And that's another part of the spirit of America I want to herald, and that is the prayers that were said by thousands of your citizens—I mean, people from all walks of life. They didn't say, "I'm a Republican; therefore, I get to pray," or "I'm a Democrat; I pray." "I don't care about either of them; I pray." Everybody prayed. A lot of people—if I say "everybody," I don't know if everybody prayed. I can tell you, a lot prayed. A lot prayed for your safety. A lot prayed for your families. A lot pled to an almighty God that you were rescued. And thank God the prayers were answered.

But most of all, the spirit of America was represented by the courage of the nine—nine folks trapped below the earth. They had one sandwich and two bottles of water. These are people that had—had found an unshakable faith, not only in their fellow citizens and their families would be pulling for them, but faith in God. These are men who, as old Harry Mayhugh* put it, "I just didn't see how we were going to get out." That's what he said, "I don't see how we're going to get out." But he said, "We're going to—we've got to pull together to get out."

In other words, they understood that they needed to rely upon each other, rely upon the strength of each. They huddled to keep warm. They said prayers to keep their spirits up. They understood they needed to tie together to fight the underground current. It was their determination to stick together and to comfort each other that really defines kind of a new spirit that's prevalent in our country, that when one of us suffer, all of us suffers; that in order to succeed, we've got to be united; that by working together, we can achieve big objectives and big goals.

Here's a living example of people working together to save nine precious lives, to make

* White House correction.

sure that nine families were reunited. And by the way, it's that spirit that's help us—going to prevail in the big challenges we face around the world, the challenge of making sure that we hunt down every terrorist and bring them to justice, because we love freedom.

It is the determined spirit of America and our optimism and our ability to solve problems which will help us deal with the economic downturn. It is—the great spirit of America will help us eradicate pockets of despair and poverty.

I love to tell the world and our country that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. And part of that good is a culture that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. But part of the era of responsibility also is, you're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. You're responsible for loving somebody like you'd like to be loved yourself. You're responsible for the health of the community in which you live. No, the spirit of America is alive and strong, as we found out loud and clear in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

It's an honor to be here with you today. I want to thank you for the example you set. May God bless you. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. at the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Department. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mark Schweiker and State Attorney General Mike Fisher of Pennsylvania. The nine miners were rescued from a flooded coal mine in Somerset, PA, on July 28.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Fisher in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 5, 2002

Well, thanks, "Governor." [Laughter] I'm glad you had me back. I know that your election and Jane's election will be best for the people of Pennsylvania. And I want to thank you all for joining in his effort.

I want to thank the sitting Governor, Mark Schweiker. I, too, want to commend you for

your leadership. I appreciate your steady calm and your deep compassion for your fellow citizens during crisis. A lot of people got to see what you're made out of. And as Mike said, a lot of people got to see what the people of Pennsylvania are made out of as a result of that incident. And I thank you, Mark, very much. You did a fine job.

I want to thank the two United States Senators from the great State of Pennsylvania for being here. We've got Arlen Specter. Thank you for coming, Senator Specter. And Rick Santorum, we appreciate Rick Santorum. He's got such a good seat only because he's never on time. But it's good to see you. [Laughter] But both are doing a fine job. And I also appreciate Congresswoman Melissa Hart, from this area, for being here, as well. Melissa, where are you? Thank you for coming.

I was pleased to meet your mother. I had breakfast with mine today. She's still telling me what to do. [Laughter] And I'm still listening—about half the time. [Laughter]

I appreciate so very much Carol Fisher, the future first lady of the State of Pennsylvania. I want to thank you for standing by your man and getting ready to campaign with him all across this State.

There's nothing like marrying well. [Laughter] I know. I married really well. And Laura sends her best and her love to a lot of our friends here in the State of Pennsylvania. I'm really proud of the job she's doing as the First Lady of the United States. She brings kind of a calm, steady demeanor to a pressure cooker of a life, and I'm a better President because I married so well. And the country is better off to have her as First Lady.

I appreciate very much the next Lieutenant Governor, Jane Earll. It's an honor to meet her husband and her family here. And I want to thank you for your sacrifice, Jane. It shows what kind of Governor Mike's going to be. The fact that he picked Jane shows that he's going to be a inclusive person, somebody who wants to make sure that he represents every single person in the State of Pennsylvania. You made a great pick, Mike, in seeing Jane, and you're going to make a great team when you become elected to Governor and Lieutenant Governor of this

State. And, Jane, it's great to see you again. Thanks for your service.

I want to thank—I think Tim Murphy is here. There he is. Congressman, good to see you. I appreciate you running, Tim, and I wish you all the best. I look forward to working with you next year. I also look—I want to thank all the leadership of the Republican Party—Christine Toretta, who is my friend, who is the national committeewoman, is here.

But—and so are a lot of the grassroots activists. I know this is what they call a fundraiser, but there's a lot of people here who are going to do a lot more than fund-raise. They're going to go out and put the signs up and organize the rallies and make the phone calls, mail the mailers. And I want to thank you for your efforts, and I want to thank you for the work that you have done, and as importantly, for the work you're going to do, to make sure that these two good people get elected.

I like Mike. I like what he's made out of. I like his character. I like the fact that he worked in the steel mills. And I like the fact that he knows how to get votes. See, I thought I ran a pretty good campaign here in the State of Pennsylvania. *[Laughter]* I didn't particularly care about coming in second, but nevertheless, I worked hard. And he told me the first time I met him, he said, "Well, you ran a pretty good campaign, but I beat you, by about"—*[laughter]*—"by about 600,000 votes." *[Laughter]*

Here's a man who knows how to get votes. He's a man who knows how to work with both Republicans and Democrats. He's not afraid of taking his message into neighborhoods that might not be called what we call "Republican" neighborhoods, because, see, his message is bigger than just a party. He's got a great compassion for the people of Pennsylvania, starting with—well, he wants to make sure every child gets educated. See, he understands the most important priority for a Governor is to promote an education system that is the best in the country. That's part of the legacy of Tom Ridge, who, by the way, is doing a fabulous job as the Director of Homeland Security.

Mark understands that, and you're fixing to elect a Governor who shares the same pas-

sion. He believes what I believe, that every child in Pennsylvania and in America can learn. See, there must be some in this State and around the country who don't believe that. They've set such low standards and low expectations that the systems just shuffle people through. For the sake of Pennsylvania's future, for the sake of your citizens, you must elect a Governor who believes in the highest of high standards and who is willing to hold people accountable to make sure those standards are achieved for every single child in this State.

Some in this State are willing to accept the status quo, even though the status quo is failing. What Pennsylvania needs is a Governor who has got high hopes and high expectations, a Governor who is willing to insist upon accountability, and then a Governor who is willing to do something about it when he encounters failure. We must not allow the children of Pennsylvania or anywhere else in America be trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change. I firmly believe that Mike Fisher is the right man to make sure that no child is left behind in the State of Pennsylvania.

I also appreciate a man who understands that in order to make sure the public school system works, you've got to teach the children how to read. Kind of like me, he's a first-things-first fellow, a practical person. And I kind of get tired of all the theorists who talk education and forget to teach people how to read. We passed a significant piece of educational reform out of Washington. It says we're going to trust the Governors and local folks to chart the path to excellence when it comes to education. But it also says that we're going to insist upon curriculum that works, particularly when it comes to reading. We've got a Reading First Initiative.

I'm comfortable in saying that this man will implement a good reading program all across the State of Pennsylvania, to make sure your children learn to read. And when they do, they'll learn. They'll learn science, and they'll learn math, and they'll learn self-esteem. Reading is the gateway to freedom. Reading is the new civil right. And you'll have a Governor who understands that in the State of Pennsylvania.

As the attorney general, Mike has had a record of making sure schools are safe. It's hard to learn, it's hard to learn to read, it's hard to learn anything in schools that aren't safe. It's important to have a Governor who's willing to blow the whistle on academic failure, and a Governor who is willing to insist that the classrooms be safe—safe on behalf of the children and safe on behalf of the parents and safe on behalf of the teachers who are trying to impart knowledge. Mike has got a good record. He's got a good, solid record when it comes to enforcing the law, and he's got a good heart when it comes to insisting that every child get educated in the State of Pennsylvania.

I also appreciate his attitude about small business and the entrepreneurial spirit. He knows what I know: The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which people can realize their dreams, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in the great State of Pennsylvania. He knows that I know that most small—small businesses create more jobs in America than big business; that if you're interested in finding employment for the people of Pennsylvania, you've got to stimulate the growth of small businesses, which means you've got to have good tax policy. If you overtax your small businesses in the State of Pennsylvania, or in the country, for that matter, it's going to mean there's no capital for expansion; there's no extra money for job creation.

Pennsylvania must have a Governor like Mike who knows that the economic environment conducive for the growth of small business is vital for job creation. Mike's got a record—I was impressed by the fact that when he was a State senator, he understood that Pennsylvania workers' compensation laws needed to be more fair and less burdensome on the businesses of the State of Pennsylvania, and by changing the law it not only helped worker; it helped set a tone for the State of Pennsylvania so people felt comfortable about employing people in this State. This man is a job creator, and that's what the State of Pennsylvania needs as its Governor.

As you know, I, too, am worried about jobs here in America. If anybody wants to work

and they can't find a job, we've got a problem, as far as I'm concerned. If somebody is looking for work and work is not available, we need to do something about it by focusing on job creation. Part of that is to make sure there's confidence in the private sector.

I was pleased the other day to sign a bill, a corporate responsibility bill that says, if you're in charge of a business, you have the responsibility to your shareholders and your employees to tell the truth, and if you don't, you will be held accountable. And Mike has done just that as the attorney general of this State. He has got a record, a clear record of enforcing laws and coming down hard on corporate fraud and saying that we expect the highest of high standards throughout all our society, that no one is exempt from the laws of our land.

No, I am confident this man is going to make a fabulous Governor for the State of Pennsylvania. I strongly believe he's going to win, and I appreciate you supporting him.

I also want to talk about the national challenges we face. I believe that—I'm an optimist. I'm an optimist about our economy. And I should be. The fundamentals are strong. Interest rates are low. Monetary policy is sound. I can assure you I will work with Congress to control excessive Federal spending. One reason they give the President the veto power is to make sure the Congress doesn't overspend. Overspending could serve as an anchor on economic vitality and growth.

I've mentioned we signed a corporate fraud bill. I also am the first Governor—President in a long period of time to have what they call trade promotion authority. It means that we're going to open up markets for U.S. products, markets for the products of Pennsylvania farmers, markets for the products of Pennsylvania high-tech companies. A confident nation is a nation willing to trade. And this Nation, as a result of the bill I just got and am signing tomorrow, will be a free trading nation.

No, I've got confidence in the economic vitality of this country, because I've got confidence in the American people. I've got confidence in our workers. Productivity is up. I've got confidence in our entrepreneurs. People are still imagining new ways to bring new products. I've got confidence in our tax

policy. See, I come from the school of thought that says, if you let people keep more of their own money, they will demand a good or a service. And if somebody demands a good or a service, somebody will produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good and service, somebody is going to find work. We passed tax relief at exactly the right time, and Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

The foundation for growth is strong in America. And we'll continue to work to promote ways to foster economic vitality. And one crucial way is, when Congress gets home, gets back from heading out to their districts and their States, they need to pass a terrorism insurance bill so that large construction projects which are now on the books will move forward, so that our construction workers will have work. There are too many construction projects that are put on hold for fear of a—for lack of terrorism insurance. People can't insure their projects, and so they're not moving forward. Congress needs to act, and when they act, they've got to remember, the workers are more important than the trial lawyers in America.

We're making progress on securing the homeland. As I told you, Tom Ridge is doing a fine job. But I took a look at the agencies involved with our homeland security and realized that there's over 100 of them—100 different agencies—over 100 agencies involved with securing the homeland. And they're scattered all over our Nation's Capital. It's awfully hard to hold anybody to account if there's over 100 agencies involved with a single mission. So I sat down with Tom and others in my administration, and we came up with a plan. We decided to create a Department—Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security, so I can say to the American people that we have organized ourselves to better protect us from an attack by one of these killers.

And we're making progress on the creation of an Office of Homeland Security. We need an Office of Homeland Security to make sure that the number one priority of our Government is reflected in the agencies. And that is your protection. That's the number one priority right now. And we've got to have an Office of Homeland Security so that we can

say to these agency heads, you may have other missions, but your most important mission is to protect the homeland. We've got to have a culture that becomes a part of this new Department that says, protecting the homeland is your most important job.

The House of Representatives passed a good bill; the Senate will take it up when they get home. One of the things you'll hear about the Senate debate is, they're all worried about their turf and special interests and politics. For the sake of the American people, the Senate needs to pass a homeland security bill that provides me with the tools necessary to protect the homeland.

You need to know there's a lot of people working a lot of hours to protect us, a lot of good folks that work in the Federal Government and the State government and local governments, doing everything they can to chase down every possible lead, every hint that somebody might be fixing to do something to the American people.

And they're out there. The killers are out there. And that's all they are, by the way. They are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who hate America because we love freedom. They hate us because we love the values of freedom of religion, freedom to speak, freedom to campaign the way you want to, freedom to assemble. They can't stand that. And so they're going to—they think they're going to hit us again. And we're doing a lot to protect the homeland. We really are. I am grateful for those who spend hours upon hours protecting America. But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice, which is precisely what this country is going to do.

I appreciate the House passing the defense appropriations bill. I appreciate the Senate passing the defense appropriations bill. And I want to thank the Members here for voting for both. Now it's time for them to get together, reconcile the differences between the two appropriations bill for our national defense, and get the bill to my desk in early September. We're at war, and I expect the appropriations bill on my desk—the appropriations bill necessary to fund this war—on my desk as soon as possible. It ought to be

the number one priority of the appropriators when they get back from their August recess.

And in that bill you'll see it's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan. And the reason why is, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible. And the increase in defense spending sends a message—it sends a message to our friends and allies who are part of our vast coalition. It sends a message to the enemy, we're in this for the long pull. This country isn't going to quit until we secure our freedom. This country is not faint-hearted. We're a determined country. We're strong, and we're united. When it comes to defending our freedoms, we understand the price of freedom is high, but we're willing to pay the price. That's the message we're sending to the enemy and to our friends. And that's an important message to send.

And we're making good progress in the war against terror. We've hauled in over a couple of thousand of them. I say "hauled them in"—that means "arrest" or "incarcerate" or however you want to put it. But those—not only the United States have done this, but so have our friends and allies. And just about the like number haven't been quite as lucky. So we're making good progress.

And this is a different kind of war, though, as you noticed. Sometimes you'll see the progress on your TV screens, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes one of these killers will get plucked off the streets of a foreign nation, and you'll never hear about it. Sometimes it will make big news. But in either case, we're making progress, one by one.

The old war used to be, they'd see these infantry brigades marching across some plain or scurrying through hedgerows. That's not the kind of war we're in. We're in a kind of war now where they've got the commanders, the so-called commanders of the enemy hiding in a cave, telling youngsters to go kill themselves. They send young kids to their suicide, in the name of a great religion, and they, themselves, cower, cowards hiding.

But there's no cave deep enough for the United States. There's no cave dark enough for our troops and our friends and allies. In order to secure freedom and defend the

American people, we're going to hunt them down. And we owe it to our children to do so. And we also owe it to our children to enforce these doctrines: If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you clothe a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who killed the people of America on 9/11.

And the doctrine—and this doctrine still pertains: Either you're with the United States and those of us who love freedom, or you're with the enemy. You see, the strategy is pretty clear. We've disrupted the Taliban. And I want the youngsters here, and those of you who have got little ones at home to go home and tell your kids that we went to Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. We freed people from the clutches of a barbaric regime. And now, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, young girls get to go to school for the first time—many of them for the first time in their life. And our friends understand the message.

So the other day I was pleased to see that Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, went ahead and unleashed her troops and got after Abu Sayyaf,* which is an Al-Qaida-type network which had captured some Americans, amongst others. And she hears loud and clear, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy."

So the coalition is knitted up, and we're active. We're cutting off their money. We're sharing information. We're fighting the first war of the 21st century. I say "the first war"—there's no telling how many wars it will take to secure freedom in the homeland. But I know this: We will not and we must not allow the world's worst leaders to blackmail the United States and our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons.

I'm a patient man—I'm a patient man. We've got a lot of tools at our disposal—diplomatic tools, intelligence tools, military tools. We've got a lot of tools. We've got a lot of friends as well. And I'm going to take our time to make sure we get the policy right, no matter what part of the world we're in. But I understand that freedom has called us into action—I mean, history has called us into action to defend freedom. I understand where we stand now in history. We have an

* White House correction.

obligation to the future. And this great country will not shirk its obligation.

Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, and part of that good is peace. Oh, I know the rhetoric can be tough. I understand all that. But you just need to know that I believe we can achieve peace, and that's my dream. I want there to be peace here in America. I want us to be able to live the life we love and embrace the freedoms that we cherish and not worry about some killer coming to take out their problems on us because we love freedom.

And I believe we can achieve peace by being strong and determined in parts of the world where peace seems to be far away. I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia. I believe this great Nation, by being strong and determined and standing on principles and adhering to our universal values, can help the world achieve peace.

And at home, I know that out of the evil done to America can come some great good. Listen, I understand, and you know, that in the midst of our plenty, there are pockets of despair, there are pockets of addiction. There are children who say, "What is the American Dream? It's not meant for me. What is this American Dream business? I don't belong to that dream." You see, what we must understand is that we've got individuals, too many individuals whose vision of the country is dim by the circumstances. But I believe, and I know, we can save those children, one heart—or those people, one heart and one soul, one conscience at a time. Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's why I'm such a believer in faith-based programs, charitable programs, all of which exist because somebody has heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

I landed at the Pittsburgh airport today, and I met six college kids from a program called Jumpstart. One went to Penn State, who has already graduated; five are now undergraduates at the University of Pittsburgh. These are children who mentor 5-year-old kids, so that when they get to elementary school, they've got a chance to learn to read.

These are children who understand that you can save America, one person at a time. They understand one person can't do everything, but one person can do something to be a good citizen. So here they are, college kids, and they've got a lot of other things to do, but part of their life as a college student is to love a child, is to make a difference in a child's life.

People say, "What can I do to help?" What you can do is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. What you can do is to be a full citizen of the country by helping to serve others. And that's happening all across this country. You just need to know that. Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good. Our society is becoming a more compassionate society, because there's a lot of people who have taken a step back and said, "What is my life worth? What is it all about?"

One of the reasons I entered politics in the first place in the State of Texas is because I was concerned about a culture which had clearly said, "If it feels good, do it; and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." My hope was to be a part of a cultural shift which says that we must usher in an era of personal responsibility if we want our country to realize its full potential. I believe it's happening.

I believe the notion of serving something greater than yourself, which is at the core of being a personally responsible citizen, has taken hold in America, probably best defined not far from here, where Flight 93 hit the ground, citizens aboard an aircraft who heard their plane was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they served something greater than themselves in life. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because this is a nation that is so good and decent and compassionate.

I want to thank you all for coming to help Mike. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in Ballroom 2 at the Hilton Pittsburgh. In his remarks, he referred to Jack Daneri, husband of candidate for Lieutenant Governor Jane M. Earl; Pennsyl-

vania State Senator Tim Murphy; Christine J. Toretti, national committeewoman and co-finance chair, Pennsylvania Republican Party; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Remarks on Signing the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002

August 5, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for this bill signing ceremony. I'm pleased to sign it in the great city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The history of our country is the story of a promise, a promise of life and liberty made at our founding and fulfilled over the centuries in our laws. It is a story of expanding inclusion and protection for the ignored and the weak and the powerless. And now we extend the promise and protection to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Today I sign the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. This important legislation ensures that every infant born alive—including an infant who survives an abortion procedure—is considered a person under Federal law. This reform was passed with the overwhelming support of both political parties, and it is about to become the law of the land.

I appreciate so very much Senator Rick Santorum, and Congressman Steve Chabot from Ohio for sponsoring this important piece of legislation. I also appreciate Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Congresswoman Melissa Hart for coming as well.

I want to thank the bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Bishop Wuerl, for being here. It's good to see you again, Bishop. I appreciate Hadley Arkes, the professor of jurisprudence and American institutions at Amherst University. I want to thank Jill Stanek, registered nurse, labor and delivery unit, Christ Hospital and Medical Center, for being here as well. I appreciate Gianna Jessen, who is an abortion survivor and a pro-life advocate. I want to thank Dr. Watson Bowes, who is a professor emeritus of gynecology and obstetrics, school of medicine, University of North Carolina.

I want to thank you all for coming. It's important that you're here to send a signal that you're dedicated to the protection of human life. The issue of abortion divides Americans, no question about it. Yet, today

we stand on common ground. The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act establishes a principle in America law and American conscience: There is no right to destroy a child who has been born alive. A child who is born has intrinsic worth and must have the full protection of our laws.

Today, through sonograms and other technology, we can clearly—see clearly that unborn children are members of the human family as well. They reflect our image, and they were created in God's own image.

The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act is a step toward the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law. It is a step toward the day when the promises of the Declaration of Independence will apply to everyone, not just those with the voice and power to defend their rights. This law is a step toward the day when America fully becomes, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "a hospitable, a welcoming culture."

Our society has enough compassion and wealth and love to care for mothers and their children and to seek the promise and potential of every life. In protecting the vulnerable and the weak, the imperfect and the unwanted, you are affirming a culture of life.

I'm grateful for your perseverance on behalf of this noble cause. I want to thank you for your hard work. I appreciate your care for every member of the human family. Thank you for coming today.

It's now my honor and pleasure to sign into law the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:58 p.m. in Ballroom 3 at the Hilton Pittsburgh. H.R. 2175, approved August 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107-207.

Remarks Announcing the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children *August 6, 2002*

Good morning. We're gathered here today because we share a profound concern for the safety of the most precious and important people in our own lives and the life of our country, our children.

After the terror of September the 11th, many parents throughout America found themselves holding their children more closely. Unfortunately, as we work to help our children feel safer by fighting terror, America's children and parents are also facing a wave of horrible violence from twisted criminals in our own communities. During recent months, we have prayed and worried with parents as their children have been kidnapped and, in some cases, murdered. The kidnapping or murder of a child is every parent's worst nightmare.

Today I call on all Federal and State and local law enforcement agencies and our communities and our citizens to work together to do everything in our power to better protect our children.

I appreciate so very much the Attorney General, John Ashcroft, for his work on this issue. I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige at the Department of Education, who is working with us on this issue. The FBI has provided investigators, agents to the scenes of these horrible crimes as quickly as humanly possible, so I appreciate Director Mueller and his agents.

I want to thank Ernie Allen, who is the president and chief executive officer of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. As well, I want to thank Carolyn Atwell-Davis, who is the government relations liaison for the Center. These are two fine human beings who care deeply about our children and are making a positive difference in the lives for a lot of families and a lot of communities around America.

The most recent statistics available tell a terrible story. More than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family-members annually. Many of these children are returned home quickly, but some are not. Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies work every day to find these missing children and to punish severely those who have committed crimes against them.

Today we're taking steps to focus on preventing crimes against children before they happen. The Department of Justice will release a handbook of simple and practical steps that parents can take to make their children safer.

One of the most important things that a mom or dad can do is talk to your children very specifically and rehearse what they can say and do if they ever feel threatened. You should teach your children how to say no and how to trust their instincts. For example, children should know that unfamiliar adults usually would not ask them for directions or help. Such a request might be a trick to get their attention and, of course, to lure them away from safety.

The handbook also has practical advice to help families and communities make their homes and their schools and their neighborhoods safer. Children should know a safe place to seek help if they are approached by a stranger on their way to school or if they're standing at a bus stop.

We developed these guidelines with the help of Federal agencies and, of course, with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. And they're available at the Center's Web site, www.missingkids.com. If a mom or a dad wants to learn more today about how to protect his or her child, go to the Web site, www.missingkids.com, and learn some practical advice and some useful tips. The Department of Education will distribute the handbook to every public and private school in the country, and that's why our Secretary of Education is here. I urge the families to get these recommendations and to discuss the important safety tips with their children.

Next month we will convene a White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. This forum will bring together leading national experts to focus on ways parents and communities can help shield children from the harm that is being done to some today. Recent child abductions have understandably left many of our families in fear, and the most productive response is to improve the safety of your child's environment, on the best information and the best advice. Through this conference, we'll provide that advice.

Our Nation has come to know the names and faces of too many wonderful children because they've been the victims of despicable acts of violence, children like Danielle van

Dam and Samantha Runnion. But in our sorrow, we are reminded of the incredible ability of all Americans to support one another in times of need and in times of crisis. Danielle's mother, Brenda, recently exchanged words of comfort with Samantha's mother, Erin, and here's what she said: "We had a conversation, mother to mother, about our daughters, our pain, and also our hope that Danielle and Samantha are dancing together in heaven."

No family should ever have to endure the terrible pain of losing a child. Our Nation grieves with every family that has suffered unbearable loss, and our Nation will fight the threats against our children. We can take hopeful and practical steps to improve our children's safety, and we will take those steps together.

Thank you all very much. May God continue to protect America's children. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks on Signing the Trade Act of 2002

August 6, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for that warm welcome. Welcome to the people's house as we celebrate a victory for the American economy. Last week, the United States Congress passed trade promotion authority and renewed and expanded the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Trade is an important source of good jobs for our workers and a source of higher growth for our economy. Trade is an important source of earnings for our farmers and for our factories. It creates new opportunities for our entrepreneurs. Trade expands choices for America's consumers and raises living standards for our families. And now, after 8 years, America is back in the business of promoting open trade to build our prosperity and to spur economic growth.

I appreciate so very much Vice President Cheney's hard work on this issue. I appreciate Colin Powell and Ann Veneman, who ably serve in my Cabinet. I want to particularly thank Don Evans, who's not with us,

and Bob Zoellick, members of my Cabinet who both worked tirelessly to get the vote in the House and then in the Senate, and I appreciate Elaine Chao as well. These Cabinet Secretaries worked hard for trade. They understand the promise of trade, and I appreciate their hard work on behalf of American workers and farmers.

I particularly want to thank the Members of Congress who are here with us, starting with the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senator from Montana, Max Baucus. Max did fantastic work to get this trade bill through the Senate, and was then able to work with Chairman Thomas. *[Laughter]* Chairman Thomas was heroic in the House. He was steadfast in his support for trade, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue. And I want to thank both Members of the United States Congress, one Democrat, one Republican, who put their country ahead of their parties to do what was right for the people of this country. You two deserve a lot of congratulations. I want to thank Senator Hatch, who was a conferee and a member of the Finance Committee. Thanks for coming, Senator. I want to thank my fellow Texan Tom DeLay, the best vote-counter in the history of the United States Congress. *[Laughter]* After all, he was able to triple—*[laughter]*—the vote margin on final passage. I appreciate so very much Cal Dooley and a guy I call "Jeff," William Jefferson, Congressmen from California and Louisiana, and I want to thank them for their work as well. They led the Democrats in the House of Representatives, many of whom are here today, to do what's right for our country. And again, I appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate your work, and I appreciate your help.

I want to thank *Embajadora* A-Baki from Ecuador. I want to thank you for coming. I also want to thank Carlos Alzamora from Peru and all the other ambassadors who are here. I want to appreciate you—appreciate your hard work on sending the message of trade to Members of our Congress. I want to thank you for your diligence, and I want to thank your Presidents for their care and

concern about this incredibly important initiative, not only for Americans but for workers all around the world. Thank you all for coming.

With trade promotion authority, the trade agreements I negotiate will have an up-or-down vote in Congress, giving other countries the confidence to negotiate with us. Five Presidents before me had this advantage, but since the authority elapsed in 1994, other nations and regions have pursued new trade agreements while America's trade policy was stuck in park. With each passing day, America has lost trading opportunities and the jobs and earnings that go with them. Starting now, America is back at the bargaining table in full force.

I will use trade promotion authority aggressively to create more good jobs for American workers, more exports for American farmers, and higher living standards for American families. Free trade has a proven track record for spurring growth and advancing opportunity for our working families. Exports accounted for roughly one-quarter of all U.S. economic growth in the 1990s. Jobs in exporting plants pay wages that are up to 18 percent higher than jobs in nonexporting plants. And our two major trade agreements, NAFTA and the Uruguay Round, have created more choices and lower prices for consumers while raising standards of living for the typical American family of four by \$2,000 a year.

America will build on this record of success. A completely free global market for agricultural products, for example, would result in gains of as much as \$13 billion a year for American farmers and consumers. Lowering global trade barriers on all products and services by even one-third could boost the U.S. economy by \$177 billion a year and raise living standards for the average family by \$2,500 annually. In other words, trade is good for the American people, and I'm going to use the trade promotion authority to bring these benefits to the American people.

Free trade is also a proven strategy for building global prosperity and adding to the momentum of political freedom. Trade is an engine of economic growth. It uses the power of markets to meet the needs of the poor. In our lifetime, trade has helped lift

millions of people and whole nations and entire regions out of poverty and put them on the path to prosperity. History shows that as nations become more prosperous, their citizens will demand and then can—and can afford a cleaner environment. And greater freedom for commerce across the borders eventually leads to greater freedom for citizens within the borders.

The members of the diplomatic corps with us today understand the importance of free trade to their nations' success. They understand that trade is an enemy of poverty and a friend of liberty. I want to thank the ambassadors for their role in getting this bill passed, especially the Andean ambassadors, who are such strong advocates for the Andean Trade Preference Act. By providing trade preference for products from four Andean democracies, we will build prosperity, reduce poverty, strengthen democracy, and fight illegal drugs with expanding economic opportunity.

Trade promotion authority gives the United States an important tool to break down trade barriers with all countries. We'll move quickly to build free trade relationships with individual nations, such as Chile and Singapore and Morocco. We'll explore free trade relationships with others, such as Australia. The United States will negotiate a Free Trade Area of the Americas and pursue regional agreements with the nations of Central America and the Southern African Customs Union. We'll move forward globally, working with all nations to make the negotiations begun last year in Doha a success. A little more than a week ago, the United States put forward a far-reaching proposal to lower worldwide agricultural trade barriers. These innovative set of ideas can lead to real progress in this challenging area.

Trade gives all nations the hope of sharing in the great economic and social and political progress of our age. And trade will give American workers the hope that comes from better and higher paying jobs. America's committed to building a world that trades in freedom and grows in prosperity and liberty. Today we have the tools to pursue that vision, and I look forward to the work ahead.

And now it's my honor and pleasure to sign into law the Trade Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassadors to the United States Ivonne A-Baki of Ecuador and Carlos Alzamora Traverso of Peru. H.R. 3009, approved August 6, was assigned Public Law No. 107-210.

Remarks at Madison Central High School in Madison, Mississippi

August 7, 2002

Thanks for a warm welcome. Thanks for having me. It's true, Congressman, I did bring Laura her coffee this morning. *[Laughter]* The only thing that was different from the past is, I brought it to her in Crawford, Texas. *[Laughter]* I have moved my office to Crawford, and I'm so honored my first stop after having moved my office to Crawford is in the great State of Mississippi.

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to talk about three important goals for our country: one, win the war on terror; two, to protect the homeland; and three, to make it clear we will not rest until we have economic security for everybody who lives in America.

That's a goal shared by the Mississippians for Economic Progress, and I want to thank them for hosting me today. I appreciate you all coming. I also want to thank the Congressman for introducing me. I also appreciate so very much two fine—I mean fine—United States Senators from the great State of Mississippi who are here, and that's, of course, Thad Cochran and the man I call Leader, Trent Lott.

I want to thank very much Ronnie Shows for being here. Congressman, thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here. I appreciate it. And I want to thank Roger Wicker, another member of the Mississippi congressional delegation, for coming. We've got Congressmen everywhere. *[Laughter]*

But there's one special former Congressman with us. It's a man—when I'm in Washington, I go to church right across the street from the White House, and this fellow always saves me a pew—a spot in the pew. He's been a great friend of my family's. He's a great friend of Mississippi. He is the namesake of the Montgomery Institute in Meridian, Mississippi, and that's Sonny Mont-

gomery. *[Applause]* It looks like they still remember you, Sonny—*[laughter]*—and love you, just like I do.

I want to thank members of the statehouse for coming. The Governor kindly came out to greet me today, and I'm thankful for the Governor for being there. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor, Governor Tuck, for coming today. I want to appreciate the State senator, Travis Little, and all the other members of the statehouse who are here. It makes me feel welcome for you to come and to greet me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I also want to thank the mayors who are here. Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler of Madison is here. I want to thank you, Madam Mayor, for coming. And Mayor Gene McGee, the mayor of Ridgeland, Mississippi, is here.

David Allen is the vice chairman of the Mississippians for Economic Progress, who gathered you all up. And I want to thank you, David, and your group for supporting this event.

I want to thank J. Reeves, who is the principal of the Madison Central High School, for having us. I want to thank the Madison High band. Listen, you all were great when you serenaded us coming in. *[Laughter]* I tried to pop out of the limousine—*[laughter]*—to say thanks, but it was moving a little too fast. *[Laughter]* But I do want to thank you all. The principal was telling me you're an award-winning band, and I so much appreciate the fact that you played. Unfortunately, most band members are in the overflow room, so if you're listening, thanks. I also want to thank Mike Kent, who is the Madison County superintendent of education.

I want to thank the folks who I just met with, Mississippi citizens from all walks of life who expressed their concerns to me on a variety of issues. And I'll be discussing some of those issues. I met with some of the kindest, most decent doctors you can possibly imagine who are with us today, people who love their communities, love their profession, are deeply concerned about the future of medicine in this State.

I met WorldCom employees who no longer have work, who are disillusioned, like

me and others, about the corporate fraud which is taking place in our country. I met with small-business owners who long to have an environment that will allow them to flourish. So I want to thank them for coming. I'm going to talk more about some of the issues around these participants. But you've got some fine folks in this State, and they took time to visit and share their frustrations with me. I want to thank them all for coming today, very much.

I also want to welcome Star Wallin here. One of the things I love to do as I travel the country is to meet soldiers in the armies of compassion, people who have heard the call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves; people who don't wait for a President to say, "You will go love somebody," or Congress to pass a law; people who understand that part of being an American is to serve your community by helping people in need.

Star is here. She's the founder of what's called Project CARE, Compassion in Action creates a Ripple Effect for positive change. The unusual thing about Star is, she's 18 years old. She has—that's not unusual; there's a lot of 18-year-olds. *[Laughter]* What is unusual is, is that she is signing up people who went to her school to help people in need. As a result of her vision and her work and her compassion, 300 elementary school students were mentored by upperclassmen. The 300 benefited, as did the mentors. As a result of her vision, she has rallied people to feed the needy, to provide furniture for those who want. She has helped restore playgrounds on public schools. As a result of her vision, her community is better. She has set a fabulous example. Star, thank you for being here, and thank you for what you do. And I want to thank your family for being here as well. They did a pretty darn good job of raising you.

My most important job as the President of this country is to protect the homeland. My most important job is to rally our governments to do everything humanly possible to prevent the enemy from taking innocent life again. That job goes on because the enemy still exists, an enemy that hates freedom and therefore hates America; people who can't stand the thought that we worship freely in

this country, and therefore hate us; cold-blooded killers who don't value life the way we value life. And so they're still a threat to the homeland. There is still a threat that they might attack us again. And therefore, you need to know that your Government is doing everything humanly possible. A lot of fine folks are working overtime doing everything humanly possible to run down every hint, every lead, every piece of evidence to protect the homeland.

I got to Washington, and after being there for a while, I took a look at the homeland security apparatus there in the Nation's Capital. There are over 100 different agencies involved with homeland security. As I like to say, they're scattered everywhere. And if they're scattered everywhere, it makes it hard to hold people accountable. And we need accountability all throughout Government—nothing more important, though, than to have accountability when it comes to protecting the homeland. I felt like, having taken a look at the situation, that in order to set the number one priority of all those agencies as the protection of the homeland, they needed to be under one agency, one Cabinet officer. And so I proposed to the country, to the Congress, that we have a Department of Homeland Security that will be in charge—enforcing our borders. Listen, we need to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, why they're coming into the country, and, if they're leaving, when they're supposed to be leaving the country.

We need to work with our courageous first-responders, the firefighters and the police and the EMS teams, all across our country to prepare—prepare as best as we possibly can for emergency. We need to be prepared to respond to a terrorism attack using weapons of mass destruction. We need to better coordinate intelligence. We get intelligence gathered here and there, and we need somebody to analyze this, to address the vulnerabilities—assess the vulnerabilities so that we can address them to make the homeland more secure. That's a major task of the Office of Homeland Security.

This isn't a Republican issue, folks. This isn't a Democrat issue. This is an American issue. This is what we need to do. We need

to leave a legacy behind. And when we create the Department, we've got to do it right. See, we're trying to leave a legacy not only for future Presidents but future Congress, so they can deal with the true threats of the 21st century. We're in a different era here.

And you need to know that I'm not interested in having to try to run a clumsy, slow-moving bureaucracy, that when we fashion a new Department, we must be able to react. We've got to be able to put the right people in the right job at the right time, without a thick book of rules that have little to do with protecting the American people.

The number one priority of this agency must be the protection of the people, as opposed to representing narrow political interests. I want to thank the Members of the House of Representatives who heard that message, who put their political turf aside and focused on the American people. Now the Senate must hear the message. These two Senators have heard the message, and I want to thank them for their leadership—I want to thank them for their leadership. The leadership of the Senate must focus on what's best for America, not what's best on narrow interests, and get a bill to my desk that will enable me to say to the American people, "We're doing everything we can to protect the homeland."

The best way to protect the homeland in the long run is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do. This is a different kind of war. The leaders hide in caves and send youngsters to their death. But there's no cave deep enough, no cave dark enough for an America, a resolved America, that loves our freedom. And so no matter how long it takes, no matter what the cost might be, for the sake of our freedom and for the sake of our children and our children's children, we're going to hunt them down. These are nothing but international criminals, and they're going to be treated as international criminals.

And we're making good progress. We really are. It's hard to tell it sometimes, because as we make progress, sometimes it doesn't get on your cable channel. [*Laughter*] But you need to know we're making progress. We've hauled in or captured—and I say

"we;" we've got a mighty coalition of countries from around the world that love freedom just like we love freedom, and they understand the true threats that we face. And we've captured over 2,000 of them in a pretty quick period of time. Another group of them, just about the same number, weren't quite as lucky.

But we've got a lot of work to do. I want the youngsters here, the high school students here, to know that we seek—we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And when we go into a country, we do so not to conquer but to liberate. There are young girls going to school in Afghanistan for the first time, thanks to the mighty Government—mighty United States military and our friends and allies. And that's important for you to remember.

We face threats because we love freedom. Al Qaida represents threats, and we're dealing with them. There are countries which harbor and develop weapons of mass destruction, countries run by people who poison their own people, countries whose leadership has got a terrible record when it comes to valuing life, particularly inside their own country. And these are real threats, and we owe it to our children to deal with these threats.

I will promise you that I am—will be patient and deliberate, that we will continue to consult with Congress, and of course, we'll consult with our friends and allies. We will discuss these threats in real terms. And I will explore all options and all tools at my disposal, diplomacy, international pressure, perhaps the military. But it's important for my fellow citizens to know that as we see threats evolving, we will deal with them. We must deal with them. History has called us into action. We love freedom, and we'll deal with the threats that could eventually hurt our freedoms.

I've asked for the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President for two reasons. One, any time we commit our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible. And two, the defense budget sends a signal to our friends, allies, and to the enemy that we're in this for the

long haul, that we love our freedom so much that we're in it for the long pull.

I appreciate the fact that the House of Representatives has passed the defense appropriations bill and the Senate has passed a defense appropriations bill. But taking care of our military must be the first order of business when Congress returns back to Washington. We owe the military every tool they need and every dollar it takes to win this war. And therefore, I call upon the leadership of the Congress to resolve, quickly resolve the differences between the House appropriations bill for defense and the Senate appropriations bill for defense and get that bill to my desk first thing when they get back so I can sign it.

I'm going to continue to work to build the economics—the foundations for economic security for our people. And I believe the foundation is strong. Listen, our economy is growing. It's getting better. Inflation is low. The great news—and I'm not surprised at this—is that worker productivity is increasing dramatically. I'm not surprised because I know the American people. I know that the true strength of the country is our people. But listen, so long as anybody is looking for work and can't find work, I think we've got a problem. When somebody is out there who says, "I want to work and can't find a job," we need to do something about it. Look, the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the economy can grow. Everybody here knows this: We're not going to tax our way to prosperity; we won't regulate our way to prosperity; we certainly won't litigate our way to prosperity. What we need to do is—what we need to do is to always ask the question, "How do we increase job growth and honest enterprise—and honest enterprise?"

When I took office, our economy was beginning a recession. That's what the facts have shown. Then our economy was hit by terrorists. Then our economy was hit by corporate scandals. But I'm certain of this: We won't let fear undermine our economy, and we're not going to let fraud undermine it either.

I appreciate the work of both Republicans and Democrats to pass the biggest corporate reforms since Franklin Roosevelt was the

President. And I had the honor of signing that and working with members of both parties to get this bill done. We're going to make sure the books are honest, the numbers are real, the auditors are audited, and the criminals are punished. And the task force I put together is beginning to make progress. They're investigating, arresting, and will soon be prosecuting those who have betrayed the trust of employee and shareholder alike. For corporate leaders found guilty of fraud and theft, there will be no more easy money, just hard time.

And here in Mississippi, you know what I'm talking about. You know what it means to be let down by shady corporate practices. Two of the good folks with whom I met earlier today had been let down by shady corporate practices. They lost their jobs and a good portion of their retirement funds because there was corporate malfeasance. They were cooking the books. They weren't open and honest. People who dedicate their lives to building the company who hired them deserve better, not only here in Mississippi but all over the country. People who invested in a local company because of State pride deserve better. By raising the standards of conduct in corporate America, we're going to protect the jobs. By holding people accountable, we'll protect jobs and, as importantly, retirement security all across the country.

And speaking about that, we've got to do more to protect worker pensions. Right now too many workers are locked into plans that force them to hold a large portion of their accounts in their company stock. There are a lot of plans that won't let people diversify, and that's not right. I believe workers ought to be able to diversify after 3 years in their company's plan. I think we ought to trust workers with their own money. Right now workers get an update every year. They ought to get updates every 3 months on their plan. They should be able to get sound investment advice. After all, it's their money.

I proposed these reforms months ago. The House acted. The Senate hasn't. The Senate leadership, those who are running the Senate now, ought to bring these worker reforms forward. They ought to get this pension reform bill up and to my desk as soon as they get back from their vacations. And I'm not

talking about the Senate leaders here on the front row, either. *[Laughter]*

Here in Mississippi you're learning a hard lesson, that one of the biggest obstacles to growth is the lawsuit industry. That's one industry we don't want to see grow. Junk and frivolous lawsuits can ruin an honest business. Listen, small business is the backbone of our society. Most new jobs are created by small business. And when you have junk and frivolous lawsuits that could completely wipe out a small business hanging over the heads of small-business people, it doesn't help. It hurts economic vitality and economic growth, and you've got to understand that.

And in this State, the lawsuit industry is devastating the practice of medicine. And people around the country understand this is happening here. They're getting the message that the fastest growing industry is the lawsuit industry. Too many frivolous lawsuits in this State are being filed against doctors. That's a fact. And too many jury awards are out of control. You've got too many of your doctors that are being forced to settle cases for large amounts of money even when they haven't committed an error. And that's not right, because you know who it hurts? It hurts the people; it hurts the people of Mississippi. It causes medicine, the cost of medicine, to go up, and that means people have to pay more money out of their pocket—all people. You may not think so, but it's a hidden cost of your health care bill.

You know what else it does? Because premiums go up, or liabilities are threatening—lawsuits are threatening doctors—I mean, some of the docs can't get insurance coverage, which means they no longer want to provide care. And that hurts people too. Not only does excessive lawsuits cause your bill to go up, it makes it awfully hard for people in some parts of your State to even get medical care. And that's a crime, and that's a shame.

And that's a problem here in Mississippi and in other States too. I just met with some Mississippi doctors. These are people that love their communities and care deeply for their patients. But they are practicing their medicine in the face of hostile legal environments. These are good docs who can't get liability insurance or—giving up their spe-

cialties or leaving their practices to go somewhere else. It's estimated by some that this great State could lose 10 percent of your physicians this year, unless you do something about it.

I want to tell you about Dr. Kooyer. He's sitting right out there. He and his wife went to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in the heart of the Delta. They did because, as he said, he felt a Christian calling to care for children, children who need help. That's what he heard. Not only did he have skills, he's got a heart. But because of frivolous lawsuits, because every time he turns the corner somebody might sue him, and because of his rising liability insurance premiums, he's leaving your State. He doesn't want to leave your State. He loves Mississippi. He loves helping those who need help. He loves being a pediatrician, and so does his wife, but he's had it. And so he's leaving, which means there will be no pediatrician in that county in Mississippi. And that's a shame. Lawsuits are driving them out of your State. It's hurting people. It's not hurting big institutions, it's hurting the people.

Dr. Frothingham—you talk about a man with a heart. You think Kooyer has got a heart? Wait until you hear Frothingham. *[Laughter]* He's a great Mississippian, grew up here, thought he might try to live in South Carolina, realized what he was missing, came back to Mississippi. *[Laughter]* He's a neurosurgeon. He talked with deep compassion about a man who suffered a trauma, a fellow he was with—Johnny was with us today. He's a guy who understands that practicing medicine is more than just technology. It's concern and care. They're running him out of business. There's too many frivolous lawsuits. And that hurts the State, and it hurts the country. It hurts people.

Jill Mahaffey says she got lucky. She and her husband are here. They live in the Delta too. She got lucky. She heard she's pregnant. She's getting there, getting ready. She goes to the doctor. He says, "I've got to leave"—ob-gyn getting ready to leave because of lawsuits, because of the threats, because even if you're a doctor who practices good medicine, you're going to get sued in this State

and in other States. Believe this or not, fortunately, she was getting toxic, and the doc induced labor before he quit his practice. She says she was lucky. And she was.

But these human stories, these stories of people going without or could go without have got to end in this country. And it's not just in Mississippi. There are other States being affected by the lawsuit industry. And we need to do something about it. This State needs to do something about it, and so does Washington, DC, need to do something about these frivolous lawsuits.

Well, some say, "That's not a Federal issue. Here you are in Mississippi. You're talking about Mississippi's problem. Leave it in Mississippi." That's a Federal issue. I'll tell you why. If you agree with me that these junk lawsuits run up the cost of medicine, then it becomes a Federal issue when you realize all the dollars we spend on Medicare. It's a Federal issue when you think about all the money we spend on Medicaid to help people. It's a Federal issue when you think about all the veterans hospitals around the country.

No, it's a Federal issue, and it's time for the Congress to pass a minimum Federal standard which says this: one, if you're hurt, you ought to have your day in court, and you ought to be able to recover full economic damages—no problem about that, everybody agrees with that. If you get hurt, you ought to be able to go to your court, the courthouse, and be treated—you ought to get fair compensation for your economic damages. But we cannot have unlimited noneconomic damages and punitive damages drive health care away from the people. So I strongly support and I urge Congress to have reasonable Federal limits on noneconomic damages—\$250,000 is reasonable. I think we ought to have a cap on punitive damages. I think we ought to have joint and several liability reform. And I know we ought to allow doctors and folks who work in hospitals to be able to evaluate practice, to be able to analyze best practices on behalf of the patients without fear of a frivolous or junk lawsuit. It's time for Congress to act. It's time. This liability system of ours should serve patients, not trial lawyers.

There's more we can do, and I look forward to working with Congress to make sure economic security is solid in America. You know, I believe that when you let a man or a woman keep more of his or her own money, it means he or she is going to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good and service, somebody is likely to expand the job base. That's the school of economic thought I come from. And that's why I worked closely with then-Leader Lott and Speaker Hastert and people from both parties to pass a significant tax reduction on behalf of the American people. This tax reduction was well-timed. When you look at the fact that our economy was now—as we found out—in recession when I took office, it's well-timed. When people have more of their own money, it's how you fight a recession. And that was important.

But interestingly enough, as a result of a quirk in the law of the Senate, these tax reforms, these tax reductions—not only income tax reductions but significantly reducing the marriage penalty and repealing the death tax—all those go away, all those reductions, after 10 years. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of allowing people to plan, for the sake of small businesses and farmers and ranchers all across the country, we need to make the tax reductions permanent.

We need to make sure that construction projects go forward. After September the 11th, about \$8 billion worth of construction projects were delayed or killed because people couldn't get lending, couldn't get commercial property financing for the lack of terrorism insurance. The Congress needs to act on this issue. For the sake of the hardhats here in America, for the good, hard-working people in Mississippi that are building bridges and commercial projects, for the people's sake—blue-collar workers all across America—we need to get a terrorism insurance bill that will provide some surety so that these commercial projects can go forward, so that our construction workers will be back to work. It's time for the House and the Senate to reconcile its differences, and as you do so, make sure that you keep the workers in mind and not the lawyers.

So I wanted to come to Mississippi to talk to you about our Nation's priorities. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come. I want to tell you how I feel about the country and its future. You're looking at an optimist. There is no problem we can't solve in this country. I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I say that with certainty because the strength of the country is the American people. The American people have got great hearts, great resolve, great compassion, and great determination.

This country is going to lead the world to peace. No, I know all the war rhetoric, but it's all aimed at achieving peace. That's my dream. I want there to be peace for generations of Americans. I want there to be peace for generations of Israelis and Palestinians, peace in South Asia. And by being strong and determined, by speaking clearly about good and evil, by being patient and resolved, I believe that we can help lead the world to peace.

And here at home—and here at home, we can lead, all of us can lead our country to a more compassionate future. There are pockets of despair in America. There are pockets of addiction and hopelessness. So long as one of us suffers, all of us suffers, as far as I'm concerned. And yet, I fully understand the limitations of Government. We can hand out money in Washington, DC, but we can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. I wish I knew the law that would say, "We will all love each other." Lott would sponsor it. I'd sign it. *[Laughter]* There is no Government law; there's a universal law; there's a higher law. And that's really the strength of America.

People have heard that call. People say, "What can I do to help after September the 11th?" I've said, "Love your neighbor." If you want to help, mentor a child. If you want to help, go see a shut-in and tell them you love them. If you want to help, feed the hungry. Build a house with Habitat. Run a Boy Scout troop or Girl Scout troop. If you want to help, just tell somebody, "I care for you. I hope you—I hope if you've got a problem, you come and call on me."

You see, America can be saved one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. One person can't do everything, I know that. The task seems large, but one person can do something. I'm asking you to be that one person doing something to help make your community and Mississippi and our Nation a place of hope, a place of decency, a place of compassion for every citizen who is fortunate enough to be an American.

No, the enemy hit us. They hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* But they hit a nation that loves freedom, and we'll defend our freedoms. They also found out about our heart, that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Charles W. "Chip" Pickering of Mississippi; and Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck of Mississippi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Charles W. "Chip" Pickering in Jackson, Mississippi *August 7, 2002*

Thank you. Well, Chip, thank you very much. It's nice to be back here to Mississippi. I did bring Laura her coffee this morning. *[Laughter]* I don't want to put any pressure on Trent. *[Laughter]* But the good news is it was in Crawford, Texas. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank you for having me. I'm not going to stay for lunch; I'm going to head on home. I've changed addresses for a brief moment. I took my office from Washington to Crawford. I look forward to spending some time outside of our Nation's Capital. And I'm honored that the first place that I've come to since I've moved my office was the great State of Mississippi. It's wonderful to be back here again. Laura and I have got a lot of friends here, and we appreciate our friends.

I want to thank you all for coming to help Chip. I'm here today because I want to make

it as clear as I possibly can: You need to send Chip Pickering back to the United States House of Representatives. And I want to thank you all for helping. I want to thank you for contributing not only your money but your time. I know many of you are involved with grassroots politics, and that's good. That's how you win, is to invigorate the grassroots, like this man is doing. So I want to thank you not only for what you have done, but what you're going to do—which is to man the phones and put up the signs and turn out the vote. I like to put it this way: When you find a good one, you've got to keep him. And you've got a good one in Chip Pickering.

And he's got a fine family. I want to thank Leisha for her dedication to the Pickering family. I don't know where all the ones in the red shirts are, but they were at the last place I was. Those Pickering boys kept coming, one after another. *[Laughter]* But I love a man who loves his family, and Chip loves his family. I also want to thank Margaret Ann Pickering for being here, Chip's mom.

And I want to say something as clearly as I can about why we need to control the United States Senate. I put a good man up, named Judge Pickering, for a higher court. And the people who control the Senate maligned this good man's character. They didn't treat him right. It's not good for America to have this kind of politics—take a good person and not treat him well, not give him the benefit of the doubt. We need to change the United States Senate, so that we end this kind of politics on the judiciary and allow good people, good, honorable judges, to serve our Nation. The Senate did wrong by Judge Pickering. I did right by naming him to the bench.

And he has no better friends in the Senate than Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, and I appreciate their leadership. I want to thank Thad and Trent for their friendship. When it comes to Mississippi, those men are pretty good about making the Mississippi case; you just need to know that. *[Laughter]*

One of my favorite things to do—I'm an early morning guy; I get to the White House early. And I love to take Barney out on the South Lawn. He's a Scottish terrier. The Lotts, Tricia and Trent, they love Scottish terriers. And I bring Spot there to the Oval

Office. Spot was born at the White House, so she's quite used to being in the Oval Office and respects the new rug. *[Laughter]* And I get there early in the morning. One of my favorite things to do is to call up Trent—he's not an early morning guy—*[laughter]*—and share with him my Barney stories. *[Laughter]* But you're well represented by these two fine men. They're doing a great job for Mississippi, and they're doing a great job for America too.

And it's great to see Tricia, great to see Tricia. Laura and Tricia are fast friends, and I look forward to telling Laura today when I get back home that I got to see her buddy Tricia, Tricia Lott.

I also want to thank Congressman Roger Wicker. He, too, has done a fine job. He and Chip make a pretty darn good pair for the people of Mississippi. I want to thank Clinton LeSueur for running for the United States Congress. Where are you, Clinton? Go get them; I wish you all the best.

I appreciate so very much my friend G.V. Sonny Montgomery for being here, Sonny Montgomery. Sonny is a long-time friend of my family's. We're really proud to call him friend. He was a fabulous Congressman for the State of Mississippi. When I'm town there in Washington, I go to church right across the street. Sonny always reserves me a spot in the pew there. But I forgot to say in the earlier rally, he also puts a couple of dollars in the plate on my behalf. *[Laughter]* I'm running up quite a debt to Sonny. *[Laughter]* Keep giving, Sonny, and one of these days I'm going to pay you back. *[Laughter]* Oh, we're even now? Okay, good. *[Laughter]* But anyway, it's great to see Sonny.

It's great to see Haley Barbour here, the former RNC Chairman, a man who loves Mississippi and has never left. I want to thank Phil Bryant, who is the Mississippi State auditor. Phil, thank you for being here; appreciate you being here, sir. And Dick Hall, the Mississippi transportation commissioner, is here with us as well. Thank you, Dick.

I want to thank Jim Herring, who is the chairman of the mighty Republican Party of Mississippi. And Cindy Phillips, national committeewoman, I want to thank her for

coming too. Thank you, Cindy; good to see you.

I appreciate so very much you all coming to help Chip. It's important Denny Hastert remain the Speaker of the House. Equally important, it's important that you're represented by this good man. He is what we call an up-and-comer. He's a star today; he's going to be a bigger star tomorrow, because he's a man of principle. See, he doesn't get up there and kind of try to wag his finger to figure out which way the wind is blowing. He stands on principle, and he stands strong on those principles. He believes in faith and family and Mississippi, in that order.

Before September the 11th, he was for a strong military, just like a lot of folks in Mississippi believe in a strong military. That was good, because after September the 11th, we needed a strong military. He's going to work with me to make sure that our military budgets are sound.

He's a fellow who believes in educating every child—every child. We passed a good piece of legislation. Interestingly enough, it's called the No Child Left Behind legislation. I mean that, by the way, and so does Chip—no child left behind. The principles behind that bill are pretty simple and easy to understand. First, you've got to set high standards. See, if you believe certain children can't learn, certain children won't learn. So you've got to insist upon high standards. There's a Federal role for insisting upon high standards because we spend a lot of money helping people, helping States. So we expect the best. We believe every child can learn.

And if you believe every child can learn, then you ought to insist that we measure, to see whether every child is learning. If you believe every child can learn, therefore we ought to know whether that's the case. If you believe certain children can't learn, then don't bother to measure. But if you believe every child can learn, and if you're taking Federal money, the bill we passed says, show us—it's not a Federal Government test—you in Mississippi show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

And if they are, they'll be praise for the teachers. See, we believe in local control of schools. There will be praise for those who

have insisted upon excellence for every child. But if you can't show us, then you need to change. The reason why we insist upon accountability is not to punish but to save lives. It is not to say, "These people are bad." It's to say, "What you're doing isn't working." We insist that every child in America learn, and nobody should be left behind.

I appreciate Chip's support and vision about economic security. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which people feel confident about expanding the job base, so people can find work. The foundations for economic growth are strong in America. Inflation is low. Monetary policy is good. Productivity is up. There is growth in our economy. But so long as somebody who wants to find work can't find work, I think we have a problem and need to continue to work on policies that will encourage economic growth. And Chip understands that.

You know, when I came into office, we were beginning a recession. I remember the Vice President saying that clearly. And immediately the world in Washington start wagging their finger at him, and it turns out he was right. The numbers, the statistics have shown that for the first three quarters of my Presidency, we were in recession. It was during that period that I argued for a tax cut for the American people. See, in times of recession, it's important to let people keep their own money. And when they keep their own money, they're going to demand some good or service. And by demanding a good or a service, somebody will produce the good and service, which means jobs. That's what that means.

I want to appreciate Chip's support of the tax relief plan. Those tax cuts were well-timed. And by the way, inherent in the tax relief is not just a reduction of rates on income taxes; it's a small-business vitality program, because most small businesses are sole proprietors, or most small businesses are limited partnerships, and they pay taxes at the individual rate. And thereby, dropping individual rates, you've stimulated small-business growth.

We've also slashed the marriage penalty and have done a—gone a long way toward repealing the death tax, which is punitive on Mississippi farmers and ranchers and small-business owners. I say “gone a long way” because, because of a quirk in the Senate law, after 10 years those tax relief packages revert back to where they were. And so one way to continue to set the foundation for economic growth is to have certainty in the Tax Code. Therefore, it's important for Mississippi to send somebody to Washington who understands that, who is willing to join me in making sure the tax relief package we passed in the midst of a recession are permanent. I call upon Congress to make the tax cuts permanent so the American people can plan and grow.

I understand full well what has happened here in Mississippi and in other communities when they have been deceived by corporate wrongdoing. Today I met with two ladies who worked for WorldCom here in Mississippi. They had their savings invested in the company. They no longer work for the company. They're disillusioned, and they should be. They should be disillusioned. Anybody—anytime anybody abuses their positions of authority by hedging numbers, that's not right—by not being open and honest, particularly when a shareholder or employee is relying upon you. Chip understands that. The Congress understood that. They passed good laws. And this administration is going to investigate; we will arrest; and we will prosecute those who betray the trust of the American people and their shareholders and employees of American companies.

Today I came to Mississippi to talk about liability reform. I'm worried about what the frivolous lawsuits have done to the health care systems across America. There is a Federal responsibility when it comes to health care. After all, we write checks for Medicare. Chip talked about prescription drugs for Medicare. We need a prescription drug program for the seniors. We need a modern Medicare system. But we also spend a lot of money. And these frivolous lawsuits run up the cost of Medicare, and they run up the cost of Medicaid, and they run up the cost of veterans programs. It's a Federal responsibility. And so for the sake of controlling

health care costs, we need medical liability reform at the Federal level.

I worry about health care systems, not only where the costs are high but where people have trouble finding health care they need. We heard from stories today about ob-gy—or pediatricians in the Delta. One fellow came, named Kooyer, Dr. Kooyer. He came down to Mississippi because, as he said, his Christian calling asked him to come down, told him to come down to help people in need. There's a pediatrician in some of the poorest counties in America wanting to provide health care for people in need, and he's leaving your State because the lawsuits are driving him out of the State. You need to do something about it here in Mississippi, and we need to do something about it in Washington, DC. And Chip Pickering understands that.

No, I appreciate Chip. I appreciate his attitude. I hope Mississippi rejects the politics of putting people in one class or another and pitting them against each other. That's not how you get ahead in a society. We've got too much of that in Washington. And one of the reasons, one of the objectives I've got is to get rid of that kind of politics, of saying, you know, “If you're in this group or that group, you're either no good, or we're going to make you fight in order to get ahead.” That is not good for the country. Chip is a unifier; he's not a divider. He sets the right tone, as far as I'm concerned. And that's the kind of tone that will make you proud when you send him back to Washington, DC.

I look forward to working with Congress when we get back, particularly the Senate, to make sure this Department of Homeland Security that I proposed is set up right. I say that because our number one priority now is to make sure that the enemy doesn't hit us again. And they're out there, by the way. These are people that hate America because we love freedom. They hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that we worship freely, that all religions are welcome here in America. They hate that. They hate the fact that we speak our mind. They hate the fact that we have good political discourse. They hate everything we stand for, and so therefore, they're going to keep coming.

And my job and the job of the Congress is to work together to do everything we can to protect our homeland. It's to make sure that we do everything we can to get our agencies cooperating, make sure that the agencies involved with homeland security, of which there's over 100, have as their number one priority the protection of the American people. And so I said, "Why don't we put them all under a single Department of Homeland Security?" Look, I recognize I wasn't the guy that ran for office and said, "Vote for me. I'm for bigger Government." I did say I want to make Government work better. And I think this will make Government work better.

And the House of Representatives passed a good piece of legislation which will allow our administration, or the next administration or the next administration after that, to put the right people in the right place at the right time in order to protect the homeland. And I will not accept a bill that hamstring the capacity of an administration to do that. And the Senate just needs to know—and I appreciate Senator Lott and Senator Cochran's support on this issue—that we will continue to argue for what's best for the American people, not what's best for either political turf or special interest groups in Washington, DC. The protection of the people is more important than setting up so many bureaucratic rules that we won't be able to protect the people. And so I look forward to getting a good bill out of the Senate and a bill on my desk.

In the meantime, I hope you realize that there are a lot of people working hard to protect our homeland. We're doing a better job of sharing information. We're running down every lead, every hint. Every time we find out that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're reacting. And there's a lot of good people reacting on our behalf. And I want to thank you for that, and I want to assure you that we take every possible hint seriously. We do.

I also want to tell you that I know the best way to protect the homeland is to find the killers and bring them to justice. We must hunt them down, one by one, to secure America, and we will. It's a different kind of war. I know you know that. The American

people have come to understand that, that the first war of the 21st century is different from the previous wars. In the past, we would follow infantries and formations of aircraft and fleets of ships across oceans. We would know where they were, and we'd watch whether or not battlefields were taken or not. Now we're fighting individuals who hide in caves and send youngsters to their death. We're fighting people that move money around surreptitiously and attack by means of terror. That's who we're fighting. But it's still a war. We fight for freedom. Just like the previous wars we fought for freedom, we fight for freedom now, which means that we have to think differently about how we fight the war.

The first stage of any war is to make certain doctrines clear. One doctrine we made clear, and we're continuing to make clear, is, no matter what the cost, we defend freedom in America. That's why I submitted a significant budget—a defense budget, the biggest since Ronald Reagan, because I understand the price of freedom is high. But it's not too high, as far as I'm concerned. Anytime we put our uniformed folks into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. It also is a signal, by the way—the size of the defense bill is a signal that says, we're in this for the long run. I like to remind people, there's not a calendar on my desk. Senator Lott will tell you, or Senator Cochran who's been in the office, there's not a calendar in the Oval Office that says, oh, by such-and-such a date, we're through, that we'll all go home. That's not the way it is when it comes to defending freedom and winning the first war of the 21st century. We're relentless, and we're determined.

And so the first doctrine is, no matter what the cost to defend our freedoms, we'll pay it. The second doctrine is, if you harbor a terrorist, or if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists.

And the Taliban learned now what we meant. The Taliban found out what we meant. And I want you all to remind your youngsters who are here, or remind your youngsters if they're not here, that their Government sent our military into Afghanistan not to conquer a people but to free a people,

to free people from the clutches of a barbaric regime which would not even educate young girls. And so for the first time in Afghanistan, many young girls get to go to school, thanks to the United States and our coalition.

The other doctrine is, is that either you're with us and those of us who love freedom, or you're with the enemy. And that doctrine still holds too. We've put together a vast coalition of people that understand the stakes, and the coalition still is strong. I mean, we're trying to disrupt money. We're sharing intelligence. We've hauled in over 2,000 people—2,000 of these killers. Another 2,000 or more haven't been as lucky.

The other day, the Government of Gloria Arroyo in the Philippines went after the Abu Sayyaf* group. It looks like the head of that group met his demise. That's the group, by the way, that had captured American missionaries; the husband of a wonderful lady named Gracia Burnham was killed. Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy. The Philippines and other countries around the world are denying sanctuary to these killers. We've got them on the run. We're going to keep them on the run.

As well, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy" also applies to nations which harbor weapons of mass destruction; nations which have got abysmal human rights record at home, at their own homes; nations which have not been able to live at peace with their neighbors; nations which would use those weapons of mass destruction to either destroy and/or blackmail the United States and our friends and allies.

I'm a patient person. I've got a—we've got a lot of tools at our disposal. I believe in consultation with Congress. I believe in consultation with our friends and allies. But those who have talked to me know that history has called us to this moment. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we can't let the world's worst leaders blackmail and threaten the United States with the world's worst weapons.

[At this point, there was a gap in the audio feed.]

* White House correction.

—is going to come some good. I love to speculate about what was going through the enemy's mind. What were they thinking when they hit America? They must have thought that we were so materialistic or self-absorbed or shallow or so worried about our own prosperity, our own individual wealth, that we were unwilling to serve something greater than ourself in life; that when the enemy hit, we would just kind of make noise and do nothing about it. They didn't understand the character of the American people. I do. That's why I can predict with confidence that out of the evil done to America will come some good.

I know this Nation. I know our heart. I know our determination. I know our resolve. I firmly believe that by remaining strong in the face of terror and by remaining committed to the human values that we hold dear, that we can achieve peace in parts of the world that may have given up on peace. I believe we can lead others to realize that peace is possible and peace can happen and peace will happen in the Middle East or in South Asia. And I believe we can achieve the peace we dream for, for our children and our children's children.

I also know at home that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, because I've seen the spirit of America. I saw it when I saw the coal miners that were rescued in Pennsylvania. I see it firsthand everywhere I go. I saw it today with a child who came out—18-year-old girl who came out to the airport to greet me, who upon her own initiative signed up her classmates to mentor children in need and fed the homeless, fed the hungry. I saw her in action. I saw her love, and I saw her compassion. It didn't require an act of Government to get her to love a neighbor like she'd like to be loved herself. She felt the spirit, and she felt the call.

And that's happening all across America. That's what this Nation is made out of. There are thousands of people all across this country who reach out to a child and say, "What can I do to make sure you understand that America is meant for you?" You see, our society can change and will change, one heart, one soul, one person at a time. And people say, "Well, I can't do everything." But you

can do something. You can do something to make the community in which you live a better place.

And that's why I'm such a believer in the Faith-Based Initiative. Government shouldn't discriminate against faith. Government should welcome faith, the power—the power of faith, whether it comes through the Christian church, through Judaism, or through Islam, can change people's lives for the better. And we must welcome that faith in our society.

I started running for office in Texas because I was hopeful to be a part of a cultural change in America, a change from a culture which had said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe the culture is shifting in America. People are beginning to understand that serving something other than yourself is an important part of being an American.

And perhaps the most vivid example of that came on Flight 93. Average citizens were flying across the country that fateful day. They heard their airplane was going to be used as a weapon, perhaps against the Capitol or against the White House, certainly against innocent Americans. They said a prayer. They told their loved ones goodbye. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they drove the plane in the ground. It is a signal, a symbol of what it means to be an American, of serving something greater than yourself in life. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because we're the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Jackson and Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Pickering's wife, Leisha, and his father, Charles W. Pickering, Sr.; Senator Trent Lott and his wife, Tricia; Clinton B. LeSueur, candidate for Mississippi's Second Congressional District; and Star Wallin, founder, Project CARE. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete remarks of the President due to a gap in the audio feed from the event. Representative Pickering is a candidate for reelection in Mississippi's Third Congressional District.

Memorandum on Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to Russia Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

August 7, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–27

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to Russia under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 302 of the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (Public Law 107–206), I hereby certify that waiving the restrictions contained in subsection (d) of 22 U.S.C. 5952 and in section 502 of the FREEDOM Support Act (Public Law 102–511) with respect to the Russian Federation is important to the national security interests of the United States.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 7, 2002.

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 8.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

August 7, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–116, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available appropriations of \$100 million for the Low Income

Home Energy Assistance Program of the Department of Health and Human Services. These funds will enable the Department to address the needs of low-income households in 33 States and the District of Columbia experiencing hotter than normal weather conditions.

I designate the \$100 million made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 8.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Colombia

August 8, 2002

On behalf of the people of the United States, I offer sympathy and condolences to the families of those murdered and to those injured by the terrorists in Colombia. I condemn these heinous acts. The terrorists in Colombia have made their goals clear: to kill the aspirations of the Colombian people for a free, prosperous, and democratic state. Through violence against innocents, the terrorists seek the destruction of the democratically elected Government of Colombia. The United States stands with the people of Colombia in their struggle against terror, and we support President Uribe's efforts to bring the murderers to justice.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 3

In the afternoon, the President traveled from the Bush family home on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, ME, to Prout's Neck, ME. Later, he returned to Kennebunkport.

August 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, where, upon his arrival at Pittsburgh International Airport, he met with volunteers from the Jumpstart tutoring program. He then traveled to Green Tree, PA, where, at the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Department, he met privately with nine coal miners rescued from a flooded mine in Somerset, PA, on July 28, and members of their families. Later, he returned to Pittsburgh.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the White House, he met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maura Ann Harty to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael Gibson and Leon Owens as members of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission: Charles Henry Toliver IV; Daniel Dale Holt; Joseph Armstrong DeLaine, Jr.; Lacy Bennett Ward, Jr.; Haywood Patrick Swygert; Littleton Purnell Mitchell; Jesse Milan, Sr.; Josephine Angela Robertson; Carolyn Nichelle Sawyer; and Benjamin William Robertson.

August 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Bethesda, MD, where he had his annual physical examination at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had intelligence briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Jorge Batlle of

Uruguay to express support for economic recovery efforts in Uruguay.

The President announced the recess appointment of Thomas Dorr as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

The President announced the recess appointment of Thomas Dorr as a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Cheryl Halpern as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced the recess appointment of Suzanne Marshall as Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced the recess appointment of William Scott Railton as a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Al Casey as a member of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors.

The President announced the recess appointment of Tony Hammond as a member of the Postal Rate Commission.

August 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Jackson, MS. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had intelligence briefings. Upon his arrival in Jackson, he met with 18-year-old Star Wallin, founder of the Project CARE volunteer organization. He then traveled to Madison, MS, where he participated in a roundtable discussion in the art lab at Madison Central High School on the national economy, medical liability, protecting workers' pensions, and other issues. Later, he returned to Jackson.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President declared a major disaster in the Northern Mariana Islands and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Typhoon Chata'an on July 4–5.

August 9

In the morning, the President had a video-conference with national security advisers. Later, he had telephone conversations with economic advisers.

The President announced his intention to designate Julie Nixon Eisenhower as Chairman of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

The President announced his intention to designate Vance D. Coffman as Chairman of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to designate F. Duane Ackerman as Vice Chairman of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Fact sheet: Committed to Keeping America's Children Safe

Released August 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1209 and S.J. Res. 13

Released August 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands

Transcript of remarks by the Vice President to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, CA

Approved August 6

H.R. 1209 / Public Law 107–208
Child Status Protection Act

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved August 5

H.R. 2175 / Public Law 107–207
Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002

S.J. Res. 13 / Public Law 107–209
Conferring honorary citizenship of the United States posthumously on Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette

H.R. 3009 / Public Law 107–210
Trade Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, August 16, 2002

**Exchange With Reporters in
Waco, Texas**

August 10, 2002

Iraq/President's Economic Forum

The President. Anybody got anything?

Q. Do you, sir?

The President. Well, I do. I'm in close consultations with my senior staff on a variety of subjects. As I said yesterday, I have no timetable for any of our policies as regards to Iraq. That—yesterday I spent time with my principal advisers on that subject, as well as others.

I am pleased with the reports about the productivity of American workers. I thought that was a continuing signal that our economy grows and strengthens. Next week I'll be having an economic summit that—we'll discuss ways that we can further job growth.

So, anyway, I'll be spending some time on subjects that might interest you all.

Q. Mr. President, yesterday in an interview I guess with Scott, you described Iraq as the enemy.

The President. I described them as the axis of evil once. I described them as an enemy until proven otherwise. They obviously, you know, desire weapons of mass destruction. I presume that he still views us as an enemy. I have constantly said that we owe it to our children and our children's children to free the world from weapons of mass destruction in the hands of those who hate freedom. This is a man who has poisoned his own people. I mean, he's had a history of tyranny.

Q. I'm sorry, if I could follow up. Are you surprised that you haven't been able to build more support within the region and within Europe for taking action?

The President. Well, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], I think most people understand he is a danger. But as I've said in speech after speech, I've got a lot of tools at my disposal. And I've also said I am a de-

liberate person. And so I'm—we're in the process of consulting not only with Congress, like I said I do the other day, but with our friends and allies. And the consultation process is a positive part of really allowing people to fully understand our deep concerns about this man, his regime, and his desires to have weapons of mass destruction.

Last question, and then I've got to go chip and putt for a birdie. [Laughter] It was a good drive.

Q. It looked kind of right.

Iraq

Q. Do you think the American people are prepared for casualties in Iraq?

The President. Well, I think that that presumes there's some kind of imminent war plan. As I said, I have no timetable. What I do believe the American people understand is that weapons of mass destruction in the hands of leaders such as Saddam Hussein are very dangerous for ourselves, our allies. They understand the concept of blackmail. They know that when we speak of making the world more safe, we do so not only in the context of Al Qaida and other terrorist groups but nations that have proven themselves to be bad neighbors and bad actors.

Thank you. Have fun today.

[At this point, the President continued his round of golf.]

The President. I'm having a lot of fun. It's good to be back here with my friends in Texas, including Senator Sibley, a fine lad.

Former State Senator David Sibley. A young man. [Laughter]

The President. We're just talking about the old days, what it's like to be in a legislative environment where Republicans and Democrats can get together to do what's right; what it's like to be in a legislative environment where people decide to do what's

best for a—something greater than themselves as opposed to what's best for a political party.

**Pension Reform/Judicial Nominee
Priscilla Owen**

Q. Think you'll be able to do that in Washington with pension reform?

The President. I hope so, on all issues. My call is that Republicans and Democrats need to work together—like on homeland security, on terrorism insurance, on pension reform. There's too much politics in Washington.

Senator Sibley. I don't remember anybody ever busting a judge.

The President. Yes, busting judges, as he mentioned. There's too much politics.

Senator Sibley. It never happens.

The President. Of course, he's talking about a fine Texas woman named Priscilla Owen, who's being busted for political reasons. She's been elected statewide here in Texas. People know here and trust her judgment. And yet, they're playing politics with her. Thank you for remembering that.

Anyway, I hope you all have a wonderful afternoon.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:19 a.m. during a round of golf at the Ridgewood Country Club. During the exchange, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**The President's Radio Address
August 10, 2002**

Good morning. On Tuesday, I will host an economic forum at Baylor University, in Texas, to meet with people on the frontlines of the American economy. Small-business owners, working people, investors, corporate leaders, economists, farmers, and Government policymakers are coming together to discuss where our economy stands, the impact of the policies we have put in place, and the steps we are taking as we move forward.

After a recession that was beginning as I took office, the terrorist attacks of September the 11th, and the corporate scandals that have recently come to light, the American economy faces challenges. Yet, the great strengths of America are more than equal to its challenges. American workers are productive. American entrepreneurs are visionary. And we are acting to reach the full potential of our economy.

These efforts began last year with a tax cut that boosted our economy at just the right time and continues to put more money into the hands of consumers. I have just signed into law trade promotion authority, which I will use to open foreign markets to American goods, creating high-paying jobs at home. I worked with Congress to enact new laws designed to keep corporate executives and auditors honest and to punish those who are not. And we are actively investigating, arresting, and prosecuting corporate wrongdoers. And this week, hundreds of companies will submit signed statements to the SEC, either verifying that their financial records are accurate or letting investors know if there are any problems.

Yet, there is more we must do, more to promote long-term growth and create jobs in our economy; more to enforce budget discipline in Congress, so we can focus on urgent priorities like the war on terror; more to guarantee pension security and improve access to affordable health care; more to educate every child for economic and personal success.

At next week's economic forum, we will discuss all these topics. Economists will provide their latest ideas and analysis of the economic recovery. But I'm also eager to hear from Americans from all walks of life who are working hard to make ends meet during these uncertain economic times. And I expect I will get a wide variety of suggestions on strengthening the economy.

Let me tell you about some of the Americans participating in this forum. Xavier Teixido, a restaurant owner from Delaware—he immigrated to this country from Paraguay when he was 2 years old and worked his way up in the restaurant business. He was recently elected chairman of the board of the National Restaurant Association. Maria

Sobrinio is another entrepreneur who will attend the forum. In 1982, she brought her mother's traditional Mexican desserts to the U.S. market. Twenty years later, she owns a successful food production company in Southern California. Mr. Teixido and Mrs. Sobrinio will tell us about the obstacles small-business owners face and offer opinions about how the Federal Government can help small businesses thrive and create more jobs.

Robert London and Jimmie Morgan will also join us at the forum. Robert is a driver for UPS down in Waco and a member of the Teamsters. Jimmie works for Boeing in Wichita, Kansas, and he has held a number of jobs in the company, from factory worker to management. Robert and Jimmie know that more trade means more jobs, and they want to be sure our Nation continues to open foreign markets to American goods.

With the help of Xavier Teixido, Maria Sobrinio, Robert London, Jimmie Morgan, and other participants, the economic forum will generate ideas to strengthen our economy and make workers and investors more secure. I look forward to participating in the discussions and sharing our findings with the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on August 9 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Small Investors and Retirement Security Session of the President's Economic Forum in Waco

August 13, 2002

The President. Welcome to Texas.

Participant. Nice to be here.

The President. Thanks for coming.

Participant. It's a long ways. It's nice to be here.

The President. It is a long ways. It's going to be a great day. I appreciate you all being

here, and I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

[At this point, Glenn Hubbard, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, made brief remarks and introduced Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefits Ann Laine Combs.]

The President. Ann, thanks. Good to see you.

[Ms. Combs summarized the administration's efforts to improve pension security, increase opportunities for retirement savings, and restore confidence in the markets. She then introduced Charles R. Schwab, chairman and co-chief executive officer, Charles Schwab Corp., who expressed confidence in the stock market and discussed ways to increase investor confidence. Mr. Hubbard then asked if the President wanted to comment.]

The President. Well, I think what caught my attention was this business about confidence. I'm spending some time in Crawford, Texas. I think about how people in Crawford look at Wall Street and the numbers. And one of the things I hope that comes out of this discussion is, how do we simplify the numbers so that people can understand what they're looking at? People in this part of the world get a little suspicious of the fine print. But yet, a lot of them are now investing for the first time. And I think Chuck brings up a great point, is how can people not only on the east coast or the west coast feel confident about what they see but all throughout America can feel confident about what they see and hear?

Part of it is—I remember going—working a rope line in New York. And a business professor said, "Thank you for mentioning in your speech on corporate responsibility that business schools need to learn how to teach right from wrong." Evidently, there's this kind of nervousness about being clear about teaching young MBAs right from wrong.

And a guy walked up to me and said—it was a laboring man—and said, "Well, the best way to teach a lesson is to put some of them in handcuffs. That's the best way to send the message for corporate responsibility"—which we're doing. So we'll enforce

law, but confidence is more than just Government enforcing law. Confidence is an industry policing itself as well as understanding the new customer.

And I'd be curious—first of all, I love your ideas about how to account for loss and/or double taxation dividends. That makes a lot of sense.

But another question I would have for the panelists and look forward to hearing the recommendations is, how do we take care of the new investor? Chuck does a good job of it by recruiting them and then helping them invest. But throughout the system, how do we understand that the nature of the investor has changed?

[Mr. Hubbard introduced Muriel “Mickey” Siebert, chairman and co-chief executive officer, Muriel Siebert and Co.]

The President. How do you like being known as a legend, Mickey? [Laughter]

Ms. Siebert. As long as I'm a living legend—[laughter].

The President. You look living to me. [Laughter]

[Ms. Siebert discussed the need to protect investors from deceptive corporate practices.]

The President. Well, thank you, Mickey. You bring up a very interesting point that Chuck alluded to, and that is—you know, you talk about some of these fancy financial instruments being designed to inflate revenues, for example. And it takes a fairly sophisticated soul to figure out what's going on. And the fundamental question: Who is that sophisticated soul? And it seems like, to me, the sophisticated soul is the recommenders of the stocks.

And Chuck brought up a very good point, and that is, the industry itself is culpable of not blowing the whistle on practices that aren't—that kind of deceive, I guess, is the best way to put it. And my question is how best to—you know, apart from Government, how best may an industry police itself? How best for—as I one time said, I said, they'll sell or buy you depending upon what's in their interest—and how best to protect the unsophisticated now, a person accumulating a lot of assets from these practices that are pretty darned sophisticated.

[A participant suggested that to protect customers, the CEOs and compliance officers of companies providing help and advice need to sign a statement that they have no conflicts of interest. Mr. Hubbard then introduced Sylvester Schieber, vice president, Watson Wyatt Worldwide.]

The President. Excuse me for a minute. So here's what happens. I'm going to four of these; the Vice President is going to four of them. I can assure you, however, that we look forward to hearing the recommendations—Hubbard or somebody is going to be a note-taker. We will look at everything you say.

Again, I also want to tell you how much we thank you for coming, and I'll see you at lunch. We've got a great group of our fellow Americans here that really goes to show that people are concerned about the future of the country. I really want to thank you for coming. I know it was a stretch for a lot of you to come, but the fact that you're here is really meaningful for the country. So thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Again, I look forward to what you have to say. In the meantime, I've got to leave here. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:03 a.m. in the Baylor Law Center at Baylor University.

Remarks at the Economic Recovery and Job Creation Session of the President's Economic Forum in Waco

August 13, 2002

The President. Good morning. Sorry to interrupt. I was hoping to hear Phyllis. [Laughter]

Phyllis Hill Slater. I was quoting you.

The President. You were?

Ms. Slater. Yes, I was quoting you: “Let no child be left behind.”

The President. There you go.

Ms. Slater. Education is key to keeping us strong in this country. And I especially want to look after those children in the rural and urban communities, because that's our future.

The President. You bet.

Ms. Slater. And I thank you for that lead-in.

The President. Well, listen, thank you all for coming.

So here's what happens. I come for 15 minutes and then go to another seminar—the Vice President as well. But I can assure you that any recommendations that come out of this discussion will make it to my desk. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

I want to thank you all for coming. Welcome to central Texas, and I truly look forward to hearing what you have to say. I suspect I know what's on Doug's mind, and that's how to get people back to work. And that's on my mind. I mean, we ought to seize every opportunity to get our workers working.

In one case, Congress can do something about it and should do something about it quickly, and that is to provide some terrorism insurance so that roughly \$8 billion worth of projects move on. And that's \$8 billion worth of work for somebody. I view that in human terms, not in balance-sheet terms.

So I want to thank you all for coming to talk about ways to get the economy moving again. You know, we're pleased with some progress, but we've got more to do. And that's what we're really here to discuss. So any specific ideas that bubble up, you know, we'll give it a good look. But in the meantime, keep the conversation moving here. I don't want to dominate.

[At this point, Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill introduced John Brooks, executive secretary-treasurer, Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters.]

The President. Big John, what do you do—excuse me.

Mr. Brooks. I'm a business manager for the Carpenters—

The President. Oh, good.

Mr. Brooks. —of Pittsburgh, which—we've entertained you.

The President. Yes, you have. You certainly did.

Mr. Brooks. I was probably the first person you met.

The President. That's right. Well, I didn't notice you. I didn't recognize you in a coat and tie. [Laughter]

[Mr. Brooks discussed the need for accurate pension fund reports.]

Secretary O'Neill. Mr. President, before we started, Van, who is sitting between us here, was telling me that her 92-year-old grandmother is watching this on television. So I think we ought to give Van an opportunity to talk. [Laughter]

The President. Your grandmother and my mother. [Laughter]

[Van Eure, owner, the Angus Barn restaurant, briefly discussed the importance of tax deductions for small businesses and her experiences in dealing with the death tax.]

The President. Thanks.

Ms. Eure. And I'm just honored to be sitting beside one of my heroes. [Laughter]

The President. Who, O'Neill? [Laughter]

Secretary O'Neill. Mr. President, I'll take it. [Laughter]

Ms. Eure. Yes.

The President. Thank you.

Ms. Eure. You're welcome.

The President. The thing about the death tax—the death tax is punitive on small-business owners. It is very tough on farmers and ranchers. It's hard to be able to keep your farm and your family if you've got a big appraisal value when a loved one dies. We're trying to get rid of the death tax. I firmly believe the death tax is good for people from all walks of life all throughout our society. As the entrepreneurial spirit takes hold in communities all throughout America, the death tax is going to try to be very punitive on many minorities, minority-owned firms. And our view is, is that if you build up your asset base, you ought to leave it to somebody you want to leave it to, whether your kid or your cousin or whatever it is.

And so we've put the death tax on its way to extinction. However, as a result of a quirk in the law, it arises again 10 years from now. That's a hard one to explain. But, nevertheless, it does. And so we've got to make the repeal of the death tax permanent, for the good of the entrepreneurial spirit and for the

good of our farmers and ranchers. And thank you for bringing that up.

Secretary O'Neill. Sheri Orlowitz, I wonder if we could hear from you?

The President. Where are you from, Sheri?

Sheri Orlowitz. I'm from Washington, DC.

The President. Nothing wrong with that. Me, too. *[Laughter]*

Ms. Orlowitz. I haven't seen you around lately.

The President. Well, I'm on a temporary basis there. *[Laughter]*

[Ms. Orlowitz, chairman and chief executive officer, Shan Industries, LLC, discussed the importance of patience during economic downturns and greater corporate accountability.]

The President. Well, thanks, Sheri. That's very articulate. A couple of points—we are going to find those who have broken the law and arrest them and prosecute them. And the SEC actually has done quite a bit of work. Some of it, I guess, hasn't received wide publicity. But 80 different officers have been punished in a year's period of time. I think it is a year's period of time.

Secretary O'Neill. That's right.

The President. We've increased the SEC budget so that they've got more capacity now to move through the system. Part of what you say requires a board of directors and a compensation committee for understanding their responsibilities. I mean, you're right. Excessive executive pay sends confusing signals. I mean, when a guy makes a merger or a company makes a merger, the executive makes a lot of money; the shareholders lose; something is wrong.

Independent members of boards need to be tough in their responsibilities. I don't think it's right for a Government to regulate pay. I don't think that's a role for the Federal Government. It is a role for the Federal Government, however, to bring those to justice who break clear law. And we will—and we will.

The other thing that you mentioned is the recession. We were—history now has shown, we had three quarters of recession, three quarters of negative growth, and now we've

had three quarters of positive growth. So the trend is in the right direction, which is important for Americans to understand. But nevertheless, there's a lot more to do. One of the key things, as you mentioned, is this business about insurance. We've got to get these projects going. We want these workers working. We want McCarron to quit calling me on the phone saying, "What are you doing about this insurance bill?" *[Laughter]*

Secretary O'Neill. Mr. Johnston, I wonder if we could hear from you? You're in a business that touches every American every day—in the grocery business, Mr. President—so maybe we could hear from you.

The President. Yes.

[Lawrence R. Johnston, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Albertsons, Inc., briefly discussed his suggestions for stimulating economic growth.]

The President. Thanks. Thanks for coming.

Secretary O'Neill. Mr. President, you have to go.

The President. Yes, well, the life of the President—always has to go. But I do want to thank you all for coming. This is—I appreciate, Sheri, your talking about this summit in positive terms. That's how I view it too. You'll be amazed, when you go to lunch today, to see the quality of the folks that have come—got some of the world's leading economists here with you, in your panel, national labor union leader. I mean, we've got really fine people who have agreed to come and share their insights and share some thoughts with us.

I think one of the things you'll hear is that even though times are kind of tough right now, that we're America. I'm incredibly optimistic about the future of this country, because I understand the strength of the country. And the strength of the country is our people. We've got the highest productivity in the world. We've got the best farmers and ranchers in the world. We've got the best manufacturers in the world. We've got the hardest working people in the world. We've got the best tax policy in the world. I mean, we've got a lot going for us. And I think when the American investor—one thing I do want to comment on, I was at an earlier seminar,

and I, too, am concerned about the language of Wall Street not being clear so that the average investor can understand what's going on. And we talked to Chuck Schwab about that. And Wall Street has got to understand that fancy footwork, when it comes to financial instruments, needs to—need to be totally open and transparent, so everybody understands what's happening.

And you're right about making sure that the average investor feels confident in what he or she reads. A lot of folks in this part of the world aren't real—I would call it suspicious about some of the fine print. And there needs to be better disclosure so that people feel confident that they're not being led down the primrose path of fancy financial footwork, let me put it to you that way. And the Government can do some of this, but the industry itself, the investment advisors, and the people—I call them Wall Street—they need to—there needs to be some self-policing mechanism as well, so that people are confident in the numbers.

More and more people invest. A lot of Doug's workers invest—all of a sudden become pretty sophisticated relative to their father and forefathers. But you can't be that sophisticated if you're fighting off lawyers and accountants that are trying to put the dark cloud over reality. And that's one of the things we've got to just make sure does not happen anymore. Part of it is to put these people in jail. But part of it is to insist that the advisory world not have conflicts of interest and everybody understands what's going on. And I think you're going to find some pretty interesting ideas come out of this summit along those lines.

But anyway, thank you all for coming. Hope you've enjoyed central Texas. You're 45 minutes away from Crawford. *[Laughter]* No Albertsons yet, but we do have a stoplight. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:23 a.m. in the Baylor Law Center at Baylor University. In his remarks, he referred to Phyllis Hill Slater, president, Hill Slater, Inc.; Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; and Charles R. Schwab, chairman of the board and co-chief executive officer, Charles Schwab Corp.

Remarks at the Corporate Responsibility Session of the President's Economic Forum in Waco

August 13, 2002

[Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans welcomed the President and summarized the discussion to that point, including the remarks of Truett Cathy, founder and chief executive officer, Chick-fil-A, Inc., concerning why his company never offered public shares. Secretary Evans then introduced Dick Holthaus, president and chief executive officer, National Association of Investors Corp. (NAIC), who asked NAIC members in the audience to raise their hands.]

The President. Great.

[Mr. Holthaus described NAIC's activities as an organization of investment clubs.]

The President. Dick, thank you. First of all, I want to thank you all for coming. This is—it's really a fine seminar because the quality of—the people are great. Wait until you see who's here when you go to lunch. It's really—impressed. And this is a topic that is a vital topic for the country, and that's trust. You know, how do we make sure people can trust what they see, can believe what they hear, can understand—understand that they're being told the truth when it comes to numbers, and make sure the fine print, you know, is fully exposed?

I want to thank Dick from the New York Stock Exchange for helping set the tone for policing themselves. You know, the Government can only do so much. And I can assure you we're going to hold people accountable. If they lie, cheat, or steal, they're going to be prosecuted—they just are. But there's a lot others need to do as well, and the New York Stock Exchange set a very good example, starting a process that will regain the trust of, you know, of just the average citizen in America. That's what we've got to do, and that's what we've got to hit head on.

As the man who heads Albertsons in the previous seminar said, CEOs need to get out front. They don't need to hide during this period of time; they need to be out front.

He's starting tomorrow by signing a letter that will verify the truth and verify reality.

But I want to thank you all for coming. I can assure you that even though I won't be sitting through every single moment of the seminars—nor will the Vice President—we will look at the summaries, and we will look at any ideas that come out, as to determine whether or not there is more Government can do. In the meantime, I'm going to be calling upon the leaders in our communities, all across our communities, to do their job as responsible citizens.

So thanks for coming. This is an important day, and I think, for those who are watching on C-SPAN, I think they are going to find that there's a lot of Americans like themselves who are deeply concerned about the future of this country. And I think you are going to find that a lot of us are very optimistic about the future of the country, because we are a fundamentally strong nation, full of great people.

Welcome to central Texas.

[Secretary Evans introduced Harry Alford, president and chief executive officer, National Black Chamber of Commerce, who stressed the need for honesty and integrity in corporate leadership.]

The President. Well, I can assure you of one thing. If somebody broke the law, they're going to be held accountable. Dick came and I think Ken—both came to the speech I gave in New York. I was telling this story to one of the other seminars. And our business schools don't want to teach right from wrong anymore. They're afraid of taking a position, evidently. Michael probably knows more about that than I do.

But anyway, in my speech I said business schools need to take a stand to teach their youngsters right from wrong. Just as you mentioned, Harry, there are some values that are true. And I was working a ropeline—a professor said, "Well, thanks for saying that. As a business school professor, we needed to hear that." And a laboring man standing next to him said, "Yes, if you really want to teach people right from wrong, put those who did wrong in handcuffs. That's the best ethics lesson that Government can do." And we're going to. We're going to.

[Secretary Evans introduced Ron James, president and chief executive officer, Center for Ethical Business Cultures, who discussed the benefits of ethical corporate leadership.]

The President. Where are you—

Mr. James. Center for Ethical Business Cultures. We're in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The President. Oh, great.

Mr. James. We partner with a couple of academic institutions, the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas' College of Business.

The President. But is there a trend in these business schools, like this person pointed out to me, that there's kind of a—

[Mr. James said that ethics was a core part of the curriculum at these schools, leading students to raise questions about the values of the organizations they considered working for.]

The President. That's interesting.

[Secretary Evans introduced Ana Cabral, president and chief executive officer, Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, who stressed the need for greater diversity in corporate leadership as part of responsibility to the community.]

The President. Well, I appreciate that. I think one of the most heartening statistics about Hispanic life in America is that the fastest growing segment of small-business growth—it's a different subject, but along the same lines—is the Hispanic owner. The Latino-owned businesses in California—the creation there is just unbelievable, and the same in my State of Texas, which is a really positive development.

In terms of large, corporate America, there's no question there has to be a degree of sensitivity throughout the entire corporation in order for it to realize value. In other words, value is not just in numbers; value is in character as well. And I really appreciate Ron's point, that a company that has got a culture of responsibility is a company that benefits financially as well. It's kind of an interesting analysis.

But thank you very much. I'm going to appreciate you coming.

[Secretary Evans introduced Yale School of Management student Jill Gibson, who described how ethics is taught in her classes.]

The President. How about Dean Garten? How's he doing?

Ms. Gibson. He's doing a great job, excellent dean, thank you.

The President. Tell him to give you an "A." [Laughter]

Ms. Gibson. I will. I'll make sure to tell him.

The President. One of the things I hope to get corporate America to do is to give people time off to mentor children, as part of establishing a set of values within a corporation. One of the things that I think is beginning to happen is, corporate America looks at a potential employee's willingness to help a neighbor in need as part of whether or not that person will fit into the new corporate culture.

I think a lot of folks would say that it's impossible to develop a culture within a large corporation; that after the entrepreneurial stage of corporate development, you lose your soul. And one of the interesting challenges for CEO America, as well as the business schools, is how to instill a culture within a large, kind of soulless organization. It's one thing to be Chick-fil-A; it's another thing to have evolved to this, you know, a conglomerate or a giant, where the ownership is dispersed to the point where people really wonder whether or not it's possible. I happen to think it is. I think you can instill a culture in any large organization. But one of the tricks is how to do so. And I believe one way to do so is for—is to encourage employees, as well as, you know, the people who run the company, to do something for somebody other than yourself. Part of that is to be a good community participant and a good community citizen.

I'm glad you're here.

[Secretary Evans introduced June Lennon of Martin and Lennon CPAs, who discussed ways to be proactive in ensuring corporate responsibility, including simplifying accounting rules.]

The President. You ought to take a look at—Franklin can tell you, the Government accounting system is pretty—it's kind of hard

to explain. [Laughter] I've been there for nearly 18 months trying to figure it out. [Laughter]

But thank you very much for that, June.

Listen, again, I want to repeat to you all—I've got to bounce to another seminar, but I do appreciate you coming. This is—the other thing that Americans have got to know is that, by far, the vast majority of our fellow citizens are upright, honest, moral people. By far, the vast majority of people running corporate America are good, honorable people, good, decent people that care about their shareholders, care about their employees, care about communities in which they live. And that's important for people to know—and that there have been some recently whose practices started a while ago and are now coming to light, that cast a shadow on all of us. And we've got to let the light shine in, and that's what we're going to do.

But this is a unique land we're in. There is a moral compass amongst, by far, the vast majority of us, and that's what makes America so great. And our job is to—my job is to capture that spirit, to insist upon the best, call upon people to serve, hold people accountable when they don't. There's no question we're in a rough spot. But the good far outweighs the bad, not only in terms of statistics but, most importantly, because of the people and the character of the land.

I do want to thank you all again for sharing your thoughts. I think this is a very important day. It's important for all of us here, but more importantly, or as importantly, it's important for people who are paying attention to what is said here. So thanks for coming. I look forward to seeing you at lunch. I'm impressed by the quality of the folks that have come.

God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:46 a.m. in the Baylor Law Center at Baylor University. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange; Lawrence R. Johnston, chairman and chief executive officer, Albertsons Inc.; Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and chief executive officer, American Express Co.; Michael Useem, professor of management, University of Pennsylvania; Jeffery E. Garten, dean, Yale School of Management;

and Franklin D. Raines, chairman and chief executive officer, Fannie Mae.

Remarks at the Health Care Security Session of the President's Economic Forum in Waco

August 13, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming.
Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. Mr. President, we're having a great session on medical malpractice and health care costs, the uninsured, and so on. And I've decided to pick several speakers to give you an update. And the first one I'm going to ask to give you a speech and an update is Grandma Green, Flora Green, who is an individual who is going to talk about Medicare. And she is a feisty little lady. So, I interrupted her——

The President. Kind of like you, Tommy. [Laughter]

Hi, Flora. Where are you from?

Flora Green. Salt Lake City. I met you in Salt Lake City.

The President. Of course.

Ms. Green. Barbara's boy. [Laughter]

The President. Thanks for coming. I thank you all for coming, by the way. I want you to know that economic security relies upon good health security. The two go hand in hand. And we understand that, and I want to thank you for sharing your ideas about how to make our society better for all of us.

Flora, thanks for coming. I'm interested.

[At this point, Ms. Green, a member of the Seniors Coalition, spoke about the need for choice in Medicare plans and suggested tax credits for Medigap premium and prescription costs.]

The President. Thanks for coming. Medicare is a very important program. However, it has not changed with the times, and that's a fact. And the fundamental question is, how do we change it with the times, so that seniors get the benefit of modern medicine, and they get to choose? That's one of the interesting debates in Washington, is should you allow—be allowed to choose?

Ms. Green. Absolutely.

The President. Well, I think so too, but others don't. Others want the Government to make those decisions for you.

Ms. Green. Why should some bureaucrat tell me what to do? [Laughter]

Secretary Thompson. Be nice now, Grandma. [Laughter]

The President. Have you ever been to Washington? [Laughter]

Ms. Green. I get past those watchdogs that protect the Members of Congress, those 29-year-olds that are running the country. [Laughter]

Secretary Thompson. Mr. President, I'd like to move on to—[laughter]—more patient control. And I would call upon Lucinda Harmon to give you an update.

The President. Oh, hi, Lucinda. Thanks for coming.

[Registered nurse Lucinda Harmon discussed ways to promote independence for persons with disabilities, such as herself.]

The President. Absolutely. Lucinda, where are you living?

Ms. Harmon. I live in Salado, Texas.

The President. Oh, yes. Right down the road.

Ms. Harmon. Yes, sir.

The President. And what are you doing?

Ms. Harmon. I am an educational consultant. I build capacity in terms of community coalitions and grant writing. My company has brought in \$2.6 million into the State and into the area, and I make \$40 a month.

The President. So you can get your Medicare benefits.

Ms. Harmon. And Medicaid.

The President. And Medicaid, right.

Ms. Harmon. Yes.

The President. Actually, we've made some progress on the Medicare——

Secretary Thompson. We are making progress on it.

The President. ——in terms of income limitations.

Secretary Thompson. Lucinda would like to introduce her dog too.

Ms. Harmon. Yes. My dog is part of my personal choice. His name is Quintessential. Quint, baby, wake up. [Laughter]

The President. Where is Quint? [Laughter]

Ms. Harmon. He's a part of my individual program. Thank you so much, Mr. President.

The President. He was afraid I was going to give a speech. [Laughter]

Secretary Thompson. Mr. President, the next issue that you have a tremendous passion for is reforming the tort system, as far as medical malpractice.

The President. Yes.

[Secretary Thompson introduced Dr. Edward Hill, chairman, American Medical Association, who discussed the effect of malpractice lawsuits on liability insurance premiums.]

The President. We've got a real problem. And what America's got to understand, the medical liability problem affects them for two ways: One, it runs up the cost of medicine; it just does. Large settlements and/or frivolous lawsuits makes your health care go up. That is a fact. And secondly, it—the liability situation denies some people health care.

I met this guy from Mississippi. He's a fellow that came down from Minnesota, he and his wife. They're pediatricians; they heard a calling to go to a poor community. And now they're leaving Mississippi. They were in the Delta, and they're leaving because the lawsuits are driving them out. Not only does the system drive up the cost for the people in the Delta—the poor people can barely afford it—now they don't have a pediatrician, or two less pediatricians. And it's sad, and we need to do something about it, in that the—these liabilities, these lawsuits drive up the cost of medicine. It drives up the cost of medicine to the Federal Government as well, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans health benefits. So therefore, I believe the Federal Government ought to act.

And we ought to have medical malpractice reform across the board. People ought to be able to recover their economic damages. If you get hurt, if somebody has mistreated you, you ought to have your day in court, and you ought to be able to recover what they call economic damages. People ought to be allowed to be treated fairly. But there ought to be a cap on noneconomic damages and on punitive damages. And we ought to have joint and several liability reform. This is a

real problem. And I call upon Congress, Doc, and I call upon you to get the people in Congress to act, to understand the crisis. There are a lot of good docs who aren't going to be docs anymore, and people suffer, and that's not right. And so it's time to act on this. I agree with you completely.

And the other thing people have got to understand is, these frivolous lawsuits—and there's a lot of them—are not only driving the cost of medicine up but denies people the chance to get their day in court. And that's a problem, and so we need to move.

For a while, I thought that it ought to be done at the State level. When I realized the cost to the Federal treasury, I now believe we ought to have medical liability reform at the Federal level. And I'm going to push hard for it, and I need your help. The trial lawyers are very politically powerful, and they're strong. But here in Texas, we took them on and got some good medical—medical malpractice, which evidently had a few loopholes in it.

Mr. Hill. Yes, sir, it did.

The President. But we got some good tort reform across the board, and we need to do it here. We need to do it now in America, before it's too late. The patients get hurt, and the docs get hurt. And one of the things we've got to do is make sure the connection between the doctor and the patient is strong, and that it always remains intact, because that's one of the great things about our medical system.

Anyway, thanks for bringing it up.

Secretary Thompson. Thank you, Mr. President. Have you got time for one more subject?

The President. Yes.

Secretary Thompson. I'm going to call upon a businessman, David Ness, to talk about how difficult it is with health insurance and what they're trying to do to make sure that they have health insurance for their employees.

David.

David Ness. Thank you, Secretary Thompson.

The President. Where do you live, David?

Mr. Ness. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The President. Good.

Secretary Thompson. It's a suburb of Wisconsin, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

The President. He tried that line in Minnesota, by the way. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Ness. Like Wisconsin, we have 3 days of summer. *[Laughter]*

The President. That's right.

[Mr. Ness, vice president of benefits, Medtronic, Inc., described how his company reduced the rate of increase in employee health care costs, including establishing employee personal care accounts.]

The President. Yes, medical savings accounts, whatever you want to call them, are very important for providing proper incentive and keeping the relationship between the patient and the doctor. I hope that Americans understand that if they walk 20 minutes a day, if they'd get out and exercise, the amount of money they can save for their families; that there is such a thing as preventative care; and by making right choices, that people can really save a lot of money. And if the system encourages those savings, that in itself is just as well.

I appreciate you bringing that up. We've kind of lost sight of who is responsible for what. Part of it has to do with the size of Government; part of it has to do with the health insurance phenomenon that has taken place. And the notion is to kind of—we talked about individualized medicine, but as you individualize medicine, individuals have to make better choices too. And that's going to be crucial for the future of the country.

Listen, thank you all for coming. I promise you I will listen to what has been said here, even though I wasn't here. And we will distill the ideas and the comments. This is—this is an important subject for the country because, as I mentioned earlier, good health care will yield to better economic security. It's hard to feel economically secure if you're worried about your health. It's hard to feel economically secure if the health care systems don't enable you to really realize your full potential. And so the ideas that you bring forth are important.

Tommy is doing a fabulous job running Health and Human Services. It's a—Health and Human Services, the budget and the amount of influence it has on our society is

enormous. And Tommy is a good listener, and he's a pretty good actor too. He can get things done. "Action man," we call him.

But I want to thank you all for coming. I think you'll be impressed by the quality of folks who have shown up here. I don't know if you've had a chance to mingle, but it's—I've been very impressed. I've been very thankful that a lot of our national experts have come to talk about a variety of subjects.

Really, what we're talking about is confidence in our future. I've got great confidence in the future of our country, because I understand America. I know what we're made out of. And obviously we've got some problems we need to address, but one problem we don't have to address is the fundamental character of the country. The fundamental nature of the American people are resilient and strong. We talked a little bit in these other seminars about how some have let us down, cheated, didn't tell the truth when it comes to their numbers on their balance sheets. And we'll find those and hold them to account. But by far, the vast majority of Americans are really decent, honorable people.

So thanks for coming to central Texas. I know it's a lot to ask to come here in the middle of August—*[laughter]*—but it's worthwhile. It's worthwhile. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. in the Baylor Law Center at Baylor University.

Remarks at the Plenary Session of the President's Economic Forum in Waco

August 13, 2002

Well, Dr. Sloan, thanks for having us all. And I want you to thank all the good folks here at Baylor University for putting on a great show. I know a lot of people worked hard. I'm really glad a lot of folks from around the country got to see Baylor. It's a fantastic university. And I want to thank the folks here who came from all around the country. Welcome to central Texas in the middle of August. *[Laughter]*

People here are the people that really make America work: the entrepreneurs and

the visionaries, the carpenters, the union heads, the educators, grandmothers. We're here to listen to you, to get a report from what I call the frontlines of the American economy. And it's an important report. And the American people need to hear your report. My economic team and I heard much of the discussion. We will read the summaries. We'll think about it, and we'll move forward to create jobs for Americans. I want to thank all those who led the panels. I want to thank our speakers for doing a fantastic job today.

I am so very grateful for our fellow citizens who are deeply concerned about the direction of our country. On stage today we're joined by four people who I mentioned during the radio address over the weekend. I want to thank Xavier Teixido, who is the chairman of the board of the National Restaurant Association. Xavier is an entrepreneur who obviously runs a restaurant and is now head of a very important association. Maria Sobrino, who is the founder of Lulu's—I don't know if Maria is going to be serving us all after lunch, but I certainly hope so, because she does a great job. Robert London, the driver from UPS; Jimmie Morgan, material management at Boeing. These are four ordinary Americans, as Phyllis called them, who have got opinions. And we heard their opinions, and they're important opinions.

And so I want to thank the Vice President and members of my administration for coming down here to listen, to listen to what Americans have to say.

There's no question our economy has been challenged by a recession that was beginning when we took office, that the terrorist attacks of September the 11th that Phyllis talked about had a lot to do with our economy and the state of affairs from today, and recently we have had to deal with corporate scandals that were long in the making; they finally have come to light—three factors that affected our economy. One of the things that we heard today is that our economy has strengths that are greater than the challenges. I mean, after all, our workers and farmers are the most productive in the world; that our entrepreneurs are incredibly visionary; that inflation and interest rates are low;

that today we saw a report that consumer spending is still robust. We've had three quarters of positive growth after three quarters of negative growth. No, the foundations of the American economy are strong. Yet, the only purpose of a strong foundation is to build on it. And that's what we're discussing today. And we're determined, this administration is determined, to build on the long-term security of the American people.

Here's the way I put it: If somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we have a problem. And we need to do something about it here in America. We have heard from Americans who are concerned but not discouraged. We've seen problems. But we're confident in the long-term health of this economy. We share a sense of optimism about America, because we understand our country.

Too many Americans have lost a large portion of their retirement funds, and they've lost a sense of security in the process. I know that. Too many Americans have lost jobs, especially in the high-tech world, in the manufacturing sector. Too many Americans run into economic and regulatory barriers when they try to create a business or expand their business. Too many construction projects have halted because they cannot get terrorism insurance. The goal must be to create an environment of sustained economic growth. We've got work to do. I know that. But we're going to do the work. It starts with listening to our fellow Americans to find good ideas and implement them.

Here's one good idea to make sure we continue to grow our economy, and that is, Congress, for the long-term economic security of America, needs to restrain spending. Recession and the cost of war and the cost of homeland defense have increased our budget, increased our deficits. Yet, I am determined to fund the great priorities of our Government while exercising the spending restraint that will return America to the path of a balanced budget as soon as possible. More money spent in Washington means less money in the hands of American families and entrepreneurs, less money in the hands of risk-takers and job creators. A limited and focused Government is essential to a growing economy. And if the Congress won't show

spending restraint, I intend to enforce spending restraint.

And this work of enforcement on spending continues today. At the end of the session, the Congress passed an emergency spending bill to strengthen our military, protect the homeland, and to complete the commitment of \$20 billion I made to the citizens of New York. But they also sent along more than \$5 billion in extra spending I didn't ask for. Some of that 5 billion I have endorsed and will work to secure through amendments to the '03 budget, like AIDS prevention money and support for Israel and Palestine. But a lot of that money has nothing to do with the national emergency, and I'll give you one example: a new facility for storing the Government's collection of bugs and worms. I made my opposition clear. We were pretty plain-spoken about the supplemental. But those who wrote the bill designed it so I have to spend all 5 of the extra billion dollars or spend none of it. That's how they wrote the supplemental. Those are the rules they placed upon my administration. I understand their position, and today they're going to learn mine. We'll spend none of it.

As I said, for truly pressing needs and priorities, such as AIDS prevention and resources for the Middle East, we'll send to Congress specific amendments to get these funds quickly. However, we're not going to spend \$4 billion we don't need in order to unlock 1 billion we do. For the good of our economy, for the good of the people who pay taxes, my administration will spend what is truly needed and not a dollar more. Spending restraint is just one of the many responsibilities that we accept.

In order to build on the long-term security for the American people, we must always think about growth and jobs. I want to get American construction workers back to work. And that's why we need to have a terrorism insurance policy. I want those who wear the hardhats, who are willing to take risks by suspending themselves above the land, by building commercial projects that are significant in size—I want them working.

I want to thank Doug McCarron for being here. He wants them working too. We're working hand in hand to see to it that Congress finally gets the message that we need

a terrorism insurance bill to get American hardhats back to work.

People say, "Does it matter?" Of course it matters. There's over \$8 billion of commercial construction that has been suspended last year. That means \$8 billion worth of projects in which somebody is going to be able to work and put food on the table for their family.

And we need an energy policy too. Listen, energy policy is not only good for economic security, it's good for national security. We can do a much better job of harnessing technologies to conserve more energy. We can do a better job of finding renewable sources of energy. But for the sake of our economic security and for the sake of our national security, we need to become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and we need to put our people to work by good, solid energy projects here at home. Congress needs to get me an energy bill. They need to stop talking, and they need to start acting by getting a good, sound energy bill to my desk as soon as they get home.

You've heard a lot about the tax relief plan we passed. Thank goodness we passed it when we did. We cut taxes in the middle of a recession because we believe by letting people keep more of their own money, it'll cause them to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody will produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief was incredibly important, and it's going to be important as time goes on, because it's phased in.

Now, there are some in Washington who want to stop the tax relief, which is like a tax increase, which would be an unmitigated disaster given the economic situation in which we find ourselves. But rather than me talking about, "Let's stop the tax reductions," what Congress needs to do is to join us in the call to make these tax relief permanent—[applause]—permanent so small business—[applause]. Make it permanent so we send a signal throughout society that people should be able to plan, send a signal that we understand job creation is the number one priority of economic policy out of Washington, DC.

In order to make sure the economy grows, we must bring the promise of broadband technology to millions of Americans. My administration is promoting investment in broadband. We will continue to work to prevent new access taxes on broadband technology. If you want something to be used more, you don't tax it. And broadband technology is going to be incredibly important for us to stay on the cutting edge of innovation here in America. The Federal Communications Commission is focusing on policies to encourage high-speed Internet service for every home and every business in America. The private sector will deploy broadband, but government at all levels should remove hurdles that slow the pace of deployment.

In order to build long-term security, we will enforce the rules and laws on the books. I say as plainly as I can to CEOs: If you break the law, we will hunt you down; we will arrest you; and we will prosecute you. We expect the highest of high standards when it comes to corporate America. I want the books open and transparent. The numbers need to be real. The good news for our economy and our society is, by far the vast majority of CEOs are good, honorable people. They care deeply about their shareholders and their employees. Now that both Republicans and Democrats have come together to pass a sound corporate responsibility bill, my administration will take the new law, and we will hold those to account who do not uphold the high standards Americans expect from those of us in positions of responsibility.

I believe—I believe to build the long-term security of America, we need to encourage ownership. We want to have an environment and—where people feel comfortable about starting their own business. We want the Curtis McGuires of the world to flourish. Another way we can promote ownership is to encourage homeownership. One of the statistics that concerns me deeply and concerns those in my administration is this: Too many minorities do not own a home in America. Under 50 percent of African Americans and Hispanic Americans own a home. That's just too few, as far as I'm concerned. You see, owning a home is part of the American experience. And so I'm promoting policies that will encourage homeownership.

And we've set this goal, by the way, that we want there to be 5.5 million minority families owning a home over the next 10 years, which means Government ought to have a policy that helps people with a downpayment. People take a look at owning a home, and they realize the downpayment is a frightening thought. We ought to have a downpayment assistance program out of Washington, DC.

We need to make sure we have education programs, so that people understand what it means to buy a home, so that they're educated in what it takes to own a home. We need to make sure that we have got money available for homeownership, minority homeownership. I want to thank Fannie Mae, Franklin Raines for being here. He is joined with many in the private sector to unlock millions of dollars, to make it available for the purchase of a home. Listen, when people own a home, they have a stake in the future of our society. If we're interested in economic security, we must promote home ownership for all Americans—and the same for promoting asset ownership for all Americans.

One of the most heartening statistics is, more and more Americans are building their balance sheets through pension plans. They're owning stocks and bonds. They've got a future other than their income stream. And that's vital, and that's important. But to make sure that those who own their pensions are fully protected, we need law out of Congress. I proposed a law—the House passed it; the Senate needs to act—which says the following things: One, people should not be forced to hold a large portion of their accounts in a company's stock. If you're working for a company and you own that stock, you should be able to diversify after a 3-year period of time. Secondly, you ought to get sound investment advice every quarter, not every year. Thirdly, as we pass a corporate responsibility bill, if the CEO is able to unload the stock, so should the employee. What's good for the boss is good for the people working for the boss. And we need to make sure that all investment advice is sound investment advice. And these workers who've got their money and their future tied up in these pension plans ought to get the best—

best advice possible. These are good reforms, and Congress needs to act on these reforms in order to encourage what we call an ownership society.

In order to make sure that we continue to grow our economy, we need to be aggressive when it comes to trade policy. Zoellick mentioned to me, he said they're all looking to me. They may be looking to me, Zoellick; I'm looking to you. [*Laughter*] You're the Trade Representative. You've now got the tools. Go out there and start negotiating free trade agreements around the world.

We're back at the bargaining table as a result of getting the trade promotion authority vote out of the United States Congress. It is essential that we move aggressively, because trade means jobs. More trade means higher incomes for American workers. Listen, a confident nation is one which opens up markets. A nation which isn't confident is one that closes its markets and puts walls around. I'm confident. I'm confident in the American entrepreneurs. I'm confident in our high-tech industry. I'm confident in our farmers and ranchers. I'm confident that when we compete, we're the best in the world. And therefore, I want to trade. I want to open up those markets. I want to level those playing fields. Open trade is good for American workers and American families.

I agree completely with the health care panel, ably led by Tommy, that health security is an important part of economic security. There's a lot we need to do in Washington, but it starts with trusting the American people to make the right decisions. That's where it starts. There is a fundamental debate in Washington, DC. It goes like this: Do you trust—who do you trust? Do you trust the American people? Do you trust the elderly to make the right decisions for Medicare? Or do you want the Government making those decisions?

I know that sounds like a simple formula, but it's true. It's true. The debate is, is that there are some in Washington who believe that the Federal Government should make all the decisions on behalf of the American people when it comes to their health care. We don't. We believe the Government can write a check, but we believe that the ultimate decisionmaker is the people of—is the

person we're trying to help. That's the ultimate decisionmaker. We want our seniors to have more choices. Medicare is a vital program, but it's old, and it's stale, and it's tired. Medicine has changed; Medicare hasn't. We need to modernize Medicare by giving our seniors more viable choices when it comes to meeting their own specific health care needs.

Health care must be affordable, and it must be accessible. And one way to make it more affordable and more accessible is to have a medical liability reform at the Federal Government. Too many lawsuits are driving our doctors out of practice and are driving up the cost for too many of our citizens. We have got a serious problem in America when it comes to frivolous lawsuits, and we need to deal with it. And I hope the Members of the Congress are listening carefully when they get—when they're back in their districts. They need to be talking to the people whose lives are being affected by these junk lawsuits. And for the sake of good medicine and good health care, we need medical liability reform out of Washington, DC, as soon as possible.

And finally, I appreciate so very much the panel's discussion about making sure every child in America gets educated. There is no question we need to set high standards here in America. If we have low standards, guess what's going to happen. We will continue to get bad results. If we believe certain children can't learn, the system will just shuffle them through. The system will quit on them, and we've got to stop that in America. The best way to make sure that we enforce high standards is to say that if you receive Federal dollars, you, the State, must measure. You must show us whether or not every child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. Prove it, and if not, you've got to change the system. We cannot have children stuck in schools that won't teach and won't change. For the good of our economic security and for good of our children, we must be willing to challenge the status quo when the children can't read and write and add and subtract. And the only way to determine if that's the case is to have strong accountability. And I

can assure you, Janet, so long as this administration is in power, we will insist upon accountability, no matter how long, how loud the cries of those who believe the status quo works. This administration believes every child can learn. This administration wants every child to learn. And you mark my words, by having high standards and holding people to account, our children are going to learn. And America is going to be a much better place for it.

We heard a lot of things Government can do, and this administration is willing to work with Congress to do them: restrain spending, pass terrorism insurance, protect the pensions and promote trade, punish those who lie, cheat, or steal. But there are also things that people in America can do, people right here in this room must do. It's time for corporate America to earn back our trust. And that starts with having CEOs lead the way by having open balance sheets, fair numbers, by authorizing the numbers that are—tomorrow, starting tomorrow—by proving what I know, that by far the vast majority of those leading corporate America are good, honorable people. But I'm calling upon you to help earn back that culture that says, "We trust what we read. We trust the advice we're getting."

You need to know that I'm incredibly optimistic about America. Oh, I know the hurdles—Phyllis talked about hurdles we face. And we do have hurdles. We've got a war to fight, but it's a war we're going to win. We've got a homeland to protect, and we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland. And we've got the economic security of our fellow Americans to worry about.

But I'm confident in America. I'm confident in the skill of our people. I'm confident in our spirit. I know—I know that we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, because we're a land full of people that are caring and decent, hard-working and compassionate. Oh, there may be some tough times here in America. But this country has gone through tough times before, and we're going to do it again. And we're going to show the world how to be a prosperous and compassionate and decent country.

Thank you all for coming. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in Jones Concert Hall at Baylor University. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Sloan, president, Baylor University; Maria de Lourdes Sobrino, founder and owner, Lulu's Desserts; Phyllis Hill Slater, president, Hill Slater, Inc.; Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; Curtis McGuire, owner and chief executive officer, RedLeg's Lumper Service, Inc.; Franklin D. Raines, chairman and chief executive officer, Fannie Mae; Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson; and Janet Baker, superintendent, Hamilton City Schools, Hamilton, OH. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13272—Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking *August 13, 2002*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. General Requirements. Each agency shall establish procedures and policies to promote compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) (the "Act"). Agencies shall thoroughly review draft rules to assess and take appropriate account of the potential impact on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations, as provided by the Act. The Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (Advocacy) shall remain available to advise agencies in performing that review consistent with the provisions of the Act.

Sec. 2. Responsibilities of Advocacy. Consistent with the requirements of the Act, other applicable law, and Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, as amended, Advocacy:

(a) shall notify agency heads from time to time of the requirements of the Act, including by issuing notifications with respect to the basic requirements of the Act within 90 days of the date of this order;

(b) shall provide training to agencies on compliance with the Act; and

(c) may provide comment on draft rules to the agency that has proposed or intends

to propose the rules and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget (OIRA).

Sec. 3. Responsibilities of Federal Agencies. Consistent with the requirements of the Act and applicable law, agencies shall:

(a) Within 180 days of the date of this order, issue written procedures and policies, consistent with the Act, to ensure that the potential impacts of agencies' draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process. Agency heads shall submit, no later than 90 days from the date of this order, their written procedures and policies to Advocacy for comment. Prior to issuing final procedures and policies, agencies shall consider any such comments received within 60 days from the date of the submission of the agencies' procedures and policies to Advocacy. Except to the extent otherwise specifically provided by statute or Executive Order, agencies shall make the final procedures and policies available to the public through the Internet or other easily accessible means;

(b) Notify Advocacy of any draft rules that may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Act. Such notifications shall be made (i) when the agency submits a draft rule to OIRA under Executive Order 12866 if that order requires such submission, or (ii) if no submission to OIRA is so required, at a reasonable time prior to publication of the rule by the agency; and

(c) Give every appropriate consideration to any comments provided by Advocacy regarding a draft rule. Consistent with applicable law and appropriate protection of executive deliberations and legal privileges, an agency shall include, in any explanation or discussion accompanying publication in the *Federal Register* of a final rule, the agency's response to any written comments submitted by Advocacy on the proposed rule that preceded the final rule; provided, however, that such inclusion is not required if the head of the agency certifies that the public interest is not served thereby.

Agencies and Advocacy may, to the extent permitted by law, engage in an exchange of data and research, as appropriate, to foster the purposes of the Act.

Sec. 4. Definitions. Terms defined in section 601 of title 5, United States Code, including the term "agency," shall have the same meaning in this order.

Sec. 5. Preservation of Authority. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or affect the authority of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to supervise the Small Business Administration as provided in the first sentence of section 2(b)(1) of Public Law 85-536 (15 U.S.C. 633(b)(1)).

Sec. 6. Reporting. For the purpose of promoting compliance with this order, Advocacy shall submit a report not less than annually to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on the extent of compliance with this order by agencies.

Sec. 7. Confidentiality. Consistent with existing law, Advocacy may publicly disclose information that it receives from the agencies in the course of carrying out this order only to the extent that such information already has been lawfully and publicly disclosed by OIRA or the relevant rulemaking agency.

Sec. 8. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 13, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 15, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 16.

Remarks at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 14, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's great to be back here in Wisconsin, the land of reform, a State which has challenged other States to achieve excellence for every citizen. I appreciate the Governor's introduction. I appreciate his friendship. I so very much appreciate you all coming today to give me a chance to share with you some of the challenges our Nation faces and why I'm optimistic that we can achieve and defeat those challenges.

There's no better place to come—a State to talk about a can-do spirit than Wisconsin. There's no better place to come and explain to my fellow citizens how deeply committed I am and our country is to winning the war on terror. This is a good place to come to explain to our fellow citizens that we will do whatever it takes to protect the homeland and that we will do whatever it takes to make sure our economy remains strong and vibrant, all throughout the United States of America.

I want to thank Nancy, the chancellor of this fine university, for hosting me and the small entourage the President travels with. *[Laughter]* I appreciate very much, Nancy, your staff working hard to set up this room for this discussion. Thank everybody on our behalf, please. I also appreciate your commitment to education. I love the idea of a school in which people come to get educated and stay in the State in which they're educated. It is a positive sign that this university is fulfilling its important function, which is to train Wisconsin youngsters for the future and then have the Wisconsin youngsters stay here to make sure that future is bright for all citizens. I congratulate you for your leadership. I appreciate so very much your focus on no child being left behind.

I appreciate so very much the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce for hosting this event. I want to thank the local officials who have come—State officials and local officials. I particularly want to pay homage to Scott Walker.

Yesterday I spent some quality time with the latest inductee into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum's Hall of Fame. That would be your Tommy Thompson. You need to know he's doing a fantastic job. He's got a tough job, and he's doing a great job on behalf of citizens all across our country.

Finally, I had the honor of welcoming a soldier in the army of compassion today at Air Force One. Her name is Lucille Woods. Lucille, would you mind standing up, please? I want you to meet Lucille because she's an example of what needs to happen in America if you're interested in our society being a compassionate society. See, Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put love into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. If you're interested in having an America that is a decent and compassionate place, you've got to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. That is what Lucille Woods does. She is a foster grandparent—she is a foster grandparent who works with second graders to make sure that they learn to read. No child will be left behind in her vision of America. Lucille volunteers her time in her church to help those in need. Our society is going to change, one heart, one soul at a time, because of silent heroes like Lucille Woods. And thank you for coming today, Lucille.

Now, I was mentioning, we have some serious challenges facing our Nation. And my most important job, I think, is to make sure that I protect—do everything I can to protect the homeland and make sure that an enemy which hates freedom doesn't hit us again. They're out there. They can't stand the thought of America being a hospitable society to many cultures. They can't stand the thought of a society which worships an almighty God in different ways, a society which is tolerant to different approaches to religion. They really hate the thought of us being a society in which we are able to speak our mind, a society which values the individual worth of each person. And so, so long as we uphold those values, which we will do, they're going to try to strike us.

But you need to know, your Government at the Federal level and governments at the State and local level are doing everything we can to protect the American people. There's

a lot of really fine people who are running down every hint and every lead and every opportunity to disrupt what may or may not be fixing to happen.

When we get back to Washington after what they call the August break, I look forward to working with the United States Congress to do everything we can to effect an organizational change which would then allow me to say more certainly to the American people, we're effective at protecting the homeland.

There was—there is over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense. These agencies do different things other than homeland defense, but part of their function is to protect the homeland. The Coast Guard is a good example. The Coast Guard protects our shores from smugglers, and they, you know, they're watching out for the fishermen; they rescue boats in distress. But they also have got a function of protecting the homeland. And so the fundamental question, when you think about the fact there's 100 agencies scattered around, is, what can we best do to align authority and responsibility? How best can we have the primary function of these 100 agencies be to protect the homeland? In other words, how do we change priority and culture? My suggestion was, is that we create a single Department, the responsibility of which is to protect the American people, with a Cabinet officer confirmed by the Congress. And we're making progress on this idea. By the way, this isn't a Republican idea, and this isn't a Democrat idea. This an American idea to protect the American people. And so we're making progress.

We're making progress, but the Senate now needs to take up the idea. And the concern is, is that they will be more concerned about their own political turf and jurisdictional turf than they will be the larger concept of protecting the American people. They'll be more concerned about special interests and less concerned about how to adequately protect America. So I look forward to working with the Senate. But I can assure you, I will insist that the new Department be able to put the right person in the right place at the right time to be able to protect the American people, that we will reject any plan which has got a thick book of bureau-

cratic rules all aimed at protecting special interests.

And it's important that we be able to have the right person at the right place at the right time. It's important to be able to do so to protect our borders. We need to know who's coming in and what they're bringing into America and whether or not they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving America. And that means that the INS and the Border Patrol and the Customs all ought to be working in concert, under the same authority, developing the same culture. And that's going to require flexibility to get everybody thinking the same way. There's a lot of entrenched interests in Washington. And we're going to need all the tools necessary to make sure those entrenched interests hit in the right—run in the same direction, and that is to fulfill the top priority of our Government, which is to protect our homeland.

But the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to secure freedom for this country is to chase the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what the United States is going to do. I say that because I want the world to be at peace, but I know the nature of the enemy. They—we can't talk them out of their ideas. We can't hold their hands and hope they change their attitude. We must bring them to justice. This country doesn't seek revenge. We seek justice. And the farther we get away from the attacks of America, the more likely it is some Americans will forget the danger—but not me, nor will the United States military.

For those of you who have got loved ones in the U.S. military, I want to tell you how proud I am, how confident I am of their abilities, and how proud you should be of their service to our great country.

I have submitted a significant increase in defense appropriations for two reasons: Anytime we put our military in harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, the best possible equipment; and secondly, I want to send a message to our friends and our enemies that the United States of America is determined and patient and relentless in our quest for freedom. Now, the Congress has passed—the House passed one version. The Senate passed another version. They

need to get together quickly, when they get back in September, and get a defense appropriations bill on my desk first thing. It's important for our planning purposes; it's important for our war on terror that they not play politics with the defense appropriations bills.

And we're making some progress. We really are. What's hard for some to understand about this new war of the 21st century is that these are people being treated like international criminals, and so it's like we're on a manhunt. And the United States is working closely with our friends, and we have hauled in over a couple of thousand of these folks. They've been arrested and detained. Some of them are in our possession. Others are with other countries. Some of the terrorists haven't been quite as luckily as those who have been detained and arrested. But we're slowly but surely making progress, and we're enforcing the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy, and if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed one, you're just as guilty as those who killed thousands of Americans on September the 11th."

I believe by being relentless and steady, not only will we make America more free, that the future generations of American citizens will be able to grow up in a free society, but by being relentless and steady and principled and determined, we can achieve peace. And that's my hope, is for the world to be peaceful; that we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have—where some folks have just given up on the thought of peace, perhaps the Middle East or South Asia. For those of you with youngsters who are trying to explain what you're seeing or hearing on TV about this war on terror, please tell them that when we go into a country, we go in not as conquerors but as liberators, because we believe in freedom for all citizens who live in the world. We love our own freedoms, and at the same time, by being strong and resolved and determined, we can achieve peace—peace for generations to come.

And the third big challenge is to enhance and to work on the economic security of the American people. We'll work on the homeland security and the economic security. Yesterday I had a forum in Baylor University, in central Texas—quite a sacrifice for people

to come down there, to central Texas, middle of Texas in the middle of August. But they were determined to share with me and people in my administration ideas and thoughts and concerns. I could have had the meeting right here and had the same input from citizens here in the great city of Milwaukee. We had union members and union leaders. We had grandmothers. We had entrepreneurs, small-business people, farmers, ranchers, people from all walks of life. And they talked about the challenges our economy faces. I mean, after all, for the first three quarters when I was the President, we were in recession. And then that September the 11th hit, and that hurt our economy. And then some of these liars showed up. Some of the scandals started to surface. They'd been in the making for a while, but they began to bubble up, and that shook the confidence of our country. And we discussed—we discussed that yesterday.

But we all came—at least, I came to the conclusion, having listened to a lot of our fellow Americans, that the strength of the American people and the fundamental strength of our economy far outweighs the challenges we face. And let me give you some examples. We're the most productive people in the world. Our farmers and ranchers and working people are incredibly productive. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Wages are rising. Taxes are lower. Consumer spending is still strong. I came away from the meeting confident about our economic future, but not content with the progress we're making. And I want to discuss with you some of the things I think we can do.

First, you've got to understand that behind the statistics—at least the way I view it is, behind the statistics is somebody's life. So the way I put it is, if somebody wants a job and can't find a job, we've got a problem. So long as anybody is looking for work who can't find work, we need to do something about it.

Now, there are some things we can do in Washington to help the economy grow. One thing we need to do is to restrain excessive spending. We need fiscal responsibility. Excessive spending will serve as a drag on economic growth. Right now, we've got some deficits because of the recession and because

we're funding the war on terror. But by restraining excessive spending, we can have our budget back in balance. But it's going to require Congress to show some discipline. And that's hard. Every constituency has got an issue. Every program sounds wonderful.

I tried to help yesterday. Congress sent an emergency spending bill to my desk, and that was good. It's called a supplemental. It's money for the war on terror; it's money to defend the homeland; it's money to help rebuild New York City. But interestingly enough, they put 5 billion additional dollars in there, about \$5 billion that I didn't think was an emergency. And part of the language in the supplemental said, "Either you spend all 5 billion of the extra money, or you spend none of it." In other words, I didn't have any flexibility. I didn't get to pick and choose. They said "all or none." I heard their position. Yesterday they heard mine: We're spending none of the 5 billion.

This decision should serve as an example that I am serious when it comes to protecting taxpayers' money and to being fiscally sound with your money, to set priorities and make sure they fund the priorities but don't overspend. Somebody said, "What are you talking about?" In part of the 5 billion, to show you one of the egregious examples, was, they wanted a new building for worms and bugs that the United States had collected. That's not an emergency. [Laughter] If somebody thinks it's that important, they can put it in next year's appropriations bill. As a matter of fact, one of the things we'll do is, we'll take some of the good ideas that were a part of the 5 billion and work immediately to get them in the '03 budgets. And by the way, the '03 funding starts soon.

Two examples: One, a pressing need—one of the pressing needs was AIDS prevention programs. I'm a supporter of doing everything we can here at home and internationally for fighting AIDS. And there's money in there for the Middle East, for Israel and Palestine, and that money is necessary. But there's time to get it in the '03 budget, and we'll get it spent. But I am not—I am not going to allow Congress to pressure me to spend money that I don't think is needed. For the good of the economy, we must show fiscal restraint.

And for the good of the economy, we fortunately reduced the taxes on the people who pay taxes here in America. Tax relief was timely, and it's going to—history will show it was necessary to help fight this recession that we inherited.

One of the things I heard yesterday, and I suspect you would hear from the small-business owners in this crowd, is that by reducing taxes, it helps small businesses grow. Seventy percent of the new jobs in America are created by our small-business entrepreneurs. Small business is the backbone of an economic recovery. And therefore, by cutting taxes, we helped small businesses. I've heard the rhetoric about who supposedly we're helping or not helping. The reality is, most small businesses pay personal income taxes. Most small businesses are not incorporated. They're sole proprietorships. They're limited partnerships. They pay personal income taxes. And when you drop the personal tax rate, you're helping small businesses. The more money a small business has, the more likely it is that small business is going to be able to grow and employ another citizen from Wisconsin.

We slashed the marriage penalty. I believe the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage.

And we put the death tax on the road to extinction. We heard yesterday from people from all walks of life talk about how terrible the death tax is. These are small-business owners, many of whom have just come to America for the first time. They're building up their asset base. They want to be able to leave their assets to whoever they want to leave them to, without that asset getting taxed twice. The death tax is bad for Wisconsin farmers. The death tax is bad for Wisconsin's small-business owners. The death tax needs to go, forever, as far as I'm concerned. But because of a quirk in the Senate rules, the tax relief plan that is being phased in will end in 10 years, or 9 years from now. And that's not right. People need to be able to plan. People need not be—have certainty in the Tax Code. And so therefore, for the good of economic growth, for the good of job creation, the United States Congress must make the tax relief plan that we passed permanent.

Congress needs to act on terrorism insurance. People say, "What is that?" Well, there are eight—there's \$8 billion worth of money that has been put aside—\$8 billion worth of construction projects that are not going forward in America because of the high cost of terrorism insurance. When the enemy hit us, they changed the whole concept of risk. Our belief is, the Federal Government ought to help pay for terrorism insurance. I think it's a useful use of taxpayers' money to provide a certainty, a security for terrorism insurance. If you're worried about jobs, like I am, if you want your hardhats working, we've got to get terrorism insurance passed so these large commercial projects go forward. We want people working in America, and the United States Congress can provide a means necessary to get these construction workers back to work.

We need an energy plan in America. We need to conserve more energy. We need to work on renewables. We need to explore more at home in an environmentally friendly way, so we're not reliant upon foreign sources of crude oil.

I got trade authority. I'm going to use trade authority for the good of the economy. I made the argument to Congress that good trade means good jobs. Listen, if you're good at something, you want to encourage. If you're good at something, you want to open up markets for the product you create. Listen, we've got the best entrepreneurs in the world here in America. We've got the best farmers in the world here. We've got the best cheese in the world here in America. And we ought to be selling our products all around the world. It's important for our fellow Americans to understand, trade means higher paying jobs.

I also look forward to working with Congress on pension reforms. A lot of people own stock and bonds, and that's positive. We want people to own things in America. We want people to say—balance sheet to be more than just potential income; we want it to be assets. And yet there are those who are involved in pension funds that are locked into funds. They can't diversify. There needs to be a law on the books that says that after you own your company's stock for a while, you ought to be able to sell it and diversify

your portfolio. You ought to not have all your eggs in one basket. And I'm proud of the law I just signed, which says, if the CEO gets to sell his stock, so does the working person, the person working for that CEO.

And speaking about CEOs, like you, I have been disappointed in the performance of some of America's chief executive officers. They let us down. They didn't uphold their responsibility as a leader should. They fudged the books. They didn't tell the truth. And now they're going to pay the price. It's no longer easy money for these folks; it's hard time. I want to thank the members of both political parties for signing the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. I appreciated working with leaders in both parties to get this done. We're going to send a very strong signal to people. We expect there to be transparency. We're going to make sure that the numbers are real. We've got a lot of first-time stockholders who don't appreciate being told one thing is happening, but reality was another. The SEC is stronger. We've got more enforcement officers. We've got laws on the books now that are going to increase the penalties for lying and cheating to the American people. I've got a Corporate Fraud Task Force that's active and aggressive. Obviously, they'll stick to the law, but when we find somebody who has defrauded the American people, they're going to pay a price.

You know, I was telling some folks yesterday, I was disappointed to hear that in business schools, they're afraid to teach right from wrong. They don't want to take the position of right from wrong for future MBAs. And in my speech I gave to New York City about the reforms necessary to help clean up corporate America, I talked about the need for business schools to teach right from wrong. And professors came up to me when I was on my way out of the room—he said, "Thanks for saying that." Big old fellow, a working man, came up and said, "If you really want to teach them right from wrong, Mr. President, if you want to send a message about ethics and business in America, slap some handcuffs on one or two of them and put them on TV; that's the best lesson you can leave with corporate America, if they're going to lie, cheat, or steal."

Today chief executive officers of major corporate America are putting their names on the line to certify that the numbers on their balance sheets are real. And that's positive. By far, the vast majority of those who run corporate America are good, honorable people. You've got some great companies here in the State of Wisconsin. I think of Harley Davidson, for example, a company which has got not only a great product but a company which treats its employees with the utmost of respect and dignity and has done pretty well by the shareholder as well. We've got all kinds of companies like that, run by decent people. And we're not going to let the few ruin the reputations of the many. We're going to hold people to account here in America.

One of the things I learned at our sessions yesterday, and I suspect would learn here today, that even though folks are optimistic about the future, there has been—a little shaken in their confidence. People are concerned, and I can understand that. But one of the things that rang true yesterday to me, and does every time I make a stop here in America, is that we should never lack confidence in our character, in the character of the American people. This is a fabulous country. These are hard-working, decent, honorable people who can overcome any challenge. This is a great country, and when we put our mind to something, we'll be successful.

And we've got our mind on some big goals here in America. We've got our mind on bringing freedom and peace to the world. Our mind is on protecting the homeland, and our thoughts and concerns are with those who are struggling economically. But we'll achieve economic security here in America. Our entrepreneurial spirit is strong. The fundamentals are great. We're regaining confidence in the leadership of corporate America. But most of all, the American people are determined to succeed.

You know, I have said to our citizens a lot of times that out of the evil done to America on September the 11th is going to come incredible good. Out of the evil done to our Nation is going to come some good, the likes of which we never really would have dreamed. And part of the good that's going

to come is the fact that our culture is changing, that a lot of Americans understand that it's patriotic to help a neighbor in need. People say, "What can you do to fight the war on terror?" You know what you can do? You can do some good. It's the collective acts of goodness and decency which define America, which show the world the true face of our nobility and our strength and our culture.

Flight 93 was a poignant moment for me and, I suspect, for you as well. These are people flying across the country. They heard the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They were on their cell phones to their loved ones. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It's those acts of courage, those quiet acts of compassion which really are changing America, one person at a time. There is a new culture in this country. We're ushering in a period of personal responsibility. People are responsible for the decisions they make in life, responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul, responsible for helping a neighbor in need, responsible for making sure the Milwaukee school system is the best in the country so nobody—no child is left behind. No, there is a new responsibility in America.

I don't know what went through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They must have thought they were attacking a nation that was so shallow, so materialistic, so selfish that all we would do was maybe file a lawsuit. But what they've learned is, they attacked a nation that is strong and courageous and decent, a nation in which thousands of our fellow citizens understand that by serving something greater than yourself in life, you serve the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Klotsche Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Nancy L. Zimpher, chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Scott Walker, county executive, Milwaukee County, WI.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Governor Scott McCallum of
Wisconsin in Milwaukee**

August 14, 2002

Thank you very much. And you know what I think? I think the voters of Wisconsin are going to say yes to Scott McCallum as the Governor. I am here to help this good man because I believe in him. And I believe he's going to win. And I want to thank you all for helping him. I want to thank you for being here today. I especially want to thank you for what you're fixing to do, which is to man the phones, go to the coffee shops, and turn out the vote. You've got a good one in Scott, a good, honest, decent, honorable man who is willing to make tough decisions. And you need to send him back to the statehouse for 4 more years.

And I appreciate so very much the first lady of the State of Wisconsin, Laurie. It is good to see her again, and their children. I want to thank those boys and the girl for supporting their dad in his run for the Governor's race.

I bring greetings from the First Lady of the United States. She is actually campaigning today in Texas for a friend of ours who is running for the United States Senate in Texas. You drew the short straw. *[Laughter]* But she is doing great. I don't know if you remember the story about Laura and me, but when I married her, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care about politics or politicians. And now here she is, the First Lady of the United States. And she's doing a fabulous job. I'm really proud of her. We're working out of Crawford this month. It's a nice temperature differential. *[Laughter]* But she sends her regards and sends all her best to Scott and Laurie and the family during this really important quest to be your Governor.

I want to thank very much the Lieutenant Governor, Margaret Farrow, for being here as well. I find it very interesting that Governor Farrow is breaking the glass ceiling. She is the first female Lieutenant Governor in Wisconsin history.

I want to thank leaders of the statehouse who are here, Mary Panzer, and Scott Jen-

sen, who is the speaker of the house. Thank you both for coming. I want to thank other members of the legislature who are here. It is in your interest that this good man win.

I want to thank Scott Walker. I call him "cousin." After all, I'm George Walker Bush. *[Laughter]* At least I call him "cousin" so long as he's doing a good job. *[Laughter]* And they tell me he's doing a fine job. Scott, thank you for taking on a very important assignment as the Milwaukee county executive. And we wish you all the best.

I had the privilege of meeting the next attorney general of the State of Wisconsin, Vince Biskupic, and I want to thank Vince for being here as well.

I want to thank Rick Graber, who is the chairman of the Republican Party, a fellow I've gotten to know quite well and trust and appreciate his leadership. I want to thank Mary Buestrin, who is the national committeewoman. And I want to thank Craig Leipold, who is the finance chair for this fine event. Thank you all for coming.

I particularly want to thank the—those of you involved in grassroots politics. Oftentimes we come to these events and we never thank those who have manned the phones to even get the event going in the first place. I understand politics well. I know you cannot win without people energized at the grassroots. And for those of you who have worked tirelessly for Scott and for my behalf as well, thanks from the bottom of our hearts. And I hope this dinner serves as a way to continue—to get you to continue working, because you're vital to the success of any candidate running for public office. So thanks for coming today. It's great to see you.

I like a man who does what he says he's going to do, and that's what Scott did. Scott said he was going to deal with the budget in an upfront way, but he was going to do so without raising your taxes. A lot of folks in politics try to find the easy way out, but Scott stuck to his word. He said, "We've got a budget problem. I intend to work with people from both parties to solve the problem, but we're not going to solve the problem by raising the taxes in a State whose taxes are already too high." And he stuck to his word, and Wisconsin is going to be better off for having a Governor who sticks to his word.

I appreciate the fact that he is working to hold down spending. That's what I'm going to do in Washington. And yesterday I sent a pretty clear signal, I intend to bring some fiscal discipline to Washington, DC. We've got a process called the supplemental budget process. It's an opportunity for the Congress to fund emergency needs. And we needed extra funding for our military, and we needed funding for homeland security, and we needed extra funding to fulfill the commitment to the citizens of New York. But Congress, in its willingness to spend your money, added 5 billion extra dollars. And what made that interesting was that in order to spend any of the extra 5 billion, I had to spend it all. In other words, you either spend all the 5 billion, Mr. President, or you don't spend a dime. They made their position clear. I made mine yesterday clear: We're not spending a dime.

It is important for those of us who have—in charge of the people's money to be fiscally sound and responsible. It's important to set priorities and make sure the appropriators stick to those priorities. And that's what Scott's done here in the State of Wisconsin. It's an important signal to send. During tough times, you've got to have somebody who's willing to make tough decisions. And that's what a leader does.

A leader is also somebody who understands that every child must be educated. I used to say that education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. The most important priority of a Governor is to insist that there be quality education.

We passed a good piece of legislation out of Washington—which passes power out of Washington, DC, because I believe in local control of schools. But it also says, we're going to set the highest of high standards for every child. Scott knows what I know, that if you set low standards for children, you're going to get low results. If you expect mediocrity, you'll have mediocre students. We believe every child can learn and therefore are willing to insist upon high standards for every child.

And as importantly, I insist, and so does Scott, that we measure, that we hold people to account. See, if you believe children can't

learn, you don't measure. But if you believe they can learn, you measure to see whether or not they are learning. And if they are, there ought to be praise for the teachers. But when we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and schools that won't change, it is essential you have leadership that demands something other than the status quo.

I appreciate Scott's vision of public education, and I believe under his leadership, the public education system here in Wisconsin will demand excellence. And by demanding excellence, our children will start to learn. No child in this country ought to be left behind.

I also appreciate Scott's integrity and his decency. He's a down-to-earth fellow. As we say down in Crawford, Texas, he doesn't have a bunch of fancy airs. What you see is what you get. And that's important. That's important for people in politics, to say what they mean and do what they say. You know, we've got a lot of good talkers in the political process, a lot of people who spin fancy promises. What the State needs here and what I believe we need in Washington are people who just say what they believe, work hard with people of both political parties to achieve it—in other words, be willing to be judged on accomplishment. And when people in Wisconsin judge this man on his accomplishments, they're going to put him back in the Governor's chair.

I appreciate Scott's understanding the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the producer and the entrepreneur can flourish. And that's an important distinction between he and how some of the others think. The other people think that Government is there to create wealth, that Government is the answer. Scott knows what I know, that you've got to trust the people. You trust the people with their own money. You trust the people with their own ambitions. You create an environment in which people, no matter where they're from or what they're like, can achieve their dreams. That means good regulatory policy; that means good tax policy; that means good fiscal policy. And that's the kind of Governor he

has been, and that's the kind of Governor he will be.

Not only do I appreciate the chance to come and talk about Scott, I appreciate the chance to come and briefly talk about the hurdles our country faces, the challenges we face. Yesterday we had a fantastic event in Waco, at Baylor University. As I needled the crowd that came down there, I said, "I appreciate welcoming you to the middle of Texas in the middle of August." [Laughter] That's a heck of a commitment. [Laughter] We had people from all walks of life. We didn't ask their party registration. We just said, "Would you like to come and discuss your concerns about the economy?" We had laboring people and union heads and entrepreneurs and small-business people and farmers and ranchers, grandmothers. We had all kinds of people. It was a very interesting session because it showed that there is a concern. But it also showed me that we've got great strength in this country to deal with the economic challenges we face.

I heard over and over again that even though the statistics look pretty good these days, that people's confidence had been somewhat shaken. Nevertheless, they were confident in the long term of the American system. They're confident that so long as we have the right policies out of Washington, the entrepreneurial spirit would flourish. They were confident, if we make right choices when it comes to tax and fiscal policy, the economic growth will continue. I mean, after all, when we first got into office, we endured three quarters of economic negative growth. And then the last three quarters have been positive. So the trend is in the right direction. And interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Productivity is up. Consumer spending is strong. I mean, the ingredients for economic vitality are there.

But there are some more things we need to do, we need to make sure that not only is Congress fiscally responsible, we need to make sure that the tax cuts we passed become permanent. Now, we cut taxes at the right time. You see, Scott and I understand that if you let a person keep more of their own money, the person is going to demand a good or a service. If they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce

the good and service. And when somebody produces the good and service, somebody is likely to find work. That's how the economy works.

In Washington, and I suspect here in Wisconsin, there are some who say, "Let's don't trust the people with their own money. Let's raise the taxes. Let's prevent tax reductions from going forward." There would be nothing worse for our economy than to take money away from the people who make the economy grow. We need to make the tax relief plan passed permanent. I say you need to make it permanent because under a quirk in the Senate law, all the work we did ends 10 years from the time I signed the bill. That's kind of an odd piece of legislation. It's one where you reduce something, and then 10 years later, it pops back up. That's why we need to make it permanent.

And we also need to make the repeal of the death tax permanent. The death tax is terrible on entrepreneurs, terrible on Wisconsin farmers, terrible on small-business owners. It's a terrible tax when you tax a person's assets twice.

No, I believe our economy is going to make good progress. I particularly believe, if Congress does the right thing, that we can make substantial progress. They did the right thing on trade, by the way. For the first time in a long time, I now have what's called trade promotion authority. And I understand good trade policy will yield good jobs. If you're confident about something, you try to promote it. I'm confident about the American people's ability to out-produce anybody in the world. I'm confident that Wisconsin farmers are the best in the world. I'm confident that our high-tech entrepreneurs are the best in the world. I'm confident that we can compete with a level playing field. I intend to use trade promotion authority to sell U.S. products abroad, which will be good for high-paying jobs here in America.

I believe in terrorism insurance. There are over \$8 billion of construction projects which have been delayed because people can't get terrorism insurance. For the sake of hard-working Americans, for the sake of visionaries who want to build, Congress must have a terrorism insurance bill on my desk as soon

as possible, a bill which rewards hard work, not trial lawyers.

We need an energy policy that promotes renewable energy, that uses technology to conserve more, but we need an energy policy that encourages environmentally friendly exploration at home. It is not only important for our economic security that we have an energy policy, it is important for our national security that we're less reliant on foreign sources of crude oil.

No, I believe we can make great progress and we'll continue to work with people of both political parties to create the environment necessary for our entrepreneurs to flourish.

And one thing is certain and one thing now people understand, that if you cook the books, you're going to be held to account. If you do not tell the truth to the American people, there is going to be a consequence. I signed, as Scott mentioned, the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. It should send a chilling effect on those who want to fine-print the American people. It should send a chilling effect to those who believe they can use fancy accounting footwork in order to achieve some kind of short-term objective. I've got a Corporate Fraud Task Force that's going to find those who have committed fraud, arrest those who have committed fraud, prosecute those who have committed fraud.

The American people have got to trust the books of corporate America. I trust, by far, the vast majority of people who run corporate America. I proudly wear a pair of Allen Edmonds shoes every day. *[Laughter]* I know my friend who runs Harley Davidson is here. These are great corporations. They're corporations because the CEO has decided to set the right kind of example by not only treating employees with respect but by understanding they've got an obligation to shareholder as well. I signed a good piece of legislation. We'll enforce the law. And Americans can be confident—can be confident that if somebody cheats them, there's going to be a consequence. And they need to be confident that by far, the vast majority of our corporate leaders are honest and decent and honorable people.

We're making progress on the economic security of the American people. We're making progress on the homeland security for the American people. My most important job is to do everything we can to protect the homeland, is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. And I sent up a pretty significant proposal to do just that. There's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have got some part of the responsibility of protecting the homeland. It kind of makes it hard to hold people to account when there is 100 agencies scattered around. And so for the sake of setting priorities and for the sake of changing agencies' cultures so that they focus on homeland security, I proposed to Congress that we have a Cabinet office, a Cabinet agency involved with protecting our homeland—we move key agencies within an umbrella organization.

And we're making progress there. We're making progress because the House of Representatives passed a pretty good piece of legislation which will allow me and my Cabinet Secretary to put the right person at the right place at the right time in order to protect the homeland.

And now the Senate must act. But the problem is, the first blush of the Senate legislation shows that some Senators are more concerned about protecting their turf than they are protecting the American people. Some Senators are more worried about special interests than the interests of protecting the homeland. I'm not going to accept a piece of legislation which gives us a book this thick of bureaucratic rules, thereby hamstringing the capacity of this administration to protect the American people.

There's a lot of people—there are a lot of people working hard to protect us. There really are. They're working overtime. Anytime we get a hint or a piece of evidence, we're running it down. We take everything seriously here in America about—as to whether or not somebody might be trying to come and hurt American citizens. But the best way to protect the homeland is to chase the enemy down, one by one, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to protect the homeland, and that's what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war than what we are used to. I guess the best way to describe

it, it's like we're on an international manhunt for coldblooded killers. These are people that hide in a cave and send youngsters to their death. They don't require a lot of equipment. They don't have tanks going across a field or formations of aircraft flying around. These are people that don't value life and hate freedom. They don't care whether innocent people die, and they hate the fact that we value life here in America. They can't stand the fact that we worship freely, that we welcome all kinds of religions, that our Government is not a Government that promotes a religion. Our Government promotes freedom of religion. It irritates them.

And so long as we hold those values of freedom dear to our hearts, we're a target. But we're not going to change our values because some international killers don't like us. As a matter of fact, we're going to do something different. We're going to chase them down. We're going to unleash a great military. We're going to call upon a vast coalition. And no matter how long it takes—no matter how long it takes—we'll hunt them down, one by one, to protect our country and to secure our freedoms.

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. In a little less than a year, we routed the Taliban. We upheld the doctrine, "If you harbor or feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists." And the Taliban found out what we meant. I want you all to tell your children, we went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. And thanks to the United States and our coalition, young girls, many young girls now go to school for the first time.

And we didn't leave. We're helping that country build a democracy. We're helping that country rebuild herself so that she has a chance to be a prosperous nation at peace in her neighborhood. But there is still Al Qaida there in remote regions, and we've got brave troops who are hunting them down. And sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. We have hauled in over 2,000 of them. One by one, we're finding them. It's not only the United States, but the Philippines or Spain, all kinds of countries are acting in concert. And a like number weren't as lucky.

But there's more work to do. There's more work to do. And I just want to assure you that I haven't forgotten September the 11th. I understand that history has called us into action. I'm never going to forget the love of freedom that the American States holds dear. I believe in our values. And so long as anybody is out there trying to bunch up or individually come and hurt us, my job is to act and act decisively. And that's exactly what our Government is going to do.

And so when you read about the defense budget I've submitted, I hope I'm giving you a flavor as to why I did ask for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I believe anytime you put your troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And I know it's important to send a signal to our friends and our enemies alike that the United States is in this for the long haul, that there isn't a calendar on my desk that says, oh, by such and such a date, we're going to quit; we're just going to stop. That's not what America is about. We love freedom. We understand we have an obligation to defend our freedoms.

But you need to know how I feel. I feel that by leading this coalition and by remaining strong and determined and patient, that we can achieve peace, peace in parts of the world that have given up on peace. I think we can have peace in the Middle East—I really do—by being strong and determined, by fighting terror and—on the one hand, and promoting democracy on the other. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia. I believe we can achieve peace here at home. And that's my goal, and that's my dream.

See, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. At home I'm already beginning to see the signs of the good that's coming. See, people understand that—and people have asked the question, what can they do to help in the war against terror? And my answer was, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to be a part of a war on terror, love somebody in need. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness

and decency which show the world the true character of America.

People have said, "What can I do to help?" And my answer is, serve something greater than yourself. Serve something greater than your own personal satisfaction, your own personal bottom line. Being a patriot in America, in my judgment, understands that when one of us suffers, all of us suffers. But I also understand Government can't do everything. We can write checks, but we can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That requires neighbor loving neighbor, that requires faith-based programs flourishing throughout Milwaukee. You've got some fabulous faith-based programs here in Milwaukee. I know; I've seen them first hand. I've seen the power of faith work magic in people's lives, right here in your neighborhood.

And so my call to you is, if you want to be a patriotic American, help a neighbor in need. It doesn't take a lot. Mentor a child. And I don't mean mentor a child on a kind of a haphazard basis. I mean, take a child and mentor that child for a while, until that child becomes literate. Or go into a shut-in's house and say, "I love you," on a daily basis or a regular basis. Feed somebody who needs some food. Help somebody find some shelter.

America is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Many in your community understand one person can't do everything, but one person can do something to be a part of a cultural change which welcomes a new era, one different from the old times when it said, "If it feels good, go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a new era in which it says, "We're all responsible for the decisions we make in life." We're responsible for loving our children. We're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. We're responsible for the quality of the community in which we live.

Flight 93 was a defining moment in many ways. It was a time when people heard that the airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They made a conscious decision to serve something greater than themselves, to save life. History will note that they said a prayer, told their loved ones goodbye. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they took the plane into the

ground. It's a symbol of what is happening in America, that people understand to be a patriotic America is to serve something greater than yourself. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, a more compassionate, a more decent, a more hopeful America.

I want to thank you all for coming to help this good man. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the sports and entertainment arena at the Bradley Center. In his remarks, he referred to Laurie McCallum, wife of Gov. McCallum, and their children, Zachary, Rory, and Cara; Wisconsin State senator Mary E. Panzer; and Craig Leipold, financial chairman, McCallum for Governor, 2002.

Remarks at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa

August 14, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I came off the—I came off my ranch today in Crawford. There are not many places that would kind of lure me away, but the Iowa State Fair is one. It's an honor to be here. I'm proud—it's good to see so many friends and friendly faces. I think back with fond memories of my travels through this beautiful State—and I mean it's a beautiful State. God has—God has blessed Iowa and the citizens of this great State.

I was hoping to get here in time for the chicken-calling contest—[laughter]—or the hog-calling contest, but they tell me that they've got a ladies husband-calling contest. I think Laura entered this morning.

I'm sorry she's not with me. She's in Texas. She's actually working today in the Austin area. But I send her greetings, and I can't tell you how proud I am with Laura. She's a great First Lady. I'm really lucky she said yes when I asked her to marry me. Some of her friends in Texas are wondering how lucky she was. [Laughter]

But I'm so glad you all came. I want to talk about some of the challenges that face America. I want to talk about how to make sure our economy is strong. I want to tell you that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland. And I want to assure

you, I'm going to do what it takes to win the war on terror.

I appreciate so very much my friend Congressman Greg Ganske for his introduction, and I appreciate his service to the constituency here in the Des Moines area. Greg, thank you for coming. I want to thank our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman. She's doing a fabulous job. She understands farming and ranching, and she's working hard on behalf of the hard-working farmers and ranchers here in America. I appreciate your Governor coming. Governor, thank you for being here. I'm honored you took time to be here. Governor Vilsack, thanks for coming.

I want to thank Dave Huinker for inviting me to come and setting up this nice little place where we can have a chat about America. I want to thank the boards of directors of the State fair, and I appreciate hard-working Americans for being here as well.

I'm honored to be your President. I understand, and you know, that this economy of ours is challenged. Anytime somebody wants to work and can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem. We've got good, hard-working Americans who are trying to put bread on the table for their families, and they can't find a place to work, then we better do something about it. We better get to work.

When I came into office, we were in a recession. We had three quarters of negative growth. Then the enemy hit us. And then a scandal that had been brewing all of a sudden comes up to the surface, and we found out some people who knew better were cooking the books. But these challenges are pale in comparison to the strength of America. Our farmers and ranchers are the most productive in the world. Our working people can outwork anybody. Our entrepreneurs are more visionary. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Productivity is up. Consumers are buying. The foundation for growth is there, but we've got work to do. We've got work to do.

And I really believe that work should start with making sure we've got a strong farmer economy. I believe the backbone for a good American economy is a good farm economy. I spend a lot of time talking about national security, but one thing I don't have to worry

about is the lack of food for the American people. Thank goodness, thanks to the American farmers, we've got more food than we need here at home.

One way to help create jobs in America, better jobs for American workers, is to trade. Oh, I've heard the excuses. They say, "Well, trade is going to cause jobs to leave America." I just don't believe that. I believe when you're good at something, you ought to encourage that which you're good at. I believe when you're the best in the world, you ought not to limit capacity but expand capacity. And one place we're the best in the world is growing things, and we ought to be opening markets for Iowa farmers all over the world.

Farmers are, I'm sure, skeptical when they hear about trade. After all, the agriculture sector had been kind of a part of trade negotiations. Then when times got tough, they just kind of tossed the farmers aside, said they'd rather focus on computer chips than corn chips. But those days have changed. Those days have changed.

See, I understand you start with strength when it comes to playing the American hand. I understand that if you're interested in economic security for every American, you do what you're good at. And what we're good at is growing food and hogs and cattle. And it's my job and the job of this administration, now that I've got trade promotion authority, to do everything we can to knock down the barriers so you can be selling your products all over the world.

The United States was only party to three trade agreements during the past years. There are 190 of them done around the world; we're only party to 3. But those days have ended. My man Zoellick, who is a trade guy, and Ann Veneman are going to work hand in hand to make sure that agriculture is the cornerstone of good international trade policy. And it needs to be. After all, when you look at the tariffs in other countries, it's prohibitive for U.S. product. I mean, we sell now about a billion dollars' worth of soybeans and soybean products around the world. But in our own hemisphere, the tariffs on soybean products can reach as high as 65 percent. Imagine what can happen when we reduce those tariffs, reduce those barriers, level the playing field for America's great farmers.

No, if we could get rid of all the barriers around the world, it's estimated that \$13 billion of trade, \$13 billion of commerce, would flow in our agricultural sector on an annual basis. That means people would be able to make a living on the family farm. That means that the hard work you do will be realized in fair and reasonable prices.

One of the things we're going to do is to make sure that we're not on the sidelines of international trade and open up markets. It's in our Nation's interests to do so for our farmers and ranchers. It's in our Nation's interest and also for our working people too. It's a fact that when you trade, we get better jobs here in America. It's a fact that when you don't seal ourselves off from the rest of the world, our working people are able to realize a better living.

I want you to understand this statistic. Caterpillar right now is beginning to move product around the world. Yet in Chile—they're trying to move something into Chile for that economy—there's a \$15,000 tariff on a motor grader. Imagine what would happen if we had a free trade agreement with Chile, which we're going to work hard to do. All of a sudden, those motor graders move a lot quicker, because they're the best in the world. But guess what happens when we sell them into Chile? Somebody else is going to find work here in America. We've got to produce American goods and sell them overseas. It's in our workers' interests to do so.

The head of John Deere is here with us today, and he tells me one out of every four tractors produced at John Deere's largest U.S. factory in Waterloo, Iowa, is sold overseas. That means somebody's earning a living on that plant floor. That means one of your fellow citizens is more likely to be employed. The more tractors John Deere sells overseas, the better off it is for Iowa workers. You see, trade is not only good for the farmers and ranchers, the entrepreneurs, and the high-tech people; trade is good for the working people here in America. And I intend to make America a free trading nation.

But there are other ways to make sure our economy remains strong. Greg talked about my understanding of the need to develop renewable sources of energy. You see, there's a chance, if we do good things on research

and development, there's a chance, if we continue wise policy as regards ethanol, we can grow our way to become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. It's in our Nation's interest that we become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We need to make sure that, in order for our economy to be strong, for the farm economy to remain strong, that the tax relief package we passed is permanent. When your economy slows down, it is very important to let the people keep their money. You see, when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody's going to find work. The tax relief package that we passed came at the right time for America. Unfortunately, because of a quirk in the law, it goes away after 10 years. Unfortunately, it is not permanent. For the sake of our farmers and ranchers, for the sake of the small-business owners here in America, for the sake of people who need to plan, Congress needs to make the tax relief permanent.

Yesterday we had an economic summit in Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I told them, I said, "Welcome to the middle of Texas in the middle of August." [*Laughter*] They must have had something on their mind, and they did. One of the things we heard over and over again from our small-business people and from our farmers and the ranchers that were there was how terrible the death tax is. I mean, people wonder about, how do you keep the farm in the family? One way you keep the family farms intact is not to tax a person's assets twice. Part of that tax relief plan I'm talking about was the repeal of the death tax. It comes back after 10 years. That's bad public policy. I strongly urge the farmers and ranchers here and those who own small businesses to demand that your elected representatives repeal the death tax once and for all.

There's other things we can do and must do. We've got to have fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC. We've got to make sure we don't overspend. Every project sounds fantastic. Every idea is worth funding in Washington, but that's not reality. It's important

to set priorities with your money and to make sure we stick to those priorities.

Congress sent me what they call a supplemental spending bill. There was a healthy amount of money in there for fighting the war on terror and protecting our homeland, which I thought we needed. But they added 5 billion extra dollars, including a new building to house the worm and bug collection of the Federal Government. And they put a stipulation on the money. The Governor will appreciate this. They said, "Either you spend it all, or none of it." Those of us in the executive offices don't particularly like that kind of language. "Either you spend it all, or you spend none. Either you spend everything we think is necessary, including the house for bugs and worms, or you don't spend any of it." Well, they made their decision. I made mine: We're not spending any of the extra \$5 billion, for the sake of fiscal sanity in Washington.

There's a lot of things we can do. We need a terrorism insurance package to get our hardhats working again. There's over \$8 billion worth of projects, large projects, which are stalled in America because we can't get terrorism insurance to the developers. Congress needs to pass a good bill which understands putting the hardhats back to work is good for the American economy.

But there's one other thing we need to do here in America. We need to take some of the good, old-fashioned farm values and make sure they're a part of our culture. I'm talking about values of hard work and honesty. I'm talking about telling the truth. I love the priorities of our farm families: faith, family, and telling the truth and being honest and upright. And corporate America needs to hear that signal.

By far, the vast majority of our corporate leaders are good, honest people, no question about it. You've got some of the great corporations here in Iowa, people who run—companies run by people who care deeply about their shareholders and their employees. But I want to assure you of something. If we find somebody cooking the books, we find somebody not being open and honest, we find somebody trying to get ahead by sleight of hand, they will be prosecuted and they will be—they will be held to account.

We can't stand for corporate corruption to corrupt America.

No, we're making progress. We're making progress. We've got a lot of work to do. But I'm optimistic about the economic security of America, because I understand America. I know we've got great people, hard-working citizens. I understand the vibrancy of our entrepreneurial class. I see and hear the vision of people that are dreaming new dreams. I know there's new businesses being started up all around the country. No, we may have hit a bump in the road. But that road is going to smooth out, and people are going to find the economic security they want here in America. But we're not going to rest until that security is throughout the entire country.

We've got another big calling here, too, and that's the homeland security for our country. People wonder, you know, "Why is it that an enemy would want to hit America?" And my answer is pretty simple. It's because we love freedom, and they don't. It's because we value a society in which people are able to worship freely and speak their mind freely and read a free press, and the enemy can't stand it. And they're out there. They're out there, and they hate us. And plus, they don't value life like we do here in America. Every life matters in this country. Every person's got standing, as far as we're concerned. They don't believe that.

And so long as they're out there, we will do everything we can to protect the homeland. There are a lot of really good people at the Federal, State, and local level working hard to protect America. Anytime we get a hint, anytime we get a piece of evidence, we're moving on it, to disrupt whatever plans they may have.

In order to do as good a job of protecting our homeland as possible, I have called upon Congress to create a new Department of Homeland Security. I concede I didn't run for Government saying, "Vote for me. I want our Government to be bigger and more cumbersome." I said, "I want our Government to be effective and to work." And we particularly need an effective Department when it comes to homeland security.

There's over 100 agencies there in Washington that have got something to do with homeland security. I mean, there's just too

many of them. It's hard to hold people to account when you've got 100 agencies scattered all over the Nation's Capital. So in order to protect our borders better, in order to be able to deal with first-responders and bioterrorism, I said, "Why don't we collect most of them under one umbrella, give them one boss, give them a chance to set a single priority, which is protecting the homeland?" Oh, I understand that agencies like the Coast Guard will do other things. But protecting our homeland is the number one priority of this Government.

And so therefore, I expect and the American people expect Congress to work with us to give us the tools necessary to protect the homeland. And the House of Representatives made a good start, but the Senate looks a little shaky. The Senate looks like they want to micromanage how we can run the Department of Homeland Security. They want to protect their turf. But their turf isn't nearly as important as the security of the American people. I expect the Senate to give me a bill that will allow me to move people to the right place and the right job and the right time on behalf of the security of the American people.

But the best way to secure this homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what this country is going to do. It's going to take a while. It's going to take a while because, after all, unlike previous wars where you can see these battalions and divisions moving across plains and hedgerows and see aircraft flying in formation, this is one of these wars where people are going to hide in a cave and then they send some youngster to his death. That's the kind of war we're fighting.

But we're patient. We're a patient country. And we're disciplined, and we're united, because we understand history has called us into action. History said, you know, what are we made out of? We're about to show the world what we're made out of. We love our freedoms. No one is going to take them away from us. And we've got a fantastic United States military to back us up.

I called on Congress to pass the largest defense appropriations bill since Ronald Reagan was the President for two reasons: One, any time we put our soldiers into harm's

way, we better make sure they've got the best pay, the best equipment, and the best possible training. Secondly, we're sending a pretty strong message to the rest of the world that we're not quitting, that America understands our obligations and responsibilities to future generations, that we love freedom, that we love our—the ability to live a free life. And therefore, we're going to remain vigilant and strong and lead a mighty coalition against those who would try to take away our freedoms.

And we're making progress. We're making pretty good progress. We've hauled in or captured—however you want to put it—brought to justice over a couple of thousand of them. And a couple of other thousand weren't so lucky. But they're still out there. They're out there. And they just have got to hear the message from America loud and clear: You can't hide; you can't run. Slowly but surely, we're going to bring you to justice.

I hope when we get back from our—what they call a recess, the August recess, that Congress acts quickly on the defense appropriations bill. Sometimes they like to play politics with the defense appropriations bill, but we're at war. We don't need any politics with the defense appropriations bill. I want to sign the bill as soon as possible after we get back. It's important for our military. It's important for our planners.

I believe we've got some hurdles ahead of us, but there's no question we're going to—we'll deal with them, because we're America, a fantastic country. I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe, sure as I'm standing here, that if we remain tough and strong in the war against terror, that we'll bring peace to the world; that by being steadfast in our love, we can achieve a peace that's important for future generations of Americans, but equally as important for future generations of children growing up all around the world. We have that chance, and I believe it's going to happen.

And I know, here at home—I know, here at home, that we have a chance to change America for the better. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this land of plenty. There are people who really wonder whether or not the American experience is

meant for them. So long as one of us suffers, all of us suffer. But I know that America can change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. I like to put it this way: One of us can't do everything, but each of us can do something to help make America a more compassionate place.

I was joined at Air Force One by Erika McCroskey today. She's from right here in the Des Moines area. Erika, stand up for a minute, will you? Erika is an AmeriCorps volunteer. She decided she is going to do something with her life by helping others. I was reading that—and Erika, she's going to Bolivia to help somebody in need there. I said, "Erika, why are you going?" She said, "My mother raised me in the spirit of service." You see, the great strength of America are the Erikas. I call them soldiers in the armies of compassion, people that don't need a Government law to tell them to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, people who have heard a call that's much bigger than Government.

You know, our fellow citizens say to me, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" I tell them to love somebody in need. If you want to fight evil, do some good. What's happening in America as a result of the attack is that people are now understanding that patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God" in it. A patriot—a patriot—a patriot is somebody who assumes the personal responsibility to help somebody in need. And that's happening in this country. Our culture is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understand we're responsible for the decisions we make in life; if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul; that you're responsible for helping people in need, that you're responsible for a society that hurts sometimes, and that you're responsible for helping somebody who's just calling out for a little love and some attention.

No, if you want to help in the war against terror, do some good. It's what I call the

gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, which are defining the true character and the true nature of our country. No, the enemy hit us. The enemy had probably thought we'd file a few lawsuits or two. But they realized we're a little different than that. This is a strong nation, a nation of deep character, a nation that can overcome problems, and a nation that will see to it that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good.

Thank you all for coming today. And may God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. at the machinery grounds at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Thomas Vilsack of Iowa; Dave Huinker, president, 2002 Iowa State Fair Board; and Robert W. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer, John Deere. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7582—National Airborne Day, 2002

August 14, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The history of Airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat. Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. In November 1942, members of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, conducted America's first combat jump, leaping from a C-47 aircraft behind enemy lines in North Africa. This strategy revolutionized combat and established Airborne forces as a key component of our military.

During World War II, Airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, Airborne soldiers played

a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, Airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite Airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. As we face the challenges of a new era, I encourage all people to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2002, as National Airborne Day. As we commemorate the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the thousands of soldiers, past and present, who have served in an Airborne capacity. I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 19.

Memorandum on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

August 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-115), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles and services from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of \$5 million for Tunisia, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Doug Gross and the Republican Party of Iowa in Des Moines

August 14, 2002

Thanks for such a warm welcome. It seems like only yesterday I was at the Ames Straw Poll. [Laughter] I guess you could say I cut my Presidential teeth right here in the State of Iowa.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I'm honored to be here to proudly support the next Governor of the State of Iowa, Doug Gross. They tell me he grew up on a farm with nine brothers and sisters, so many kids they didn't need any machinery. [Laughter]

The truth of the matter is, all they've got to do is make sure all those brothers and sisters vote, and it will be a landslide. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here with the next first lady of the State of Iowa, Eileen Gross. Doug and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*]

Speaking about my wife, she's in Texas today. She sends her greetings to our many friends who are here. I'm sorry she's not with me, but I can tell you, I am incredibly proud to be married to such a fine lady and a person who is making a great First Lady of the United States.

I want to thank all of you all for coming. I want to thank you for helping Doug to this point. I want to thank you for what you are going to do, which is to turn out the vote, to go to your coffee shops, your churches or your synagogues and your community centers, and tell the people of Iowa what a good man this guy is, a man who believes in family, a man who has got deep faith, a man who is going to bring credit to the Governor's office of the State of Iowa.

I'm pleased that we're joined here today by my friend the next United States Senator from Iowa, Greg Ganske. And when you put Ganske in there in the Senate, you're going to have two fine United States Senators, nobody better than Chuck Grassley in the United States Senate. We've done a lot in Washington, a lot of positive things. And a lot of it had to do with his leadership. I'm sorry he's not here to hear me bragging about him. But if you see him, tell him.

And you've got Jim Nussle, who is the chairman of the budget of the House of Representatives. Nussle has done a fantastic job of making sure we've got a sound budget, that he represents the taxpayers of the United States in a great way. I want to thank you for coming, Jim.

I appreciate so very much two fine Governors, or former Governors, who are here with us today, people who mentored Doug, who taught Doug how to manage a Governor's office, and that of course would be Bob Ray and Terry Branstead.

We've got some fine Members for the United States House of Representatives with us today, Iowa State senator Steve King, and

Stan Thompson, both candidates who are going to win and help us in Washington, DC.

I want to thank so very much Debi Durham, who is going to be the next Lieutenant Governor of the State of Iowa. Thank you, Debi.

I appreciate so very much my friend Chuck Larson, who is the chairman of the Republican Party. And I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. Those of us in office never can thank people enough for the grassroots work that goes on in the precincts all across the State of Iowa and all across our country. Many of you have worked tireless hours on our behalf, and both of us, both Doug and I, thank you from the bottom of our heart.

I was working the State fair today, and a proud grandfather, an uncle, I think it is, came up and said, "Have you ever heard of Jeff Clement?" I said, "Yes, I know a little something about baseball. I've heard of the fellow. He's a boy from Marshalltown—Texas. He has the high school home run record." Believe it or not, Jeff is here with us today. Jeff, I want to thank you for coming, and congratulations on being a power slugger.

I not only appreciate Doug's smalltown values. By those, I mean values where, when he says something, he means it. Those are the kind of values you need in office. As you know, when people shake hands in smalltown Iowa and smalltown Texas and they say—they give you the word, they stick to that word. That's the way it works. And those are the values he'll bring to the statehouse here. When he says he's not going to raise your taxes to balance the budget, he means he's not going to raise your taxes to balance the budget.

He understands, if you tax things too much, you're going to get less of it. And what we need is more job growth. We need small businesses to flourish. This State doesn't need more taxes. It needs more jobs so people will stay here at home. And Doug understands that. He's got a creative program to increase the jobs here in the State of Iowa. It starts with fiscal sanity in your statehouse.

And, by the way, we need some fiscal sanity in Washington, DC, as well. One of my

big concerns is that we overspend in our Nation's Capital. Fortunately, we've got a good man like Nussle watching the budget. But recently—I don't know if you followed this or not—but recently, the Congress passed what they call a supplemental. It's a way to supplement appropriations. And we needed a supplemental to help fund the war on terror and a supplemental to help pay for homeland defense. But they sent over to me about \$5 billion we didn't need, \$5 billion of extra money. Part of that \$5 billion, by the way, was a new building to house the worm and bug collection of the Federal Government. It doesn't sound like an emergency to me. And the fine print of part of that supplemental said, "You either spend all of it, or you spend none of it. You've got to take the entire 5 billion additional dollars on top of what was needed for the military and homeland, or you don't spend any of it." And they made their position clear, and I made my position clear: For the sake of fiscal sanity, we're not going to spend the \$5 billion.

And that's the way Doug is going to lead as well. For the sake of fiscal sanity, you can't say yes to every single appropriations bill that comes. You've got to set priorities. You need to have a Governor who knows how to manage the office. A Governor who has got the ability to say no and the ability to say yes, but always remembering that the money that we spend in Government is not the Government's money, it's the people's money.

I look forward to working with Doug on farm policy. Today, at the State fair, I had the honor of talking to a lot of people who make their living off the land. By the way, one of my favorite statements, which is a true statement, is, if you own the land, every day is Earth Day. The people who care more about the quality of our environment are people who have to make a living off the land. And today I was able to talk to a lot of people who make their living off the land. And I assured them that in order for there to be economic prosperity in America, we've got to make sure our agricultural sectors are strong and vibrant. And that's why, one, I was proud to sign the farm bill, and, two, I look forward to working with Doug on not only research and development projects that will enable us to grow our way out of energy

dependence but to continue a good policy of promoting ethanol in America.

The thing I like about him the most is his passion for education. He better be passionate for education; he's got enough kids to educate. *[Laughter]* But he knows what I know, that the number one priority of any Governor has got to be to make sure every child in the State receives a quality education.

And let me tell you our philosophy. It starts with understanding and believing that every child can learn. You see, if you don't think any—every child can learn, then you set low standards. He believes and I know we must set high expectations for the public schools in Iowa and all across our country. He believes that every child has got the capacity to learn to read and write and add and subtract.

We passed a bill out of Washington, DC. It was a good piece of legislation, and one of the cornerstones of that bill says, we trust the Doug Grosses of the world. We trust the people of Iowa to set the path for excellence for every child in the State of Iowa. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to running the public schools. All power shouldn't be in Washington, DC. We ought to be trusting the local folks to run their schools. And when you have this man as your Governor, I trust him to run the schools.

But in order to make sure every child learns and no child is left behind, it is incredibly important that we measure, that we hold people to account, not to punish anybody but to determine if their kids are learning the basics. And if they are, we will continue to praise teachers. And for those of you who teach, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. But when we find children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, you better have you a Governor who is willing to challenge the status quo so children are not left behind. And I believe strongly, Doug will be that kind of Governor. He's not going to be beholden to special interests. The only interests he cares about is making sure no child in America, not one single child in the State of Iowa or in America is left behind.

No, we've got a good man here. I like to put it, when you find a good one in politics,

you'd better help him. And that's why I want to thank you all for this help. There's no question in my mind that with his hard work and his vision and his passion for people—bringing people together to get things done, on behalf of all of the citizens of Iowa, come this November, he's going to be the next Governor of your State.

Before I leave, I do want to share with you some of the challenges that our Nation faces. And one, of course, is economic security. The way I like to put it, anytime anybody who wants to work can't find a job, then we've got a problem. And so we've got to constantly think about how to create jobs in America. That ought to be the question of all of us in Government. What can we do to create an environment in which the entrepreneur or small business or producer can flourish? And I believe that starts not only with fiscal restraint in Washington, DC—and as I mentioned, I sent a pretty clear message the other day about my view of overspending.

I also know it has something to do with tax policy. Thank goodness we cut the taxes on the American people when we did. The way to help the Nation recover from recession is to let people keep more of their own money. Some of the folks in Washington don't understand that. They don't understand, if a person has more money, that person is going to demand a good or a service, and if they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good and service. And when they produce the good and service, it means somebody is more likely to find work. And that's the way the economy works.

But interestingly enough, not only did we reduce the taxes, but we did so on a temporary basis, because the Senate rules have it that after 10 years, the tax reductions revert to where they were. It's awfully hard for people who are trying to set up a business or run a farm to plan with uncertainty in the Tax Code. For the sake of long-term economic growth, for the sake of job creation, the United States Congress must make the tax reductions permanent. And that includes making sure that the repeal of the death tax is permanent.

I can't imagine what's going through the minds of these Senators and Members of the

House who do not want to get rid of the death tax. They must not understand what it does to the family farmer or the rancher or the small-business entrepreneur. We've got people coming to our country for the first time, they're starting their own business. It's a part of the dream of being an American. And yet our Tax Code is such that they have trouble leaving it to their heirs because their assets get taxed twice. That's not right. We put the death tax on its way to extinction. It's time you get you a Senator who understands that—two Senators who understand that in Iowa, and it's time for the Congress to make sure that the death tax is permanently repealed.

For the sake of economic growth, I'm going to promote trade. Confident people tear down barriers. And I'm confident in the American farmer, and I'm confident in the American entrepreneur, and I'm confident in the high-tech industry in America. I'm confident in our enterprise. And therefore, I want to level the playing field and tear down trade barriers all around the world, so we can feed the world. We're the best at what we do, and it's important for us to promote the best of what we do. For the sake of job creation, I'm going to use the newly earned trade promotion authority and aggressively promote free trade for American products.

No, there's a lot of other things we can do. We need a terrorism insurance bill. For those of you in the construction industry, you understand what it means to not be able to get insurance because of the premiums as a result of the potential threat of terror. And as a result of terrorism insurance premiums being sky high and not affordable, \$8 billion of commercial construction has been delayed or taken off the books in America. That means somebody who is wearing a hardhat isn't working. And this Congress needs to come together and get me a terrorism insurance bill so major construction projects can go forward, a bill which rewards hard-working Americans, not a bill which rewards trial lawyers.

No, the fundamentals of growth are strong in our economy. Inflation is down. Interest rates are down. Productivity is up. Consumers are still buying. But we have been shaken, no question about it. As a matter of

fact, the first three quarters when I was in office, we were in recession. However, the last three quarters have been positive growth, which is a good trend. And then the enemy hit us, and that shook our economy.

And then another enemy cropped up. After a while, it became apparent that some in our corporate America thought it was okay to fudge the books, thought it was okay to not tell the truth. Well, we got together, Republicans and Democrats, and passed the most significant corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. And here's my message to those who think they're going to cheat the shareholders or their employees: If you do, we're going to find you, arrest you, prosecute you, and put you in jail.

And we're making progress—and we're making progress. The American people must understand, by far the vast majority of people who are running corporate America are good and honorable, decent people, people who care deeply about their employees, people who understand they have a responsibility to their shareholders. No, we've got a hurdle to cross here in our economy, but I'm optimistic about America, and I'm confident in our future.

And I'm also confident we're doing everything we possibly can do to protect the homeland. My most important job now, and the most important job of the Federal Government, is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again.

I know there's a lot of kids here today who are probably wondering, "Why would somebody want to strike the United States of America? What is it about our country that creates a certain hatred toward us, toward our citizens?" And the answer is, people hate us—certain people hate us because we love freedom, that's why. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that we can have political discourse in an open way. We love a free press. The more we love freedom, the more some hate America.

But the bad news is, for the enemy, we're always going to love freedom. We value our freedoms. It's what we're made of. It's what makes us shine as a beacon for many around the world. The Government of the United States is—spends a lot of time chasing down

every possible lead, every hint about somebody who might be thinking about doing something to America.

My job is to make sure our Government functions as well as it possibly can, and therefore I proposed a sweeping reform to our Congress. I recognized that there's over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense. I mean, they're scattered all over Washington. You've got them here, and you've got them there, and you've got them here, and it's kind of hard to bundle them up, to make sure that their number one priority is my number one priority, which is to protect the homeland. So I proposed a new Cabinet office, a new Secretary of Homeland Defense, responsible for making sure the agencies who have got something to do with homeland defense make homeland defense its number one priority, and making sure that cultures within the agencies change so that they can work together to defend the homeland.

I'll give you one example. On our borders, we've got all kinds of agencies down there. We've got the Border Patrol. We've got the Customs. We've got the INS. Sometimes they talk. Sometimes they don't talk. They've got different strategies even though they're in the same sector on the border. For the sake of protecting the homeland, we need to bring these agencies under one umbrella, with one major task: Protect America from future attacks.

And I want to thank Nussle and Ganske for working on a homeland defense package, which is a good package out of the House. It gives the administration—not only this administration but future administrations—the flexibility necessary to put the right people in the right place at the right time to create a culture of protection.

But it looks like we might be having a little slight problem in the Senate. See, if you look carefully at what they're doing, they're more interested in protecting their own political turf and their own jurisdictions than they are the American people. They want us to be hamstrung by a thick book of bureaucratic rules, because they have been more interested in special interests. The special interest I've got in mind is the American people, and I call upon the Senate to get me a good bill

so I can protect the homeland of the American people.

But the best way to get the homeland secure is to find the enemy, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's what the United States of America is going to do. This is a different kind of war than we've been used to. It's—I guess the best way to describe it, it's the kind of war where the commanders hide in caves, and they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. These people are—they kind of blend into, sometimes big cities, sometimes the countryside. They always find some place where the underbelly is soft, and they burrow in there. It's like we're on an international manhunt.

And we're making progress. We really are. We're using our intelligence services wisely. We're sharing intelligence with members of this vast coalition of freedom we put together. We've got a fabulous military, a lot of young men and women who are taking a risk on behalf of freedom. And we're hunting them down, one by one. We've arrested over 2,000 of these killers. Another like number haven't been quite so lucky. But there's more of them out there; there just are. You just need to know that. And so long as they're out there, and so long as they're threatening America, this Government is going to do everything we can to find them.

We don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And justice we're going to find. That's why I've submitted the largest budget since Ronald—defense budget since Ronald Reagan was the President. I wanted to make it clear to those who wear our uniforms and their loved ones and their families, when we put you in harm's way, you deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best equipment possible.

I also wanted to make it clear to the enemy and to our friends that history has called us to action. We understand that, and we're going to defend freedom. And we're going to do everything possible to secure freedom for our children. That's the message we're sending, that we're not fainthearted, but we're determined. We're resolved. We're united. We understand the moment, and we're not going to blink, and we're not going to yield.

The task at hand is pretty tough, no question about it, but so are we. We're plenty tough. But we're also plenty caring. I said loud and clear at one point, if you harbor a terrorist or feed one of those terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists. And the Taliban found out exactly what the United States meant.

But we just didn't go into Afghanistan to conquer; we went in to liberate. It's important to remember that thanks to the United States and our coalition, young girls now go to school for the first time—some young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan. And we haven't left Afghanistan. As a matter of fact, we're helping democracy flourish there, and we're helping rebuild that country. No, we're a kind nation. We're plenty tough, but we're plenty kind.

I don't know what was going through the enemy's mind when they hit us. They must have listened to too much of the gossip shows or something, and thought that we were so materialistic, so focused on our own personal balance sheets, so self-absorbed, that after 9/11 all we might do is file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* But they found out this is a different kind of nation than they thought. This is a determined people, a resolved people, a people who are willing to defend values, values that we hold dear.

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. Out of what was done to this country is going to come some incredible good. By being strong and united, by willing to stand tough in the face of adversity, we can lead the world to peace. And that's my goal. My goal is peace. By speaking plainly and clearly about what's right and wrong, about the effects of terror, we can not only achieve peace in America, I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East and South Asia, countries and people that have given up on the hope of peace.

No, out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, not only abroad but here at home. It's so important for us and for all of us to remember that in this land of plenty, there are pockets of despair, pockets of poverty, places where children say, "This American experience isn't meant for me." So long as people suffer, the whole

country suffers. And therefore, we must resolve as a nation to help eliminate those pockets of addiction and despair. Government can hand out money, and we do a pretty good job of that at times. But it's important to remember, what Government cannot do is put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a loving citizen remembers the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. That happens when somebody mentors a child or feeds the hungry or goes and sees a shut-in, and says, "I love you." That's how that happens. You see, America can change, one act of decency at a time. I like to remind our fellow citizens that one person can't do everything, but each of us can do something to make our country a better place. People ask me, "What can I do to help on the war on terror?" You can love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency which will define the true character of America.

No, out of the evil done to our country is going to come some incredible good. And part of that good is not only the understanding that you've got to serve something greater than yourself in life, part of it is to sacrifice to make the country a better place. And that sacrifice comes in all different ways. Perhaps the most dramatic sacrifice of all was on Flight 93. Citizens were flying across the country. They were told on their cell phones by their loved ones that their plane was going to be used as a weapon to perhaps destroy the White House or the Capitol. History will record, these brave souls told their loved ones they loved them. One of the last words was "love". They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they drove the plane in the ground. What a fantastic example—a sad example, but a fantastic example of serving something greater than yourself.

If you want to join in the war on terror, help somebody in need. Work hard to make your community a better place. Tell your children you love them every single day. Love them with all your heart and all your soul. No, I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible

good, because this is the finest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

It is my honor to be here for your next Governor. Thank you all for coming, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:55 p.m. in the Arena at the Polk County Veterans Memorial Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Steve King, candidate for Iowa's Fifth Congressional District; Stan Thompson, candidate for Iowa's Third Congressional District; and Chuck Larson, Jr., chairman, Republican Party of Iowa.

Remarks at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in Keystone, South Dakota

August 15, 2002

Well, thank you all so very much. John, I appreciate your kind introduction. I appreciate your leadership and your friendship. I want to thank you all for coming today. Gosh, what a warm welcome. It's such a beautiful spot. I told Laura she ought to come; she didn't. You drew the short straw; you got me. [Laughter]

But what a magnificent place on such a beautiful day to talk about America and the challenges we face. I mean, after all, standing here at Mount Rushmore reminds us that a lot of folks came before us to make sure that we were free. A lot of pioneers came to this part of the world to make sure that enterprise could flourish. A lot of our predecessors faced hardship and overcame those hardships, because we're Americans.

And that's what's going to happen in this era too. We've got problems. We've got challenges. This generation has got challenges to meet, and we're going to meet those challenges head on. We've got the challenge of fighting and winning a war against terrorists, and we're going to win that war against terrorists. We've got the challenges of protecting the homeland, and we will do everything in our power to protect the homeland. And we've got the challenge of economic security. Economic security in this part of the world is a big challenge, and I understand that. But we'll do everything in our power to overcome that challenge as well. No, this

is America—American land based upon strong values, inhabited by great people. There's no doubt in my mind that the challenges we face will be challenges we overcome.

I'm glad to come to share that optimism with you in this historic spot. I appreciate those who work for our Park Service. I particularly want to thank my Secretary of Interior, Secretary Gale Norton. I want to thank the park managers, the fine, hard-working folks who work for the Park Service, for providing such a magnificent site for our fellow Americans to come and witness history and be a part of nature at its best.

I want to thank so very much Governor Tom Ridge, who is my Homeland Security Advisor, for traveling with me today. He was the Governor of Pennsylvania. I said, "Listen, you need to leave being Governor of Pennsylvania; we've got a problem." [Laughter] "We need to secure the homeland." And thankfully, he sacrificed and moved to Washington, to serve side by side with me doing everything we can to make our homeland secure.

I appreciate so very much your Governor, Bill Janklow, for being here. Bill has been a friend of mine for a long period of time. He might have invented the word "piece of work." [Laughter] But he's a good piece of work.

I want to thank—I want to thank Majority Leader Tom Daschle for coming today. Tom, I appreciate your time. I'm honored you're here. And I want to thank Senator Tim Johnson, as well, for taking time out of his day to come to be here at Mount Rushmore.

I had the honor of, when I landed in Air Force One at Ellsworth, I had the honor of meeting a fellow named Jerome Harvey. He's a professional firefighter who volunteers his time to help people in need. He grew up in a volunteer fire department, in the sense of taking on this important job as—for his lifetime. I bring him up because he's helping others learn how to fight fire. He's a part of what I call a soldier in the army of compassion. I'm confident there are soldiers in the armies of compassion right here, people who have decided to use their talent and time to help people in need. That's the spirit of America that I love, the fact that we've got

neighbors willing to help neighbors, people who are willing to take time to ask that fundamental question, "What can I do to make my community a better place?" So I appreciate Jerome coming out to say hello. And for those of you who are serving your communities in any kind of way, I want to thank you from the bottom of a grateful nation's heart.

Everybody knows this economy of ours faces challenges. After all, for the first three quarters of my administration, we were at negative growth. That's called a recession. [Laughter] And then the enemy hit us, and that hurt us economically. And then after some scandals had been in the making for a while, they bubbled to the surface, and we learned that some of our corporate citizens were trying to fudge the numbers, weren't being honest with the American people.

We've had to deal with recession, emergency, and corporate scandal. And there's no question it's raised a high hurdle for us to cross. But let me tell you something, that high hurdle is going to be crossed, because our people are hard workers. The productivity of the American farmer and rancher and the American worker is the best in the world. The fundamentals for economic growth are sound. Inflation is down. Interest rates are low. Productivity is high. The consumer is spending money. We've got the foundation laid. Now we've just got to build on it.

One way to make sure we have economic security for Americans around our country is to make sure our agriculture economy is strong. See, I think the cornerstone for economic security is good agricultural policy. This is something I know something about. As a matter of fact, after I leave here, I'm heading back to Crawford. We've got a few cows around—[laughter]—got some hay.

We fortunately have had rain. That wasn't the case always in Texas. I understand what drought means to people who make a living off the land. I know how people suffer when there is no rain. I've seen my fellow Texans, and I heard some of my fellow Americans today, talk about the anxieties that come when you're in a business that relies upon good weather and good prices. I've talked to ranchers who have been on their family

ranch for years, wondering whether they can stay on. I talked to community leaders who wonder whether or not there's a place for young farmers and young ranchers in this society. No, people hurt here, and I know that. We want to help deal with this drought. We want to help the hurting people, because it is not only good for the neighborhood; helping people in the agricultural sector is good for the American economy. A good agricultural sector is good for all Americans.

On Monday, the Department of Agriculture made \$150 million available for immediate emergency feed for livestock producers here in South Dakota and three other States. Sixty-four of your 66 counties have been allowed emergency assistance. We're working hard. I want you to know I signed the farm bill, and I'm proud to have signed the farm bill. Some of us in this audience who supported a farm bill took a little heat over it. I know the Senator supported it. John supported it. We took heat over it because, I guess, some people didn't understand how important the farm economy is. But I said, when I signed that bill, there's \$180 billion in that bill of taxpayers' money to help our farm and ranch community. And as we move forward to help our ranchers with drought relief, I expect that help to come from the \$180 billion, so we don't run up additional deficits in the Federal budget.

It's important to watch our spending in Washington. It's important to set priorities and watch our spending. I appreciate the fact that the Congress sent me a supplemental the other day that helped fund our priorities of the military and homeland security and helping the good folks of New York. We fulfilled a promise to the good folks of New York who are trying to recover from the September the 11th attack. But in that particular bill they added \$5 billion I didn't ask for. And they put some fine print in the bill that said, "Either you spend all the \$5 billion, or you spend none of the \$5 billion. In other words, you spend every dime in there beyond the request, or you spend none of it." For the sake of fiscal responsibility, I made the decision to spend none of the extra \$5 billion.

Now, there are some issues in that \$5 billion that we need to deal with, and I look forward to working with the Congress. I

mean, there's money in there for the Middle East, which I want to spend. There's money in there for AIDS policy, which we need to spend. But we can amend the '03 budget. So the message is clear: In order to make sure we don't put a drag on our economic security measures or economic growth, we've got to be fiscally sound in Washington, DC, fiscally responsible with the people's money.

I'm looking forward, when we get back, to signing an energy bill, one that promotes renewable sources of energy like ethanol. Ethanol is good for our economy; it's good for our air; it makes common sense. I'd rather have the capacity to say to the world, we're less dependent upon foreign sources of crude oil because we're growing energy right here in South Dakota in the United States.

For the good of our economy, we need commonsense forest policy. We can and we must manage our forests. We must keep them disease-free. We must have reasonable forest policies so as to prevent fires, not encourage them.

In order to help our economic recovery, we need to make the tax relief package we passed out of the Congress permanent. Those tax reliefs came right at the right time. See, when you're in the middle of a recession, it's important to let people keep their own money. It's also important to remember, when we're spending money, it's not the Government's money we're spending; it's the people's money. It's your money. I mean, we did a good job of cutting the marriage penalty. After all, we want our Tax Code to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage.

We want the Tax Code to encourage small-business growth, not discourage small-business growth. And that's what cutting the personal income tax rates do. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. They pay income taxes at the personal rate. So reducing taxes is good for capital formation and job creation.

But we also did something else that I think is important for South Dakota farmers and ranchers. We sent the death tax on its way to extinction. That death tax is a—if you're interested in keeping people on the farm, you've got to get rid of the death tax. If you want to help the ranchers, you've got to get rid of the death tax. But unfortunately, it

didn't work that way. We sent it on its way to extinction, but the problem is, it bounces back after 10 years. For the sake of economic vitality, to allow our producers and entrepreneurs to plan, for the sake of keeping people on the farms and ranches, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

I just signed a trade bill. I understand some in the agriculture sector are worried about trade. I hear the same thing from some of my Texas friends. And I can understand why people in the agriculture sector worry about trade. After all, our trade negotiators in the past talked a good game about agriculture but seemed to forget agriculture when they got to the table. My attitude is, is that if you're going to have trade policy and if you want to boost the economic security of the American people, you start with your strength. And one of our great strengths in this country is the productivity of our farmer and rancher. One of the great strengths of America is that we produce more food than we need. And if you produce more food than you need, it seems like to me that you ought to work to sell that food overseas to people. We ought to be feeding the world, here in America.

You just need to know that when I talk to the Chinese, I'm talking about soybeans. I want South Dakota soybeans to be sold into China. When we talk to Vladimir Putin, we're talking about chickens. Every time I have a conversation with world leaders, when it comes to trade, I remind them that we expect there to be a level playing field for American agricultural products. I believe firmly—I believe firmly that good trade policy will yield good jobs in America.

And finally, to make sure that we have economic security, we've got to regain the confidence of the American people. After all, the confidence had been shattered. There's too many stories in the business pages and now on the front pages of people who were fudging the numbers, people who had a position of responsibility but forgot to behave responsibly, people who didn't treat their shareholders and their employees with respect, people who are now, when we find them and prosecute them, are going to be serving hard time, not finding easy money.

I want to appreciate so very much the Congress for working together. Both Republicans and Democrats came together to fashion a corporate responsibility bill. It's the most significant piece of reform, corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. And it's a good piece of legislation. Let me summarize it by this way: It says, we expect the best from people in positions of responsibility. We want people to be held to account if they break the law.

I remember giving a speech in New York on this subject. And in my speech I said business schools, schools that train future business leaders, must be willing to teach right from wrong. Evidently, that's not the case these days. Evidently, there's some nervousness in some of the college campuses about teaching right from wrong. And after I gave the speech, I was working the ropeline. A professor who is at a business school said, "Thank you for saying that. We need to do that around America." A big fellow standing next to him said, "Well, if you really want to send an ethics lesson in America, if you really want to teach right from wrong, put some of them in handcuffs on national TV as you lead them off." And that's what's going to happen when we find people who cheat the American people.

By far, the vast majority of our corporate citizens are good and honorable people. You've got some fine corporations here in South Dakota, people who care deeply about their employees, people who understand that they've got to tell the truth. No, by far the vast majority of our leadership around this country understand what it means to be a responsible citizen.

And we're cleaning up the mess. Slowly but surely, the American people are understanding that this future is a bright future for us, that economic security will spread its wings throughout all our society. And you just need to know, I'm not going to rest, neither will my administration rest, until we're sure anybody who wants a job and can't find one is able to find work.

We've got another big challenge facing America, and that is to protect our homeland. I want to appreciate the moms and dads who brought your kids here today. It's probably hard for you to understand why anybody

would want to hurt America, why would we have to protect the homeland in the first place. Let me tell you why. It's because your country loves freedom. We love the freedom—[applause]. We love the idea of people being able to worship an Almighty freely. We love the idea. We love the idea of honest political discourse. We like a free press. We love freedom. The enemy hates freedom. So long as we embrace freedom—which we will do—there's going to be people who try to hurt us. There's another distinction between us and the enemy: We value every life; we value every human life. And these folks are out there. They're haters. They're out there. And our job is to make sure that the homeland is as secure as possible.

As you know, I proposed a significant reform of the agencies involved with homeland defense. We've got over 100 agencies scattered all around Washington that have got some part of defending the homeland. And that doesn't make much sense. If the number one priority of the Government is to protect the homeland, it seems like, to me, that those agencies involved with protecting the homeland need to be under one boss; they need to have one chain of command. If you want to change a culture, if you want to set a clear priority, we ought to organize our Government so that priority is the most important thing these agencies do.

And so I called upon Congress to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. And we're making some progress on the Department of Homeland Security. But I'm a little worried about some of the noise I hear. I don't want our hands tied so we cannot do the number one job you expect, which is to protect the homeland. I need to be able to ship resources without a time-consuming approval process. If you're trying to defend the homeland, if you need to act quickly in response to a threat, we need to be able to move resources. We're not trying to do away with congressional authority. We're trying to have the capacity to respond to the needs of the American people. Unfortunately, the bill in the Senate right now won't let me do that.

Let me give you an example. If intelligence were to show that the terrorists were planning to use a new type of biological weapon,

it makes sense for the Department of Homeland Security to take money from one project to buy medicines, to stockpile drugs, to respond if the attack were to occur. We don't have that flexibility right now. I'm not allowed to reorganize old agencies to meet new threats, and I'll give you an example.

On our border—listen, we need to know who's coming in the country. We need to know what they're bringing in the country, and we need to know if they're leaving the country. But we've got different agencies with different strategies in different uniforms. They need to be working in concert. I need the authority to have Customs and the INS and the Border Patrol work in concert so that there's no gaps in the defense of our borders. I don't have that authority under the Senate bill.

The way the bill is structured now, it takes too long to hire good people. There's too many bureaucratic rules. The bill micromanages the capacity of the executive branch to do the business on behalf of the American people. I need the capacity, this Department needs the—it's not just me, it's future Presidents need the capacity to be able to pay people according to their contributions and hold people to account for their performance, both good and bad. If somebody does a good job, we want to be able to provide bonuses. I am deeply concerned about this provision of the Senate bill. It strips me of authority. Unlike previous—if this bill were to go through, this bill would take away the authority that every President since Jimmy Carter has had, which is to exempt agencies from collective bargaining requirements if I were to determine that our national security demands it. It's important during times of war that we be flexible to meet our needs.

Now, having said that, I'm absolutely confident and know that this Department will protect Federal workers' rights, will safeguard against unwillful discrimination. There will be whistle-blower protection. They will be able to be in a union if that's what they choose to do. But I need flexibility to be able to run this Department. I need the flexibility to be able to look at the American people and say, we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland against an enemy that hates us.

The best way to protect the homeland—and, by the way, there are a lot of good people working hard to protect you. Anytime we get a hint or a lead, we're moving. We're disrupting. We're following every possible opportunity to disrupt potential enemy plans. And I hope you're proud of the fact that there's a lot of good folks who care deeply about your future. I sure am. I'm proud of the way our people are responding.

But the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to make sure our children can grow up free, is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. This is a different kind of war than we're used to. This isn't a war where these infantries go marching across the plains or hide in hedgerows, or formations of aircraft go streaming across our skies. This is a war where leaders hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of war we're fighting. It requires a new way of thinking, a new attitude. It requires our military to be trained in a way that can go into—to move quickly and be agile, be lethal when they strike. It doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned. There's no cave deep enough. We're going to hunt them down. You see, history has called us. History has put the spotlight in America. We're the beacon of freedom. We're the bastion of freedom, and we're the protectors of freedom, as far as I'm concerned.

I submitted a significant increase in our defense spending—it's the biggest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President—for two reasons. Anytime we put our troops in harm's way, they've got to have the best training, the best pay, the best equipment possible. We owe that to our troops, who are performing brilliantly, by the way. We also owe it to their moms and dads and their husbands and wives and their loved ones.

But the other reason I submitted a significant increase in defense spending is because I want the message to be loud and clear to our friends and foe alike that we're not quitting, that the United States of America understands the challenge, that, no matter how long it takes, we're going to defend our freedoms. And we're making pretty good progress. We're making pretty darned good progress. I laid out a doctrine that said, "If

you harbor a terrorist or you feed one of them, you're just as guilty as the terrorists." And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant.

But I want—I want the youngsters here to understand that when we went into that country, we went in as liberators, not as conquerors. We freed people from the clutches of a barbaric regime and, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, many young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives. History will note that we didn't hit and run, that we stayed there. We stayed there to not only make sure that Al Qaida doesn't bunch up again, but we stayed there to help this country, Afghanistan, flourish. We believe in democracies. We believe every child should have a chance to realize his or her dreams. We believe in peace.

I think we've hauled in over 2,000 of the enemy—"we" being all kinds of people, the Philippines and Spain, of course, the United States. We're making pretty good progress. We're getting them one by one. Sometimes you'll read about it; sometimes you won't. This isn't a very dramatic war, as far as TV goes. But we're making dramatic progress, is the best way to put it. And, by the way, about equal a number of the people weren't quite as lucky as those who were captured.

And we've got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of work to do. And that's why this budget I submitted is a significant budget. The House passed its version. The Senate passed its version. They've now got to get together as quickly as possible, as soon as possible, and get the defense appropriations bill to my desk nearly upon arrival. In other words, as soon as they get back from the recess, I need to sign the bill so we can plan for the war.

I hope you can tell that I'm an optimistic person. I'm an optimistic person because I understand America. I understand the strengths of America. I know we're going to prevail in this war on terror. And as we do so, I believe, as sure as I'm standing here, we're going to bring peace to parts of the world that haven't dreamt about peace in a long time. By being firm and strong and diligent, we'll bring peace not only to our own children and their children, but we can bring

peace to the Middle East and peace to South Asia. No, we have a fantastic chance to take the evil done to our country and turn it into good for worldly peace.

And here at home, we can make a huge difference in people's lives. Listen, we live in a land of plenty, but there are people who hurt, people whose lives have been shattered by addiction, young kids who haven't gotten a good enough education and may not have love at home and wonder whether or not America is meant for them. So long as any of us hurt, all of us hurt in America.

I understand there is a limitation to the capacity of Government. Government can hand out checks; we do a pretty good job of that sometimes. *[Laughter]* But what Government cannot do is put love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. In order to change lives for the better, in order to make sure we eliminate those pockets of despair and hopelessness, it will require loving Americans to act, loving Americans to put their arms around people who wonder whether or not there's hope and say, "I love you, brother. I love you, sister." People ask me what they can do in the war against terror. My answer is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. People say, "Well, I can't do everything." I know you can't do everything, but you can do something to help change America, one soul, one conscience at a time. And that's what's taking place in this country. It really is.

Many people stepped back after September the 11th and said, "What is—what's our life worth? I mean, how do we fulfill a full life as an American?" More and more people understand that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance to a nation under God. They're saying—more and more people understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is a part of being a complete American. And as more and more people do that, as more and more people choose to mentor a child, as more and more people help feed the hungry, as more and more people go to their churches and synagogues and mosques and hear that universal call to love a neighbor, Amer-

ica's culture is changing. And America, itself, is changing.

America's culture is changing from a period in which we all have said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." We're ushering in a period of personal responsibility in this country, where moms and dads understand, if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you must love your children with all your heart and all your soul. People in America are understanding that if you live in a community, you've got to help that community to realize its full potential. They're understanding there is such a thing as personal responsibility and sacrifice.

And perhaps the most vivid example of that came on 9/11 itself. People were flying across the airplane on what's now known as—then and now known as Flight 93. They heard their plane was going to be used as a weapon. They got on the phone, and they told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They served something greater than themselves by saving life. It's an example for all of us to remember that America is a country based upon our willingness to serve something greater than ourselves, our willingness to be something other than a materialistic society, a willingness for all of us to help define the American spirit and love our neighbor so that our country can have its full potential available for everybody who is fortunate enough to be an American.

Listen, out of the evil done to this great land is going to come incredible good, because we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most fine and compassionate and decent citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. from a temporary stage in front of the monument. In his remarks, he referred to Representative John R. Thune of South Dakota, who introduced the President; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

**Notice—Continuation of Emergency
Regarding Export Control
Regulations**

August 14, 2002

On August 17, 2001, consistent with the authority provided me under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I issued Executive Order 13222. In that order, I declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*). Because the Export Administration Act has not been renewed by the Congress, the national emergency declared on August 17, 2001, must continue in effect beyond August 17, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 14, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:30 a.m., August 15, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 16.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to the
Lapse of the Export Administration
Act of 1979**

August 14, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in

the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond August 17, 2002, to the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Remarks at a Volunteer Barbecue
Lunch in Crawford, Texas**

August 16, 2002

Thank you, Mary. In case you don't know it, Mary is the maintenance supervisor at the Crawford Independent School District. [*Applause*] That's right. And when we arrive here in Crawford, she's got a lot to maintain—[*laughter*—because, as you can see, we travel with a lot of people.

And Laura and I are here to thank you for helping make our stay and dealing with these large entourages go well. We appreciate it. We love to come to Crawford. We view it as our home. As you know, I bring my office with me, and you all help make the transition from Washington to the Crawford White House work well. And we understand that. We see many of you in the vans waiting for us when we come pulling out or meeting us at the airport there in Waco. We see a lot of you at the press avails. We see you when you're helping with our guests, our foreign dignitaries who come to visit. And all of you are doing a great job. So today what we'd like to do is to thank you, feed you—[*laughter*—and photograph you. [*Laughter*]

I get a lot of work done here in Crawford. You know, it's hard for some to maybe understand, but the decisionmaking process never ends when you're the President. You're constantly being briefed and brought up to date

on this, that, or the other. And I still make decisions here. I just find that I can—it's a different perspective when I come here, out of Washington, DC, to a place like Crawford, Texas. I'm reminded of the great values of our beloved Texas and the values of faith and family and friendship that you find in places like Crawford.

So I never quit being the President; I just have got a different perspective about things. I might come to the same conclusion on decisions that I have to make, but I make them in a different environment. And this is a fabulous environment in which to make decisions and to meet with people.

We love it here. There's nothing better than to get up early in the morning and to go jogging across our ranch, see a couple of deer, talk to the turkeys—[*laughter*—watch Barney chase them. [*Laughter*]

But we want to thank you for being good neighbors. We want to thank you all very much from the bottom of our heart for helping make our transitions to—back to home as smoothly as they have gone. We want you to know that one of these days, we'll be joining you in the coffee shop on a regular basis for eating lunch. In the meantime, we've got a job to do, and coming here really helps us do the job that you expect us to do.

So Laura and I thank you from the bottom of our heart. It's great to see you. We look forward to shaking every hand here and personally thanking you for all your hard work.

May God continue to bless America, and may God bless you and your families.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at the Crawford Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Keltner, maintenance supervisor, Crawford Independent School District, who introduced the President.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford

August 16, 2002

Baseball Labor Dispute

The President. Let me start off by saying the baseball owners and the baseball players must understand that if there is a stoppage, a work stoppage, a lot of fans are going to be furious, and I'm one. It is very important

for these people to get together. They can make every excuse in the book not to reach an accord. It is bad for them not to reach an accord. They need to keep working.

And I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Q. Mr. President, you spoke——

The President. Starting with you.

Execution of Javier Suarez Medina/ Mexico-U.S. Relations

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You spoke Tuesday with President Fox.

The President. Yes, I did.

Q. What did you tell him about the execution? And are you disappointed he's not coming?

The President. Well, first of all, I understand why he's not coming. He said that if the execution goes forward, he's not going to come.

Q. He told you that Tuesday?

The President. Yes, he did. And I said, "Well, we have laws here in America. We've got—the State of Texas has got a law." I said that there's going to be full recourse to the courts, which there was. And the Governor made the decision he made; the Supreme Court made the decision it made; and President Fox made the decision he made.

But I am confident that our friendship is strong, that we'll be able to work together to resolve common problems, and we'll have future discussions.

Michael [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, not all Republicans seem sold on your intention to deal with dictators who gas their own people. What are you going to do to make that case more persuasively? Are you consulting with them? And what is your obligation of getting approval, not just consultation, with Congress?

The President. Yes, I appreciate that question. First of all, I am aware that some very intelligent people are expressing their opinions about Saddam Hussein and Iraq. I listen carefully to what they have to say.

There should be no doubt in anybody's mind, this man is thumbing his nose at the world, that he has gassed his own people, that he is trouble in his neighborhood, that

he desires weapons of mass destruction. I will use all the latest intelligence to make informed decisions about how best to keep the world at peace, how best to defend freedom for the long run.

We'll continue to consult. Listen, it's a healthy debate for people to express their opinion. People should be allowed to express their opinion. But America needs to know, I'll be making up my mind based upon the latest intelligence and how best to protect our own country, plus our friends and allies.

**Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill/
National Economy**

Q. Mr. President, yesterday, Secretary O'Neill said that he is going to be—stop being so candid with his comments about the economy. And you just met with him on Wednesday—

The President. That's an interesting observation. [Laughter] Let me be honest with you. [Laughter]

Q. Did you suggest to him that maybe he should—

The President. No, I didn't. Listen, Paul O'Neill is doing a fine job as Secretary of Treasury. I don't know what prompted him to make that statement. I find him to be refreshingly candid. I appreciate his judgment. He's a man of great experience. He and I share an optimism about our country's future, and we do so based upon fact. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Productivity is up. We've got a lot of work to do.

And I started the process of bringing some fiscal discipline into Washington prior to the end of the August recess. I meant what I said. In my radio address today, I'm talking about fiscal discipline so that overspending doesn't serve as an anchor on any economic growth. I firmly believe that the trade bill I got is going to help create jobs. I know we need to have a terrorism insurance package so that we can get many of our construction workers working. So there are some things we need to do. The Secretary and I share a basic optimism about our future.

Supplemental Appropriations for First-Responders

Q. Sir, the firefighters union is very upset about the money being withheld from the

supplemental, and they say that they would—are they misunderstanding?

The President. Well, let me first of all—I've got a strong commitment to not only firefighters but to first-responders, and here are the facts: The budget prior to September the 11th is about \$250 million; after September the 11th is over a billion. And my '03 request for first-responders is over \$3.5 billion. So the commitment is strong, and the commitment is there.

What they ought to be upset about is the fact that Congress tried to tie my hands. They said, "You've got to spend \$5 billion or none of the \$5 billion." And I chose not to spend the \$5 billion because, one, we didn't need to, and, two, it is important for this country to be fiscally disciplined as our economy begins to recover. And so there's no question in most people's minds that I've got a very strong commitment to firefighters and first-responders.

President's Economic Forum

Q. Mr. President, may I ask—if I may ask you about the economic forum, what's the most important new thing you learned? And, sir, is there anything at the top of your list, based on suggestions or ideas that you heard there?

The President. Michael, I am going to analyze and think about some of the suggestions so that when I announce them, it will be well thought out. It will be a part of a long-term plan. But there are some interesting ideas: expensing losses, increasing expenses of losses, accelerating the 401(k) contribution limits—in other words, making it easier for people to put more money in their 401(k)s quicker.

There's a lot of interesting talk about capital gains taxes, double taxation of dividends. There was certainly a very strong sentiment that we're on the right track when it comes to holding people to account who lie, steal, or cheat—lie, cheat, or steal—[laughter]—who defraud people by cooking the books. There was some strong sentiment from CEO and non-CEO alike.

I came away from that summit—that the small-business person feels constrained by tax policy and regulatory policy. And I was—

really appreciated the people coming. I thought it was a very good summit.

Last question, and then I've got to go.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Just to follow up on that, are you planning on producing a new economic package—

The President. Lie, cheat, or steal. [Laughter]

Q. Are you planning on producing a new economic package?

The President. We're thinking about it. We're thinking about all options. That's one of the things that came out of the meeting, was that some have urged us to think about additional measures to help economic growth, so I'm thinking about it.

But one thing that the Congress has got to do is pass laws that will make a—that we've already proposed, that will make a difference for job creation. One of them is terrorism insurance. Another one is pension reform. And that's very important. So Congress needs to do that when they get back.

And the other thing, of course, is Congress should not overspend. Look, I understand Washington. Every project sounds like it's needed. Every—every proposal is one that's got to be funded. And my job is to set the priorities, and I have set priorities. The war is a priority. Homeland defense is a priority. And then hold people to account if they don't accept those priorities, if they overspend. And I started that process by making a decision on the supplemental.

Thank you all. Hope you have a great day.

President's Vacation

Q. Mr. President, how is the nature trail coming?

The President. Michael, is that a—you're not inviting yourself out there? [Laughter] It's coming great. Actually, I haven't been on the good side of a saw for a while. I've been out of the—out of the area, as you know. And today I'm going to—I've got another event here, and then Condi is coming down. I'm going to spend some time with her. I may be at—I may be sawing tomorrow. If I need an extra hand, I'll holler.

Q. I can outrun Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press]. [Laughter]

The President. I'll tell you what, he represented the press corps in fine fashion. It was an unbelievable effort.

Q. I found someone I could beat, sir, yesterday.

The President. Who's that?

Q. I'm not going to identify them. [Laughter]

The President. No, you represented—you represented your profession well. I tried to find the model citizen out of all the people I could have invited. I tried to find the one person that would represent the integrity of the press corps, somebody who represents those values that we hold dear, that the enemy is trying to attack, as a matter of fact, a free press. And I hope you agree with my judgment that Scott was the right man at the right place at the right time. It's that flexibility I need. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Crawford Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Javier Suarez Medina, who was executed August 14 by the State of Texas for a 1989 murder conviction; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7583—National Health Center Week, 2002

August 16, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's community health centers are a vital part of our healthcare safety net, providing primary care services to uninsured, low-income families and individuals, regardless of their ability to pay.

Community health centers ensure that all citizens have access to medical treatment and preventative care. Each year, community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers serve more than 12 million citizens at over 3,300 delivery sites throughout urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. These centers care for 1 of every 5 low-income children and 1

of every 12 rural residents. By working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments, these health centers strive to meet the special needs and priorities of communities and to improve the health and well-being of countless families and individuals.

Health centers offer responsive and cost-effective health care that includes comprehensive primary and preventive services; prenatal and postpartum care; patient education, case management, and outreach; translation and other support services. My Administration is committed to increasing Federal support of healthcare centers. Through my Community and Migrant Health Centers Initiative we are working to double the number of patients served in these centers, and create 1,200 new and expanded health center sites over 5 years.

With the observance of National Health Center Week, we recognize the important role and the invaluable contributions of America's health centers, their staff, board members, and all those responsible for their success. During National Health Center week, I join in encouraging all Americans to celebrate the importance of health centers to our communities by participating in health fairs and screenings, blood drives, immunizations, and open house events.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 18 through 24, 2002, as National Health Center Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with appropriate activities and programs in order to raise their awareness of the importance and variety of services provided by America's health centers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 20.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 10

In the morning, the President traveled from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, to Waco, TX. Later, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

August 12

In the morning, the President met with the National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia to Washington, DC, on September 4.

August 13

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX. In the afternoon, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico concerning Javier Suarez Medina, who was scheduled to be executed on August 14 by the State of Texas for a 1989 murder conviction, and President Fox's upcoming visit to President Bush's ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Des Moines, IA, where, upon his arrival, he met with the McCaughey family, including 4-year-old septuplets.

August 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Rapid City, SD. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had intelligence and national security briefings. Upon his arrival in Rapid City, he met with Jerome Harvey, assistant

fire chief, emergency management coordinator, and emergency services volunteer, Lead, SD. Later, he traveled to Mount Rushmore National Memorial in Keystone, SD.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 16

The President announced that Keith Hennessey will be joining the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, replacing Marc Sumerlin.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia

Announcement: President To Host Economic Forum

Announcement: Economic Forum Schedule and Participant List

Released August 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels

Transcript of a press briefing by Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans

Transcript of a press briefing by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the visit of Zalmay Khalizad, the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa, to Afghanistan

Released August 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice's announcement of the appointment of Rand Beers as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Combating Terrorism

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, August 23, 2002

The President's Radio Address

August 17, 2002

Good morning. This week I hosted an economic forum at Baylor University in Texas. Participants shared their concerns about the economic challenges we face and their ideas for making the economy stronger. A common theme among many panelists was that we must leave every dollar we can in the hands of the people who have earned it. We must be disciplined with our taxpayers' money, which requires Congress to focus on funding our Nation's priorities.

Winning the war on terror is our top priority. The men and women fighting the war must have every tool and all the training they need to fight and win. That is why my budget includes the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. And that is why I urge the Congress to pass a final defense appropriations bill as soon as they return to Washington.

Keeping our homeland secure is another high priority. My budget would nearly double funding for homeland security to almost \$38 billion—money to train and equip firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel; money for the Coast Guard, to protect our ports and coasts; money to keep our water treatment plants and nuclear facilities safe.

A few weeks ago, Congress passed an emergency funding bill that provides more than \$13 billion in immediate funding for the war on terror, more than \$4 billion for homeland security, and completes our \$20 billion commitment to the people of New York. I was pleased to sign it.

But Congress also sent along more than \$5 billion in extra spending I did not ask for. Some of that \$5 billion I have endorsed and will work to secure, but a lot of that money has nothing to do with a national emergency. Those who wrote the bill designed it so either I have to spend all the money or none of

it. At the economic forum on Tuesday, I made my position clear: I will spend none of the \$5 billion.

We must remember the lessons of the past. In the 1960s, increased spending required by war was not balanced by slower spending in the rest of the Government. As a result, in the 1970s we faced unemployment and growing deficits and spiraling inflation.

We cannot go down the path of soaring budget deficits. We must meet our defense and homeland security needs and hold the line on other spending. My budget raises defense spending by more than 14 percent. It nearly doubles homeland security funding. In all other areas, it increases spending by 2 percent. Many families are living with raises like that, and so should the Government.

The House of Representatives has done well by staying within these limits. Unfortunately, the Senate has not even passed a budget framework, and so far it has been ignoring fiscal discipline. I requested \$2.4 billion for public housing; the bill moving through the Senate includes \$300 million more. I requested \$2.2 billion for agricultural research; again, the Senate wants to spend \$300 million more. I requested \$3.1 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Senate wants to spend \$200 million more. And these levels could go higher. I challenge Congress to respect the taxpayers and show restraint with their money. It is very important they do so in order for our economy to continue to grow.

If Congress will not show spending restraint, I will enforce spending restraint. For the good of our economy, for the good of the people who pay taxes, my administration will spend what is truly needed, and not a dollar more.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:45 a.m. on August 16 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 17. The

transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement Announcing the United States Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development
August 19, 2002

I am pleased to announce that Secretary of State Colin Powell will lead the American delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 26 through September 4.

Secretary Powell will be joined by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality James Connaughton, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios, and Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky.

The World Summit has a unique opportunity to advance the new approach to development that I embraced with other national leaders at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development this past March.* This new approach is based on shared accountability among developed and developing nations.

The United States is a leader in creating more effective ways to combat poverty and raise standards of living, recognizing that progress begins with sound domestic policies that promote good governance, investment in people, and economic freedom. The U.S. delegation will come to Johannesburg with concrete and practical proposals for strong and lasting partnerships to advance some of the world's key development priorities—clean water, modern energy, good health, and productive agriculture—that can lead us to a world without poverty. Poverty remains a huge and urgent global problem that demands action by the entire world community. We will stand together in Johannesburg to bring our full support to this important battle.

* White House correction.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

August 20, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2002, through July 31, 2002. The previous submission covered events from April 1, 2002, through May 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under United Nations auspices, although the leaders failed to meet their stated objective of a comprehensive settlement by June 2002. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler provided diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 21.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Secretary of Defense and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

August 21, 2002

Defense Budget and Planning

The President. Well, good morning. I'm pleased to welcome Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers and members of his staff here to Crawford to discuss some important issues, issues that relate to the security of the American people.

We spent time talking about missile defense. The progress that our Nation is making after our withdrawal from the ABM Treaty

has been—is impressive, that the Secretary and his planners are thinking through how best to spend the R&D money so that we can better protect ourselves and our friends and allies from the true threats of the 21st century.

And I appreciated the briefing, Mr. Secretary. I thought it was illuminating. The American people need to know that the Pentagon is forward thinking, is aggressive in its approach to developing systems that will more likely be able to respond to what we're going to face.

Secondly, we talked about contingency plans. One of the jobs of the military is to constantly be thinking about how to respond to an issue should it arise. And I appreciate so very much the Secretary's thinking on that.

And thirdly, we talked about transformation issues, how best to make the military conform to the threats we face, other than missile defense. What weapons systems, what strategy should be employed? How do we make our services more joint in nature?

The Secretary rightly pointed out that, in the past, the service chiefs would come with their particular wish list, but there wasn't much coordination as to whether or not a weapons system in the Navy could—would work jointly with the Army, for example. And Secretary Rumsfeld and his team have done a really good job of beginning to shape the philosophy—a new philosophy in the Pentagon.

And it was right here in the Governor's House—we call this the Governor's House, by the way—was where he first briefed me on transformation plans nearly a year ago, and he's back to bring me up to date on the progress that the Pentagon is making. And we're making good progress.

The American people need to know that our Secretary of Defense is willing to think differently about how to structure our military and is also willing to work with the Joint Staff, people in the Pentagon, to get them to think differently. It's not an easy task, but he can be a stubborn guy. But he's got a vision that is positive for the country.

Mr. Secretary, would you like to say a few words? And then we might answer questions. I want to learn how you answer questions.

They tell me you're quite good at it. [*Laughter*]

Secretary Rumsfeld. Well, thank you, Mr. President. We were here last year about this time, had an opportunity to discuss with you and get some guidance as to the period ahead. We've benefited from that, and we're back to give you a good report and to gain additional guidance for the period coming forward.

We're, of course, working on the budget bill for the 2004 to 2009 period, even though the 2003 budget is still pending before the Congress. So we have to get that process going. And I felt that we had a very good chance today to discuss missile defense and the important programs that we have going forward for transformation.

The cold, hard fact is that the United States lives in a very different security environment today in this 21st century than we did prior to September 11th. We have the task in the Department of Defense of seeing that we're able to provide the kind of defense capabilities and deterrents that will enable our country to contribute to peace and stability and to protect the American people.

And that means we have got to shift this Department and see that we have the kinds of capabilities that fit for the challenges and the threats that exist in the 21st century. It's a big job, but we've got a good team of people, and we're working hard on it, and we thank you for your support.

The President. You're probably wondering why the Secretary is wearing a suit. Would you like to explain why you're wearing a suit?

Secretary Rumsfeld. I don't have any sport clothes. [*Laughter*]

The President. He's going to Fort Hood to talk to our troops, to thank them for their service, and Mr. Secretary, I appreciate—yes?

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. Sir, after you've studied today the military capabilities of the United States and looking ahead to future threats, one thing that has to factor in is the growing number of U.S. allies, Russia, Germany, Bahrain, now Canada, who say that if you go to war with Saddam, you're going to go alone.

Does the American military have the capability to prosecute this war alone?

The President. Well, look, if you're asking—are you asking about Iraq? The subject didn't come up in this meeting.

But having said that, we take all threats seriously, and we will continue to consult with our friends and allies.

I know there is this kind of intense speculation that seems to be going on, a kind of a—I don't know how you would describe it. It's kind of a churning—

Secretary Rumsfeld. Frenzy.

The President. Frenzy is how the Secretary would describe it. But the subject didn't come up.

We will obviously continue to consult with our friends and allies. Your question makes certain assumptions that may or may not be true. But we will continue to talk with our—with the people concerned about peace and how to secure the peace, and those are needed consultations.

Not only will we consult with friends and allies, we'll consult with Members of Congress.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Secretary Rumsfeld. Could I just add a comment there, Mr. President? I think it's worth noting on that particular subject that the President of the United States and the Secretary of State and our country has put together a coalition that stretches across the entire globe that is addressing the problem of the global war on terrorism. It is 80 or 90 countries. There are 37 or 38 down in Tampa, Florida, with liaison officers. We have, at any given time, 18, 20, a couple dozen of countries involved in Afghanistan, participating.

The coalition that is working on the global war on terrorism that the President and the Secretary have put together is broad; it's deep; it's impressive; and it is in fact what is helping the forward progress that we're achieving, the traction we're getting with respect to dealing with the terrible—terribly difficult problem of global terrorist networks.

Q. Still, many of those are now saying that they won't take the war against terror into Iraq. What do you do about that?

Secretary Rumsfeld. The President has not asked them to.

Q. Sir, if I could follow up?

The President. Please do.

Q. General Franks today—

The President. We're in the giving spirit here.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. General Franks today?

Q. He has said that he is drawing up war plans to provide you with credible options. Now, should the American people conclude from that that you're reaching some critical point, that a decision is imminent?

The President. First of all, in the midst of the frenzy—[laughter]—I want you to note that General Franks is not here. General Franks is doing his job. And one of the jobs that the Secretary of Defense has tasked to members of his general staff is to prepare for all contingencies, whether it be in the particular country that you seem to be riveted on, or any other country, for that matter.

We face a—the world is not stable. The world changes. There are—this terrorist network is global in nature, and they may strike anywhere. And therefore, we've got to be prepared to use our military and all the other assets at our disposal in a way to keep the peace. So General Franks is doing what the Secretary has asked.

Would you like to comment on that?

Secretary Rumsfeld. I would. As the President indicated, one of the things we discussed here today was the contingency planning guidance that he signed. I then meet with all of the combatant commanders for every area of responsibility across the globe. I do it on a regular basis. We go over all the conceivable contingencies that could occur.

So General Franks, as well as every other combatant commander—I met, I think, within the last 30 days, with at least three of them on various types of contingency plans in totally different parts of the world. That's my job. That's their job, is to see that we have the ability to protect the American people and deal effectively on behalf of our friends and our allies and our deployed forces.

So it is their task to work with me and ultimately with the President as the chain of command goes from the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, to me, to the combatant commanders. And

they're doing exactly what I've asked them to do and what the President has asked me to do.

The President. Heidi, Bloomberg [Heidi Przybyla, Bloomberg News].

National Missile Defense

Q. Now that you're out of the ABM Treaty, can you talk a little bit about what type of testing you'd like to do on missile defense, what kind of testing we'll see soon?

Secretary Rumsfeld. Sure, we're doing it all the time. We're testing a layered program which involves a terminal phase, mid-course, as well as boost phase. It is a—a program that will become layered. It will start out as a testbed and then evolve over time.

We've had some very good successes with both short-range missiles as well as longer range missiles, intercepting them. And I feel very good about the program. General Ron Kadish is doing a superb job for the country.

Q. When do you expect there will be the kind of missile defense shield that you'd like to see?

Secretary Rumsfeld. You see, that's not knowable. And first of all, the word "shield," we don't use. The program that we're designing—I thought you said "shield." Oh, you didn't?

Q. No.

Secretary Rumsfeld. Excuse me.

Q. Just kidding. [Laughter]

Secretary Rumsfeld. The wind—

The President. You thought "shield."

Secretary Rumsfeld. Yes, I thought "shield."

We think of it as a capability that would be broad and be able to deal with relatively limited numbers of ballistic missiles and also shorter range—medium and shorter range missiles. And the shorter range defenses are more advanced.

In terms of how long it would take, it's something that really is not knowable, because you're in the research, development, and testing phase. And as that continues to succeed and be—to work out, we then will put things in place, and they will evolve over a period of time.

The President. Yes, I think the other thing that you should note is that the Secretary is—and his team are briefing our

friends and allies about progress we're making. That's one of the things I said when we withdrew from the ABM Treaty, that we would consult with our friends and allies, and we are. And I appreciate those consultations. I think it's very important for people to see what is possible as we—as we make the world more secure through our research and development.

Yes.

Abu Nidal

Q. Mr. President, Abu Nidal—can we have your reaction to reports of his death?

The President. Well, first of all, no terrorist can hide forever. Secondly, it's—I found it interesting that they said he committed suicide with four bullet heads—four bullet wounds to the head. And so I'm not exactly sure how he died. We just have to wait and make sure, in fact, he did die.

But the point is, is that when the world puts their mind to fighting terror, we can rout out these terrorists. And some of them will be able to hide longer than others, and some of them will be able to survive longer than others. But this country will continue to lead the coalition that the Secretary of Defense talked about, to hunt them down one by one. And that's a positive development.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters], don't worry about the suit here on the Ranch.

Q. Sorry, I saw the Secretary—

Secretary Rumsfeld. You look good.

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. I borrowed your clothes. [Laughter]

Considering how much discussion has been going on recently about Saddam, do you feel a need to get out there and make a case for toppling him? And if so, do you feel a need to do it before Election Day?

The President. Well, Adam, what I need to do is to continue to, as we call it, consult with people who share our interests to make the world a safer place, and I will do so. The American people know my position, and that is, is that regime change is in the interests of the world. How we achieve that is a matter of consultation and deliberative—deliberation, which I do; I'm a deliberate person.

I say it in my speeches, which you fortunately don't have to cover, that I'm a patient

man. And when I say I'm a patient man, I mean I'm a patient man, and that we will look at all options, and we will consider all technologies available to us and diplomacy and intelligence.

But one thing is for certain, is that this administration agrees that Saddam Hussein is a threat, and he will be—that's a part of our thinking. And that hasn't changed.

Nothing he has done has convinced me—I'm confident the Secretary of Defense—that he is the kind of fellow that is willing to forgo weapons of mass destruction, is willing to be a peaceful neighbor, that is—will honor the people—the Iraqi people of all stripes, will—values human life. He hasn't convinced me, nor has he convinced my administration.

Listen, thank you all for coming out on a windy, hot day.

Fine looking boots, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek].

Q. Thank you, sir. [Laughter]

The President. I expect to see you barrel riding here at the Crawford—

Q. Waiting for the invitation.

The President. That's good.

Thank you all very much. See you tomorrow on the plane.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. outside the Governor's House at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was reportedly found dead in his apartment in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Squire Peak Fire Area in Ruch, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Healthy Forests Initiative

Q. Mr. President, if I may, your proposal to thin out the forest a little bit—some critics say it might cause a drastic increase in commercial logging. What do you say—

The President. What the critics need to do is come and stand right where I stand. It's—what the critics need to do is come and see firsthand the effects of bad forest policy. That's what they need to come and see. And by the way, there's nothing wrong with peo-

ple being able to earn a living off of effective forest management. There are a lot of people in this part of the State that can't find work because we don't properly manage our forests. And this is the second fire site I've been to this summer, and it's the same story. Had we properly managed our forests, the devastation cause would not nearly—have been nearly as severe as it has been. And it's a crying shame.

You heard the man say that when a forest like this burns, there's more likely to be disease. The beetles will come and start—we've got to do a better job. And that's why I'm here. I'm going to talk about how the administration can move, and I'm going to call upon Congress to enact some reasonable legislation to make sure we better manage our forest, so these guys aren't having to fight fires every year—particularly, one of the biggest we've seen in a long time, the Biscuit fire. And the point is, is that we can prevent fire by good sound practice.

[At this point, the tour continued.]

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reaction to President Musharraf's rewriting of the Pakistani Constitution?

The President. My reaction about President Musharraf—he's still tight with us on the war against terror, and that's what I appreciate. He's a—he understands that we've got to keep Al Qaida on the run and that, by keeping him on the run, it's more likely we will bring him to justice. And I appreciate his strong support.

Obviously, to the extent that our friends promote democracy, it's important. We will continue to work with our friends and allies to promote democracy, give people a chance to express their opinions the proper way. And—so we'll stay in touch with President Musharraf in more ways than one.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Yes.

Healthy Forests Initiative

Q. —back to the fire. Do we have enough money in the Federal coffers to pay for all the things needed throughout the West?

The President. Well, we'll—if we don't, we'll deal with it, because I mentioned to the Governor, Congress has got a way of spending money. My job is to make sure they spend on priorities, and if I didn't think the forest of the United States was a priority, I wouldn't be here. It is a priority.

The other thing is, is that there are partnerships which can be put together to the benefit of those who care about conservation, the State and those who employ people. And the approach I'm going to talk about and the approach, frankly, that the Governor has worked with Governor Kempthorne of Idaho on is a balanced approach, one that recognizes more than one party involved, that there are a variety of folks involved with the health of our forests. And all voices ought to be listened to, and a strategy ought to be developed that will—that will achieve goals. One of the goals is prevent fire, healthy forests. Another goal is going to be to conserve our forests. Another goal will be to provide jobs. So we believe we can do that.

California gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon

Q. Sir, Bill Simon's family's investigation fund was found guilty of fraud. How do you reconcile that fact with your visits tomorrow to California to campaign for him, given your corporate accounting——

The President. I agree—I understand your question. Bill Simon assures us that when the courts look at this case, he'll be innocent, and I take the man for his word.

Okay. You're tired of me answering questions, I know. [*Laughter*] It's unbelievable, 2 days in a row.

Q. We like it.

The President. What?

Q. We like it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:33 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to Gov. John A. Kitzhaber of Oregon; and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Healthy Forests Initiative in Ruch, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Good morning. Thank you all for being here.

I just got a firsthand look at the terrible effects of the Squire fire. First, I want to thank the fire crews, the men and women of Oregon and surrounding States who risk their lives to put these fires out. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for your service to the country, and thank you for what you do.

I flew over the Biscuit fire today when we were coming in. It's devastating. I mean, it is big, and it's a powerful fire that has been raging for more than a month. It's amazing the scope of the devastation that's taken place in Oregon as well as other Western States. Here in this State, a million acres have burned. A million acres have caught on fire. Hundreds of millions of trees have been destroyed. Countless lives have been affected—the same thing all across the West, a lot of people whose lives have been turned upside down. I saw firsthand the effects of fire in Arizona. I remember going to that school, Governor, where the people were just emotionally spent because of what the fire had done to them.

These devastating fires are—threaten the safety of our communities, obviously the lives of the firefighters. They destroy homes. They ruin farms. These fires destroy critical wildlife habitat, and they leave behind long-lasting environmental damage. And as we work to put out the fires and to bring relief to the victims, we have a responsibility as a nation to work together to prevent the devastation that can be caused by future fires. We have a responsibility to bring sensible policy and put it in place.

Today I'm announcing some steps my administration is going to do to restore the health of America's forests, steps that I believe and we believe will help prevent the kind of destruction we've seen this year.

Before I talk about that, I do want to thank Secretary Ann Veneman and Secretary Gale Norton for coming and for working together, for listening to the voices, such as the voices

of our Governors. These two ladies understand that not all the genius in the world is in Washington, DC, that if we listen to people whose lives are affected by managing nature, that we'll probably get better policy—not probably—will get better policy.

I want to thank Jim Connaughton, who works on my staff and has helped develop this policy, for being here. I want to thank John, the Governor of Oregon, John Kitzhaber, for being here. John Kitzhaber and Dirk Kempthorne brought the Western Governors together to develop a sensible policy as to how to deal with this issue. And Judy Martz and Governor Jane Dee Hull of Arizona are with us as well.

This isn't a Republican issue or Democrat issue. Managing our forests is an American issue. And it requires an approach that understands there's difference of opinion, and we ought to work together to achieve common ground. And John's being here today sends that signal loud and clear. I appreciate you so very much, Governor, for coming. He's an interesting character who—*[laughter]*—who I enjoy being around.

I appreciate Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Gordon Smith, one Democrat, one Republican, who have both made up their mind to get something done. Senator Wyden has been working with Senator Craig to develop sound policy. And of course, Greg Walden, Congressman from this event, is a very active voice in reason—reasonable policy to help the people of Oregon. I want to thank them for coming as well.

I want to thank Ron Wenker, who led our tour, did a fine job. Little did he know a couple of weeks ago that he'd be here entertaining such august company and speaking so eloquently in front of the national press corps about his job and about the job of protecting our forests and doing the best we can do. I want to thank the community leaders who are here, people who care deeply about the future of this region.

I believe, like you believe, that our forests are one of our Nation's great treasures, and therefore, we have a responsibility to protect our great treasure. It's one of our responsibilities as citizens of our country. And yet, as we've seen, our treasure is being wiped out by fire. I've looked, as you have, at why, and

it's pretty clear that this fire prevention strategy of our country has been short-sighted, and we, frankly, haven't done a very good job.

And when you haven't done a very good job at something, it's time to take a step back and assess why and solve the problem. Forest policies have not focused on thinning—just haven't. That's reality. That's the truth. We haven't had a strategy to clear the forest floor of built-up brush and densely packed trees that we have seen firsthand here, and in other places around the country, create the fuel, the kindling for extremely large fires, like those we're experiencing this year.

The catastrophic wildfires kill the oldest trees, those which we long to preserve. They kill just about everything that grows in the soil. It's—we should note that because of short-sighted policy, even the sequoias of California, Mr. President, are threatened. The fires that ravaged the West have destroyed endangered species habitat. They damaged fisheries. They've eroded soil. They've become breeding grounds for beetles, as we just saw. We were in the midst of a breeding ground for insects that prey upon weakened forests.

Now, they—our policy has not had the health of our forests in mind. The hands-off policy that have contributed to this environmental crisis have been well intentioned, no question about that. Nobody is questioning the intentions of those who have helped put this policy in place. But they're dangerous—dangerous plans. And we've got to do something about it. All of us in elected positions must respond.

Some will say, "Well, there's thinning taking place," and let me just put what's taking place in perspective to reality. There's—at the rate in which we're thinning our forests, it will take a century, 100 years, to restore America's 200 million acres of Federal forest lands to healthy and safe conditions. That's too long, as far as I'm concerned. I know it's too long as far as forest firefighters are concerned. It's too long as their Senators are concerned. It's too long. And therefore, we've got to develop a different strategy.

We must be active in our management of our forests. We must thin, and we must

quickly restore the areas that have been damaged by fire. People who fight fires and who study forests, who know a lot more about this subject than I do, agree. And that's what the American people have got to know. Come out and speak to a firefighter about good, commonsense policy, and you'll hear what I just said.

Actively managing forests is going to be the centerpiece of this administration. And that's what I made clear to those who work with me. And we'll begin by identifying and protecting those areas that are the most vulnerable to catastrophic fires, areas which are near our communities and our watersheds and other key areas.

In order to effect our healthy forest policy, we must cut through the redtape and endless litigation that blocks efforts to restore forest health. For example, a thinning project to prevent catastrophic fire in the area where we were just standing was proposed 6 years ago. They said, "Well, what can we do to make sure this area is protected?" Yet, because of burdensome regulatory hurdles and meritless appeals and litigation, only a very small portion of this acreage was approved for thinning before the fires came through. And we saw the difference between an area that had been thinned and an area which had not been thinned. And the difference is catastrophic. That's reality.

So, for the good of Oregon's forests, and really for the good of her environment overall and for the good of your economy, I've directed the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality to do the following steps: One, to authorize thinning projects on an emergency basis in the most critical areas; secondly, to speed up the process of developing environmental assessments while considering the long-term threat that fire-susceptible forests pose to endangered species; and to expedite the appeals process.

Listen, we want our citizens at the local level to have a voice. We want there to be an opportunity for our citizens to speak out. That's the great American way. But we must discourage the endless delays that prevent good forest policy from going forward. And Congress should pass legislation that will en-

sure that vital forest restoration projects are not tied up in courts.

I mean, we can do some of this through administrative action, but Congress needs to act. And I'm confident Congress will act in a way that doesn't exclude people, that, as a matter of fact, encourages citizens to participate. I mean, there's nothing better than having citizens worrying about how to conserve assets and resources.

I signed some legislation earlier this month in what they call a supplemental, which provides protection for Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota. The reason I bring that up is that, slowly but surely, Members of Congress understand that when there's a problem, we've got to deal with it. And my attitude is, if—and I recognize the situation is different in Oregon than perhaps in South Dakota, but managing the forest isn't. Good forest policy makes sense. And so if it's good enough for South Dakota or part of South Dakota, it ought to be good enough for Oregon and Arizona and Montana.

And so I want us to move forward with policy. And there's other ways to make sure that the communities are involved. John and I were talking about—to make sure that any good Federal policy recognizes that—I think Ron might have said it—one size doesn't fit all. Obviously, the Oregon situation is different from other States. The health of the forest isn't different; it's the same. But how to make sure we have a healthy forest requires input from local people. The Congress passed these pilot programs that encouraged partnerships of nonprofits or local governments or private companies to come together to remove small trees and brush that fuel dangerous fires. That makes sense.

But I don't understand why they need to be pilot programs. If it makes sense and we want to manage our forests, these pilot programs ought to be not pilot programs but permanent programs all around the country, so that we don't have a century of work ahead of us to make our forests healthy. We compress that time to a reasonable amount of time so our children and grandchildren can have healthy forests, and so your children and grandchildren aren't fighting fires all the time.

I also believe strongly that the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan made sense. It was a plan where people from different constituency groups came together to talk about how to, first, make the forests healthy. And that is the primary concern of this policy or any policy—ought to be how to manage our treasure. But at the same time, the plan talked about how to protect the wildlife habitat found here in Oregon, how to make sure that recreational areas were in good shape.

And there was a dividend, by the way, to the Northwest plan of 1.1 billion board feet taken a year of sustainable timbering and that, of course, is so people can find work. And that makes sense to me, particularly in a place and a part of the world where people are having trouble finding work.

Good forest policy yield a dividend. They yield healthy forests. They yield places where people can bring their families. They protect the endangered species, but it also—one of the dividends is work, where people can put food on the table. And that's important. The human condition is very important, as far as I'm concerned. When somebody is looking for work who can't find work, we need to do something about it.

So I want to thank you all for welcoming us here today. This is a classic example of what is possible, given what happened and what is happening. It is possible to have sound forest policy that will protect against fire. It's possible. It is possible for us to work together to achieve a good strategy to protect a national treasure.

My administration looks forward to working with both Republican and Democrat alike to forge the policies to leave behind a legacy of healthy forests.

Thanks for coming. Thank you for your concern, your deep concern about this beautiful State, this wonderful area.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. following a tour of the Squire Peak fire area. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Kitzhaber of Oregon; Gov. Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho; Gov. Judy Martz of Montana; Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; and Ron Wenker, district manager, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, Medford, OR.

Remarks to the Community in Central Point, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. Thanks for—please be seated, unless of course you don't have a chair. [*Laughter*] Thanks for that. Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It's such an honor to be here in Jackson County.

I have come for a couple of reasons. First, I have come to express our deepest condolences for those whose lives have been affected by these fires and to thank the yellow-shirts, the hard-working firefighters. I appreciate the sacrifice you all make to protect your neighbors. One of the things you learn growing up in small-town Texas or small-town Oregon is that you learn to be neighborly. And the idea of people sacrificing to serve their neighbors is something that makes this country great. So I want to thank you all for what you do.

I also want to tell you, our job is to make sure we do everything we can to prevent forest fires from happening in the first place. That's one of our responsibilities, and that's why I went up to Jacksonville to talk about a policy that is based upon common sense. It's not a political deal. It's not a Republican idea. It's not a Democrat idea. It's an American idea to preserve our forests so that we can—that's one of the hurdles we've got to address here in the country. That's one of the challenges we've got to meet, is how to preserve our national treasure.

We've got other challenges. Listen, anytime anybody who wants to find work, who can't find work, it means we've got a problem. So I want to talk about the job we have of making sure we grow our economy, so people can work.

And then what I want to talk about—I want to talk about the fact that we've got another challenge, and that is how best to protect our homeland from the killers. And I want to tell you how we're going to win the war on terror, and we are going to win the war on terror.

I want to thank members of my administration for coming out here. They're kind of used to the West, since they are from the

West, and that would be the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and the Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton. These two ladies are doing a fine job, really fine job. I'm proud they're on my team.

I appreciate so very much Gordon Smith for introducing me and being a friend. I'm proud of the service that he has given to the State of Oregon. He's a hard-working man. He's a family man. He's a good, decent citizen. And I want to appreciate—and I want to say how much I appreciate Senator Ron Wyden for being here as well. I think it's an important gesture to show that forest policy can be commonsense policy. I appreciate you.

The honorable citizens—and so is your Congressman, Greg Walden. *[Applause]* It sounds like they remember you, Greg. *[Laughter]* I remember him, because all he does is talk about Oregon. *[Laughter]* I want to thank Governor Judy Martz and Governor Jane Dee Hull, Governors from Montana and Arizona, for coming. These are fine—I wish I could say they were here—they came to hear my speech. They came to promote good fire policy. They got stuck listening to the speech. *[Laughter]* But I'm proud to call them friends. I had the honor of being a Governor at one time, and I knew these two ladies. And they're good ones, and I want to thank them for coming.

I also want to thank the mayor of Central Point, Oregon, Bill Walton, for receiving me earlier. I want to thank Michael Draper, who is the western director of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Union, for being here. You thought Michael would have gotten you a better seat. *[Laughter]* But thank you all for coming. I want to thank Nolan Colegrove, who is the president of the Intertribal Timber Council. He came up from California. I had a good visit with him. He's a good, solid thinker and a reasonable fellow.

I want to thank my friends from the Klamath River Basin who are here. I want to appreciate your working with us to make sure that people who make the living off the land had enough water to survive. I want to thank the members of the Student Conservation Association who are here. *[Applause]* You'd think your relatives would be clapping too,

but—*[laughter]*—thank you for your concern for our environment. Thanks for your hard work to put into practice commonsense policies to preserve the forest land.

I want to introduce Matt Epstein, who is here. The reason I bring up Matt is, everywhere I go, when I land, I try to welcome somebody to—a member of what we call the USA Freedom Corps, out at Air Force One, to thank them. But it also gives me a chance to remind our country what a unique land we are. We have people who volunteer their time to make their communities a better place.

Matt teaches kids how to read. Matt worries about those who don't have enough food. Matt also works hard to promote good forest management policy. He not only does it on his own land, but he promotes good forest policy so people understand the difference between kind of theory and good practice. Matt is a citizen who cares deeply about the community in which he lives. He is a soldier in the army of compassion. Matt understands what I know, that one person can't do everything, but one person can do something to make the community in which we live a better place. So it's my honor to introduce Matt Epstein and his wife, Donna. Thank you for coming. Where are you, Matt? There he is. Hi, Matt. Hi, Donna. Thank you.

We've got some challenges that face our economy; there's no question about it. I mean, the first three quarters of my Presidency, we were in recession. That means the economy was going backwards; it was negative growth. The next three quarters we've had positive growth. But about halfway through that time, the enemy hit us, and it affected our economy. And then to make the challenge even more, we found out some of the folks were cooking the books. Some of the people decided that in order to get ahead, they wouldn't tell the truth.

Oh, we've had some tough times in our economy, and I know you know what I'm talking about right here in this part of Oregon. Times are tough. But let me tell you something, so is America. Our economy has strengths to equal those challenges. I mean, after all, we've got the most productive farmers and ranchers in the world. We've got the most productive workers in the world. We've

got a great climate for small businesses, and the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America.

No, we've got the ingredients to overcome the challenge. But there's still work to do. And let me describe some of the work that needs to get done. I believe a healthy economy will mean that we work to have—in order to have a healthy economy, we've got to have a healthy forest policy. I mean, if you have good forest policy, it will yield to a better economy. After all, the fires that have devastated the West create a drag on the economy. It costs money to fight these fires. It means people lose property. There's opportunity lost. No, good forest policy not only is important for the preservation and conservation of good forests for future generations, it's good for our economy.

And yet, I think we need to be honest with the American people. The forest policy of our Government is misguided policy. It doesn't work. We need to thin. We need to make our forests healthy by using some common sense. We need to understand, if you let kindling build up and there's a lightning strike, you're going to get yourself a big fire. That's what we've got to understand. *[Laughter]*

We've got to understand that it makes sense to clear brush. We've got to make sense—it makes sense to encourage people to make sure that the forest not only are healthy from disease, but are healthy from fire. That's what we've got to do here in America. We haven't done that in the past. We just haven't done it, and we're now paying the price.

And so we're going to change the forest policy in Washington. And that's why I've got my Secretaries here. They know what I know, that we've got to change the policy, starting with setting priorities, right off the bat, about getting after those areas that are dangerous, dangerous to communities, dangerous to habitat, dangerous to recreational areas. There are some high-priority areas that we need to declare emergencies and get to thinning now, before it's too late.

And we have a problem with the regulatory body there in Washington. I mean, there's so many regulations and so much red-tape that it takes a little bit of effort to ball up the efforts to make the forests healthy.

And plus, there's just too many lawsuits, just endless litigation. We want to make sure our citizens have the right to the courthouse. People ought to have a right to express themselves, no question about it. But there's a fine balance between people expressing their selves and their opinions and using litigation to keep the United States of America from enacting commonsense forest policy.

We've made some progress through administration action. We can thin on emergency basis, like I just mentioned. We'll speed up the process of developing environmental assessments, while considering the long-term threat that fire-susceptible forests pose to endangered species. We'll make sure that people have their voice, but aren't able to tie it all up. And I need to work with Congress, and I need help from Congress. And I appreciate Senator Smith and Senator Wyden's willingness to do what is right for the people of Oregon. They want to work together.

There's too much bickering in Washington. Like, it's kind of a zero-sum attitude. No, what we need is to understand that what I'm talking about makes sense. And this isn't a chance for one political party to get an upper hand on another political party. This is just common sense for what's best for not only the forests and the preservation and conservation of forests but what's best for the people who live around the forests. That's what this is.

People are beginning to get the message. I mean, Americans who have no idea what good forest policy means are beginning to see the fires on TV. It's a sad way for people to learn, but it's happening, and we're beginning to make some progress. There's some—recently I signed what they call a supplemental bill. And in that bill there was some—the Black Hills National Forest, east of here, got some treatment about how to thin, how to make sure that that forest was well preserved. My attitude is, if it's good enough for that part of South Dakota, it's good enough for Oregon.

No, I want our forests healthy, and I want our economy healthy. That's why I strongly support the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, a plan which should allow the production of a billion board feet of timber per year. This

is a plan that was a well-thought-out plan. It's a plan that was put together to protect wildlife habitat, to protect recreational areas. But it's a plan that's got another dividend, besides a healthy forest. It means 100,000 more jobs for people to be able to—[*ap- plause*]. This would be sustainable timber harvesting on a small portion of the forest. The prior administration developed and agreed to this plan. I support the plan. Congress needs to pass the laws necessary to implement the plan. Good forest policy will be good for the economy. Good forest policy will mean we will have left a legacy for future generations.

You know, I'll never forget our tax relief debate. I remember telling people that where I came from, at least the economic book that I believe in says, "If you've got tough times in your economy, you got to let people keep more of their own money." Here's the theory behind that. If you let a person keep their own money—and by the way, we're not talking about the Government's money. When we're spending money, we're talking about the people's money. If you let somebody keep their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or service. And when somebody produces a good and service, somebody is more likely to find work. And so therefore, in the face of this recession, the tax cut came at the right time in American economic history.

Now people say, "Well, you know, it didn't have an effect." Of course it had an effect. Let me tell you who it had an effect on. It had an effect not only on people who pay the bills. It had an effect on small-business owners. Seventy percent of new job creation in America comes from our small-business owners, comes from our entrepreneurs. Most of those small businesses, because they are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, pay income taxes on the personal income tax level. So when you drop the income tax rates, really what you're doing is, you're stimulating job creation by putting a shot in the arm to the entrepreneurs, the small-business owners of America.

This tax reform slashed the marriage penalty. It makes sense to me that the Tax Code

ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. After all, families—a family unit is the strength of the country. And for the sake of the small-business owners and the people who make a living off the land, the farmers and ranchers, we put the death tax on its way to extinction. But the problem is, because of a quirk in the nature of the rules, all this comes—it doesn't stay stuck. Let me put it to you that way. [*Laughter*] In other words, it comes back into being. The tax rates go back up to where they were. The death tax isn't repealed. The marriage penalty goes back up to where it is. That's just the nature of how the Senate rules work. For the sake of economic growth, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of helping people stay on their farms and ranches, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

There are too many construction projects that aren't moving forward because the project managers can't find terrorism insurance. There's too many hardhats not working in America. There's over 8 billion projects which are not going forward, because the insurance premiums—they just can't can't insurance for a potential terrorist attack. It makes sense for the Congress to act on this. The United States Congress ought to provide a floor for terrorism insurance, so we can get our hardhats back to working again. But I caution the Congress, we need a bill that worries more about the workers and not about the trial lawyers in America.

And speaking about trial lawyers, I am worried about liability for doctors. I'm worried about it. And here's what I'm worried about. I'm worried about frivolous and junk lawsuits, frivolous and junk lawsuits that are making it harder for our citizens to get access to health care. That worries me. It worries me that frivolous and junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, because make no mistake about it, anytime there is these huge settlements that go forward, you pay.

Now look, I repeat, if somebody gets injured, they ought to have their day in court, no question about it. That's a system that I value and a system you value. But these frivolous and junk lawsuits are denying people who have actually been injured their day in court. They're making it hard to find doctors. They're running up the cost of medicine. For

the sake of good, quality, affordable, and accessible health care, we need medical liability reform in Washington, DC. And we need it now, before people lose their doctors in rural America.

I want to tell you a quick story. I was in Mississippi during my so-called vacation. I traveled to Mississippi. *[Laughter]* And the—I met a fellow who had—is a religious man, and he heard the call of taking his practice, his medical practice, into the Mississippi Delta, which is a poor, poor region of America. It's—a significant percentage of the population there is African American. These poor folks need health care. And he felt like—that God gave him the talents necessary to be a doctor, and he felt like he needed to use those talents to help people who could not afford health care. But because of the junk lawsuits, they ran him out of town; they ran him out of the State. I'm going to tell you something, if you look around rural Oregon, you're going to find the same thing is happening to you. Now, we need to have commonsense reform of our medical liability laws, so people can get good health care at affordable prices in America.

I've got a piece of legislation which is important to job creation here in America and that gives me the capacity to negotiate trade agreements. I say that's important. I understand there's some farmers and ranchers who don't believe in trade—and I don't blame you, because you know what, you've been—always dealt out of the mix.

But here's my attitude about this. First of all, fortunately, we produce more food than we need. Imagine being the head of a country where you're worried about your next meal for the American people. We produce more food than we need because we're good at what we do. And if you're good at something you do, you ought to promote that which we do. We ought to be using American food to feed the world. We ought to have a President—and I will use that tool to open up markets for Oregon farm and ranch products.

In order to make sure the economy grows, we need pension protections. Listen, we need—if you're one of these 401(k)s with your company stock, you ought to be able to diversify after a reasonable period of time,

so you're not locked in. And by the way, the law that I'm about to describe we passed says—that we just passed—says that if the boss gets to sell his stock, you ought to get to sell yours. There's some commonsense pension—and so I hope Congress gets after it when we get back and get me a pension bill that will help those who have 401(k)s get the best information possible, the best investment advice possible, so they can better manage their accounts.

And I'll tell you one other thing that we did. I signed the law that was the most important corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was your President. It said this, it said: The books are going to be honest; the auditors will be audited; the numbers are going to be real; and the criminals in America will be punished.

We're not going to have this in America, where those who should be responsible to employees and shareholders feel like they can cut corners. When I gave the speech about corporate responsibility in New York, I said in my speech, the business schools in America need to be willing to teach right from wrong. And that's what the curriculum ought to do. And I was working the ropeline, and probably one of the hardhat types was sitting up there, was sitting on the rope line, said, "If you want to send the right message, if you want to teach the lesson, just put a couple of them in handcuffs." That's the best ethics lesson that we can have in America.

America is coming to understand by far the vast majority—by far the vast majority of our chief executive officers are honorable, decent people. They tell the truth. They treat their shareholders with respect. They care deeply about the plight of their employees. But this corporate task force I put together is serious business. And we're going to find those who cheat, and we're going to prosecute them, and they're going to find out that, instead of easy money, they've got hard time ahead of them.

We're making progress on the economic front. After all, the conditions are right for growth. I want you to think about this: Inflation is low; interest rates are low; productivity is up; consumer spending is strong. We've got the capacity to trade more. We've got the ingredients for growth. We've got some

hurdles to cross, but you just need to know, I'm not going to rest until people who want to find work are able to find a job.

I also want you to know, I'm not going to rest until this homeland is secure. There's an enemy out there; there just is. The way I like to put it to kids who write letters in or ask the question—I hope you share this with them—is that people hate us because we love freedom. People—it's hard for people to understand, particularly youngsters, why anybody would attack us the way they did, or would want to continue to attack us. But you've got to tell them that your great country stands for something that they can't stand, which is every life matters. Every individual counts. Every person has got worth, and we love freedom in America.

The more we value the ability to worship God the way we see fit, the more they hate us. The more we honor church and synagogue and mosque, the more they hate us. The more we speak our mind freely, the more they hate us. The more free our press is, the more they hate us. And therefore, since we're not going to yield to our freedoms, since we're not going to yield the values we hold dear, we've got to do everything we can to defend the homeland.

There are a lot of people working overtime to protect America. Everytime we get a hint, we're moving on it. There's a lot of good people at the Federal level, the State level, and the local level running down every kind of lead, every kind of possibility. We take everything seriously here in America, because we now understand that there's an enemy out there.

And that's why I asked Congress to work with me to make sure that at the Federal level, and eventually at the State and local level, we do everything we can to protect the homeland. I proposed a Department of Homeland Security. Look, I didn't run for office saying, "Vote for me. The Government is going to be bigger." That wasn't my promise. I did say, "I'll try to make it better." And I'm concerned by the fact that there's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security. They're scattered everywhere in Washington, which makes it awfully hard to hold anybody to account. The number one—my number one goal and my number one job

now is to protect the homeland from the enemy, and therefore, I ought to have the tools necessary to do so, and that starts with the Department of Homeland Security.

And we're making some pretty good progress on it, but I need the tools, and so does my Secretary need the tools, to be able to move the right people at the right place at the right time, to respond to any threat. And unfortunately, that's not the way the Senate bill looks right now. You see, some Senators are more worried about their own turf than they are protecting the American people. I am not going to accept a homeland security bill that has a book that thick trying to micromanage the Department, when all I'm asking for is the same flexibility that they've given other Presidents and that they've given to manage the airports. All I want to do is to be able to respond. I'm not interested in redtape. I'm not interested in micromanagement. I'm interested in doing what's right for the American people.

And let me give you just one example. Let me just give you one example. It's important for us in America to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing into the country, and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. That's really important for us to know. And yet when you go down there on the border, in my part of the world, you've got one uniform in the Border Patrol; then you've got the INS; then you've got your Customs. It seems like, to me, that we need the flexibility necessary to meld those agencies together, to be able to transfer people around, to be able to better protect our border for the sake of the homeland security of the United States of America.

So there's a lot of good people working hard. There really are, and I'm proud of them. And I'm proud to report to you that our FBI and CIA are talking. I mean, people are buttoned up. They understand the job. They know the priority. They understand. And that's good. But you've got to know how I think. The best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and that's what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war we face here in America. It's not like the old days where you could measure the size of the enemy by

the number of tanks he had or the number of airplanes they were flying. You can't measure progress by which hedgerow we've taken. This is a different kind of war. This is a war where we face coldblooded killers—that's all they are—who hide in caves and send youngsters to their death. They hide in a cave, and they send some poor, unsuspecting soul to their death. There is no cave deep enough, however—there's no cave where they can hide from—you see, when it comes to defending freedom, this great Nation is relentless and patient and tough. Anytime—anybody who wants to take away something we hold dear is going to find out what this country is made out of.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind. I can't imagine what was going through their mind. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so worried about our own well-being and so selfish that after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But that's about all we would do.

No, they learned something about America and our character. They learned that not only do we have a fabulous military; they're learning firsthand, when we say something, we mean it. And when I say, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," I mean it.

And the Taliban knows what we mean. The Taliban, one of the most barbaric group of people that modern history has seen, found out that the United States sticks by its words. I want you to tell your kids this about us, that we went into that country not to conquer anybody but to liberate—that's why we went—and that for the first time, many young girls go to school, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies. No, by kicking out the Taliban, we recognized that each person has worth, that each person matters.

We've got work to do, and that's why I submitted a significant increase in our budget, our defense budget, the biggest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I wanted to send a message, loud and clear—first—and that is, anytime we cement—put our troops in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best possible pay.

And the second reason I did it is because I want to send a message to our friends and allies and to the enemy that we're not quitting. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, this ends. That's not the way I think. That's not the way—it doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned, and we owe it to our children and our grandchildren to be tough and resolved and to be smart about how we conduct this war. This the kind of war where sometimes you'll see us move, and sometimes you won't. I mean, it's the kind of war where we can be just as effective cutting off their money as it is hauling them in.

And speaking about hauling them in, the United States and our coalition and friends have pulled in over a couple of thousand of them. And there's another couple of thousand that weren't quite so lucky. You'll see some action in Afghanistan, because there's still some spots where they feel like they can bunch up. But we've got some brave souls on the ground there, chasing them down. They may try to light, like they did in the Philippines. And I want to thank President Gloria Arroyo. She heard the message, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," and she responded. She asked for help. We provided help, but her troops were the ones that got this guy that was running what they call Abu Sayyaf, the person who killed—kidnapped two brave Americans, the Burnhams.

We're going to make sure that Yemen continues to remain strong and is not a place where people get to light. I mean, we are—we're running a vast coalition that loves freedom. And it's going to take a while; it will. And you've also got to know that it's very important for us not to allow the world's worst leaders to develop and hold and use the world's worst weapons to blackmail us or our friends.

But we're making progress. We are, slowly but surely. And that's the kind of war this is. It's a slowly-but-surely war. We're making progress so that our—so we'll be free. See, here's how I view what happened on September the 11th. I view it as an unbelievable national tragedy. But because I know the American people so well, I know our character and our strength, out of the evil done

to American will come some good. That's what I believe. I believe that, if we remain strong and steadfast and resolved in our war against terror and terrorists, we can achieve peace.

I want you to tell your youngsters at home that my dream is peace. I want them to grow up in a peaceful world, in a peaceful society. It's not only them, but it's any child in any country, anywhere, needs to grow up in a peaceful world. And the United States can lead the world to peace. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have given up hope on peace. That's what I believe. I believe, by leading this coalition of freedom nations, we can achieve peace. There will be some steep hills to climb. There will be some sacrifices made. But we can achieve peace.

And here at home, we can achieve a better society. The good that can come out of the evil done to us is good that comes when people have taken a step back and said, "What does it take to make my society, my country a better place?"

People ask me, how can they help in the war against terror? My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. And there are a lot of Americans who hear that call. It's not my call. They've heard that call long before I was President. Some are hearing it for the first time, but they're hearing the call—that if you want to fight evil, you do some good. It's just acts of kindness and decency which will change our country one soul at a time.

Listen, there are some pockets of despair and hopelessness and poverty and addiction in America. If one of us suffers, we all suffer. Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, as good, solid, decent, loving Americans decide to mentor a child, to teach a child to read, for example, or to go to a shut-in and just simply say, "I love you" on a regular basis. "What can I do to make your day brighter?" It will happen when people understand their most important responsibility is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul.

No, this culture of service, this culture of serving something greater than yourself in life, is becoming real in America. People un-

derstand being a patriot is more than simply putting your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance to "one Nation under God." They also understand that being a patriot means to love somebody, to help somebody in need, to provide food where there's hunger and shelter where somebody needs a house and housing. That's what it means. That's what it means to be a patriot.

No, the enemy thought they were hitting a weak nation, but instead, they've awakened a great compassionate spirit in America. This sense of sacrifice was defined most clearly to me, and I think it will be to others who study the history of this period, was on Flight 93. Here were people flying across the country. They realized their plane was being used as a weapon. History will show that they said a prayer; they told their loved ones good-bye. One guy said, "Let's roll." They drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves. Every life in America matters.

It's this sense of service, this sense of understanding there's something greater than ourselves in life, this sense of working to make America the very best it can be allows me to say with certainty that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because this is the finest Nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:54 p.m. at the Compton Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Matt Epstein, Jackson County chapter president and State board representative, Oregon Small Woodlands Association; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Gordon Smith in Portland, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Thank you all very much. It's great to be back in this beautiful State. I am honored to end my day here in Oregon by urging the people of this State, the good people of this State, to send this good man, Gordon Smith, back to the United States Senate.

And I want to thank you all for helping him. I want to thank you for what you've done, and I want to thank you for what you're

fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote, which is to go to your coffee shops, if you live in rural Oregon, go to your places of worship, go to your community centers, and remind the people of this State that you've got a good, honorable, decent man in Gordon Smith.

Not only do you have an honorable, decent man, you've got an independent thinker who always has Oregon on his mind. I know because I talk to him all the time. He's reminding me about the good people of this State and the need to have commonsense policy.

I also appreciate the fact that he loves his family. He's got his priorities straight, his faith and his family. And I am so honored that Sharon Smith is with us today. And I want to thank Sharon for coming, and I want to thank Sharon for—there she is. Gordon and I, we both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]*

I talked to Laura today. She sent her very best to the Smiths. And she's not here. She's in Crawford, but she had just come from Leander, Texas, where they paid her the high honor of naming an elementary school the Laura Welch Bush Elementary School. You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics, nor politicians. *[Laughter]* Then she got stuck with one. *[Laughter]* She's doing a great job. In the face of crisis, she was calm. In the—when there needed to be love, she provided love. And I'm really, really proud of the job she is doing as the First Lady of the country.

Traveling with me today to emphasize that my words on the—up on the Hill were more than just words, that I intend to get something done, were two members of my Cabinet, Gale Norton, who is the head of the Department of the Interior, and Ann Veneman, who is the Secretary of Agriculture. And I want to thank them for coming. These are two fine, fine ladies who are doing a fantastic job. I've given them big responsibilities.

And it might be noted that I wasn't speaking a foreign language today, as far as they're concerned—they're both from the West. *[Laughter]* They both have a Western attitude about things.

I appreciate Congressman Greg Walden for being here as well. I don't know if—all

I can see is a hand and a shining head. *[Laughter]* But Walden is a good man. He's doing a fabulous job as a Congressman. He represents the Klamath Basin well. He represents the rural parts of your State. He understands resource management. He's a good fellow, and I just hope and feel good about the fact that his district will send him back to Washington, as they send Senator Smith back to Washington.

I'm very much honored to be here with the next Governor of the State of Oregon, Kevin Mannix, and his wife, Susanna. Thank you all for coming.

Finally, I'm so grateful that Senator Mark Hatfield and Antoinette are here. They're great friends of my mother and dad. They brought a lot of class—they're really classy people, and he set a fine example for future Senators, an example which Gordon Smith is following very closely. I like Gordon's attitude a lot. You see, he went to Washington to try to get things done, as opposed to pick fights. There's an attitude there in that town that zero-sum politics is the best for the country. That's not the way Gordon thinks, nor do I think, for that matter.

I think it's important for the people of Portland to know that he goes there with not a political party in mind but with the people of Oregon in mind. That's what he goes to do. He goes to solve problems. He sees problems, and he tries to come up with commonsense solutions to solve those problems. And he's willing to work with his counterpart, who happens to be a Democrat. I saw them working together today. I saw their conversation and their discussion. It wasn't about how we can one-up each other; it was how best to work together to help Oregon. And that impresses me a lot. I hope it impresses the voters of this State. That's the kind of tone and attitude we need in our Nation's Capital.

Today I was with a man who I believe is a true champion of the environment, and that's Gordon Smith. He understands that we can be stewards of the land, that we can put policies in place that will benefit the environment, and at the same time benefit people. And that's really important.

I went up on the mountain today, in the midst of a burn, to talk about how best to prevent those burns from happening in the

first place, how to put in place commonsense policy that says, if you let the forests develop kindling, nature may just cause them to burst into massive flames. So instead of allowing the kindling to build up, why don't we thin the forests? Why don't we manage the forests? Why don't we use our God-given talents and our technology to manage the forests, so that the forests are healthy for generations to come? That's common sense.

It's a logical approach. It's a logical approach to preserving an incredibly important treasure. And at the same time, when we do it right, it will mean people are going to be able to find work. It will mean people are going to be able to put food on the table, which is a vital concern of Gordon's, and it's a vital concern of mine. Listen, anytime somebody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem, and we've got to deal with it in a way—this is a problem, and our job is to come up with solutions to solve the problems.

You know, part of the reason why we can't get some commonsense forest management policies done is because there's too much redtape; there just is. There's too many rules and regulations all bound up to make sure nothing positive happens, it seems like to me. So I talked to our Cabinet Secretaries, and we're going to do everything we can, administratively, to cut through the redtape. And there's some things we can do. We can set priorities. We can declare emergencies. We can get moving on a policy that makes sense for Oregon and for America. We've got a process now that allows people to tie up good policy in appeal after appeal after appeal. Listen, let me make this clear to everybody: We want people to be able to express their opinion. That's important. That's a great thing about America. People ought to be allowed to give their opinions on a subject. But they not—ought not to use that privilege to tie up good, commonsense practice forever, so nothing gets done except the forests are burning.

And Gordon's an easy man to work with on this topic, because he understands. And I appreciate his efforts, and I appreciate him constantly educating, not only me but others in Congress, about how best to make sure

that the Oregon forests are healthy and people can find work at the same time.

No, he's got a good approach to Government. He also cares deeply about education, and so do I. We had a fantastic discussion today, by the way, with people from all around your State, people who came in—the mayor of Salem and this business lady and this educator. And one of the things that became clear is that the people who have got responsibility in your State understand the importance of education.

We passed a good bill out of the Senate and the House that Gordon supported. It's a bill that says that we believe in high standards for every child. See, if you believe that certain kids can't learn—in other words, if you have low standards—that's the kind of results you're going to get. You're going to get results in which children don't learn. In other words, if you think in your mind that there are certain children who can't learn, the system will make sure they don't. In other words, low standards yields low results.

Gordon and I understand we've got to set high standards, and we did. We also trust the local people to chart the path for excellence for every child in the State. We worked together to make sure we passed power out of Washington. One size does not fit all when it comes to public education.

But there's one other thing in part of the bill that I'm just insistent upon. It makes eminent sense. See, if you believe every child can learn, therefore you've got to measure whether every child is learning. So in return for Federal dollars, we just said, "Show us. Please show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. That's all you've got to do. You accept a lot of Federal money for title I students; just show us they're learning. See, we believe they can. All you've got to do is show us." And if they're not, then change. We cannot allow our children to be stuck in schools that will not teach and will not change.

I want to thank Gordon for his work on Medicare. He's a leader on Medicare. He knows what I know. The Medicare system is an important system, but it's antiquated. It's old. Medicine has advanced. Medicare hasn't. As a matter of fact, in order to get

prescription drugs available for seniors, it requires an act of Congress. *[Laughter]* It is so old, it requires Congress to pass a law. That's an old system. We need a system that adjusts to the needs of each senior. And our Medicare ought to include prescription drugs for our seniors. It's modern medicine. We want to modernize the system, and Gordon Smith is one of the leaders in the United States Senate on making sure Medicare is modernized. And I want to thank him for his leadership.

Gordon mentioned we've got some challenges, and we do. One of the challenges was the fact that there was a recession. It turns out, when you look at the facts and the history, when I got sworn in and Dick Cheney got sworn in, the country was in a recession. We had three quarters of negative growth. And he and I agree—and thankfully, he was in the Senate at this point in time—that the best way to help a country recover from a recession is to let people keep more of their own money. You see, I admit that's a philosophy that frightens some in Washington because they seem to forget whose money it is we spend. Some of them think it's the Government's money. It's not the Government's money that we spend. It's the people's money.

We understand the textbook—this part of the economic textbook that said, if you let people keep more of their own money, they will demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody's going to produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good or service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax cuts that Gordon Smith fought for in the Senate came at the right time in American history, and now what we need to do in order to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is vibrant is to make the tax cuts permanent.

You ask, "Why aren't they permanent?" And that's because of a quirk in the laws, in the rules of the Senate. This is one of these deals where we slash the marriage penalty. We put the death tax, thankfully, on the way to extinction. We cut marginal rates, which, by the way, benefits small businesses. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, and when you cut indi-

vidual income tax rates, you provide more capital in the sector of our economy that creates more new jobs, and that's small businesses.

But unfortunately, the law is such that it all comes back after 10 years. It's kind of hard for me to explain to people in the Crawford coffee shop, but that's just the way it is. That's just the way it is. So, imagine the farmer or the rancher who's worried about inheritance tax driving him off the land. They start planning for this new inheritance, death tax repeal, and all of a sudden, it comes back into being. It means it creates uncertainty. And people need certainty when it comes to job creation and certainty when it comes to estate planning and certainty when it comes to their farms and ranches. For the sake of economic vitality, these need to be permanent, and we need to get rid of the death tax forever.

We're taking aggressive steps to create an environment in which businesses grow. That's a difference of philosophy. See, some think Government create wealth. We don't think that. We think the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes. One way to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit and to create jobs here in the Northwest is to aggressively seek markets for products manufactured and/or grown in this part of the world.

Thankfully—and Gordon was a part of this—I was able to get trade promotion authority. It's an authority that had lapsed for a long period of time, and we fought for it and got it done. And now I want to assure you, I'm aggressive—going to aggressively promote U.S. and Oregon products in markets all around the world, for the good of our workers, for the good of people who work.

And finally, we're making progress on one of the drags in our economy. We had some citizens in our country who decided that they were going to cook the books. We had some citizens who did not uphold their responsibilities as leaders; that they—that they were—didn't uphold their calling to employee and shareholder alike. They tried to cut corners. I signed the most comprehensive corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was the

President. And you just need to know that I got a Corporate Fraud Task Force in place that's going to hunt these cheaters down and bring them to justice, for the good of this economy.

By far, the vast, vast majority of our fellow citizens uphold their responsibilities. They're honest people. Their numbers are honest. But we're going to audit the auditors, and we're going to make sure the numbers are real, for the sake of economic vitality. That's what's going to happen here in America.

I've also got a big job besides worrying about people working, and that is to make sure the homeland is secure. As a matter of fact, that is my most important job—is to make sure an enemy which hates freedom, which hates America because we love freedom, doesn't hit us again. And we're making progress. We are. We've got a lot of people working hard. Anytime we get a hint of—that somebody might do something to us, we're moving. We've got people working overtime to secure the homeland. It's not only people at the Federal level, but it's people at the State and local level, for which I am most grateful, and I know you are as well.

But as—last fall and the winter I began to think about how best to enable not only this administration but future administrations to do what's going to need to be done, which is to secure America. I realized there were over 100 agencies—over 100 agencies—involved in one way or another with homeland security. For those of you who tried to manage something, if there's 100 agencies scattered around with different bosses, different cultures, different priorities, it's hard to really bring to account; it's hard to set the priorities.

So I said, "Well, why don't we have a Department of Homeland Security?" I proposed a new Cabinet officer that would take different agencies involved with homeland security and put them under one umbrella, so that we can have as the number one priority of these folks protecting you. It ought to be the number one priority. If it's our number one goal, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency in Washington, DC. So I've asked Congress to act.

The House passed a pretty good piece of legislation. The Senate is now involved with

the bill. I've got great support from Gordon Smith. However, the Senate must know loud and clear, I'm not going to accept a bill which is more concerned about special interests in Washington than the people or more concerned about their own turf than the protection of the American people. We want a bill—I need a bill that allows me to move the right people to the right place at the right time, in order to protect America, not a bill which tries to micromanage the process for the sake of special interests that are lodged in Washington, DC. I'm confident that Gordon understands this. I look forward to working with him to get a good piece homeland security legislation to my desk as soon as they return from their August respites.

Now, having said that—[laughter]—having said that, you've got to know that the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to secure freedom for the long term is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that is what we're doing. And that is what we'll continue to do. And we're making some progress.

We put this coalition together, and as you recall, I said, "You're either with us, or you're with them." A lot of people chose to be with us. And I meant it. I still mean it. I still remind people that that's part of the doctrine of the first war of the 21st century. And we've got a coalition together that is working hard. We're sharing intelligence like never before. We're disrupting finances. This is an incredibly important part of this new type of war we fight. If we can deny the killers money, it makes it harder for them to move and plan and plot.

We're arresting people. I bet you we've hauled in over 2,500 folks so far, not only just America but other countries that are—have heard the call. By the way, about equal the number have not been quite so lucky. So we're making progress. [Laughter] But we've got a lot of work to do. You just need to know, we've got a lot of work to do. They're still out there. They still hate. They don't value life like we value life—every life precious to America, to our culture. That's not the way they think.

And so, so long as I'm the President, I'm going to commit our resources, the resources necessary to defend our freedom. That's why

I've asked for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I want our troops well paid and well trained. Anytime we commit somebody into harm's way, they deserve the absolute best from our Government.

And I want the message to go to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul. See, this is our freedom at stake. History has called this Nation into action. History has put the spotlight on the great beacon of freedom, and we're not going to blink. We're going to be a steady, patient, determined nation, doing what it takes to not only secure the future for our own children but the future for other country's children. We cannot let terrorists get the upper hand, and we won't. And I want you to know—and that by being steadfast and resolved and, by the way, making it clear the difference between good and the difference between evil, by making it clear we will not let the world's worst leaders develop and possibly deploy the world's worst weapons, to try to blackmail America and our friends and allies, by being steadfast and strong, I believe we're going to achieve peace.

And that's one of the great ironies for the enemy. See, they didn't realize who they were hitting. They thought we were weak and self-absorbed and materialistic and shallow, and that all we'd do maybe is file a lawsuit or two—[*laughter*]*—*but that's all we would do. That's what they probably thought. Instead, they found out that this is a nation that is strong and good and decent and that we're a nation that refuses to be cowed by a few killers. People that hide in caves and send youngsters to their death, that doesn't impress us at all. All that does is make us want to get into the cave with them and bring them out. That's what that does.

They didn't understand that when it comes to defending our freedoms, we'll do what it takes, because we love freedom. We love the idea of people being able to worship freely. But see, what they really didn't understand is that—they didn't understand that we are determined to achieve peace. That's the goal. I want our children to grow up in a peaceful world. We might have to cross some hurdles before we get there, but that's where we're headed, for a peaceful world. I believe that

as we remain strong and dedicated to fighting terror, that we can achieve peace not only for our own people but peace in parts of the world that might have quit on peace. See, I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia.

No, I think there's going to be incredible good that has come out of the evil done to America, not only abroad but here at home as well. People say, "Well, Mr. President, I want to be a part of the war on terror. What can I do?" And my answer is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency which define the true character of America. You see, it's when you go—it's when somebody mentors a child, when somebody says, "I love you" to somebody who is wondering if love is possible. That's part of being a part of defining America. It's going to a shut-in's house and saying, "What can I do to help you today?" It's the simple act of loving your child every day. It's all part of the goodness that will come out of America.

You see, there are pockets of despair in this country, and so long as one of us hurts, all of us hurts. But people in this country are beginning to understand that by serving something greater than yourself—they understand that one of us can't do everything, but one of us can do something to help change America, one conscience, one soul, one person at a time.

No, the enemy hit us; the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done to America is going to come not only a more peaceful world but a more passionate America, because Americans are understanding that the true definition of patriotism is not only to support a great military, but a definition of patriotism is to serve something greater than yourself, is to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

That's what's happening in this great Nation. I confidently and boldly predict that America will be a better country as a result of what was done to us, because we're a country full of the most decent, compassionate, strong, honorable people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. in the Pavilion Ballroom at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Sharon Smith, wife of Senator Gordon Smith; Oregon gubernatorial candidate Kevin Mannix; Antoinette Hatfield, wife of former Senator Mark Hatfield; and Mayor Michael E. Swaim of Salem, OR.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon
in Stockton, California**
August 23, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. I'm glad to be back in California. It's an honor to be back in Stockton, California, I might add. It's wonderful to be in a part of the world where we grow a lot of things and help feed not only our own people but feed the world.

I'm also here to—I was up in Oregon yesterday to talk about sensible policy, to make sure that we don't allow our forests to burn. I flew over the Biscuit fire there in Oregon—it's a huge fire—and was briefed by the experts about, you know, how that fire got started. It was a lightning strike. But because of poor forest management, we allowed kindling to build up, and we allowed it turn into just a giant pile of ready-to-burn material.

I saw those firefighters that are spending hours trying to protect people and wildlife and habitat, and heard one after another say, "Mr. President, bring some common sense. Bring some common sense to our forest policy. Let's thin the forest so that they don't serve as giant piles of kindling to burn and ruin the legacy of good forests." That's what I was here to talk about, some commonsense policy.

And that's what you need in Sacramento, California, is some commonsense thinking, somebody who can lead this State. And that's why I'm honored to be back to work on behalf of the next Governor of the State of California, Governor Bill Simon.

And Laura did report, Bill, that she had a great trip. You drew the long straw with her, and you got the short straw with me. [Laughter] But she sends her very best to you and Cindy. She was impressed by your speech, and your—caliber of the campaign

you're running. People are beginning to take notice here in California that something different's happening, got a little different attitude when it comes to politics and the Governor's office. She picked up on that. And so she sends her very best.

I talked to her this morning. She's in Crawford, Texas. She is—[applause]—there you go; one person from Crawford. [Laughter] You've got 1/600th of the city here. [Laughter]

But yesterday, she had the high honor of having an elementary school named after her in Leander, Texas. I share that same honor of having one named after me right here in Stockton, California.

But I do want to herald the next first lady of California, a fine lady, a great mom, smart person, and that's Cindy Simon. Good to see you, Cindy.

Alex Spanos told me the funniest thing. He said, "This is an airplane hangar." It doesn't look like one to me. [Laughter] Alex, I want to thank you for your hospitality. What a fine American Alex Spanos is. I kind of needled him in front of, I guess, maybe 3 or 4,000 people at the Civic Center down there. I said I love being around an optimist. He told me with a straight face that the San Diego Chargers were going to win the Super Bowl this year. [Laughter] Of course, that's what he told me last year. [Laughter]

But I love Alex. My family loves Alex. I know you love Alex. He's a wonderful contributor to the fabric of our society, and we appreciate you, Alex, and Faye, and your fantastic family. And thank you for your hospitality.

I surround myself with good people. I pride myself on the fact that my administration has got some good, honorable, decent, hard-working, smart people. And I've got some of them with me today. First, I've got a National Security Adviser right here from the State of California who is really doing a good job, and that's Condoleezza Rice.

And secondly, when I picked somebody to be the Secretary of Agriculture, I wanted somebody who knew something about agriculture. And it made sense to find somebody from this part of the world, so I picked a lady from Compton, California. Ann Veneman is doing a fantastic job for America.

I told her the other day that I wanted to make sure that agriculture wasn't treated as a stepchild when it came to international trade. You see, when you're good at something, that ought to be the cornerstone of public policy. And we're really good about growing crops and raising cows and raising chickens and hogs. We're good at that in America. We're so good at it, we don't have to worry about bringing it in from another country. We're self-sufficient in food, and that's important from a national security perspective.

But it's also important, if that's the case, to use our leverage to help our producers by opening up markets for U.S. products. And today Ann announced the fact that the Russians, our friends the Russians have finally honored the agreement to not only contract for our chickens but to honor the contract for American chickens. She's doing a fantastic job on behalf of the American farmer.

We've got two fine United States Congressmen here with us today—one, the Congressman from this area, Richard Pombo. Richard, thank you for coming. I know Richard's wife and son is here as well. And of course, there's Doug Ose from right up north of here. Doug and his family is here as well. Thanks for coming, Doug.

I want to thank State Senator Dick Monteith for coming today. He's going to be the next Congressman from the adjoining district. Thank you for coming, Dick.

My friend big Jim Brulte is here. He's a State senator from down south. He's got a lot of judgment and wisdom, and he's trying to keep the fiscal house in order until a new sheriff arrives in town, in Sacramento, California. And I appreciate Big Jim being here, too. Thanks for coming, Brulte.

And finally, I want to thank your mayor, Gary Podesto, for his hospitality, his kind introduction down at the civic center, and for the great job he's doing for the people of Stockton, California. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

I want to thank you all for helping the next Governor. I want to thank you for your talent and your time. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. You see, in order for this good man to win, he not only needs your financial support; he needs you to start help-

ing turn out that vote, to start talking to your neighbors about why you need a change in Sacramento and why he's the man to bring that change.

In Texas, at least in the Crawford area, we call that "coffee shop talk." You've probably got a few of them around here. It makes sense, when you get into that coffee shop, to extol the virtues. When you find a good candidate, you've got to support that candidate. It's important for this great State that you do, because you've got some problems and you need somebody to solve the problems.

It starts with having the right kind of attitude. The attitude is, I want to work with people to make things better for everybody. You don't ask the question, you know, I'm going to work for people to make sure that this so-and-so has got the right party registration. That's not the right attitude for government. The attitude in the 21st century, the one that makes sense to me, is how can I work together with people from all walks of life to make things better? You need somebody in Sacramento who's got that kind of attitude, somebody who's willing to put aside all the typical old-style politics to bring a breath of fresh air, to bring new life into a stagnant situation. And the answer for the breath of fresh air for Sacramento, California, is Bill Simon.

I also appreciate a man who doesn't have to take a poll to figure out what to believe. I like Bill's ideas. I like the fact that he set education as his number one priority. And that ought to be the priority of any Governor. The most important thing a State needs to do is to make sure that every child—not just a few or some—every child gets a good education.

And it starts with having high expectations. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. See, if you believe only certain children can learn, those that you kind of exclude won't learn. That's just the way it is. If you have low standards, you're going to get low results.

Bill understands every child can learn. He also knows what I know, that it's important to have flexibility in the public school system. You can't—one size doesn't fit all. You've got

to trust local folks to chart the path to excellence. The bill I signed says that we're going to set high standards, but we're going to trust local people; we're going to let people design a path to excellence that works.

But also, what's important in education—if you believe every child can learn, then you need to ask the question: Is it working? Is every child learning? And see, that's why I am such a strong supporter of accountability. And Bill joins me. We need to know. We need to know if every child is learning. See, if you believe they can, then you're willing to measure. If you don't believe that every child can learn, then you don't measure. If you believe every child can learn, then you use an accountability system to say thanks to the teachers where children are learning, and to say to schools that aren't teaching, "You need to change, because every child counts in the State of California."

That's the kind of policy that's needed here in California. You need a policy that says every child can learn. When we find children who aren't, we're going to correct problems early, before they're too late to regain confidence in the school system. That's what you need to do in this great State, and this good man can do that.

We're getting ready to write a new welfare law in Washington that says work is the cornerstone of freedom, that we're going to help people work. We need to have a Governor in this State who understands the dignity that comes with work but who also understands, like I know, there are people—there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this State, just like there are around the country. There just are.

And one way to help address each person is to unleash the great faith-based programs which exist all around the country. The Federal Government and the State government must not fear programs who change lives but must welcome those faith-based programs for the embetterment of mankind.

Bill understands that. You see, government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when loving Americans love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. It's a breath of fresh air you need in Sacramento, California.

You also need somebody who can make the budget work. *[Laughter]* That's what you need. You need somebody who's willing to make tough decisions and set priorities with the people's money. It starts with understanding when a government spends money, it's not the government's money, it's your money. And you better have somebody who understands that, that concept. And somebody who watches the budget carefully.

Bill Simon is a proven businessman who can get that done. And that's what the State of California needs, and that's why I'm so proud to be here to embrace his candidacy and urge the good people of California to work on behalf—for the State's interests, that this man get elected.

I want to thank you all for your support of his candidacy. And before I leave, I want to tell you we've got some tasks at hand at the Federal level too that we're going to meet. There's no bigger task than protecting the homeland of our country. That's my most important job. I spend a lot of time thinking about it. Not only do I spend time thinking about it, I act on it.

You need to know that your Government is doing everything we can to run down every hint, every piece of evidence, every whisper about somebody that might be doing something to America. And we're chasing down every lead. A lot of good folks are working really hard on your behalf. And I'm proud of them. I'm proud of them at the Federal level; I'm proud of them at the State level; and I'm proud of them at the local level.

You probably have heard that I have asked for there to be a reorganization of the Federal Government in order to make the homeland more secure. I didn't run—and I readily concede this—on the platform: Vote for me, I want to make the Federal Government bigger. *[Laughter]* I ran on: Let's make it work better. If it's got a responsibility, let's see to it that it works better. And so the idea of the Department of Homeland Security is not to create new bureaucracy but to make those bureaucracies and those agencies which have got some responsibility in homeland security work better.

There are over 100 agencies in Washington that have something to do with protecting you. And it seemed like to me they

ought to be under one umbrella, so there's accountability in the system. The problem is, is that I worry about a Senate bill—I don't worry about it, because I'm not going to accept it—a Senate bill which wants to micro-manage, that wants to decide every kind of rule there is, that is more worried about protecting their own turf than protecting the American people.

But we're going to get a good Department. I want you to know we're doing everything we can to secure the homeland.

But the best way to do so is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do.

And we're making some progress, and we have to make progress. After all, they are still out there, and they still hate. They hate what we stand for. I want you to tell your sons and daughters that we seek justice, not revenge, and we do so because we love freedom.

This country values every person. Every life is important. We value the ability to worship freely, and we hold those values dear. And when somebody wants to take them away, we're going to respond. And we'll respond in a forceful way. And force—we'll use every asset at our disposal to protect the people of this country but also to protect the values that we hold dear. It is our responsibility.

History has called us into action. And so long as I'm the President, this country is not going to blink. We will be steadfast and strong in our desire to make the world more free.

And we're making some pretty good progress. We've got this coalition of freedom-loving countries and people who understand the threats to civilization that terrorism poses, that are helping to share intelligence and to cut off money and haul them in, as I say, rather—it means arrest, incarcerate them. We've got over a couple of thousand of them—these are the big shots, the leaders. We're pulling them in, and slowly but surely, we're decimating their army.

But this is a different kind of war. See, that's what makes it not very appealing to all the air time that they've got out there, because you can't see tanks and aircrafts and

ships and convoys and all, the way that wars used to be fought. Remember, we're out there chasing down these people that hide in caves. They find the darkest cave possible. In the meantime, they're sending some youngster to their suicidal death.

They've hijacked a great religion. That's what they've done. It's a different kind of enemy. But we're figuring them out. And there's no cave deep enough.

We've got a fantastic United States military. We've got a great coalition. We've got a people that understand the task at hand. And so we're making progress.

But there are some other hills we've got to climb in order to make the world more peaceful. There just are. As our fellow citizens, you've just got to understand that there's going to be more combat, more missions. We'll do everything we can to continue to enforce the doctrine that if you harbor one of these people, you're just as guilty as they are. You'll see that doctrine enforced. You'll see the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them," enforced.

You'll understand clearly, as time goes on, why I feel strongly that we cannot allow the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons, to hold America or our friends and allies hostage. We just can't do that.

History has called us into action. History has shined the spotlight on this great land, and we will show the world that we love human values, universal values. And we will show the world that we love freedom. That's the task at hand.

And by being strong and patient and deliberate, we're going to make the world more peaceful. That's the objective. The objective is for our children to grow up in peace. The objective is to achieve peace in parts of the world where the people have given up on peace.

See, I think it's possible to achieve peace in the Middle East. I think it's possible to achieve peace in South Asia. I believe that out of the evil done to America can come some great good, if we remain strong and focused and diligent and tough when we need to.

And I believe here at home we can achieve a more compassionate country, too. You see,

out of the evil done to America has come a new culture, one that says serving something greater than yourself in life is part of being—part of being a patriotic American.

People say, you know, “How can I help? What can I do?” You know what you can do? You can love your neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. You can understand what I know, that one person can’t do everything to make America a more hospitable place, a more decent place, a more loving place; but one person can do something, and America can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And all of us have a responsibility to help make that change. And it doesn’t take much. Mentoring a child on a regular basis will change lives. Helping people who need—who are shut in will change lives. Feeding the hungry will change lives. Helping find shelter for those who lack shelter will change lives.

See, America is changing, one person at a time. The evil people, they thought they were hitting a weak country. They thought they were hitting people that were so self-absorbed, so materialistic, that all we might do was file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they realized this country is a country of courage and character and compassion and decency. After all, we are the finest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. at the A.G. Spanos Jet Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Gary A. Podesto of Stockton; Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and Alex G. Spanos, founder and chairman, A.G. Spanos Companies, and his wife, Faye.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 20

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had intelligence briefings.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Melvyn J. Estrin, George Farias, Roy Goodman, Alma Johnson Powell, Catherine Reynolds, and Beatrice Welters.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mary Mochary (chairman), Patricia H. Gerber, Chi Ming Lee, William Hideo Marumoto, Elizabeth McNamee, Velma Morrison, Mary H. Perdue, Harriet Rotter, and Alfred Raymond Tye.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Rural Telephone Bank: Clay Davis and Christine Toretti (general public representatives); and Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., James House, Luis Luna, and Roberto Salazar (Department of Agriculture representatives).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust: Luke R. Corbett, Patricia Eaton, Donald F. Ferrell, Gloria Griffin, Robert M. Johnson, Linda P. Lambert, Gary B. Marrs, and Richard E. Williams.

The President announced his intention to appoint Amanullah Khan and Shinq-Chern Liou as members of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The President announced his intention to designate Marvin Lee Watts as U.S. Commissioner of the Pecos River Commission.

August 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Ruch, OR, and later to Central Point, OR. In the afternoon, he traveled to Portland, OR.

August 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Stockton, CA, where he spoke at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Santa Ana, CA, where he spoke to Hispanic community advocates, volunteers, and leaders at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Dana Point, CA, where, in the evening, he attended a reception for gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort.

The President announced his appointment of David M. Childs as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The President announced his appointment of Rudy Boschwitz as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 21

Fact sheet: Healthy Forests Initiative

Announcement: Defense Briefing Participants List

Released August 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Chairman James L. Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality on the fire season and the Healthy Forests Initiative

Released August 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, August 30, 2002

**Remarks to the Community in
Stockton, California**

August 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I'm glad I came, and thank you all for coming. I'm honored to be here in the great city of Stockton, California. I appreciate you coming to give me a chance to share with you some of my thoughts and concerns and hopes about our great Nation. I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank the mayor. My only regret is the mayor didn't take me down to Billy Hebert Field to see the team play. [*Laughter*] I'm a baseball guy. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank so very much the members of the congressional delegation who met me at Air Force One. I appreciate the hard work of Richard Pombo, who represents this district. I was so pleased that he found a tie for this occasion. [*Laughter*] Doug Ose from the next congressional district is here with us. Doug, thank you for coming. These are two fine Members of the United States Congress with whom I have good working relations, people with whom I can work to do what's right for the American people.

I picked—I picked a fine Cabinet. You need to judge a President based upon the people who he listens to. I listen to some mighty fine people; I really do. I've got great advice, not only in the national security side but also on the domestic side of my job. And I picked my neighbor, somebody from Compton, to serve in an incredibly important position, particularly for the folks in this part of the world, and that is to serve as our Secretary of Agriculture. Ann Veneman is doing a fabulous job.

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for helping put on this occasion. I particularly want to thank the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce for their hard work in getting this all ready and inviting people to come.

There's one friend I've got here that I've got to say something about. He's a great citizen from Stockton. He's been a longtime friend of mine and my family's, and that's, of course, Alex Spanos. I like to be around optimistic people. It's important to stay in touch with those folks who are optimistic. Once again he has told me that the San Diego Chargers are going to win the Super Bowl. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. —Super Bowl one last time—

The President. That's right. [*Laughter*] And once again, he believes it. [*Laughter*]

Today, at Air Force One, I met Malikah Rashied. Where is Malikah? Where is she? Oh, there she is. Thank you, Malikah. She is a Freedom Corps volunteer. She volunteers for the country. In this case, she works for the California Conservation Corps, assisting in fire prevention cleanup projects, in cleanup projects. We need, by the way, to have a forest policy that—[*applause*].

I mention her because I want people to understand that I understand the true strength of America. It is not in the halls of our Governments but in the hearts of our people. And there are people like her all across the country who are willing to try to make the communities in which they live a better place for all of us. I appreciate your service.

I also appreciate you working on fire prevention. And that's something the Federal Government needs to work on. Listen, we cannot allow our forests to become places where kindling piles up. It doesn't make any sense to me to fly over these huge fires that are consuming much of the West and realize our forest policy encourages—doesn't prevent, doesn't work to make the forest healthier and safer. The forest—the hands-off forest policy proposed by well-meaning people has failed, and now we need to do something about it.

We've got a lot to do in this country. We really do. We've got some big hurdles, big challenges ahead of us. One of the things I've found in Washington is if we can get rid of all the politics and get people thinking about what's important for the Nation, we can get some things done. We really can.

Oh, I know we'll never get rid of all the politics. But at least we can get people thinking and setting the right priorities on behalf of the American people. That's the most—one of my most important jobs, and we're making some progress. If you look at the record, when people decide to come together, we're doing some things right for the American people, starting with making sure the funding priorities of the Government is to win the war on terror.

A new priority has been to help secure the homeland by working with our brave first-responders, the police, the fire, the EMS teams all around the country, those who work hard here in Stockton and all around America. It's been a priority of ours, and both Republicans and Democrats have come together to fund that priority for the good of the country.

I proposed some tough new standards on—for corporate reform. Like you all, I took a look out there and saw a problem. And the problem was, we had some folks who were trying to fudge the numbers. We had some people who decided they weren't going to tell the truth when it came to their assets and liabilities, to the detriment of not only shareholder and employee but to the country itself.

You see, a few—a few began to shatter the confidence of the American people. And so we decided to do something about it. Republicans and Democrats came together. I was honored and proud to sign the most comprehensive corporate reforms since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. This wasn't a Republican idea. It wasn't a Democrat idea. It's an American idea to hold people responsible who betray the public's trust, and that is what we're going to do.

I remember giving a speech in New York about how I thought the corporate accountability bill ought to go. And at one point in the speech, I talked about the fact that our business schools don't teach right from

wrong. They're unwilling to say to future business leaders, "There's a right way to deal with things, and there's a wrong way." And I was lamenting that fact, and I called upon our business schools to show leadership and to teach future leaders right from wrong.

And I was working a ropeline afterwards, and a fellow walked up who's a professor at a business school. And he said, "Thanks for saying that, Mr. President. We needed to hear that." And a large guy—I assumed he was one of the construction folks that was there, construction union leaders that was supportive of this initiative—he said, "If you want to teach them right from wrong, Mr. President, the best lesson you can send is put them in handcuffs."

And that's what's happening. And that's what's happening. We cannot let a few—and I emphasize "a few"—set the tone for the many who are decent, honorable citizens of this country who take care of their shareholders, who are good to their employees, who tell the truth. So we're working together.

The other day, I had the honor of signing a bill that both Republicans and Democrats supported that gives me the capacity to open up markets for U.S. goods. Here's my attitude about trade: If you're good at something, you ought to promote it. If you're good about—if you're good at growing crops, you ought to figure out how to sell more of the crops. And we're the best in the world at farming and ranching.

I'm thrilled to be here in the breadbasket of America, because it gives me a chance to remind our fellow citizens that we have an advantage here in America: We can feed ourselves. And we've always got to be able to do that. It puts us in a—it gives us a strategic advantage, a strategic edge. Imagine if we were going around the world asking for food. It would put the President in a pretty tough position. *[Laughter]* They may want to bargain a little high. *[Laughter]*

But fortunately, we can feed ourselves, and not only that, we produce more food than we need, because we're good at what we do. And therefore, it makes sense on behalf of the producers to open up markets. We ought to be feeding—feeding the world. Where people are hungry, they ought to be eating American food. We ought to be knocking

down those tariffs and those barriers. We ought to be leveling the playing field, and that's precisely what I'm going to do with my new authority.

I told Ann—and she would testify to this—and I told Zoellick, who's our trade man, I said, "I don't want our agriculture producers to be shunted aside when it comes to opening up markets." As a matter of fact, when you're good at something, it ought to be the cornerstone of your policy. So I want agriculture to be the cornerstone of good international trade policy, and it will be. And we made some progress.

I don't know if you've been following this, but we had a little problem with the Russians for a while. They agreed to take our chickens. They were going to buy U.S. chickens, and then all of a sudden they decided not to buy the chickens, and that created a problem. It creates a problem for the chicken growers. It affects prices of other commodities, truly does.

And it was interesting, at one of my press conferences with Vladimir Putin, who I like—he's a good man—he said, "You know, the good thing about our new relationship, as opposed to talking about war, we're talking about chickens." [Laughter] But I want the agricultural folks here to understand, we talked about chickens up until yesterday when Secretary Veneman announced an agreement with the Russians that they're going to take U.S. chickens. They're going to honor their obligations.

I bring these examples up because it shows what is possible in Washington when people decide to work together. And they're getting ready to come back in August. And when they come back in August——

[At this point, there was a disruption in the audience.]

The President. ——and when they come back in August——

[The disruption continued.]

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. And when the Congress comes back after their August break, I hope they keep in mind the fact that we need to continue to work together on behalf of the American people. We need to work——

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. And as we work together to make—to make America more secure, we must do so on three fronts. We must work together to make sure that there's economic security. We must work together to make sure there's homeland security. And we must work together to make sure that we win the war on terror to defend our freedoms.

I hosted some folks down to Waco, Texas, the middle of Texas in the middle of August. They obviously had something on their mind. And it was a really interesting forum to hear from people from all walks of life talk about the difficulties they face, the hurdles they face, to create jobs. That's what I'm interested in.

When I hear somebody who wants to work can't find a job, I view that as a problem. It concerns me. I want people to be able to find work. That ought to be the cornerstone of any good economic policy.

And so part of what Congress needs to do is to get together and work on ways to make sure that there's economic security for the American people. The platform for growth is good. It just is.

We've had problems, no question. When we came in, there was a recession. History shows that for the first three quarters of my Presidency, we were in negative growth. The next three quarters have been positive growth, which is good news for the American people. Wages were rising. The productivity of the American worker is the strongest in the world. We're good at—our workers are really good. Our entrepreneurs are innovative. We've got a good tax base, good monetary policy. Interest rates are low. And so we've got the foundation for growth.

But I'm not content with our progress, and here's some things I'd like to see done. First, I can't tell you how strongly I feel and passionately I feel about the need to make the tax cuts that we passed permanent.

See, here's the chapter of the economics book I read—and I admit, some of them in Washington didn't read this chapter. [Laughter] I believe that when times are slow—and remember, the first three quarters of our administration was negative growth—when times are slow, you let people keep their own

money. And when they keep their own money, they demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody produces the good or the service. And when somebody produces that good or service, someone is likely, more likely to find work. That's how it works.

And therefore, the tax relief happened at the right time. Not only did we provide lower tax rates—which, by the way, is a spur to small-business growth. Most small-business owners are sole proprietors. Most small-business owners pay tax rates at the individual rate because they're limited partnerships. Most small businesses—small businesses create most new jobs in America. And therefore, we ought to have policy that encourages the growth of small businesses. By cutting individual rates, we understand the importance of small business.

And not only that, we put the death tax on the road to extinction. The death tax is a bad tax. And not only that, we began to change the marriage penalty, because we want the Tax Code to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage.

But here's why I bring up the issue. Because of a quirk in the Senate law, all the work that we did reverts back to normal in 10 years—"normal" being what it was prior to the tax relief. In other words—it's kind of hard to explain—[*laughter*]*—*but you get tax relief, and you don't get tax relief, see. It stays in place for 10 years, and then it goes away.

And so Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, have got to understand, for the good of the economy, we need some permanency. People need to be able to plan. They need to be able to know that what is real today will be real tomorrow. Therefore, the tax cuts need to be made permanent.

We've got a problem when it comes to construction here in America, because many folks cannot get insurance to cover losses from potential terrorist attack. There's about \$8 billion worth of projects that have been put aside because people can't get terrorism insurance. That means we've got some hardhats here in America who aren't working who should be working. That means there's some good, hard-working folks who aren't as active as they should be in the job market.

And therefore, I have asked Congress—the House responded, and the Senate came up with a version; they need to get together—to provide terrorism insurance legislation to help these big construction programs go forward. This bill would put people back to work, so long as the House and the Senate understand that the priority is not trial lawyers but hardhat workers in America.

Congress, when they get back, needs to give me an energy bill. In order for the economy to be strong, we've got to have an energy plan. We've got to have a bill that promotes renewable sources of energy, that encourages conservation. But we need more energy explored here at home in an environmentally friendly way. It is in our economic security that we find more energy at home. It is in our national security that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Congress needs to get to work on a reauthorization of the welfare bill. See, the welfare bill is coming up again. And, by the way, it worked when we said to people we will help them find work. It made people less dependent upon Government. It has been a successful, successful public policy in America, and we need to continue that. There are some in the Senate who want to say work isn't important, and so they've got all kinds of loopholes. I think work is incredibly important. Work leads to dignity. And therefore, they need to give me a welfare bill like the House bill that says, we're going to help people help themselves by finding work. That's what we're going to do. We're going to train people for jobs, but we're going to insist that they work in return for help.

And there's one other vital piece of legislation that they need to get to me before they all go back to their districts and campaign, and it's this. I want to unleash the great compassion of America by recognizing the power of faith-based institutions in our society. I ask the question, "Does it work?" That's what I ask. Does it work if somebody's heart is changed and therefore they get off alcohol and drugs? Does that work? And if it does, our Government ought not to fear programs based upon the capacity to change somebody's heart. As a matter of fact, we ought to welcome those programs. We ought to say, "If you've got an idea and you've got a cross

on the wall or the star of David or if you're a mosque, we welcome those ideas to help change society, one person at a time."

We'll never fund religion. Of course we're not going to fund religion. That's not the purpose. But we want to help people, and we should not discriminate against programs which have the capacity to help save lives. When we save a life in America, we make America a better place for all of us.

Congress has got work to do on the homeland security front as well. My most important job is to protect you all, our fellow Americans, from another attack. That's my most important job. And make no mistake about it, there are coldblooded killers out there, and we're doing everything we can to find them. Some people might not think they're out there. They're out there; they just are.

People say, "Why? Why would someone want to attack America?" And the answer is because we love freedom, that's why. They hate us because we value each life. Each life is important here in America; everybody counts. Ours is a country that recognizes in our great diversity that every single person has worth, and they can't stand that. They can't stand the thought of a nation which recognizes that people can worship an almighty God in different ways, that we welcome that type of diversity in America, that we love that freedom. They don't like free speech. They don't like a free press. They really don't like anything about us, it turns out. *[Laughter]* But they're killers. That's the only way I can tell you how I think about them. They're coldblooded killers, and therefore my most important job is to protect the homeland.

And so when I looked at ways to protect the homeland, I realized when I looked at our homeland security there in Washington, we've got over 100 agencies that have something to do with protecting the homeland, and they're scattered everywhere. In order to set the number one priority of these agencies to be the homeland defense, I decided to create a Department of Homeland Security with a new Cabinet Secretary. I did that not to create the size of Government but to make the Government work better. I did it to be able to start changing cultures within agencies. I did it to make sure that agencies had that number one priority, so that I could

report back to the American people that we're doing everything we possibly can do.

And the House of Representatives passed a good piece of legislation, for which I'm grateful. The Senate is now wrestling with it, and I've got some problems with how they're wrestling with it. You see, I need to be—my Secretary needs to be able to move people to different agencies, if need be, to protect America. We need to put people in the right place at the right time.

I'll give you an example. We've got to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, and whether or not they're leaving the country. And yet, when you go down to the border, you'll realize they've got the INS, the Customs, the Border Patrol. We've got to be able to have the same strategy, the same culture. We don't need three competing agencies. We need to figure out how to bring people together to accomplish the objective, and that means we need some flexibility.

Yet, when you look at the Senate bill, it sounds like they're more interested in special interests that have got lobbies in Washington, not the people. They're more interested in having—micromanaging the Department. They're more interested in protecting their turf than giving us the flexibility to do what it takes to protect the American people.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And so the first order of business for both Republicans and Democrats when they get back to Washington is to get the defense appropriations bill on my desk as soon as possible. They ought not to play politics with defense appropriations at this time in American history.

I've asked for the largest increase in spending since Ronald Reagan was the President—defense spending—since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did that for two reasons: One, anytime we commit our military into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, the best possible equipment. And for those of you who have loved ones in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful nation and a Commander in Chief. And I thank you for the sacrifice of your family.

And secondly, the defense increase sends a clear signal to friend and foe alike that when it comes to defending our freedom, we're in this for the long haul. You see, there's not a calendar on my desk in Washington that says, now time to quit. That's not the way I think. I believe history has called us into action. History has put the spotlight right here on America. History will determine whether or not we understand the value of freedom, the necessity to keep a vast coalition together to make the world more peaceful. See, that's my goal. My goal is for there to be a peaceful world.

There's going to be some steep hills to climb, because this is a different kind of war. It's not the kind of war that many of our veterans fought in. It's not the kind of war we can measure infantry brigades marching across plains, or squadrons of aircraft. We can't count the enemy's aircraft. We don't know how many foot soldiers they have. That's not the kind of war. Remember, these are the commanders who hide in caves and send their youngsters to their death. That's the kind of enemy we fight.

So we've got to think differently, which means we've got to use all intelligence at our disposal. We've got to make sure that we continue to talk with our friends and allies, that when they know something, we need to know it, and when we have learned something, we will share it with them. It means we need diplomatic pressure. It means we've got to be bold enough to enforce the doctrines. When I say, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," I mean it. When I say, "You're either with us, or you're with the others," I mean that too. And we're enforcing that doctrine. And the Taliban found out exactly what we mean.

I want the youngsters here to understand the nature of your Government. We don't seek—we do not seek revenge here in America. We seek justice. We don't want to conquer anybody. That's not the way we think. We want to liberate people. See, we believe every life matters. It doesn't matter whether it's an American life; every life counts.

And so when we liberated Afghanistan from the clutches of the barbaric regime called the Taliban, young girls—many young girls went to school for the first time. No,

this great country, this great country—this great country has a vision of peace and justice and compassion for our fellow human beings.

But we also understand that in order to achieve those goals we're going to have to do what it takes to make the world more secure. We're going to have to do everything we can to rid the world of terror. And we're making some progress; we're making some progress. We've—our coalition has arrested, hauled them in, however you want to call it, a couple of thousand of them. About that many weren't quite as lucky so far.

We've got more work to do, though. We just do. Where they bunch up, we'll get them. We're making it clear that—to other nations, once we get them on the run, don't let them light in your part of the world. And so we spent time destroying training camps and disrupting infrastructure and disrupting communication capacities. We're getting them on the run. And you watch: Slowly but surely—slowly but surely—we will achieve the objective and bring them to justice.

And as we do so, we can achieve some larger objectives. And by the way, there is another objective that we've just got to keep in mind for the sake of our children and their children. We cannot allow the world's worst leaders to harbor and develop the world's worst weapons, to hold those of us who love freedom hostage. We must not do that.

No, the enemy hit us September 11th, nearly a year ago. And I just can't imagine what was going through their mind. They said, "Well, this Nation is not going to do anything. They're so materialistic, so self-absorbed, and so selfish that they might file a lawsuit or two—*[laughter]*—but that's all they'll think about doing. They'll kind of crumble under their own greed and their own self-centered attitude about life." They didn't know who they were hitting, though, did they?

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good, because we're a great nation. We can achieve peace—we can achieve peace—by being strong and diligent, reminding people of the great, God-given values that are important to all humanity. We can achieve peace, and will. We can achieve peace—you got to know how I think—I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle

East by being strong and determined and to focus on what's best for people. We can achieve peace in South Asia. I know this seems like high hurdles, but we have a chance. Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good around the world.

And some incredible good can come here at home too. See, it's important to remember, in this land of plenty there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people who hurt. There are youngsters who wonder or not—whether America is meant for them, whether or not the American Dream applies to them. And of course, it does.

See, I believe when one of us hurts, all of us hurt. When one of us is diminished, all of us are affected. And therefore, we need to do something about it here in America. I believe the enemy has wakened a spirit in this country that understands, in order to fight evil, in order to fight evil—that in order to fight evil, you can do so by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's happening.

It's important for our fellow citizens to recognize that if you were to mentor a child, you're a part of defining the true compassion of America. If you go into a shut-in's home and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you," you're making a difference here in America. If you help feed somebody who's hungry, you're making a huge difference in showing the world the true character of this country.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good, because Americans understand that being a patriot is more—is more than just saying the Pledge Allegiance; being a patriot is serving something greater than yourself.

We learned that lesson most profoundly on September the 11th, when citizens were flying across the country, or thought they were, on Flight 93. They realized their airplane was going to be used as a weapon to take life, perhaps in the Nation's Capital. They were on the phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them. They used the word "love." They said a prayer. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They dove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It is that spirit of serving something—it is that spirit that recognizes while one of us can't do everything, each of us can do something, one thing to help change America, one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come great good, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of fantastic, compassionate, decent fellow citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Gary A. Podesta of Stockton; Alex G. Spanos, chairman of the board, San Diego Chargers; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks to the Hispanic Community in Santa Ana, California

August 23, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Gosh, thanks for coming today. It's my honor to be back in California—such a vibrant and exciting State. I am thrilled to be here in Santa Ana, and this is a vibrant city. And one reason why is because it's got such an energetic, visionary mayor. And Mr. Mayor, I appreciate—and I appreciate your hospitality. And I want to thank Laura, the first lady of this city.

I know something about marrying people named Laura. [*Laughter*] We both married above ourselves, Mr. Mayor. [*Laughter*] So, I want to thank you, and I want to thank your city council for hosting us here. And I want to thank very much the—I want to thank the fine folks at this beautiful facility for welcoming us. It's a magnificent asset for this community and for this county and for this State.

It's a thrill to be here to talk about some of the priorities for our Nation. We've got some big priorities, and we've got some big jobs to do. But there's no doubt in my mind we can achieve our objectives, because we're America, and we're full of Americans—people bold and courageous and strong.

But before I do so, I want to talk about two Members of the Congress who have joined us, two fine Americans and good, solid citizens and friends of mine. That would be Chris Cox and Ed Royce. Thank you both for coming.

Rosario Marin—she's a former mayor in a little—couple of cities away from here. She's now the Treasurer of the United States of America. And I appreciate you coming, Rosario.

I like to always say hello to the high sheriff. In this case, we've got two high sheriffs—one I appreciate so much, Mike Carona. He's done a fine job. We saw him on TV the other day announcing an important arrest, saying he's going to help do everything he can to make neighborhoods safe. Sheriff, you did a fine job. And I also want to thank my friend Lee Baca for being here as well. Good to see you, Lee.

Everybody has got to have a good lawyer these days. [*Laughter*] And I've got one of the best, and he is here with his family, vacationing in Orange County. He came over from Washington, DC. He knows a good place to travel to when he sees one. And his name is Al Gonzales, and I want to thank my friend and lawyer, Al Gonzales, for being here.

And finally, I want to thank Francisco Paret for being here. He's a member of the President's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. And that's a commission we take very seriously. We take it seriously because we understand every child in America must be educated in order for this country to realize its full promise. I don't mean a few children; I mean every single child.

And you've got your superintendent of schools here, a good, young leader. He told me the district is 92-percent Hispanic. My attitude is, so what? That means when you succeed, you've done such a great job for America. That's his attitude. You see, some would say, "Ninety-two-percent Hispanic, that's an impossible district." Some believe certain children can't learn. I don't believe that, and neither does the superintendent of schools.

You see, we start with the premise that every child can learn—every child can learn.

We set high standards because we believe that every child has got the capacity to learn. You see, if you set low standards in society, you know what you're going to get? You're going to get low results. You have standards so low that you've got these school districts that are going to quit on certain kids. And guess who gets quit on here in America—children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, for example. Those are the easiest kids to quit on. Or how about inner-city African American kids? They're easy to quit on.

For the sake of America, for the sake of our future, we must first and foremost understand every child can learn, and devise systems to make sure they do. That's why at the Federal level we're spending plenty of money, but we're also saying, "We trust you all to chart the path to excellence. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to running the public schools." But we're also saying, "Since we believe every child can learn, why don't you show us? Why don't you measure? You see, why don't you tell America or your community or your State whether or not your children are learning to read and write and add and subtract?" And if they are, there will be plenty of praise. But you measure also to make sure that if children are failing, you catch the problems early, before it's too late. No child in America should be left behind. Every child, no matter his or her background, deserves a positive, solid, excellent education.

And we've got to do a better job. And we've got to face the facts that too many of our Latino youngsters aren't learning to read early enough. And that's a problem. If you can't read by the fourth grade, you're not going to be able to read by the eighth grade. And if you can't read by the eighth grade, you can't read in high school. It's a problem, and we've got to take it head on. That's why I want to make sure that we measure. That's why I want to make sure we challenge a system that sometimes has got standards so low. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. So one of the things we've done in the No Child Left Behind is said, "Let's start with first things first. Let's make sure children can read, children from all backgrounds."

Here in California, our new law provides a 50-percent increase to help students from non-English-speaking homes learn to read. And that's important. No child should be left behind.

And so today, the Department of Education—I'm going to report to you, the Department of Education has awarded California a \$133 million reading grant. And that's to make sure every child can read by the third grade. That's what that's for. I don't mean just a few. I don't mean those from the nice, fancy school districts. I mean every single child.

And one of the reasons why California is one of the first States to receive the grant is because California is using research-based instruction to teach reading. Your State, probably because your superintendent insists on it, has asked the question, "What works?" Not what sounds good, not what feels good, but what actually works. How do you teach kids to read? And that's what you're doing in this State, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing that. And we've got a little money to make sure it works and make sure that we focus on every child.

I don't care for the fact that a lot of the youngsters, the Latino youngsters, don't go to college. It's not a good statistic for America. Less than 10 percent go on to higher education. We must—we must work to encourage participation at all levels of education. But we must make it clear to our youngsters from all walks of life, but particularly Hispanic youngsters, that going to college is essential to being able to fully realize the American Dream.

All of us must set that clear goal for everybody, but we also must help. And that's why we've increased Pell grant funding by more than \$2.5 billion from last year's budget to this year's budget. There's a way to help, and we need to help through good scholarship programs like Pell grants.

I also want to note—want you to know that we're focusing on what they call the Latino-serving higher institutions. For the fiscal year 2003 budget, I've asked for more money to go to support colleges which provide 600,000 Latino students nationwide with educational opportunities. It's an increase of 30 percent.

My point is, is that we've got to make sure that education is affordable and accessible. And we've got to set the goals. We've got to make people understand what is possible here in America. But first things first. We've got to make sure every child learns to read and no child is left behind.

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans is launching what we call the "Yes I Can" national awareness campaign. And it's aimed at encouraging Latino students to obtain a college education. They called together citizens from around the country, they put together this initiative, this plan, this way to convince people that higher education is essential.

Parents can click onto a bilingual Web site called yesican.gov—yesican.gov, to learn about college costs, financial aid, and what their children should be asking their guidance counselor about college. In other words, it's a go-by, it's a help, it's a way to encourage people and help people understand that they—that sending their children to college here in America is a way forward.

And finally, about education, I know it's an important part of life for many students in our border communities in Mexico and Canada to attend school here in the United States. There's a lot of transborder crossing on a daily basis, to take advantage of our great educational opportunities. That's what we want, by the way. We shouldn't try to restrict people. It's good for our colleges, and it's good for the Mexican citizens and the Canadian citizens. And so we're going to expand eligibility for student visas, to ensure that part-time commuter students can continue to study here in America.

You know, education is the pathway to success, and there's just example after example of people who came here with nothing except a dream or a hope and love and got a good education and succeeded. That's what America is about. That's what I love about our country. That's the hope. That's what distinguishes us from many other countries, that we welcome people from all walks of life. We proudly call you an American. We don't say, "Show us your birth certificate, how you're born, where you're born." You're

American, and we love you for being in America. We welcomed you to this country.

And, you know, I've got a shining example right there in Washington I want to share a story with you about, because it's a—we've got a little problem up there with this particular fellow. His name is Miguel Estrada. He's a young guy. He came to our country as a teenager. He barely spoke English. He had trouble with the language because he didn't spend any time learning the language. And he got here, and he worked hard, the result of a good brain, brilliant mind, he now has argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court.

I've named him to a high bench, but the Senate won't give him a hearing. Here's a kid who comes to our country, works hard, learns the language. He's a brilliant jurist. He can't even get a hearing. I nominated him over a year and a half ago. I want this man to serve as a bright example of what is possible in America. He'll be a great judge, and the Senate needs to act.

Making sure every child is educated is part of making sure America is a secure country and a hopeful country. We've also got to do some other work to make sure we're secure and hopeful. I want to thank the law enforcement officers who are here today. You've got a big job. Our job at the Federal Government is to put a strategy in place that will make our first-responders more effective. It's not only law enforcement—firefighters and EMS.

And we're doing just that. I've actually tried to create a new Department of Homeland Security, to put agencies under one roof, to make sure that the number one priority of the Federal Government is to protect the homeland. And we need to do that.

I've got to tell you we need to do that, because there are still coldblooded killers out there that would like to hurt America. I want the youngsters to know why. And the reason why is because we love freedom. We value each life here in America. Everybody is important. Every life has meaning. Every life has worth.

And the enemy doesn't think that way. You see, they hate freedom. They hate the idea of people being able to worship freely. They can't stand the thought of Republican and

Democrat actually getting along. [*Laughter*] They don't like a free press. And we do. And we uphold those values, and we will defend them at all cost.

And so for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of values we hold dear, the best way for us to secure our homeland, other than reorganizing and encouraging and focusing on every lead and every hint, is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. The best way to protect America, the best way to uphold that which we love dear, is to get them before they get us. And that's precisely what this country is going to do.

We don't seek revenge. We seek justice. We don't want to conquer anybody. We want to liberate people, because every life matters. Every person has worth. I want the youngsters here to understand that when we went into Afghanistan to uphold the doctrine, if you harbor a terrorist you're just as guilty as the terrorists, that we freed people. Young girls now go to school for the first time, thanks to the goodness of the United States of America and our friends and allies.

No, we're on a mission. I believe out of the evil done to America will come some very—some incredible good. That's what I believe. I believe these people hit a country, and they didn't understand who they were hitting. And who they hit was a country that's tough and strong and determined, but also a country that's beginning to find its soul and its deep compassion.

See, not only if we're—not only can we achieve peace, which I believe can happen and will happen, that we can address those pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist in America, one person at a time. My call to people in this country is that if you want to join on the war on terror, if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

You see, this great country can change and will change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. One of us can't do everything—I know that—but each of us can do something. And I call upon my fellow Americans to be that person doing something: Mentor a child, help a shut-in, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent and compassionate people.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:07 p.m. in the courtyard at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Miguel A. Pulido of Santa Ana; Michael S. Carona, sheriff-coroner, Orange County, CA; Leroy D. Baca, sheriff, Los Angeles County, CA; and Al Mijares, superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District. He also referred to Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Legislation on the Codification of Public Buildings, Property, and Works

August 23, 2002

I have signed into law H.R. 2068, a bill “to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to public buildings, property, and works, as title 40, United States Code, ‘Public Buildings, Property, and Works’.” This measure is the latest in a series that is intended to enact all titles of the United States Code into positive law.

In approving this bill, I note that section 312(b)(2), concerning cert in transfers of funds for equipment purchases, and section 3305(a)(3), concerning the use of land as a site for a public building, state that the executive branch may take action only after receiving the approval of certain committees of Congress. The constitutional requirement of bicameralism and presentment is infringed whenever a single house, committee, or agent of Congress attempts to direct the execution of the laws or to promulgate rules or standards intended to bind the actions of executive or administrative officials that have not been approved by both houses and presented to the President. *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 958-59 (1983). The executive branch will therefore interpret these and similar provisions to require advance notifi-

cation only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court’s ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2068, approved August 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107-217. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Dana Point, California

August 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for inviting me. We don’t have views like this in Crawford. [*Laughter*] What a beautiful spot this is, in a fantastic State. And thanks for coming tonight. It is my honor to come and help support the fine slate of candidates that our party is fielding this year. And it’s my honor to come and support the next Governor of the State of California, Bill Simon.

Bill mentioned that Laura was out here working for—on his behalf. And that day he drew the long straw, and today—[*laughter*—you drew the short one. [*Laughter*] But she’s doing great. I had a talk with her when we got settled into this beautiful spot. And yesterday in Leander, Texas, they named an elementary school for her. So she thought it would be good—and deservedly so, I might say.

You know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. That’s how she made her living. She was a public school librarian, and the truth of the matter is, she didn’t care for politics or politicians. [*Laughter*] And now she got stuck with one. [*Laughter*] For the good of the country, she’s a fabulous First Lady. I’m proud of her. Just like Cindy Simon is going to be a great first lady for California.

I like the way the Simon’s value family. That’s important for your leader of the State of California to hold values dear to his heart. And there’s nothing more important than

people who value faith and family and service to something greater than yourself.

This event has not only drawn a lot of hard-working grassroot activists—and I want to thank you for your hard work, not only for what—

Audience member. Working hard.

The President. I know you are. [*Laughter*] Not only for what you have done but for what you're fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote. A lot of times, you never get thanked enough. A lot of times, those of us running for office kind of take you for granted. Well, you want—need to know your President doesn't take you for granted. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you for what you do. I'm urging you to get out and support this good man and the slate that we have put together here in the great State of California.

But we've got some strong—we've got some strong members of the congressional delegation who are here, and I want to introduce some of them. I'm going to probably need their vote when—[*laughter*]. The good news is, I haven't had to ask the ones I'm about to introduce too often, because they've been loyal friends, and they're strong, like Ken Calvert—I appreciate you coming, Kenny—or Ed Royce, right up the coast here. Ed, thank you for coming.

How about Randy "Duke" Cunningham. Duke.

Audience members. Duke! Duke! Duke!

The President. I asked him how long it took to get up here from his district. He said, when he put in an afterburner, about 3 minutes. [*Laughter*] I appreciate so very much Darrell Issa being here as well. Darrell, thanks for coming. And finally, the Congressman from this district, a true leader in the House of Representatives, Chris Cox.

We've got candidates who are running statewide in this fantastic State. The next Lieutenant Governor of your State of California is Bruce McPherson. I appreciate you coming, Bruce. I've known Bruce for quite a while. He's a good hand, as they say in Crawford. He's a good, hard-working man, who is going to work with the next Governor to do what's right for the people of this State. I want to thank very much Dick Ackerman, who is the candidate for State attorney gen-

eral, for being here. The next secretary of state, Keith Olberg, is with us today. Greg Conlon, who is going to be the next treasurer of your State, is with us today. Gary Mendoza is running a great race for insurance commissioner—is with us today. I appreciate so very much Katherine Smith, running for state superintendent of public construction. Thank you, Katherine. These are fine candidates, and I want to thank you all for supporting them.

I also want to pay tribute to Jack and Joanne Kemp who are here today. Jack has been a great stalwart for the—[*applause*]. It's good to know they still remember you. He's a good friend and a great man, who has been stalwart in the—for our cause and our way of thinking. I appreciate so very much his willingness to work hard to take the edge off a message to make it clear that what we believe in applies to everybody, that we don't believe in excluding people. We believe in including people in our message of—[*applause*].

And I want to thank my friend Gerry Parsky, who has done a great job on my behalf in this State. He had some really heavy lifting to do in 2000. He was my campaign chairman in this State. But he's a good man. He's a good man, and I appreciate his friendship.

But I want to talk to you about the next Governor. The thing I like about Bill Simon is he's willing to work to change the tone of politics. And that's important. If you want to lead, if you're there for the right reason, if you want to serve the people, the first thing you've got to do is change the tone and attitude of people, in this case in Sacramento, California.

You see, if you believe in pitting one group of people against another, you can't get anything done. If you believe that politics is zero-sum—we've got one winner and one loser—you're not going to get positive things done on behalf of the people. Bill Simon is committed to changing the tone in Sacramento, to get things done not just for Republicans, but for Democrats and independents and people who don't give a darn about politics.

And notice, I said "get things done." I mean "get results," results such as making

sure that every child gets a good education in this important State. It is really important. It's really important in this big State, in this powerful State, in this State that has got people from all walks of life, that we make sure that every single child gets educated—every child. Not a few, not some in the fancy districts, not some in the suburbs, but every child, everywhere in the State of California.

And that means setting high standards. That means having a Governor who believes every child can learn. You see, the sad fact is, around probably California, I know in Texas and around the country, there are some people who believe children can't—some children can't learn. See, that means they've got low standards, what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you set the low—bar low, you're going to get bad results. And so first and foremost, you've got to have a Governor who believes every child can learn.

Secondly, you've got to have a Governor who trusts the people to make the decisions as to how to get the path to excellence set up in each school district. You see, you can't have a one-size-fits-all education system, not only out of Washington but out of a big, powerful State, diverse State, like California. You've got to trust the local folks. You've got to trust the teachers and the parents. You've got to be willing to say, "We're not going to try to micromanage from a centralized authority."

Thirdly, you've got to have a Governor—and this Governor—future Governor agrees with me about this—that you've got to be willing to measure. You see, if you believe every child can learn, like I do, then you insist that every child be measured to determine whether they are learning. It's the folks who say every child can't learn, are the ones who say, "Let's don't measure." If you believe the child can't learn, there's no need to tell whether or not they are. Guess what happens with the system that doesn't measure? You shuffle children through—called "social promotion." And guess who gets hurt? Everybody gets hurt in a system that refuses to educate each and every child. I believe we ought to measure, and I believe we ought to measure so we know who to praise. And I believe we ought to measure to make sure

we correct problems early, before they're too late. No child in America and no child in California should be left behind.

And you've got a Governor—future Governor, who understands that. See, it's a frame of mind you've got to have in Washington. Public education isn't a political issue; it is a issue that is important for every single family in this State. You can't play politics with the education system.

You need a breath of fresh air in Sacramento, is what you need. You also need somebody who can balance the budget, somebody who can help set priorities, somebody who doesn't try to be all things to all people. That's what you need. And that's the way Bill Simon is going to be.

And finally, an issue that is dear to my heart is the understanding that we need to help people help themselves in California and in America. We need—for example, when we reauthorize the welfare bill, we've got to make sure that the key component of any new reauthorization is work. We've got to understand that work equals dignity.

But you've also got to understand we've got to help people. We've got to help people be prepared to work. Listen, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this State and all around this country. And one way to make sure that we help people is to unleash one of the great strengths of America, and that is the faith-based programs all across our country.

I'm trying to get a bill passed out of Washington that recognizes the power of programs coming out of church and synagogue and mosque, programs—programs all designed to help people in need. Bill Simon understands that. We ought to ask the question, "Does it work? Does it work? Does changing a person's heart help ease addiction, help cure the hopelessness?" You bet it does. And therefore, we ought to have a Governor in this State who's willing to grab the great talent of the State, the compassion of the State, to make sure that every Californian has got an opportunity to realize the great dream of this State. That's the kind of man Bill Simon is.

He doesn't need a poll to tell him what to believe. He's got a compass and a direction. So I hope you work hard to put him

in and work hard to get the rest of the candidates in. It will be a big day for your State, to get a new attitude, a new way of thinking in the State's capital. It's good for all people of this State.

We've got some problems in Sacramento, and we've got some problems we've got to deal with as a Nation. We do. But we're going to deal with them. My most important job—my most important job is to protect innocent life here in the country. And it's still a task, because there's still an enemy that hates us. You know, I'm sure your sons and daughters or grandkids are saying, "Why would anybody hate America? What have we done?" Well, we love freedom, that's what we've done. We value each life. That's what we do here in this country. Each person has got worth, each person has got dignity. Everybody matters.

We love the fact that people can worship freely in America, and we're not going to change. We love the fact that people can speak their mind—

Audience member. I love it—

The President. —and they're not going to change. Keep speaking it. [*Laughter*]

We love the fact—we love the fact we've got a free press. We love that. And anybody who tries to take away our freedoms is going to find out we're plenty tough. We're staring down nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. That's all they are—that's all they are. And therefore, we're going to deal with them as such.

But in order to protect the homeland, I need some help out of Congress. I want to thank the House Members for voting on a good bill that recognizes that when you have over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, kind of scattered all over the Nation's Capital, it's hard to get priorities set; it's hard to get a culture in place that demands the fact that we're all working to keep the people safe. That's what we need to do. We need to bring them under one Cabinet officer.

The problem I face is that the Senate doesn't quite understand what the House has done. See, I need to be able to move people—I need to be able to move people to the right place at the right time in order to make the border more secure, for example. We've got different agencies on the border

all competing. We've got the INS and the Customs; we've got Border Patrol, three fine agencies with great people, but they're not—they compete. They need to work together. We've got a new day in America. The Senate is more worried about their political turf and less worried about the security of the American people.

But you need to know there are a lot of fine people—I mean fine folks—working on your behalf, people running down every hint that somebody might be thinking about doing something, people sharing intelligence, people working overtime to do everything they can. And I don't mean people just at the Federal level; I'm talking about at the State level and at the local level. I'm grateful for the law enforcement folks here in the State of California, who care deeply about the citizens of this State. I'm grateful for our FBI agents who are working hard. I'm grateful for all the people who are involved with the homeland security.

We're doing everything we can—you just need to know it—everything we can to make sure that we protect the people. But the best way to protect the people is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we've got to do. That's what we have to do, and that's what we're going to do. That's why I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did so because I want to send a clear message that any time we put one of our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. If you've got a loved one in the military, you tell them the Commander in Chief and the country is really proud of their service. And I'm proud of your support for your loved ones. I'm proud of them. It's really important they serve. They're serving a great nation.

We also have a big increase in our defense spending because I want the enemy and friend alike to know that we're in this for the long pull. There's not a calendar on my desk—one of those kind of flipping calendars. You flip it, and it says, now time to quit. [*Laughter*] That's not how I think, and that's not how you think.

You see, history has called us into action. History has given us a chance to defend freedom, to bring freedom not only here at home—to make sure we preserve it here at home—but to have freedom in other parts of the world. That's what history has done. We're making good progress, by the way. We're making good progress, thanks to our coalition and thanks to our friends. We've captured over a couple thousand of them. [Laughter] Seriously.

Audience member. Round 'em up, George.

The President. About the like number haven't been so lucky. [Laughter] But we've got more work to do; we just do. And no matter where they light, we're going to get after them. We're going to uphold the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists.

I spend a lot of time talking about this, because not only is it on my mind and it's our priority, but it's very important for the American people to understand we face a different kind of war. Sometimes you'll see it on TV, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes you'll see our actions; a lot of times you won't. But you've just got to know that we're chasing them, one by one.

And not only that, it's very important for our future to deal with those leaders, those leaders—the world's worst leaders, who want to harbor and develop the world's worst weapons. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our future. I'm a patient man. We've got tools at our disposal, but we have got to defend freedom. We owe it to the future generations to do so.

You know, when the enemy hit us, I can't imagine what was going through their mind. See, they must have thought that this great Nation was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, and so shallow that after September the 11th, we might just file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter]

But they found out we think differently here in America. They found out what this country is made out of. We're a strong nation, but we're a decent nation as well. See, we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. We don't go to countries to conquer; we go into countries to liberate, just like we did in Afghanistan. We believe in the worth of human beings all around the world. Our dream is

for freedom not just for our own children but for children all around the globe. That's the way our Nation thinks.

I'm going to tell you what I believe. I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe it. I believe that if this Nation remains strong and tough and pursues terrorism, upholds doctrine, is true to our word, is willing to delineate between good and evil, that we can achieve peace, that we can have peace not only for our own people, but we can have peace in places where they've quit thinking about peace, like the Middle East or South Asia. I believe that.

I want you to tell your children, when they hear the talk of war or they talk about our United States taking action, that it's all a design, it's all aimed to make this world a peaceful place.

And here at home, I believe that out of evil done to America is going to come some incredible good as well. I mentioned the fact that there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in California and America. There just are. I believe when one of us hurts, we all hurt. But I understand the role of Government is limited. See, Government can hand out money, but what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

No, societies change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Societies change when people say, "I want to love my neighbor just like I was loved myself." And that's what's happening here in America. People have said, "What can I do to help?" I've said, "Do some good." It's the collective acts of our kind and decent and compassionate citizens which defined the true character and true face of our country.

No, the enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done on that terrible day is going to come a more compassionate and decent and hopeful America. You see, people have taken a step back here in this country, and they now understand that serving something greater than yourself is part of being a patriotic American. It's more than just putting your hand on your heart and saying, by the way, "one Nation under God." It's more than that.

A patriot is somebody who mentors a child. A patriot is someone who brings hope into a life that is hopeless. A patriot is somebody who works to feed the hungry. That's a patriot. A patriot is somebody who's a responsible citizen, responsible for loving their children with all their heart and all their soul but responsible for working in the community in which they live. And that's what happening here in America.

And perhaps the most vivid example of what I'm talking about, a vivid example of an attitude change, a clear beacon of what's happening in America took place on Flight 93, when citizens were flying across the country. History shows that they were on the cell phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them and goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the airplane that was to be used as a weapon, perhaps against the White House or the Capitol, they drove it into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, I believe—I believe from the bottom of my heart that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. The world is going to be more peaceful, and this country is going to be more compassionate and decent and hopeful, because this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We're the greatest country because we've got the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:04 p.m. at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and former Representative Jack F. Kemp, and his wife, Joanne. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7584—Women's Equality Day, 2002

August 23, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Today, American women enjoy unprecedented opportunities in business, education, politics, and countless other aspects of our

society. Historically, however, women suffered grave inequalities and were denied some of the most fundamental benefits of citizenship.

Each year on August 26th, we mark the important anniversary of the day on which women gained the right to vote. In celebrating Women's Equality Day, we remember the brave and determined individuals who worked to ensure that all women have the opportunity to participate in our democracy. Their dedication to the suffrage movement improved our society, and continues to inspire women today.

When the first Women's Rights Convention was convened in Seneca Falls in 1848, women in the United States had limited financial, legal, and political power. In addition to being denied the right to vote, they also could not own property, control their wages, or claim custody of their children.

Courageous heroes like Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony refused to accept women's status, and began a determined struggle to gain suffrage for women. Leading active and vocal groups like the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman's Party, these women risked attack and arrest to organize marches, boycotts, and pickets, while mobilizing an influential lobbying force of millions. Finally, on August 26, 1920, the women's suffrage movement accomplished its goal through the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban used violence and fear to deny Afghan women access to education, health care, mobility, and the right to vote. Our coalition has liberated Afghanistan and restored fundamental human rights and freedoms to Afghan women, and all the people of Afghanistan. Young girls in Afghanistan are able to attend schools for the first time.

As we celebrate this day, I encourage all Americans to learn about our important achievements in equality. Looking to the future, we must remain diligent as we work to ensure the rights of all of our citizens, and to support those who struggle daily for life's basic liberties.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2002, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 27, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 28.

Remarks at a Breakfast for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Westwood, California

August 24, 2002

Thank you very much. Please. Thanks for that warm welcome, and good morning. It's great to be here. I'm—had a great stay here in California, went to Stockton and then Dana Point and finishing off our visit here in the Los Angeles area. I'm off to New Mexico, and after I spend the afternoon in New Mexico, I'll be back in Crawford, Texas, where I'll tell the First Lady of your thanks.

By the way, she's doing a fabulous job. She is a really remarkable woman. She is a—when the Nation needed a calm, reassuring voice, she provided it. And when I need someone to kind of calm me down, she does. I'm real proud of Laura. She was born and raised in Midland, Texas. She was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics. She didn't like politicians. And now she a great First Lady of the United States. *[Laughter]*

I also thank Cindy Simon for being a good, strong mom and a great wife and a future first lady of the State of California. I appreciate David Murdock for his hospitality. And

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for supporting this good man in his quest to be the Governor of this important State.

I stand by his side because I know that you can do better in California, that the status quo is not acceptable, that what Sacramento needs is a breath of fresh air, a new way of thinking, a new attitude about politics. That attitude starts with understanding the job of the Governor is to serve everybody. It's not to pit one group of people against another. It's not to take into account of who is for you and who is against you and, therefore, make decisions based upon that. You need a Governor who makes decisions based upon principle, not polls, a Governor who understands that setting priorities is important.

You see, you can't balance the budget unless you set priorities. You can't be all things to all people in the political process. You need a Governor who is willing to make tough decisions. And I know Bill Simon is that kind of person. See, he doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think. You've either got it inside your soul, or you don't. And this man's priorities are strong—his faith and his family and his desire to serve his community. And those are important values for somebody who wants to lead the State of California.

And what I appreciate most of all is his compassion for education. I share the same passion. Education—good education policy starts with a frame of mind that says every child can learn. That sounds simple, of course, but that's not the way it is in a lot of school districts. You see, it's a—and I learned this lesson as the Governor of the State of Texas, when I traveled around my own State. I went to places where it became apparent to me that people thought some children couldn't learn, generally kids whose parents didn't speak English as a first language, the newly arrived, or the inner-city African American child. You know, it's easy to walk into a classroom and just assume these kids can't learn. "Let's just move them through, see. Let's just get them out of the system." Those days have got to end, and Bill understands that. If you want a hopeful California for everybody, you must start with an

education system that starts with high expectations. In other words, you've got to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

There are two crucial ingredients to doing that—one is recognize there are a variety of paths to excellence. In other words, one size doesn't fit all when it comes to schools; that you've got to trust the local folks, the parents and the teachers and the principals, to design the path to excellence. That's really important out of Washington, DC. I mean, one of the really good parts of the No Child Left Behind legislation was that we divested Washington of power. And Bill understands you've got to do the same thing in Sacramento. You cannot micromanage your way to excellence in education.

And another cornerstone of excellence is to measure, is to be willing to take on the status quo by measuring. See, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning. And the only way you do that is you devise accountability systems, accountability systems designed to let us all know the truth. And if children are learning, it gives us an opportunity to praise the teachers and the principals and the curriculum that's used. But you see, an accountability system also will show which children aren't learning. And then that becomes an opportunity to correct problems early, before it's too late. Every child matters in California, and no—not one single child—should be left behind.

Bill understands that. And I appreciate his vision and his care. I also appreciate his understanding that the great strength of this country is not in our governments but in the hearts and souls of our people, and that any of us in positions of responsibility must be willing to challenge and rally the great armies of compassion which exist all across the country—these armies of compassion can be found in church, synagogue, or mosque; they can be found in the Boys and Girls Clubs; they're found in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; they're found in the bosoms of our fellow citizens—and that, while Government can hand out money, what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. And the job of Government is not to discriminate against faith-

based and charitable programs but to welcome them to make the society a better place for all.

So I appreciate his vision. I appreciate his attitude. And I appreciate the fact that with your help he's going to be the next Governor of the State of California.

Before I leave I do want to give you an update about the issues we face on a national basis. First, our economy is—has had some tough times. We inherited a recession. The first three quarters of my Presidency were negative growth. That means it's a recession. The positive news is the next three quarters have been positive growth. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Productivity is up. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the most innovative entrepreneurs in the world. Things are clicking along.

Obviously, we're recovering from the attacks. We're making progress. The tax cuts that we passed were incredibly important, incredibly important to our economy. And one of the things Congress needs to do is make them permanent. In order for entrepreneurs to plan, they have got to make the tax cuts permanent. We're making progress, but we're not going to rest. You've got to understand, though, I understand the role of Government is not to create wealth. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which businesses—small, large, entrepreneurs—can flourish. And that's the kind of work we'll continue to do until anybody who wants to find a job can find one. That's my concern.

The economy is on my mind and so is the defense of our homeland. And it would be on your mind, too, if you saw what I saw on a daily basis, which is a continued threat to our country. And we take every threat seriously. I had the opportunity of meeting one of our finest, an FBI agent who is here today, and you just need to know that whether it be the FBI or other intelligence-gathering networks, agencies in the United States, or State or local officials, we're all working overtime to protect the American people.

We've got a new task at hand. We're in a new era. The first war of the 21st century is taking place, and we must respond at home in an intelligent and smart way. That means sharing intelligence, that means running

down every hint, that means chasing every single lead. And that's exactly what we will continue to do.

It also means that we've got to reorganize our Government in a smart way. I gave—I'm sure you've heard by now that I've asked the Congress to reorganize the agencies involved with homeland defense so that there's one bureaucracy, one agency. When I first got going, people said, "Well, gosh, it doesn't seem to make sense." I said—I assured them, I wasn't running, you know, "Vote for me. I want Government to be bigger." That wasn't my slogan. *[Laughter]* But now that we're in this new war, I'd like it to work better, so I can assure the American people that we're doing everything we can to fulfill our number one priority, which is to protect innocent life here at home.

And so we've asked the Government to respond. The House has. The Senate is kind of caught up in—not kind of, really caught up in their own special interests. They kind of want to micromanage. They want to tell the administration branch, "You can't move this person here or there without a permission slip." We need flexibility. We need the ability to move people around. We need the ability to better protect our borders. We need the ability to make sure our first-responders are better trained.

And so I think we're going to get a good bill, but not unless the Senate lets us move people—the right people to the right place at the right time. And I need this agency. I need it so I can assure the American people that at home we're doing everything we can.

And we are. But the best way to make sure that we secure the homeland and protect and defend our freedoms is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time. That's what we have to do, and that's exactly what we are going to do. We're going to do so because we love freedom. One of the challenges I knew I would have—that the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more likely it would be people would forget—would forget the challenge, would not remember the pain and suffering. We kind of think that the enemy might have forgotten—their ideology, now that they struck, would just kind of go away.

That's not reality, you see. That's not the way the world is today. These people are haters. They're coldblooded killers. They can't stand the thought that we worship freely. They do not like the thought that we value each life. And so the only way to deal with them is to use every resource at our disposal and to bring them to justice.

Now, you notice I said "bring them to justice." I didn't say "seek revenge." We're not a revengeful nation. We believe in justice. I also want to assure you all—I particularly want you to assure your children—that when the United States moves, when we uphold doctrine—like the doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of them, you're just as guilty as they are"—that doctrine—that when we made our decision against the Taliban and moved against the Taliban, we did so not to conquer anybody. America doesn't conquer people. We went in as liberators, because not only do we value life here at home, that everybody matters, we feel the same way about lives around the world.

We don't like it when barbaric regimes such as the Taliban deny young girls the opportunity to go to school. See, that's not in our grain. We don't think that is the right way. And in this case, not only were we able to uphold a doctrine, but by the use of force to uphold that doctrine, we also liberated young girls and liberated women and liberated men from the clutches of a terrible regime.

We've got a lot of work ahead of us. Obviously, one of the jobs is to continue to work on keeping our coalition together. That part of the doctrine said, "Either you're with us, or you're with them." And most people have chosen to be with us, because they understand that we do believe in freedom, and we're motivated by positive values—not American values, by the way, but universal, God-given values. Those are the values we hold dear.

We've got to continue to work to gather intelligence around the world and share it, so that we can haul them in. And we, being the coalition, have done a pretty good job of arresting or incarcerating, however you want to call it, over a couple of thousand of Al Qaida killers. So one by one we're finding them, and another—about the equal number

haven't been quite as lucky, as a result of the war in Afghanistan.

But we're making progress. But you need to know there are still some of them out there. How many we don't know. They haven't all raised their hand. This is a different kind of war. *[Laughter]* This isn't one of these wars where you measure the enemy's strength by the number of tanks or the number of airplanes or the number of ships. This is a—it's hard to count an enemy which—the leadership of which hides in caves and sends young boys to their death. That's the nature.

But this country is strong, see. They didn't know who they were hitting. I like to tease them by saying, they must have thought all we were going to do is file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* They didn't understand America. They didn't understand the fact that we do love things. We love freedom. We love each other. We cry when somebody gets hurt, like what happened on September the 11th. We mourn the loss of—any time anyone of our brave soldiers is killed in combat. We care deeply about our fellow citizens. And so, therefore, when they struck us, they struck a chord.

It's not only a patriotic chord of love of country; it's a chord of service, is what it is. You probably have heard me say this, but I truly believe it, that this is an opportunity; out of evil will come some good. That's what I believe. And the good that will come will be peace. If we remain strong and tough and take on some of the tough tasks that we're going to have to take on, we can achieve peace—not only peace for the short run but, more importantly, peace for future generations, not only peace for our fellow Americans but peace for the Israelis and the Palestinians, peace in South Asia. That is the dream. We have an opportunity—we have an opportunity. I see a world that is peaceful.

Well, sometimes we're going to have to be tough and have to speak clearly about the difference between good and evil. We can't equivocate. We must speak about universal values. We must be strong in principle, but we can get there.

And at home—at home we can be a more compassionate America. I first got into politics—when I first got into politics—actually,

when I first got into politics I lost, in 1978. *[Laughter]* The second time I got into politics—*[laughter]*—when I was running for Governor, I told the people of my State one of the reasons I was running was to help be a part of a cultural change, from a culture that said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else.” That's how I tried to define the culture in a way people could understand. My dream was to be a part of a shift toward a culture which says, “Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that there needs to be a period of personal responsibility in America.”

It's amazing how life works, and I like to use Flight 93 as an example. The culture is shifting; it's shifting after 9/11. The enemy has awakened a spirit in America that says, part of a culture based upon personal responsibility is to serve something greater than yourself in life, starting with serving your children as loyal moms and dads.

Flight 93 was an example of that. It was a vivid, sad, tragic example, but nevertheless, it's one that will serve to me, and I think many Americans, as a reminder about what I'm talking about. These are people that were on an airplane; they learned the airplane was going to be a weapon. They got on their cell phones. They told their loved ones they loved them. They used the word “love.” They said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It's an example, a vivid example of what I'm talking about. You see, when you mentor a child, you're serving something greater than yourself in life. When you love a shut-in, when you teach a child values by being a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop leader, when you say to a person who wonders about their future that, “I love you; can I help you,” these acts of compassion and kindness and decency are all part about being an American, a patriotic American who understands there is a responsibility to something greater than self.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come a more compassionate and decent America. When one of us hurts, all of us hurts. And we can change America, one

person, one conscience, one soul at a time. We can. We can all make a difference.

I hope you can tell that I'm an optimistic fellow, and I'm optimistic—and rightly so—because I'm the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent and compassionate people. Thank you for helping Bill.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:45 a.m. in the Regency Room at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and David H. Murdock, chairman and chief executive officer, Dole Food Company, Inc.

The President's Radio Address

August 24, 2002

Good morning. While visiting the west coast this week, I saw the destructive effects of one of the worst wildfire seasons in history. The catastrophic blazes we have seen this summer, and which I saw firsthand in Oregon, threaten the safety of forest communities and firefighters, destroy homes, businesses, farms and critical wildlife habitat, and leave behind long-lasting environmental damage. I join all Americans in thanking the brave firefighters for their service.

As we work to put out the fires and bring relief to their victims, we also have a responsibility to prevent the devastation that can be caused by future fires. For too long, America's fire prevention strategy has been shortsighted. Forest policies have not focused on thinning, the clearing of the forest floor of built-up brush and densely packed trees that create the fuel for extremely large fires like those experienced this year.

This hands-off approach to forest management has been devastating to our environment, and it can take more than a century for forests to recover from these fires. One forest ranger said of this year's fire season, "In the next few years to come, it won't be the exception; it will be the norm because of how we have managed our forests."

We need a different approach. People who fight fires and study forests agree that we

must strengthen the health of our forests through a combination of thinning and quickly restoring areas damaged by fires. By actively managing our forests in this way, we'll help our environment by reducing the number of acres of forest land that catastrophic fires burn each year.

On Thursday, I announced important new steps to restore the health of America's forests and help prevent the kind of devastating fires we have seen this year. We will guard against excessive redtape and endless litigation that stand in the way of sensible forest management decisions.

I have directed Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to reduce bureaucracy and speed up the process of thinning on public lands. And I urge Congress to pass legislation that will ensure that vital forest restoration projects are not tied up in courts forever. Some Members of Congress have already gotten important forest reform passed for their States because they know it is the fastest and most effective way to get forests thinned. We should pass this important reform to help protect all of America's forests.

My administration will work with Congress to deliver on the unfulfilled promises of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The plan was crafted to protect wildlife habitat and recreational areas, while employing more than 100,000 people through sustainable timber harvesting in a small portion of the forests. My proposals will reduce the threat of wildfires that have destroyed people's homes and livelihoods. They will restore the health of America's forests, provide greater safety to our citizens, and protect our environment for generations to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:35 a.m. on August 21 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Community in Las Cruces, New Mexico

August 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. It's great to come to a place where you can see cowboy hats and belt buckles, boots. Thanks for letting me across the State line. [*Laughter*] I was just raised right around the corner, in Midland, Texas. So I kind of consider Las Cruces to be kind of home.

But thank you all for greeting me today, and thanks for the warm welcome. It is my honor to be here in this beautiful State, in this dynamic city, to talk about the three great goals we have for this country—three great goals: First is to win the war on terror; second is to make sure that we protect our homeland; and third is to assure you that we will not rest until our economy is strong. Anybody who wants to find work must be able to find work in this country. We're going to help this economy grow.

And this is a great place to talk about the strength of America. It's a great place to come to talk about the fact that, even though we've got challenges, we can overcome these challenges because we're Americans. We work hard. We have great values. We're optimistic people. There is no challenge that we can't overcome, and the people of this great part of the country understand that as well as anybody else.

I want to thank my friend the senior Senator, Pete Domenici. He's a fine, fine man. Not only is he a fine man, he is a great United States Senator. And not only is he a great United States Senator, he loves New Mexico a lot.

And then, of course, there's the retiring Congressman, Joe Skeen, who has brought such class to the office of—that he has held. We're real proud of Joe. We're proud of his courage. We're proud of his strength. We're going to miss him in Washington, DC, but Washington, DC's loss is your gain. He and Mary love this part of the country, and he's going to have a lot of farewells. This is not his farewell speech from me, but nevertheless, it's my honor to talk in front of his constituents and tell him how much we love him and how much we care for he and Mary. Joe,

thanks for coming today. [*Applause*] They sure love you, Joe.

Jay, I want to thank you very much for inviting me and this small entourage I travel with—[*laughter*—to this very important campus. It's—New Mexico State has got a proud reputation, and you've made it even more proud, Jay. And I appreciate your service. I want to thank all the folks who helped put this event on, particularly in this beautiful facility, where I guess the Aggies tend to dominate.

I want to thank Ruben Smith, the mayor of Las Cruces, for being here. Mayor Smith, thank you for your time. Dora Dominguez, the president of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber, helped put on this event, and I'm most grateful for the Chamber members who are here. I want to thank very much Sara Misquez, who is the president of the Mesquero Apache Tribe, who is with us today. I appreciate Jesus Segura, who is the mayor of Sunland Park.

I want to thank very much a special person who met me out there at the airport, Ophelia Chaffino. She is a USA Freedom Corps volunteer. She is a foster grandparent who tutors 4th and 5th year-olds. Let me tell you why I want to bring up the—Ophelia and people like her. Because I understand, and I hope you understand, the great strength of our country is not our governments. The great strength of our country is our people. And when people—and people can make a significant difference in all kinds of ways in the communities in which they live. The fact that Ophelia wants to mentor children is a significant contribution.

Oh, you know, some may step back and say, "Changing one life isn't that much." Changing one life is a lot—a lot. And I want to thank the soldiers in the armies of compassion which exist in Las Cruces, all across New Mexico, and all across our country, for working hard to make our society a compassionate and decent place. Where are you, Ophelia? Thank you for being here. Please stand up and wave.

I appreciate so very much Ruben King-Shaw, Jr., who works for the Health and Human Services Administration, being with us today. Why don't you stand up, Ruben? I'm going to say something about you. Ruben

is here to make sure that we improve health care for the people of New Mexico. You can sit down, Ruben. [*Laughter*] Ruben is a good man. I've known him—I'm proud that he came up and worked in my administration. He also has got a big heart.

One of the concerns we have is that nearly half of low-income adults here in New Mexico are uninsured. And that's a problem—and that's a problem. Most of the uninsured adults are Latinos or Hispanic. And so what Ruben did was, he came to approve an application that will allow for, the best way to put it is creative financing, to make sure that 40,000 additional adults in this State are able to get health insurance, to work with the State and Senator Domenici to provide a plan so that more of your citizens will be able to have health insurance. And Ruben, I want to thank you for taking time off of your vacation to come and work that plan and implement it so that the good folks in New Mexico have got a better quality of life. Thank you for coming.

No, as Pete mentioned, we've got some hurdles to cross here in the country. We've got some issues we have to deal with. One of the issues, of course, is our economy. When I came in, the country was beginning a recession. It's just a fact. We had three quarters of negative growth. And then the terrorists hit us, and that affected our economy. And then something bubbled to the service that had been brewing for a while: We found out some of our citizens wanted to cook the books. Some of our citizens didn't feel like they could do it the honest way. They had to try to slide one by us. Corporate scandals erupted.

We've had three major challenges to job creation in the country. But you need to know, we're going to deal with it, and we're going to deal with it in a strong way. My view is, the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses and entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers can prosper, so we can create jobs around the country.

And one of the things we did together—and I'm talking about Republicans and Democrats—is we took a page out of this textbook that said, "If you want to try to en-

courage job creation, if you want the economy to grow, you let hard-working people keep more of their own money." Pete and I and Joe have read that textbook. Some in Washington haven't. [*Laughter*] We understand if you let a person keep more of their own money—by the way, you notice I don't say "keep more of the Government's money." It's not the Government's money we're talking about. It's the people's money. If people keep more of their own money, it means somebody is going to demand a good or a service. And if somebody demands a good and service, somebody is likely to produce that good or service, and when somebody produces that good and service, somebody's more likely to find work. The tax relief that we passed happened right at the right time. And for the sake of economic vitality and job creation, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

And at the same time, my job is to work with fine Members like Senator Domenici and make sure that we don't overspend. We want to make sure that we're fiscally responsible. That doesn't mean that we can't set priorities and fund those priorities, and we will. But as Pete will tell you, every idea is a good idea in Washington, no matter what it costs. [*Laughter*] My job is to make sure that the good ideas that meet our priorities are funded, like fighting and winning the war on terror, protecting the homeland, and taking care of people who can't help themselves, and education—our children. Those are the priorities.

We need to work together. When they get back out of their break and when they get back to Washington, they need to work to put some of our construction people back to work, by passing a terrorism insurance bill, one that will allow large-scale construction programs to go forward that aren't going forward because they can't get insurance necessary to cover a possible terrorist attack. And by the way, the bill ought to be more worried about the hardhats than the lawyers. This ought to be a bill that is aimed to help the working people.

We need to make sure that we've got pension reform. A lot of you all have got assets tied up in what they call 401(k)s or IRAs, but if you're in a 401(k) and you're working

for a company and the boss sells, you ought to sell. By the way, I've just signed, in a new law, that type of provision. It says what's good for one is good for all. If it's good for the head man, it ought to be good for everybody else working for the company.

But we also need to have a law to allow people to diversify. We shouldn't force people who work for a company and who get company stock to have to stay in that stock forever. After a reasonable period of time, they ought to be able to diversify their portfolio. They ought to get sound investment advice, and they ought to get reports on a quarterly basis, not an annual basis. In order to make the economy stronger, we need to have pension reform on behalf of the workers of this country.

Thirdly, I just got a new bill that will allow me to encourage trade. Let me explain my position on trade, and I'll start with something that's dear to the people of this part of the world, and that's agriculture. The good news for America is, we grow enough food to feed ourselves. That's good news. Imagine what it would be like if we didn't grow enough food to feed ourselves, if we had to go around the world asking for food. We'd be a little more vulnerable as a nation.

It's good for our national security that we've got enough food to feed ourselves. But we've got more than we need, because we're the best in the world at growing things. Our farmers and ranchers are the best in the world. And if you're the best in the world at something, you ought to encourage it. And so, therefore, my job is to open up markets for U.S. agricultural products. It is the best way to allow our producers to make a living. It is in our Nation's interest we do so.

And people say, "Well, of course, he's going to say that, but that hasn't been the way it's been." And I understand that. I know there's some skepticism about level playing fields. And I know a lot of the farmers and ranchers and some from other industries have said, "Well, we've heard that song and dance before." But you've just got to know how I think. If you're good at something, we're going to promote it, and we ought to start from our strength when it comes to enhancing job creation and creating wealth through trade, and that is agriculture.

And let me just give you one example of what I'm talking about. We grow a lot of chickens here in America. [Laughter] Well, we do. [Laughter] And the Russians decided they were going to—they thought about buying our chickens. Then we got the chickens moving, and they changed their mind. And I talked to President Putin quite a bit about that. So one time at one of our press conferences, he said, "Listen, our relationship has changed so much, we're no longer talking war; we're talking chickens." [Laughter] Two days ago, our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, announced that the Russians are going to buy all the chickens they said they would buy. That's good for chicken producers. It's good for hog producers. It's good for cattle producers. It's good for America. It's good for America that we open up markets to sell our products. It's going to mean jobs for the working people of this country.

It's commonsense policy. And the other day I had a chance to lay out a little bit of commonsense policy which affects the folks in the northern part of your State that Pete and I just talked about. We're having some serious fires here in America. One of our most precious resources, our forests, are burning up. And one of the reasons they're burning up is because we're doing a lousy job of maintaining our forests; we're doing a lousy job of maintaining our treasure. We've got to change our forest policy.

Our forest policy now says, hands off. And guess what happens when you have a hands-off policy—your forests become diseased; they end up like a big pile of kindling. And all it takes is one lightning strike.

I flew over the huge fire in Oregon—I mean, thousands and thousands of precious forest lands are burning. For the sake of a healthy forest, for the sake of leaving a legacy for future generations, we will change the forest policy of this country to thin the forest lands to keep them healthy.

And finally, I had the honor of signing the most comprehensive corporate reform bill since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. It's a long time ago, it seems like. But it was needed. It was when Republican and Democrats came together. It's a good piece of legislation which said the auditors will be audited;

crooked people are going to be held to account. We don't want anybody taking advantage of trustworthy people. For the sake of economic vitality and job creation, for the sake of confidence in our system, we're going to rout those out who cook the books. It's no longer going to be easy money; it's going to be hard time for people who have not upheld their responsibility.

We've got hurdles to cross, but I'm confident in the future of this country. I'm confident in our economic vitality, because I know our people and I understand the entrepreneurial spirit. I know the fact that we're the best and most productive workers in the world. We are. I know that low interest rates and low inflation provide the platform for economic vitality. We're just not going to rest. We're not going to rest until people are able to find work, people who are looking for work can find work.

And I'm not going to rest when it comes to protecting our homeland either. That's my most important job, is to prevent people from hitting us again. I say "people"—I say "people"—let me qualify that—coldblooded killers. That's all they are. There's no other way to say it. There's no other apt description than to tell you exactly how I think they are, and they're coldblooded killers. And they want to kill again because they hate what we love, and we love freedom.

We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We respect the fact that people worship freely in America. They don't value life. We value life. We say, "Everybody counts in America. Everybody is precious in this land." So long as they're out there, we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. And you need to know there's a lot of good folks working hard to do just that, good folks at the Federal level and at the State level and the local level.

I mean, anytime we're getting a hint, we're acting on it. Anytime we get a whisper that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, people are on it. And we're following every lead. People are working hard. But I want to take a step further, and I've asked Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. And let me explain to you why I made that suggestion.

There are over 100 agencies in Washington, scattered all over Washington, I might add, that have got something to do with homeland security. And it seems logical to me that if the number one priority of this administration—and by the way, future administrations—is to protect the homeland, then we ought to have the capacity to make that the number one priority of the other 100 agencies. You see, you can't just say, "That's your priority," and everybody snaps to. The best way to get them to snap to is to put them under one Secretary of Homeland Security. And that's what we intend to do.

But let me tell you something, what I'm not going to do is accept a bill that tries to micromanage the process, tell us who to hire, where to move them, and how to do it. I warn the Senate—and Pete—I'm not warning Pete, because he understands what I'm talking about. He knows who I'm talking about. There are Senators who are more worried about the special interests in Washington than they are about protecting the people. They're more interested in their turf than they are about homeland security. And they need to get me a good bill. I can count on him.

But the best way to protect the homeland—we're going to work hard to do this—we're going to make sure our border—we need to know who's coming in the country, what are they bringing in the country, if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. We need to have a strong first-responders initiative to work with the mayors and the county judges and the sheriff's departments to be able to respond. We need to work closely with some of our labs to devise ways to be able to detect and respond to a bioterrorist attack, for example, or the use of weapons of mass destruction. There's a lot we're going to do.

But my theory is and my strategy is—and it's the way it's going to be so long as I'm the President—the way to best protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And so I submitted a budget, an appropriations request to the Congress that was the largest defense increase since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did it for two reasons—two reasons: One, anytime we put our soldiers into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best equipment possible. We not only owe it to the men and women who wear our uniform; we owe that to their loved ones as well. The other reason I submitted this budget is because I wanted to tell our friends and allies and enemy alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. See, when it comes to defending freedom, there is no calendar that says you've got to quit by such-and-such a date. That this—history has called us to action, and we're going to stay on course, stay steady, until we have achieved the mission, which is to make the world free, to defend our freedoms.

Now, I understand that this is a different kind of war, and I hope you do as well. You see, no longer are we able to count the size of the enemy by counting tanks or airplanes or ships. This is an enemy which hides in caves and then sends youngsters to their suicidal death. These people kind of run and scatter. So it's a different kind of mission; it's a different kind of war. But we've got a strategy. And they understand the strategy is, get them on the run, and once we get them on the run, don't let them light anywhere. And if they do try to light someplace, bring them to justice. And that's precisely what the United States is going to do.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. And so my request to the Congress—and I know Pete agrees with me—is to get the defense bill to my desk as soon as they get back. We need to get the defense bill signed. See, the Senate passed it, and the House passed it. They need to get the differences quickly. We're at war. We need to send that signal loud and clear to our troops and to the world, that we're strongly united in this effort to win the war against terror.

I say it's hard to count, but I've got kind of an idea of how we're doing. I say "kind of." We estimate that over 2,500 or—of the enemy have been captured by the United States or our friends and allies. And remember, we've got a huge coalition of countries that are working together to cut their money off or to share intelligence, put pressure. And

the—we've got about 2,500 of them or so, maybe a little more than that, that are now in captivity, that are no longer in caves, that aren't able to fight. And just about that many weren't as lucky.

We will continue to uphold the doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of them, you're just as guilty as those who killed American citizens." We will be relentless and patient and strong and determined and wise about how we conduct this war. And we're going to win the war on terror. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren; that's who we owe it to. We owe it to them as well to make sure that the world's worst leaders are not able to develop and deploy the world's worst weapons. We've got a lot of work to do. But I'm proud of our military, and I'm proud of our team, and we're going to get the job done.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that. I know it's going to happen, because we're America. I can't imagine what was going through the enemy's mind when they hit us. They must have thought, "That Nation is so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so shallow in its beliefs, so selfish, that after 9/11 all they might do is file a lawsuit or two." [Laughter] They found out different about America. They understand—they're beginning to learn the character of this Nation. They and our allies and the enemy understand that when we go into a country, we go in not as conquerors but as liberators.

I want you all to tell your children, this great Nation, in liberating Afghanistan, made it possible for young girls, many young girls for the first time in their life, to be able to go to school. They're learning that this Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And we will all learn, by being strong and tough and diligent and compassionate, we can achieve peace.

In the midst of all this talk—in the midst of all this talk, I want you all to tell your children that this country of ours yearns for peace, that we want peace for not only this generation but future generations to come. Oh, the hill might be steep at times. It might be a rugged terrain, like you're used to out here in New Mexico, but we're going to cross that terrain to achieve peace—not only peace

for ourselves, but, see, we value life all around the world. When we say we value life and everybody counts, it's not just American lives; it's lives in every part of the world.

I believe we can achieve peace by routing out terror and professing the God-given values—not American values—God-given values that matter to everybody. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace.

I believe out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good here at home, besides peace. See, ours is a great country, full of hope. But we've got to recognize there are pockets of despair and addiction and hopelessness. We've got to understand that when one hurts, all hurt. We have a chance, I believe, to take the evil done to America and convert it to great good. Because—well, let me put it to you this way: People say, "What can I do to help?" You know what you can do to help? You can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. That's what you can do.

Oftentimes we look to Government, but Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. No, it's those millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place in America which really and truly define the true character of the country and enable me to predict that out of the evil done to America will come some good.

You see, mentoring a child is part of helping change America for the better. We can change our society, one person at a time. I hear people say, "I can't do everything." Of course you can't, but you can do something. You can do something to help change America, one lost soul at a time.

And that's happening in this country; it really is. People are beginning to understand there is a different kind of patriotism alive in America. It's the patriotism that's much bigger than just putting your hand over your heart and saying, "one Nation under God." It's a patriotism that says, serving something greater than yourself is part of being a patriotic American. It's a patriotism that understands that you're responsible for the decisions you make in life. And if you happen to be fortunate to be a mom or a dad, love your child with all your heart and all your

soul. Tell them you love them every single day, in order to make America a more compassionate and more decent place.

It's a patriotism that says, each of us have a responsibility to the quality of life in the communities in which we live. Help your schools. Go to your churches or synagogues and help feed the hungry. That's what the patriotism is, and it's alive and well and was best exemplified on that fateful, horrible day, September the 11th, when some of our fellow citizens on a flight that was flying across the country realized the plane they were on was to be used as a weapon, a weapon perhaps at the White House or at our Nation's Capitol. History shows that they were on cell phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them. Some of the last words they said were "love." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they served something greater than themselves in life. They set an example for all of us here in America.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this is the most compassionate, decent, strong nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Pan American Center at New Mexico State University. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Skeen, wife of Representative Joe Skeen; Jay Gogue, president, New Mexico State University; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Congressional Candidate Steve Pearce in Las Cruces

August 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. Congressman, thank you. I'm proud to come and ask for the people of this good district in this important State to vote for Steve Pearce to be the next United States Congressman. He's a man of good judgment. When we were walking in, he said, "A lot of folks wish Laura were here." [Laughter] And I told him, well, he drew the short straw. [Laughter]

She is doing great, by the way. She was—actually, her grandmother and her mom grew up right down the road from here, right outside of El Paso. And she was born and raised in Midland, which is right across the boundary, as you know. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. She didn't particularly care about politics or politicians, for that matter. *[Laughter]* And here she is as the First Lady. And what a great job she has done. I'm real proud of her. And in a couple of hours, I'm going to see her in Crawford, Texas. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so very much Cynthia Pearce. Both Steve and I married above ourselves. *[Laughter]* Cynthia is a great lady. I appreciate your willingness to go to Washington. It's important. It's important for our country that good people choose to serve and that the people back good people. And we're backing a good man in Steve Pearce to be the next Congressman.

And he's going to be replacing a good man. I am proud of Joe Skeen. I am proud of his courage. I appreciate you, Joe. I want to thank Joe and Mary for their service, 22 years of service to this district. He has done a fine job, and we're going to miss him.

I also was pleased today—earlier today, to be in the presence of another great New Mexican citizen, and that is your senior Senator, Pete Domenici. Pete had to make up his mind whether he wanted to hear me speak twice or go fishing. *[Laughter]* He chose the right course. *[Laughter]* He's fishing. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank very much the Lieutenant Governor, Walter Bradley, for being here today. Walter, thank you for coming, and thank you for your service. Thank you, Walter.

I'm proud to be in the presence of the next Governor of the State of New Mexico, John Sanchez. I appreciate you, John. He's got the next first lady with him, Debra. Thanks for coming, Debra. I appreciate you being here. John's going to win, and he's going to make a big difference for the people of New Mexico, a positive influence. It's a—John's got a great story. I love his spirit, and I love his attitude.

I also appreciate Rob Perry, the next attorney general of the State of New Mexico. I

had the honor of just—who they call “just call me Sharon.” Where are you, Sharon? Thank you, Sharon. Good luck. Sharon is going to be the secretary of state of New Mexico.

I want to thank the party chairman for being here. John, thank you for coming. I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. You see, you can't win unless you get people who are willing to put up the signs—and it looked like they did a pretty darn good job, Steve, when I came in today—*[laughter]*—and do the mailings and go to the coffee shops all around the State of New Mexico and tell the people what a great slate we've got—look the people in the eye and tell them the values that these people bring to the office when they win. That's important. So not only do I want to thank you for coming tonight, but I want to thank you very much for what you're fixing to do, and that is to work hard. Anytime you find a good one, you've got to get out and help, and we need your help.

I also want to thank two friends of mine who have made a big difference in New Mexico, New Mexico politics, and the life of New Mexico politics, and that's Colin and Kay McMillan and Ken and Kathy Zangara. Thank you all for coming. I saw the Zangaras the other day over there in Crawford, and they said, “I'm going to see you in Las Cruces.” I said, “Okay.” And here they are. And they're working hard, and so are you all. And it's important. It's important. This election is an important election because we've got a lot to accomplish in Washington, DC. I need good, solid allies when it comes to making our Nation the very best it can be.

And that starts with having somebody understand that when you're talking about taxpayers' money, he realizes it's not the Government's money. When we're talking about taxpayers' money, it is the people's money. And you've always got to remember that in Washington, DC.

And that's important because we cut the taxes for the people. See, Steve and I understand this concept, that if somebody has more money, they're going to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to provide that good or service. And when somebody does,

it's more likely somebody is going to find work. And when you've got a slowdown in your economy—as a matter of fact, it was more than a slowdown when I came into office; it was a flat-out recession—it's best to understand that when people have more money, it provides wind in the sails of our economic vitality.

And one of the issues we have, though, in Washington is this—is that because of a quirk in the Senate rules, the tax relief we provided—not only tax relief for small businesses and hard-working people but tax relief on marriages and getting rid of the death tax, by the way, which is vital for families here in New Mexico—but that tax relief goes away after 10 years. And so, for the sake of economic vitality, so people can plan, for the sake of understanding whose money it is that we're talking about, I need somebody in Congress who will join me in making sure the tax cuts are permanent. And that is Steve Pearce.

I appreciate Steve's commonsense approach to issues. I'm not surprised. After all, there's a lot of commonsense people here in this part of the world, and he's from Hobbs. And I know a little something about Hobbs—it's right around the corner from Jal. [*Laughter*] People there have got common sense. They see a problem, and they try and solve it.

Let me give you one example of what I'm talking about, something I talked about when I was in Oregon the other day, and that is, we've got a problem with our forests. We've got a problem with an important national treasure. You see, there has been an attitude that if you just leave things be, the forests will be more healthy. And we're learning—we're paying a price now for that kind of attitude. By letting things be, kindling piles up. And then lightning will strike, and all of a sudden we've got these massive fires that are destroying a national treasure.

Steve proposed legislation that would encourage thinning so that we would make the forests more healthy and more long-lived. That's the kind of commonsense approach we need in Washington, DC. For the sake of our national heritage, for the sake of our forests, let's bring some common sense to conservation/environmental policy.

I appreciate a man who understands farming and ranching. And that's really important in Washington, DC. You see, one of the great advantages we have as a nation is that we provide more food to our people than we need. Imagine if it were the other way around. Imagine if we were going hat in hand around the world asking for food. It would put us in a different national security position. No, we need commonsense farm and ranch policy. We need to make sure that not only do we have less regulation but that we've got to sell our products. You see, there's nothing better for our cattlemen than to be selling that beef around the world. If you're worried about price, the best way to encourage high price—prices so people can make a living and stay on the farm or the ranch, is to not only feed ourselves but to feed the world. I intend to use agricultural policy as the cornerstone of good economic policy for the United States of America.

We need people up there who understand energy. We don't have an energy plan. I'm waiting for the Congress to finally get me an energy plan, one that is based upon common sense, one that says, of course, we can do a better job of using technologies to conserve energy, and we've got to do things about renewable energy. In other words, we've got to do a better job of protecting the resources we have by being wiser about how we use them. But we've got to find more energy here at home. For the sake of job security and for the sake of national security, we need to become less dependent on foreign sources of power.

We need that kind of voice in Washington. We need somebody to bring some common sense up there. We need somebody who understands what I understand, that education has got to be a top priority of this Nation and of this State. Now look, I want you all to understand, I haven't forgot where I came from. I fully trust the local people to chart the path for excellence in the public school system. In essence, what we have done is, we're passing power out of Washington. One size doesn't fit all in Washington, DC. But it's important to have people up there who understand that we've got to set high expectations for our children, to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

We've got to face the fact that there are some districts around the country—and probably some here in New Mexico—where some assume that certain children can't learn, particularly those whose parents don't speak English as a first language, and therefore, the system just shuffles them through. That's unacceptable to me. That's unacceptable to Steve.

And that's why I've insisted that if you receive Federal money, you've got to show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you're not afraid to measure; you're not afraid to hold people to account; you're not afraid to ask that question, can our children read, and can they write? And if they can, there's plenty of praise for our teachers. And for those of you who teach or are involved with public schools, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. But we've got to use the accountability system to catch the problems early and to solve the problems early, before it is too late. This business about just quitting on kids has got to end. No child in America should be left behind.

And I appreciate Steve's service in the Armed Forces. And that's important knowledge to have in Washington, DC, because we're at war, and we're in a tough struggle. We're in a tough struggle against a determined enemy. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, is how I define them. These are people who truly hate. They hate what we stand for, particularly because we love what we stand for. We love freedom. They hate us because we love freedom. We love the fact that people are able to worship the Almighty in a free society. They have hijacked a great religion to profess their hate. See, they don't like the idea of people being able to express themselves freely.

And so long as we hold those values dear, they will come after us. That's just the way—just the way they are. And so our biggest job—and I say “our”; it's a collective effort, but a lot of it starts in Washington, DC—is to secure the homeland. It's to do everything we can to make sure that the good people of this country don't suffer what happened on September the 11th.

And we're making some progress. We really are. There's a lot of hard-working folks, folks at the Federal level and at the State level and at the local level, who are working hour after hour to run down any hint, any lead, and disrupting any possible plans to hit America.

I've made a proposal there in Washington. I want to explain to you right quick about why I did so. I said, “We need to create a new Department of Homeland Security.” When I first said that, a couple of my buddies in Texas said, “I thought you ran on the platform that you weren't going to make Government bigger.” I said, “That's true. That's true, but I'd definitely like to make it better.” And when we have a responsibility, it ought to be able to do its job. And my concern, having looked carefully at the situation, is that there's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have something to do with the homeland security. They're scattered everywhere. It's awfully hard to create a culture and set priority when they're scattered about.

And so I said to the Congress, “Why don't you create a Department of Homeland Security, so that we can better enforce our borders?” Listen, we need to know who's coming in, what they're bringing in, and if they're staying. And if they're not—or if they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving. We need to do a better job of coordinating a first-responder strategy with our brave police and sheriffs departments and EMS teams and fire teams around the country. We need to do a better job of understanding the effects of weapons of mass destruction and being able to respond to those threats. We've got to have the capacity to gather intelligence, analyze intelligence, assess our vulnerabilities, and deal with them. And that's what this new Homeland Department is going to do.

I made good progress in the House. I want to thank Joe for his vote. It's got a little problem in the Senate because the Senate appears to be more worried about special interests in Washington, DC, as opposed to the interests of the American people. They want to micromanage the Department.

I'll give you an example. We've got, as you know as well as anybody else—we've got agencies on our border. They wear different uniforms. They've got different strategies

sometimes. They've got a stovepipe-type organization. For the sake of our homeland security, I need the ability to be able to put the right people at the right time at the right place, in order to protect America. We've got to be able to have interoperability between our agencies, between Customs and the INS and the Border Patrol, for the sake of the security. I will not accept a bill from the Senate which ties our hands and does not let us do the job you want us to do to protect our homeland.

But the best way to make sure we secure the homeland is to get the enemy and hunt them down, one by one. And that's what we're going to have to do. It's a different kind of strategy because it's a different kind of war. In the old days there was infantry and tanks and formations and fleets. That's not the kind of war we're facing right now. We're facing a war in which the commanders hide in a cave and send youngsters to their suicidal death. They blend in big cities; they hide. But we've got them on the run. We're flushing them out, one by one, and we're making pretty good progress. We really are. We've hauled in over a couple thousand of them, and a like number wasn't as lucky. They met their fate.

But there's more of them out there. There's more of them out there, and we're learning who they are. And they're just not going to be able to hide from us because, one, we've got a great military, and two, we put a vast coalition together of people who understand what's at stake.

I submitted to the Congress a significant increase in our defense budget. I want to explain to you why I did. It's significant—it's the most significant since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I did so because I wanted to send two messages to our country and to everybody else, and that is, one, anytime we put one of our troops in harm's way, they must have the best equipment and the best pay and the best possible training. We owe it to our soldiers—[*applause*]^{*}—we owe it to our troops, and as importantly, we owe it to our troops' families. And secondly, the increase in the defense spending should send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States of America is a determined and patient nation, that we will do whatever

it takes to defend our freedom. No matter how long it takes, we're going to do what it takes to bring peace to the world. Oh, you hear some of them squawking about it up there, but I think most Americans understand what's at stake. They remember the horrors of September the 11th. They know that there is a determined enemy. They know that we are never going to abandon the values which we hold dear, and so long as we hold those values dear, they may try and come and get us.

I laid out some doctrine early in this conflict—two basic doctrine: one said that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you feed them or clothe them or hide them, you're guilty. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. Now, I do want you to tell your children—and I say this every chance I get—that your great Nation, in upholding that doctrine, went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. And that's what we did. We got young girls, many young girls, going to school for the first time, thanks to the United States of America.

And we're still there. We're there to help promote democracy, a value which we hold dear. And we're there to hunt down Al Qaida. Anytime they bunch up or anytime we find them, we've got fantastic troops on the ground, hunting them down, one person at a time.

That doctrine pertains to other countries, of course, and the idea is, once you get them flushed out and get them on the run, there ought to be no place for them to light, no safe haven, no possible place to train. So you need to know your Government is doing everything we can to continue to remind other countries that we expect them to be with us or with the enemy.

Recently, a couple of months ago, the Philippines had a problem there with what they call the Abu Sayyaf^{*} group. They had kidnapped two Americans, the Burnhams, from Kansas. They were Al-Qaida-related, and the Philippine Government, thanks to our training, went and got the head of the Abu

^{*} White House correction.

Sayyaf.* Slowly but surely, we're accomplishing our mission. And we will not stop until we finish.

There's a long way to go. We've got a lot of work to do, and sometimes you'll see the work on your TVs, and sometimes you won't. It creates a certain sense of anxiety amongst the speculators and the pundits, but that's okay. It's a new kind of war. We're steady. We're patient, and we're making progress, because we understand the stakes, and the stakes are high. The stakes are these: whether or not our children can grow up in a free and peaceful world. Those are the stakes. And that's why I talk about making sure that the world's worst leaders aren't able to develop and harbor the world's worst weapons.

Now listen, I've got a lot of tools at my disposal, and I'm a patient, patient man. But I understand freedom, and I understand history has put the spotlight on this country. And so long as I'm the President, this country isn't going to blink; we're going to lead. And I look forward to having Steve's support in this effort.

I want you to know that I believe—I firmly believe that by leading this coalition and by remaining strong and diligent and focused, that we can achieve peace. It's very important for you to tell the youngsters who are trying to figure out what all this means that the goal in this Nation is a peaceful world. That's what I hope. Sometimes it may not look like we're getting there, but that is where we're headed, and that's what I believe we can accomplish. Not only do I believe we can achieve peace here, but I believe we can achieve peace in other troubled areas. I firmly believe that if we remain strong on terror and promote values of human dignity and the values of freedom, that we can achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia.

The enemy must have not known who they were hitting. They thought that we were a selfish nation, you know, that we were so materialistic that all we would do is file a lawsuit—[laughter]—that we weren't tough, that we didn't have character. That's what they must have thought. They're learning otherwise.

* White House correction.

You see, this is a nation which knows what I know, that out of the evil done to our country is going to come some good, not only a more peaceful world but a more compassionate country, a country in which everybody understands that the American Dream is meant for them—everybody. My belief is that one of—when one suffers, all of us suffers. I also know there's limitations on Government, that Government can hand out money. We do a pretty good job of it sometimes, but what Government cannot do is affect the human spirit. It can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government is not love. Love comes when our fellow Americans put their arms around the shoulder of somebody who hurts, and says, "I love you. I love you. What can I do to help you?"

People say, "I'd like to join the war on terror," or, "What can I do to make my country a better place?" And my answer is, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Have a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. Be willing to teach people values. Make a difference in one person's life. Oh, I know that that doesn't seem huge. One person can't do everything, but one person can do something. One person can be that somebody who's making a difference in a child's life or a neighbor's life.

And that's happening in America. It really is. People are beginning to understand. They've taken a step back, and they've said, "What is this all about? What does it mean to be an American?" I believe Americans from all walks of life, every political party, even those that can't stand politics, understand that patriotism means serving something greater than just yourself.

The enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They're paying a terrible price and will continue to do so. But the dividend of the tragedy is going to be a stronger America. And by "stronger America," I mean a more hopeful America, a decent America, an America where anybody, regardless of their background, comes, they will have the opportunities that we have had.

There's addiction in our society. There's hopelessness in our society. There's fatherless in our society. But all those problems that may seem insurmountable can be solved

one citizen at a time. And so my call to our country is, be that citizen making a difference in somebody's life.

I first started running for politics in—well, the second time I ran for—the first time I didn't do so good—[*laughter*—in Midland. Came in second in a two-man race. [*Laughter*] We've got some friends from Lubbock here. They may remember that. [*Laughter*] The second time I ran, I said, "I hope to be a part of a cultural change in America. I hope that I can, in some small way, influence a shift in the culture from one that had said, 'If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else for your problems.'" See, my hope was that our society would evolve toward a period in which all of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if you're a mom or a dad, your most important job and your most important responsibility is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul, that if you're a citizen of Las Cruces, New Mexico, or Hobbs, New Mexico, you have a responsibility to ensure that your school system is the best it can possibly be, to support your teachers, to work in your community in any way it takes to make a difference in somebody's life.

I'm a big proponent of what I call the Faith-Based Initiative, because I understand that many times a changed heart will lead to a changed life, and out of our churches or synagogues or mosques come the capacity to change a person's heart, to make America a better and more decent place.

The period of responsibility is coming. I can see it all across our country. People have assumed that new patriotism. It's not just rooting for a military. It is being an active citizen, a participant in making America a genuinely decent place. And perhaps the most poignant example of that came on Flight 93. Citizens were flying across the country, you may remember. They had heard that the airplane was going to be a weapon. They said to their loved ones, "I love you. I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this

is the finest country, with the finest people on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. in the San Andres Ballroom at the Las Cruces Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Jenna Welch, mother of First Lady Laura Bush; Cynthia Pearce, wife of candidate Steve Pearce; Mary Skeen, wife of Representative Joe Skeen; New Mexico gubernatorial candidate John Sanchez, and his wife, Debra; Rob Perry, candidate for New Mexico State attorney general; Sharon Clahchischilliage, candidate for New Mexico secretary of state; John Dendahal, chairman, Republican Party of New Mexico; Ken Zangara, Bernalillo County chairman, Republican Party of New Mexico, and his wife, Kathy; and Colin McMillian, chairman, New Mexico's Bush for President 2000 campaign, and his wife, Kay. Mr. Pearce is a candidate for New Mexico's Second Congressional District.

Memorandum on Development of an Interagency Disability Web Site

August 27, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Directive to Develop Interagency Disability Web Site

Twelve years ago, the Congress passed and President George H.W. Bush signed one of the most significant civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964—the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In doing so, America opened its door to a new age for people with disabilities.

Through the New Freedom Initiative, my plan to reduce barriers to people with disabilities, my Administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and to develop skills, to engage in productive work, to choose where to live, and to participate in community life. This effort will allow America to draw on the talents and creativity of all its citizens.

In an effort to remove barriers for people with disabilities, I am instructing Federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive Federal web site that serves people with disabilities. This site will provide individuals with access to a single point to go

online for Government information and resources related to disabilities and to the New Freedom Initiative.

The development of this web site shall be coordinated by the Department of Labor. Information and services for the new web site shall be shared by all Federal agencies. Therefore, I direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to work together in developing and launching this new citizen-centered and useful web site. I further direct agencies, within 60 days of the date of this memorandum and on an ongoing basis thereafter, to work together to provide information about their programs and access to their services to the Department of Labor. The information and services should be relevant to people with disabilities and should include the programs in the New Freedom Initiative. Agencies shall also work with State and local governments, as appropriate, in collecting information about the State and local government programs and access to services for people with disabilities to be included in the web site.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 28.

Proclamation 7585—To Implement an Agreement Regarding Imports of Line Pipe Under Section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974

August 28, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On February 18, 2000, pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Trade Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2253), the President issued Proclamation 7274, which imposed additional duties on certain circular welded carbon quality line pipe (line pipe) provided for in subheadings 7306.10.10 and 7306.10.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) (safeguard measure) for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with the first 9000 short tons of imports that are the product of each supplying country

excluded from the increased duty during each year, and with annual reductions in the rate of duty in the second and third years.

2. Section 203(a)(3)(E) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)(E)) authorizes the President to negotiate, conclude, and carry out agreements with foreign countries limiting the export from foreign countries and the import into the United States of an imported article with regard to which the U.S. International Trade Commission has made an affirmative finding regarding serious injury, or the threat thereof. Section 203(f)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(f)(1)) authorizes the President, if action under section 203 takes effect with regard to an imported article, to negotiate agreements of the type described in subsection (a)(3)(E) and, after such agreements take effect, suspend or terminate, in whole or in part, any action previously taken.

3. The United States Trade Representative, pursuant to sections 141(c)(1)(C) and 203(f)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2171(c)(1)(C) and 2253(f)(1)), negotiated an agreement with the Republic of Korea (Agreement) limiting the export from Korea and import into the United States of line pipe through the imposition of a tariff-rate quota, to take effect on September 1, 2002. The agreement was signed on July 29, 2002.

4. Pursuant to sections 203(a)(3)(E) and 203(f) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)(E) and 2253(f)), I am replacing the additional duties and 9000 short ton exclusion applicable to imports of line pipe from Korea with a tariff-rate quota, on a quarterly basis, to take effect beginning on September 1, 2002.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections

203 and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to establish a tariff-rate quota to carry out the Agreement, subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provision of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that is inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation is superseded to the extent of the inconsistency.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, on September 1, 2002, and shall continue in effect as provided in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, unless such actions are earlier expressly modified or terminated. Effective at the close of March 1, 2004, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of the safeguard measure, the modifications to the HTS established in this proclamation and by Proclamation 7274 shall be deleted from the HTS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., August 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex were published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Proclamation 7586—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences for Argentina

August 28, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)), provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary

developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) during the preceding calendar year.

2. Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

3. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Argentina should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

4. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from Argentina.

5. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that Argentina, which has not been treated as a beneficiary

developing country with respect to certain eligible articles, should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to those articles for purposes of the GSP:

(a) general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of the Annex to this proclamation.

(b) the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section B of the Annex to this proclamation is modified as provided in such section.

(2) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing country listed in section C of the Annex to this proclamation.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) The modifications made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 3.

Executive Order 13273—Further Amending Executive Order 10173, as Amended, Prescribing Regulations Relating to the Safeguarding of Vessels, Harbors, Ports, and Waterfront Facilities of the United States

August 21, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191) (the “Act”), and in addition to the finding in Executive Order 10173 of October 18, 1950, and any other declaration or finding in force under section 1 of the Act, I find that the security of the United States is endangered by reason of disturbances in the international relations of the United States that have existed since the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, and that such disturbances continue to endanger such relations, and hereby order that:

Part 6 of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended by:

(a) Adding after section 6.01–5 the following new section: “6.01–6 Area Commander. “Area Commander,” as used in this part, means the officer of the Coast Guard designated by the Commandant to command a Coast Guard Area.”; and

(b) Amending section 6.04–1 to read as follows: “6.04–1 Enforcement. (a) The rules and regulations in this part shall be enforced by the Captain of the Port under the supervision and general direction of the District Commander, Area Commander, and the Commandant. All authority and power vested in the Captain of the Port by the regulations in this part shall be deemed vested in and may be exercised by the District Commander, Area Commander, and the Commandant.

(b) The rules and regulations in this part may be enforced by any other officer or petty officer of the Coast Guard designated by the District Commander, Area Commander, or the Commandant.

(c) Any authority or power under this part vested in, delegated to, or exercised by a

member of the Coast Guard shall be subject to the direction of the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating.”.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 21, 2002.

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NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 3.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Steve
Largent and Senator James M.
Inhofe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**
August 29, 2002

Thank you all. It's nice to be here in Oklahoma. Thanks. I appreciate so very much the invitation to come and throw my support behind a fine United States Senator and a person this State is surely going to reelect, and that's Jim Inhofe. And I'm also honored to be here with "Governor" Largent. It's got a nice ring to it.

Thanks for inviting me. There's not much that differentiates Texas and Oklahoma—maybe the Red River, a little difference of opinion about football. [Laughter] But I'm thrilled to be here to see so many friends. I've always felt at home in Oklahoma, and I want to thank you all for such wonderful hospitality. As my friend said, he said, "You got to remember when you're heading up there, civilization ends at the Red River." And as my Oklahoma friends said, "Yeah, depends on which side you're coming from." [Laughter] But one thing is for certain—people on both sides of the Red River love America.

I want to appreciate Don Nickles. He is a leader in the United States Senate. I spent a lot of quality time with him. There in the Cabinet Room, we're talking about important issues and plotting strategy on how to get things through the Senate that are positive for America. Don, he loves Oklahoma, of

course, and he always reminds me about the virtues of Oklahoma. But he clearly loves America too. He's providing important leadership for our country, and for that I am grateful. And I, too, want to call you friend, and thanks for being here, Don.

I appreciate so very much Kay Inhofe for putting up with Jim and for being such a good mom. The Inhofes are—got fantastic values, because they understand good values, first and foremost, start at home. I'm honored to meet—gosh, I don't know how many grandkids I met—eleven of them. Well, if they all get out to vote, it's going to be a landslide. [Laughter] But I want to thank the Inhofe family. I want to thank Kay. And I also want to thank the next first lady of Oklahoma, Terry Largent, in her support for her husband, Steve.

All of us up here on this stage married above ourselves. [Laughter] I had the privilege of saying goodbye for a brief period of time to our First Lady, who's down there in Crawford. She is—she was born and raised in west Texas. That's kind of like western Oklahoma, not a lot of native trees and not a lot of water but a lot of really good people. She's down to Earth; she's capable. You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian, and the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care about politicians or politics. And here she is, and what a great comforting voice and what a great wife, and what a wonderful First Lady we have. I am incredibly proud.

Anyway, she sends her love. She sends her love, and she joins me in thanking those of you who want to help these good candidates. Thank you for what you've done and what you're going to do, which is turn out the vote, which is to go to your coffee shops and your churches and your community centers and tell the people of Oklahoma you've got two good ones in these candidates. It makes sense to send these people to their respective jobs, not for the good of Republicans but for the good of all the people in the great State of Oklahoma.

I want to thank the members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation. I am proud to work with them on a regular basis. I'm proud we have worked together to accomplish some things on behalf of the American

people. I want to thank Congressman John Sullivan, who is here. I want to thank Wes Watkins, and we're going to miss you, friend. Ernest Istook is here; thank you for coming. Ernest. Frank Lucas is here. I appreciate you, Big Frank, for coming. And finally, another man we're going to miss is J.C. Watts. I appreciate you, J.C. I'm sure you'll be able to figure out how to get a hold of me if you need me. *[Laughter]* But thank you both for your service, and thank all the congressional Members for being here.

I was so pleased to see that my friend Tom Cole won a primary in a convincing way. He beat a field of good people. But he's going to be the next Congressman, replacing J.C. Watts. I thank you for coming, Tom.

I appreciate your Lieutenant Governor, Mary Fallin, for coming today. I appreciate her long service to the great State of Oklahoma. I appreciate her working with my friend Frank Keating, who's done a fine job on behalf of the people of Oklahoma. I want to thank the mayor of Oklahoma City, Kirk Humphreys. Kirk has done a fine job for Oklahoma City. I'm proud to call him friend, and I know the people of this city are proud to call him mayor.

I thank Brenda Reneau for being here, who is the head of your department of labor. I also want to thank Chad Alexander, who's the chairman of the Republican Party. And again, I want to thank you all for coming.

Most of all, I want to extol the virtues of your next Governor. He's a solid citizen. He doesn't need a poll to tell him what to think or what to believe. It's clear when you get to know Steve that he's got his principles indelibly etched on his heart. He's got his priorities straight. He has faith foremost in his life, and his family are his two priorities, and then comes government. But it's with—those kind of priorities are important for a leader. And that's what you're trying to figure out, who's the best leader for the people of Oklahoma, who has got a vision based upon principle, not based upon polls, who will set the right priorities for the people of this State. And there's no doubt in my mind that Steve Largent has the right priorities for the people of this great State of Oklahoma.

And his first priority—his first priority is to make sure every child in this State gets

educated, not just a few, not just some from the big, fancy school districts, but every child. That's his vision. See, he understands what I know, that if you have low standards, you get low results. If you don't believe every child can learn, then certain children won't learn. And that's inexcusable to the State of Oklahoma.

So Steve travels this State, talking about setting the highest of high standards with the belief that every child can learn. He also understands that if the legislature micromanages the public schools, if they decide to set all kinds of rules that require permission slips in order for there to be local control of schools, you won't get excellence for every child. So like me, he is a strong advocate of local control of schools.

But as well, he understands what I know: You've got to hold people accountable. You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you're willing to say, "Let's see." If you believe certain children can't learn, then you don't support accountability. If you believe every child can learn, you're not afraid to measure, to determine whether every child is learning. You see, the accountability is so important to make sure no child gets left behind. It's important also to make sure that you address problems early, before it's too late. Steve knows what I know: There are no second-class children in the State of Oklahoma.

I appreciate his attitude about the role of Government and the entrepreneur. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government should create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, which means you've got to have wise tax policy. You see, you use your Tax Code in order to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. If you over-tax the entrepreneur, it diminishes the capacity for the small business to grow and to create good, vibrant jobs. He understands that.

And one of the big issues that he is going to take on is to reform the workers' compensation system here in the State of Oklahoma. He also knows that by far the biggest engine of job creation is small business. That's where most of the new jobs come from in America, and therefore, we've got to have policy aimed at small business. And one thing

we've got to do, in order to make sure small business grows, is to understand the role of the lawsuit in our society. You need to have yourself a Governor who's willing to look at the plaintiff's attorney straight in the eye and ask for and get tort reform in the State of Oklahoma.

I appreciate his values. I appreciate his vision. I appreciate his background. I appreciate the fact that he's a winner. And I appreciate that I'm on the stage with the next Governor of Oklahoma, Steve Largent.

And I appreciate being with a United States Senator who stands on principle, who does what he thinks is right and has lived up to his word. He's a fellow that said, "I'm going to Washington. I'm not going to change." And he didn't. I think the thing that struck me most about Jim in our conversation on Air Force One—by the way, it's not a bad way to travel—[laughter]—was that when he described when his daughter was professor of the year. See, he's from a family of teachers. His wife is a teacher. They raised some teachers. Jim understands the importance of teaching, and for those of you who have got family members who are teachers or you're teachers yourself, I want to thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts up here for what you do. But he's a man who understands the importance of teaching in our society, teaching not only lessons of reading and writing but teaching right from wrong.

He understands the role of energy, the need for an energy policy. See, the people of Oklahoma also understand that. We need an energy policy in America. We need a policy that encourages conservation and renewables, but we need a wise policy that makes sure we've got energy here at home. It's in our economic interests that we promote jobs through good energy policy, and it's in our national security interests that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We need to get us an energy bill. These two Senators understand that. We need to get that bill to my desk as soon as they get back from the August recess. It's in our Nation's interest that we do so.

Jim also was supportive of the tax relief plan that I campaigned on and got through the Congress. And that was important. You see, you've got to remember something

about our economy: When we came in there, the economy was just beginning to get into a recession. There had been a slowdown, but the first three quarters of my administration was in recession. That means the economy was going backwards. Thankfully, the last three quarters have been going forward. But one of the reasons why—I'm absolutely certain one of the reasons why is because we let the people keep their own money.

We read from the same textbook. It's the textbook that says, if you let the people have their own money, they will demand a good or service. And if they demand a good or service, somebody will produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find jobs. The tax cut, which needs to be permanent—it needs to be permanent—came at the right time for the American economy. And I want to thank Jim for his strong support.

See, he and I understand this: When it comes time to spend the money in Washington, we're not spending the Government's money, we're spending the people's money.

I want to thank Jim for his support of making sure our seniors have got prescription drugs and Medicare. It's time to modernize an important system. The system has lagged behind reality. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. And we need leadership in the Senate to make sure the Medicare system meets the needs of our seniors, not only in Oklahoma but all around the country. And I want to thank you on that, Jim, very much for your leadership.

And finally, we need to get him back up there so he'll support some judges that I nominated. I found fine people to serve on our bench, good, honorable, honest people. We named one, Priscilla Owen, recently. She's smart. She's capable, one of the top students when she was in law school at Baylor. She got elected twice—I think twice, but I know she got elected at least twice statewide in Texas, with overwhelming numbers. She's a very, very smart and capable woman. But somehow, some of them up there don't like her. I guess maybe they don't like the fact that I nominated her. But this isn't right for the judicial system, for them

to be playing politics with a fine, smart, capable woman. And we need people like Jim Inhofe up there to defend my judicial nominees in Washington, DC.

And I need him up there because he is a strong voice for the defense of this Nation. He's one of the leading advocates for national defense in Washington. We both understand that history has now called us into action. History has now said to America, you must defend freedom. And that's exactly what this country is going to do.

I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I did so for two reasons: One, I want to make it absolutely clear that any time we put one of our soldiers into harm's way, that person must receive the best training, the best possible pay, the best equipment. We owe it to our soldiers, and we owe it to their families.

And I appreciate Jim Inhofe's strong, strong support for that defense budget. He's one of the leaders on the floor of the Senate. He also understands that we need to send that increase up there because we want to make it clear to our friends and allies and foes that we're in this deal for the long pull. There is no calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, we're quitting. See, when it comes to the defense of freedom, when it comes to the defense of the values we hold dear, this United States will be relentless and tough, and we will be victorious.

My most important job now is to defend innocent life in America. The enemy has taken the battle to us, and they're still there. These are haters. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. You need to tell your kids—people say, “Well, what do I tell my children?” You tell your children, because this Nation loves freedom, they hate us; because this Nation values each and every life—see, every life is important to America. Every life is noble. Every life is worthwhile. That's the exact opposite of the enemy. They don't value life. They're willing to take innocent life just like that. They've hijacked a fine, fine, and important religion just to cover their murderous ways.

And remember, it's a different kind of enemy. You see, you used to be able to measure the strength of an enemy by counting

his tanks or airplanes or ships. These are the kind that go to a cave and send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of people we're fighting. But there's no cave deep enough for America or dark enough to hide. No matter how long it takes, one by one we're going to hunt them down and bring them to justice.

And that's what that defense budget says. That's what that defense budget clearly says. And that's why, as soon as the Congress gets back, they need to get the defense bill to my desk and not play politics with the defense of the United States of America.

No, that's the best way to defend the homeland, is to hunt them down. In the meantime, I've got to have a Department of Homeland Security that more enables me to tell the American people we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland. I mean, we need to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, and if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. We need to have the capacity to put the right people in the right place at the right time to defend America.

I readily concede I didn't run on the platform, “Vote for me. I promise to make your Government bigger.” I did say, “I'm going to try to make it work better.” And so when I got up there and realized there's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security, I knew it would be hard to hold people to account with that many agencies scattered all over Washington. So I made a proposal to the Congress. I said, “Join together, and let's have a Department that works.”

The House responded, and I want to thank the House Members here. These two Senators have responded. The problem is, is that there's other Senators in Washington who want to micromanage the process. See, they put their own turf ahead of the security of the American people. They're more interested in special interests in Washington than the interest of homeland security. I will not accept a homeland security bill that ties the hands of this administration or future administrations to defend the homeland against the enemy.

My point to you is, Jim understands this. He doesn't need—he doesn't need a special

meeting at the White House to understand this. See, he understands it right off the bat, and that's why it's important that you reelect him. He also understands that there's going to be some tough times ahead for America. There just are. If you're in this for the long pull, if you're fighting an enemy that hides in the shadows of the world, it's going to take a while.

We owe it to our children, however, that we keep going on. That's who we owe it to. But not only to our children, we owe it to children all around the world. We will enforce doctrine—one doctrine says, "You're with us, or you're with them." And we work hard to keep this coalition of nations together. It makes it easier to share intelligence and to haul them in when we can find them. And by the way, we've pulled in over—a couple a thousand of them. A couple of thousand Al-Qaida-types and terrorist leaders are no longer circulating around. By the way, about equal that number weren't as lucky.

We've got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of work to do to also enforce that doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of them, you're just as guilty. If you harbor a terrorist, you're as guilty as the terrorist."

So it's important to have Senators and Members of the House who understand the need for this Nation to be steady and resolved and determined and honest about the difference between good and evil. It also is important to have leadership that understands that we must not allow the world's worst leaders to develop and harbor the world's worst weapons.

I've got a lot of tools at my disposal, and I'm a patient man. And I'm a patient man. But I understand that history gives us an opportunity to make the world more peaceful. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. And you need to tell your little ones that part of that good is a more peaceful world, that there's going to be some steep hills to climb between now and then, but by being tough and strong, patient, smart, and wise about using our assets and all the tools at our disposal, that we can make the world more peaceful for generations to come.

By fighting terror where we find it, and by rallying people to join us, I believe the

evil done to America—out of that evil will come peace. I also know here at home that we'll be a better America.

I don't know what went through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They probably thought we were so materialistic, so selfish, so self-absorbed, so greedy, that all we'd do after September 11th is maybe file a lawsuit or two. They didn't understand the character of this Nation. They didn't understand that if you try to take away our freedoms, we're going to respond. See, we love—we love freedom. That's what they didn't understand. They hate things. We love things. They act out of hatred. We don't seek revenge. We seek justice out of love.

They also couldn't have possibly realized that the evil done to America would waken a spirit of compassion in this country. See, people say to me, "How can I join the war on terror?" I say, "Just love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to fight evil, put your arms around a child and say, 'I love you. I'd like to mentor you. I want to help you.'" You see, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of despair, addiction, and hopelessness. I understand full well Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts. It can't provide a purpose for people's lives. No, that is done when our fellow citizens take the time out of their life to love somebody. That's when that happens.

See, America is changing, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, because our fellow Americans have now understood—understand—that being a patriot is more than the Pledge of Allegiance, pledging your allegiance to "one Nation under God." A patriot is somebody who is willing to take responsibility for their lives, willing to love a neighbor, willing to mentor a child, willing to go to a shut-in and help somebody in need, willing to feed the hungry, willing to be a Boy Scout leader, willing to change America one soul, one conscience at a time. And that's what's happening here in America.

America has understood that each of us can't do everything, but each of us can do something to make our country a better place. Perhaps that was best illustrated on Flight 93. Citizens flying across the country—they

realized their plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They saved lives. They served something greater than themselves.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, peace, and a more compassionate, decent, hopeful America for everybody—I mean everybody—who's lucky enough to call themselves citizen of this great country.

We're going to succeed. There's no question in my mind. On my wall there's a painting of a west Texas scene by Tom Lee. He said, "Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It's the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that has gone." I see a day that is coming that is fantastic for America, because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Kay Inhofe, wife of Senator James M. Inhofe; Terry Largent, wife of candidate Steve Largent; Tom Cole, candidate for Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District; Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; Chad Alexander, chairman, Oklahoma Republican Party; and Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Remarks at the Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School in Little Rock, Arkansas

August 29, 2002

Thanks for receiving me. I'm honored to be here at Parkview. I appreciate the Patriots band playing. I'm sorry I missed it. They tell me it's one of the best in the State.

I want to thank my friend Mike Huckabee for introducing me. I appreciate his leadership. As you'll hear here in a second, we've got some interesting initiatives taking place in Arkansas, because of the determination by this State and by this Government to set high expectations for every child.

I want to thank very much Rod Paige for his leadership. You know, when I was trying to determine who to pick as the Secretary

of Education, I wanted somebody who actually had been an educator. They've got a lot of theorists in Washington. I wasn't interested in theory; I was interested in results. And Rod was running the largest school district in our State, the Houston Independent School District. And he did a fine job, and I figured if he could handle the Houston Independent School District, the Department of Education was nothing. [Laughter] And so I want to thank Rod for being here. I appreciate his leadership. He understands the role of principal and superintendent.

Speaking about principal, I want to thank Dr. Brown, Linda Brown, for her hospitality and all the folks at this fine school for making this event—or setting up this event, giving us a chance to come. I fully understand the Presidential entourage can be a burden sometimes. But you handled it well. And Linda, thank you very much—appreciate you.

I want to thank Senator Tim Hutchinson for coming; Congressman Vic Snyder and Congressman John Boozman, three members of the Arkansas Federal delegation. I appreciate you all being here today. Thanks for your hospitality. I appreciate so very much Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller for joining us here today as well. I want to thank your mayor, Jim Dailey, for being here. Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I appreciate so very much Ray Simon, who's the director of the Arkansas Department of Education; Dr. Steve Franks, who's the director of the Arkansas Workforce Education; and Ken James, who's the superintendent of Little Rock schools.

We had the honor—I had the honor of meeting them and talking to them and visiting about how best to implement a strategy that not only encourages every child to learn but a strategy that continues to raise the standards, that raises the bar. I found the visit to be extremely worthwhile, and I hope they did as well.

I'm here to talk about education. Before I do so, I want to remind people we've got a lot of challenges ahead of us here in America. One of the things that's very important as we confront those challenges is to never forget about education. See, the big challenge we have now is to make sure the enemy

doesn't hit us again. That's a big challenge. I want the students to understand here why someone would want to hurt America in the first place. And it's because your country loves freedom; that's why. We love freedom. We love the freedom to worship. See, we value the idea of being able to—people being able to worship freely an almighty God. That's what we value in America. And we're not going to change.

We value the idea of people being free to succeed. See, each life matters in America. Everybody has worth. And yet the enemy, they hate what we love. They don't—they don't respect innocence. Life doesn't mean anything to them. They've hijacked a great religion in order to spread their hate. So long as we love freedom, there's going to be this enemy out there.

And so my biggest job, my most important job as your President, is to secure our homeland, is to do everything we can, everything in our power, to make sure that you're safe and your families are safe. But it's even more than that—to make sure you can grow up in a free society, to make sure that you have the same freedoms that I enjoyed when I was growing up. That's the job at hand.

And let me tell you what we're doing about it. We're working at all levels of government to run down any lead, any hint, any evidence that somebody might be fixing to try to do something to America. There's a lot of really fine people at the Federal and State and local level who are working hard to protect you, working hard to do anything we can to disrupt what might be a plan to hurt America or Americans.

I've asked the Congress recently to help me meet this task by setting up what we call a Department of Homeland Security. So when you hear talk about the Department of Homeland Security, it's really meant to make sure that we coordinate at the Federal level all these agencies involved with some sense of homeland security. See, prior to September the 11th, we never really had a focus for securing our homeland. Now we do.

And the best way to make sure everybody involved with homeland security is focused on this number one priority is to put them under one Department. And it's moving

along okay. Seems to be a few roadblocks in the way—some are more interested in their own political turf than they are in the security of the American people, and they're worried about special interests as opposed to the security of the people. But I'm confident that by working together, that we'll get us a Homeland Security Department that will actually function, that will have flexibility, that will allow us to move people to where they need to be. I mean, we need to enforce our border in this new day. We need to understand who's coming in, what they're bringing, and whether they're leaving when they say they're leaving, for the sake of homeland security. And I need the flexibility to be able to do that. And I want to be able to report to you that we do have the capacity to do everything in our power to protect you. It's my number one priority.

But you all have got to understand the best way to protect the homeland security is to chase these killers, these people down, one by one, and bring them to justice, which is precisely what our Government is going to do. I say "justice" because we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. We seek justice. And you need to know that when we go into a country to enforce a doctrine—see, there was a doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist." But when we went to enforce that doctrine, this great country didn't go in as conquerors. We went in to liberate, and we liberated a country from the clutches of a barbaric regime. It's hard for any American to understand this, but many young girls never went to school because of these people. And now, thanks to America and our friends and allies, they're going to school. We're liberators, not conquerors, here in America. Every life matters, whether it be an American life or the life of an Afghan girl.

And we've got a lot of work ahead of us. See, you all are growing up in an era with a different kind of war. You used to be able to tell the strength and size of the enemy by counting his tanks or his airplanes. These haters are the types that, since they don't value innocent life, are willing to bomb indiscriminately. And they hide in caves and send

youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the nature of the enemy.

But they have picked on a country which is a strong country, a country which, because we love our freedoms, is a country that's patient and tough and resolved to do what it takes to define history in a way that is—that values your life and your freedoms. And that's what this country is going to do.

We've got a big task at hand. I just wanted you to know. I want to give you an update so that when you read the newspapers or watch television about this war, that it's a different kind of war. The war goes on, and it's a war the United States is going to win.

These are big challenges for our country. These are big challenges for this great Nation, but we'll meet the challenges. And we've got another big challenge—is to make sure every child gets educated. That's a huge and significant challenge for our country. And notice I said "every child"; I didn't say just a handful of children here or maybe just those who go to suburban school districts. I said "every child," and I mean every single child in America. And it starts with setting high standards. It starts with believing that every child can learn. It's a mindset that's essential for this country.

See, if you believe that only certain children can learn—in other words, if you have low standards—you're going to get low results. If you set the bar low, that's exactly what you're going to get. You're going to get mediocrity. So the mindset has got to be that every child can learn. It's a mindset you have here in Arkansas, by the way. You do; you believe it. I can feel it. I've been to this—this isn't my first time to go to an Arkansas school. Certainly you've got it at this school. The Patriots believe every child can learn.

That starts with the leadership of the principal. Really fine schools have always had a fine principal. It starts with the understanding of your teachers. And for the teachers who are here, I want to thank you for teaching. It's a noble profession and an important profession.

It also is a mindset necessary for the moms and dads of Arkansas and America. The moms and dads have got to understand that they should expect the best for their children. They ought to set high standards.

There's another part of this philosophy that matches what I just said, and that is, who best to trust when it comes to meeting those standards. See, I've learned something firsthand—I kind of always knew it, but not all the smart people in the world live in Washington—[laughter]—a lot of smart ones right here in Little Rock. As a matter of fact, the people who care more about the children of Little Rock, Arkansas, are the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas. And therefore, the cornerstone of good education policy ought to be to trust the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas, to chart the path for excellence for every child. That's called local control of schools.

This new bill I had the honor of signing—and by the way, I reminded some people earlier, I was traveling the country with Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts. We were an odd couple in some people's mind. [Laughter] But nevertheless, we both share the same vision of high standards and trust in the local people. He was a supporter of this bill. And I had the honor of signing it. I pushed it as well.

And a secondary—a third part of the philosophy is this, and this is a very important part of the philosophy. It says, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child is learning. See, if you believe every child can learn, then it's important to have an accountability system which tells us whether every child is learning. I've heard it all. I'm sure—some of the students are saying, "All he wants to do is test us all the time. I don't like tests." Well, too bad. [Laughter] We want to know. How do you know whether or not every child is learning unless you measure? You got to measure in order to know. In order to correct problems early, before they're too late, you must measure.

See, accountability will serve as confirmation as to whether or not the curriculum is working. It will serve as confirmation as to whether or not your teacher-training programs are working. It will serve as confirmation as to whether or not children are learning the basics of education.

And so we have—we say, "In return for Federal money, show us. Show us whether or not kids are learning to read and write

and add and subtract. Show us whether or not the minimum is being met,” because every child matters in America; every child matters. And as we named this bill, no child should be left behind. The name of the bill is No Child Left Behind. And I meant no child.

And so, therefore, we’ve got this philosophy in place that the Governor has been working on, and your States have been working on, and there’s—in an accountability system there are consequences. If the State is unable to meet standards, if a school can’t meet State standards after a period of time, something has to happen. In other words, you can’t leave children trapped in schools that won’t teach and won’t change. And so one of the things that’s going to happen is public school choice or after-school tutoring.

In other words, every child matters, and therefore, when a child is trapped in a school that’s not changing, the parents have got to know something is going on. There’s a consequence. It’s not meant to punish anybody. It’s meant to save lives. Every child counts. And so, therefore, what Arkansas is beginning to do as they develop standards and accountability, a scorecard to let us all know who’s succeeding and who needs improvement—you’ve got an after-school tutoring program that’s cranking up. And I want to thank the Governor for that. And I want to thank the commissioner of education for that. It is a way to assure the parents and enforce to the children that somebody cares about them. If you’re deficient, you need help, and this good bill we passed provides that help for the State of Arkansas. And you all are on the forefront of that.

You know, one of the interesting things, one of the initial grants we gave out was for reading. Reading is a civil right. See, reading is the new civil right in the 21st century. It’s important for our citizens to understand that if you can’t read, it’s going to be hard to make it in America. If you cannot read, you’ve got a problem. And if you can’t read in the fourth grade, it’s likely you’re not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And we’ve got to get it right, folks, early, before it’s too late. Accountability will tell us whether or not the curriculum you’re using makes sense.

And there is a science to reading. It’s not an art. It’s a science. We know what works and what doesn’t work. And so part of this no child left behind—we have what we call the Reading First program, with significant grants to States, to get people up to speed, to get them to the starting line. To make sure the accountability system has got merit, every child has got to be reading early.

And the State of Arkansas has got a reading program based upon sound research and a reading program that has been proven to be effective. And so you’ve got one of the first Reading First grants in this State, by the way. And it’s going to make a huge difference in the lives of your children. And I want to appreciate very much those who are working on making sure that the minimum is met—no child is left behind. But the minimum is not good enough for America. See, we don’t believe in the minimum in this country. We believe in the maximum.

We’ve got to aim higher. We need to challenge every student. I don’t mean just the top 10. I mean every student needs to be challenged. We’ve got to make sure that people understand, starting with the parents, by the way, that they ought to challenge their children to take the toughest classes possible. That’s what we have to do. You get people up to the minimum, but that’s not good enough. We’ve got to provide people to continue to challenge themselves.

I talked to three fine students today, two from this school and one from another school, talking about the need to be challenged. We heard from—we heard that many times parents don’t really understand the significance of challenging—of having their students taking challenging courses, that many students—and maybe you all are some of them here—say, “Well, I don’t want to take a tough course. See, I can’t pass that. Only the really smart people take the tough courses, and I don’t happen to be all that smart. Therefore, I’m not going to take it.” I doubt that’s the case in this school, but there are schools where that’s the case.

Or you hear students saying, “Don’t take the tough courses. It will make you a nerd.” [Laughter] You’re missing out if that’s the way you think. See, you’re missing an opportunity. It’s an opportunity lost. It is not in

your self-interest that you think for such low standards. And I want the parents of this State and across the country to understand that the minimum isn't acceptable for your children. And there's a way to achieve—there's a way to achieve something significant in this State, and I want to talk to you about an interesting program that we actually tried in Texas that worked.

But it's to the citizens' advantage not only that we raise standards and challenge students—you've got colleges where they're teaching remedial reading—not only colleges in Arkansas but around the country. That's not right, see. You don't want your higher education systems to be remedial education systems. If you want the best for your citizens—and I presume everybody in this State does—then we've got to get it right early and make sure that we continue to challenge our students. One reason I came here is because this is a school that challenges the students in two incredibly important subjects, math and science and, of course, the arts as well.

But today I want to talk about what we're creating in Arkansas, called the Center for State Scholars. It's the first of five States that had been chosen. Again, you were chosen because you've got a Governor who cares; you've got people who care; you believe in setting high standards. And here's the way it works. The first thing that happens is that the business community, which is—and the catalyst will be what they call the Business Roundtable, which is a national group of large employers—comes together, and they start becoming involved in the school—Little Rock school district, for example. And they start interviewing children in eighth grade about their ambitions and explaining reality. If you don't have any ambitions, the minimum wage job isn't going to get you to where you want to get, for example. In other words, "What is your ambitions? And oh, by the way, if that is your ambition, here's what it's going to take to achieve it." It's kind of a reality check.

And again, I'll repeat to you, the meetings don't take place with just A students. Every student—every student is going to be contacted. Every student is going to be involved. And then what happens is, is that they start promoting advance courses. In other words,

it's a practical application of reality to what must take place in the classrooms.

It sounds so simple, but it works, by the way. We've seen it work in Texas. I mean, thousands of students have been challenged to take AP courses. Thousands of students who didn't really realize the value of raising the bar have gone—taken extra credits and have learned new language. I mean, it is an effective way to spread the word to parent and student alike that if you're interested in your future, raise the bar. Take the toughest courses. That, in itself, has a positive effect on the schools.

See, I believe teachers want the very best. I believe they love the thought when students say, "Teach me more. Raise the standards for me, please." This is going to be a positive thing for the State of Arkansas, I can assure you. The Texas Scholars Curriculum score—Texas Scholars score 102 points higher on the SAT than their counterpart. By the way, this is thousands of students, not just a handful. Those who have completed physics and pre-calculus are now up by 50 percent since the program was started 10 years ago. It works. And it's going to be implemented here in Arkansas.

One of the reasons I've come is not only to herald the need for good education but to talk about this center right here in your State. I call upon your business community to participate. The grants that we're issuing from the Federal Government will help kind of bring people together, help people understand what it takes to make this program successful. It takes business participation. It takes a willing school district. It takes a State that's willing to facilitate. It takes parents who care, and it takes students willing to listen. And it's going to happen here in Arkansas. And as a result of this program, I firmly believe when you implement it, your great State is going to be better off. You'll shine. You'll be a beacon for others to see what is possible.

I want to talk about one other thing, if you don't mind. Here's how I think. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. And I want our students to hear that. Out of the evil—and make no mistake, what was done on September the 11th was evil—is going to come some good.

I believe the world will be more peaceful. And you just need to know that that's the game—that's the goal, is peace in this world, not only peace here at home but peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace, peace in parts of the world where people have said peace is impossible. I think it is. That's the vision I have. And I know by leading in that direction that we can achieve peace. I believe that.

And here at home we can have a more compassionate America. I don't know what went into the minds of the people that attacked us. They probably said, "Well, this country is so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so selfish that nothing would happen. Oh, they may file a lawsuit or two, but other than that, they're so weak, nothing would happen"—is what they probably thought. And they're learning something else about America. See, they're learning the true character of the country.

Not only are we tough when we need to be tough, not only are we patient when we need to be patient, but we're a compassionate country. That's what they're learning. See, people understand that being a patriot is now—now they understand is more than just putting your hand over your heart. See, a patriot is loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to join the war on terror, do some good.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction in this good country. There just are. And when one of us hurts, we all hurt. Now, my view of Government is, Government can hand out money—and it can, and it does quite often, I might add—[laughter]—but what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when a loving soul says, "I love you," to somebody in need. That's when that happens. It happens when somebody puts their arm around a child and says, "What can I do to make your life better? How can I mentor you? How can I help?"

My call to the seniors and juniors and sophomores here is to understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is a part of being an American. And when the enemy hit us, a lot of good folks stepped back and said, "What is life worth? What do we need to do? How can I help? How can

I serve?" Service is a part of being a responsible citizen. Service to somebody in need is part of being a whole person.

Today I had the honor of meeting Connie Melton, who greeted me at Air Force One. She's a graduate of Parkview Arts and Science Magnet School. She is the founder of the Arkansas affiliate for Dress for Success, which provides suits and business attire to low-income women trying to enter the workforce. I met her at the airport. I said, "How are you doing?" She said, "We've helped over 100—100—people already." She's been in business, I think she said, a little over a year. One hundred lives have been changed, she said, through the simple act of providing somebody with some decent clothes to help them out.

You see, our society hurts in many places, but it can change. It can change, one heart, one soul at a time. And while we all realize one of us can't do everything, one of us can do something to be a part of helping change those hearts and souls. Connie Melton, citizen, soldier in the army of compassion, didn't need a Government law to tell her to step forward. She listened to a universal call, something much higher than Government. And she's affecting the community in which she lives in such an incredibly positive and hopeful way. Connie, thank you for coming—appreciate you being here.

The reason I appreciate so very much Connie coming is, I want all of us, older and younger alike, to realize one person can make a difference. And I hope you do. I hope the youngsters here aim high and shoot high. I hope you set high standards for yourself and work hard. I hope you make the right choices in life. But I also hope you understand that here in America, helping somebody in need doesn't take all that much, but by doing so, you can help set the true face of compassion for this great Nation.

It is my honor to come to this wonderful school. I wish you all the best. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the school's auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; and Linda Brown, principal, Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School. The Office of the Press Secretary

also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senator Tim Hutchinson in Little Rock

August 29, 2002

The President. Well, thank you all. Thank you all very much. I appreciate your warm welcome. Thank you. Thank you all. Well, thank you very much for coming out tonight. I'm proud to come back to Arkansas. I'm surprised you let a Texan come here this many times. [Laughter] I came here today to talk about educational excellence. I went to Parkview Magnet School to talk about setting high standards and making sure no child gets left behind. And tonight I'm here to urge the good people of this State to send Tim Hutchinson back to the United States Senate.

He's a hard worker. He cares deeply about the people of Arkansas. He's doing a fine job as the United States Senator. I'm proud to call him friend. I appreciate his advice, and I appreciate you all working hard to send him back up to Washington, DC.

I'm so grateful that Randi Hutchinson, his wife, is campaigning with him and standing by his side during this campaign for reelection. I appreciate meeting Randi. And it's an honor to have you here, Randi. Thank you. And speaking about wives, I'm sorry mine is not here.

Audience members. Me too.

The President. Yes, I know you are. [Laughter] You drew the short straw. [Laughter] She's doing great. I'm really proud of Laura. She's down in Crawford. It's where I'm heading after tonight, for a couple more days. She—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics and didn't particularly like politicians. [Laughter] Now she's stuck with one. And she's doing a fabulous job as First Lady.

I want to thank John Boozman, who's a member of the United States Congress, for being with us today. John, thank you for coming down for the fundraiser. I had the honor of being with your Governor earlier today. He's off working. You need to send Mike

Huckabee back to the Governor's office here in Arkansas. He's a fine fellow. And so is your Lieutenant Governor, who is with us tonight, Win Rockefeller. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank members—two guys who are running for the United States Congress. Former Member Jay Dickey is with us today. Jay, thank you very much. And the man they call "TR," Tommy Robinson, is with us as well. I appreciate my family friend John Paul Hammerschmidt for being here tonight and for being the national committeeman from the State of Arkansas. Thank you, John Paul. I want to thank your chairman, Marty Ryall, for his leadership here in the State of Arkansas.

And I appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here. I appreciate you for what you have done and what you're going to do. See, over the next couple of months, you need to go to your coffee shops and your churches and your synagogues and your community centers and turn out the vote. You need to tell the people, when you find a good one like Tim Hutchinson, "We need to send him back to office."

And there are some good reasons why, starting with the fact that he has a good vision for education. We passed a good piece of legislation out of Washington for education. It's one that Tim had a lot to do with. He worked hard on that legislation. And let me describe the principles and why it's so important to have this type of person in Washington. It first starts—the bill says, and he and I both believe, that every child can learn. That sounds simple, but too often in our society, we've lowered the standards. We don't believe every child can learn. Therefore, we have low standards. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results. So this bill believes that if you set high standards and believe every child can learn, you start with the right frame of mind.

Secondly, it says, we trust the people of Arkansas, the people of this good State, the people of Little Rock and Jonesboro and all the cities, to chart the path for excellence for every child in their community. We believe in local control of schools.

And finally, at the core of the bill is this principle: It says, we want to know whether

or not our children are learning. You see, if you believe every child can learn, the next question is, are they? And the only way to know is to measure, is to hold people to account, is to let the children take a test to see whether or not they can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can learn, then you want to know.

And you see, when you find out children aren't learning, it gives you the tools necessary to do something about it. If you believe every child can learn, they ought to show us whether or not every child is learning. And if they're not, we need to correct problems early, before it's too late. You see, there are no second-class children in the State of Arkansas, and no child should be left behind.

I appreciate Tim's stand on education policy, and I appreciate his stand on tax policy. When I took office, I knew things were kind of slow, but I didn't realize that we were in the beginning of a recession. The first three quarters of my Presidency were negative growth; that means recession. Thankfully, people like Tim Hutchinson supported my call for tax relief. See, we read from the same textbook. It's a little different from some of the other ones in Washington. It says, if you let a person keep their own money, they will demand a good or a service if they have more money. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good and service, somebody is more likely to find jobs in the midst of a recession. It is important to let the people have their own money.

Tim was the original author of the \$500-per-child tax credit in the House. And he supported the doubling of that tax credit in the new tax relief plan. Not only does the tax relief plan lower all rates, which, by the way, stimulates small-business growth—see, most of the new jobs in Arkansas and around the country are created by small businesses. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by the entrepreneurs who start their own business. Yet most of those small businesses are sole proprietors or limited partnerships, which means they pay taxes at the individual rate. When you lower the individual rates, you stimulate the growth of our

economy by stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit in America.

This tax relief plan did more than that. It mitigated the ill effects of a marriage penalty. The Tax Code ought to promote family, not discourage family. And finally, the tax relief plan put the death tax on its way to extinction. I know there's a lot of farmers and ranchers in this State and some in this audience. The death tax is bad for our ranching families. It's bad for our farming families, and it's bad for the entrepreneurial families of Arkansas.

And Tim was right by my side on this tax relief plan. But what's interesting—not interesting, kind of a quirk in the law, is that all this, all the tax relief that we passed goes away after 10 years from the sign of passage—from the time of passage. That's the quirk in the Senate rules. It's hard to explain, I understand. You ought to try that in the Crawford coffee shop. *[Laughter]* On the one hand, we giveth; on the other hand, we taketh away. For the sake of planning, for the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job growth, you need to have a United States Senator who will join me in making this tax relief permanent.

I appreciate Tim's concern about health care, health care not just for Republicans but health care for everybody who lives in Arkansas. He's on the leading edge of those in the Senate who want to bring a reasonable reform to Medicare. See, Medicare is an incredibly important program, but medicine has changed, and the program hasn't. Medicine has changed, and yet the bureaucracy still strangles the capacity for our seniors to get the care they need. We need to reform Medicare and make sure our seniors have got prescription drugs.

I appreciate Tim's support for the farm bill. See, he and I understand that good economic policy at home means that you've got to have a strong agricultural sector. It's a luxury for this President to be able to say we feed ourselves. Imagine if we were around the world asking for food. We've got a great farm economy, and the farm bill we passed recognizes that. And Tim was one of the leaders that helped get that farm bill out of the Senate and to my desk. I was proud to

sign the farm bill. It was good for Arkansas farmers.

And finally, I appreciate his leadership on sending a clear message to people who have got positions of responsibility in America. Our economy was hurt by a recession, and then it got shocked by the attacks of September the 11th. And then, of course, we found out that bubbling up through the years was this business about people trying to cook the books, some of our corporate leaders deciding that the best way to get ahead was not to tell the truth, was not to uphold their responsibilities to employee and shareholder alike.

I signed the most comprehensive corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. And Tim Hutchinson was a strong supporter. It says this: If we catch you cheating, if you're not a responsible citizen, if you think you can cook the books, you're wrong. We're going to find you, and we'll prosecute you, and no more easy money, just hard time.

Finally, I support—I appreciate Tim's support on our war against terror and our need to protect the homeland. My most important job is to protect the homeland, is to protect innocent people. After September the 11th, the stakes obviously changed. The enemy brought war to us, and they're still out there. They just are. By the way, they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They hate us because we love freedom. They can't stand the thought of a society which values free speech, which says you can worship the Almighty any way you see fit. They hate the idea of people being able to come to our country and succeed. The more we love freedom, the more they hate us. But you know what, we're never going to stop loving freedom. This great country loves freedom and will do anything it takes to protect that freedom.

You need to know there's a lot of good folks working a lot of hours to protect you. Anytime we get a hint or any piece of evidence that somebody might be plotting against America, we're moving—we're moving. There's a lot of good folks who are gathering intelligence and now sharing it like it's never been shared before. Obviously, everything we hear we take seriously, and we're

trying to do everything we can to disrupt and deny.

In order to make sure that I can look you in the eye and say, "We're doing everything to secure the homeland," I have asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because in order to change a culture and in order to set homeland security as a number one priority, I felt like we needed to gather up agencies involved with the homeland security and put them under one umbrella organization. You see, there's over 100 of them, scattered all over Washington, which means it's kind of hard to set a tone and a culture. It's hard to set a priority.

And so I asked Congress, I said, "Let's get together and come up with an American idea"—it's not a Republican idea; it's not a Democrat; it's an American idea—"to do everything we can to give us the tools"—not only me, but future Presidents the tools—"necessary to guard our homeland." And I'll give you an example. We need to know who's coming in America, what they're bringing into America, and if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave America. And yet, on our borders, we've got your Customs and INS and Border Patrol, three different agencies, three different cultures, three different uniforms. I need the capacity to be able to move people to the right place at the right time to protect the homeland.

The House of Representatives got the message. They provided flexibility so that this President and future Presidents can do what it takes to move people in the right place. The Senate, unfortunately, doesn't see it that way. Fortunately, Senator Hutchinson does. But see, there are some Senators out there who would rather listen to special interests in Washington, DC, than listen to the voice of the people. There are Senators who would rather give us a rule book this thick about how we have to behave and what we must do to protect the homeland, than to trust any administration for protecting America. I refuse to accept a bill which ties my hands or the hands of future Presidents.

And I want to appreciate Senator Hutchinson's understanding of that. And I'm proud to call him supporter on helping craft a Homeland Security Department which will

stand the test of time and will do the job on behalf of the American people. But the best way to protect the homeland, the surest way to secure our freedom, the best way to leave a peaceful legacy for our children is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what the United States of America is going to do.

And it's going to take a while. It's a different kind of war. People during World War II were used to measuring progress based upon infantries marching across the plain or squadrons of aircraft flying here or ships sailing across the sea, getting this island or that island. That's how they used to judge progress. This is a different type of war, but it's war. And the stakes are just as high.

See, this is the kind of war where you have their commanders hide in caves. They find the deepest and darkest cave they can, and then they send their soldiers, their youngsters, to their suicidal death. That's who we're fighting. See, these people have no regard for human life. Innocence doesn't matter to them. They've hijacked a great religion in order to provide cover for their hatred. But there's no cave deep enough for America, as far as I'm concerned.

See, we've got a fantastic coalition of nations which understand what's at stake, and we've got the finest United States—we've got the finest military in the world. Our soldiers are performing brilliantly under tough, tough conditions. And that's why—the fact that they're in the field is why I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so for two reasons. One, anytime our soldiers are in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to them, and we owe it to their loved ones. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, I want to tell you how proud that their Commander in Chief is. I'm really proud. They're fine, fine people who are sacrificing on behalf of our Nation.

And the second reason I submitted this request, as big as it is, is I wanted to send a message to our friends and foes alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. They understand this war isn't going to end tomorrow,

that when it comes to our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes. The United States of America will fight terror and fight its sponsors and will uphold doctrine. One doctrine says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them." And the other doctrine says, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist who committed the murders on September the 11th."

And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll see the progress on your TVs, and sometimes you won't. It's a different kind of war; it's a hard war to measure. But slowly, but surely, we're rounding them up, one way or the other. We estimate there's over a couple of thousand of them who have now been captured by our friends and ourselves, hauled off, no longer a part of the army. And another like number just weren't as lucky. They met their fate.

But we've got a lot of work to do; we really do. We—our strategy is pretty clear. First was to rout out the Taliban. And you need to tell your kids this about America: One, we do what we say; and two, when we went into that country, we went in as liberators, not as conquerors. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Young girls, many young girls, go to school for the first time in their lives, thanks to the United States of America and our allies and friends.

And we're not leaving. We're not leaving for two reasons: One, there's still Al Qaida, and we're after them. Slowly, but surely, we're getting them. And secondly, we want democracy to flourish in Afghanistan. We believe in the values here at home—ought to be applied elsewhere, not American values but God-given values that each life matters, that every voice ought to be heard.

We're getting them on the run, getting them moving around, and then making sure that we deny sanctuary to these killers. The other day—a while ago, you may remember the Philippines. They asked for our help. I said loud and clear to them, "If you want help, we'll provide you help. If you can't do it yourself, give us a call." And the Philippines, as a result of Gloria Arroyo's fine leadership—and frankly, some of our training—put a force together and did in the head

of what they call Abu Sayyaf. This is the group of Al-Qaida-sponsored terrorists who kidnapped two Americans as well as others and brought people to their death. They don't care about life. But we got the leader. We got the leader because our coalition remains firm.

No, our job is to get them on the run, deny them sanctuary, and slowly, but surely, get them and bring them to justice, which is exactly what this country is going to do. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our grandchildren to make sure that the world's worst leaders do not develop and deploy the world's worst weapons. We owe it to future generations of America to make our stand for freedom.

Oh, I know there's a lot of speculation in the press, and you've just got to know something about me—I'm a patient man. And we've got a lot of tools at our disposal. We've got a lot of pressures we can bring to bear. We've got friends in the world. But for the sake of our children, we're going to deal with the problems now presented. For the sake of freedom, we will not allow these tyrants to hold the United States or our friends and allies blackmail with weapons of mass destruction.

I appreciate Tim's understanding, and I appreciate his support on this war against terror. I believe that out of the evil done to this country is going to come incredible good. I believed that shortly after the attacks, and I still believe it. See, I believe that the stronger this country is on our quest for freedom and our willingness to battle terror, the more likely it is we'll achieve peace. And I don't mean peace just for Americans; I mean peace around the world.

The tougher we are against terror, the more willing we are to speak clearly as a nation, the more likely it is we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace. Peace is possible in the Middle East. Peace is possible in South Asia.

I want you to assure your children when they hear their President talk about fighting the enemy or bringing them to justice, I have peace in my mind. That's my vision. I want there to be a peaceful world for all people. See, this country values all life; not just American life, every child counts. When I

say no child is left behind—that's obviously a slogan for education here in America—I mean it for everywhere else too. Children ought to grow up in a peaceful world, and the United States of America can affect that peace. It's not going to be easy. There's going to be some steep hills to climb. But if any nation can do it, it is this strong and—this Nation that's based upon values.

And here at home, we can achieve some incredible good too. I don't know what went through the mind of the enemy. They probably thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so selfish in our ways, that after 9/11 all we might do was file a lawsuit. *[Laughter]* See, they didn't understand our country. They didn't know that, when it comes to something we value, we're plenty tough. Nor did they realize that when they hit us, a new culture would begin to evolve, a culture of serving something greater than yourself in life.

The thing I love about our country is that we're a compassionate nation. I hope you understand that in the midst of plenty, there are pockets of despair in America, hopelessness and addiction, people wondering whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And I believe we have a chance now, as we take a step back and look at our inner souls, to help solve those problems.

Government can hand out money. I realize that. As I like to say, we do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put a sense of purpose in people's lives. It can't put hope in people's hearts. That is done when our fellow Americans put their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you." People say, "What can I do in the war against terror? How can I fight evil?" My answer is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And it's happening in this country. It sure enough is. People realize that a patriot is more than somebody who puts their hand over their heart and says, "one Nation under God." They understand that a patriot is somebody who is willing to serve something greater than themselves, and that can be in all kinds of ways. It can be leading a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. It can be coming out of your church and feeding the hungry or coming out of your synagogue and helping

somebody who doesn't have housing find housing. You see, it's the millions of acts, millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place on a daily basis which defines the true character and true hope and true decency of this country.

No, the enemy hit us, but they've awakened a great spirit of personal responsibility. One of the reasons I decided to run for Governor of Texas is, I wanted to be a small part of a cultural change in America. I wanted to help encourage this country to reject the culture which said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." My dream was to help usher in a period of personal responsibility, when each of us understood we're responsible for decisions we make in life. If you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job and important responsibility is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a citizen of Little Rock, Arkansas, you have a responsibility to help heal those who hurt. That is a responsibility for being an American, and that period of responsibility is coming.

The enemy hit us. They're evil. But out of that evil is going to come incredible good. Perhaps the most vivid example is that of Flight 93. Deena Burnett is here today with us. Her husband was on that flight. She knows about which I'm about to speak. She heard it firsthand. These were great Americans who were flying across the country and learned that their airplane was going to be used as a weapon. Who knows what it was targeted for, the White House or the Capitol, but it was going to be used as a weapon. Their loved ones said goodbye on the telephone. Their last words were, "I love you," to their loved ones. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they took the plane in the ground. There is a new spirit in America of serving something greater than yourself in life.

No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know they were hitting—they hit a great nation. I promise you, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because we're the finest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in Governor's Halls II and III in the Statehouse Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; Tommy Robinson, candidate for Arkansas' First Congressional District; Jay Dickey, candidate for Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District; John Paul Hamerschmidt, national committeeman, and Marty Ryall, chairman, Republican Party of Arkansas; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Memorandum on Refugee Assistance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Committee of the Red Cross

August 30, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-29

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to \$6.6 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Committee of the Red Cross to address unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs arising from the crisis in Liberia and from the return of refugees to Sierra Leone.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting a Certification on
Protection of Advanced
Biotechnology**

August 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I certify that for calendar year 2001:

In accordance with Condition 9, Protection of Advanced Biotechnology, the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States are not being harmed significantly by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, those chemicals and toxins listed in Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 24

In the morning, the President traveled from Dana Point, CA, to Westwood, CA, and later to Las Cruces, NM. In the afternoon, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 26

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince

Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss Saudi-U.S. relations and peace efforts in the Middle East.

August 27

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President met with Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East, cooperation against terrorism, child custody cases in Saudi Arabia dealing with American citizens, and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with the Ambassador and members of the Ambassador's family. Later, the President took the Ambassador and his wife, Princess Haifa Bint Faisal, on a tour of the ranch.

The President announced his appointment of Dee Hansen as U.S. Commissioner and Chairman of the Bear River Commission for Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

The President announced his intention to designate W. Scott Railton as Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Community Development Advisory Board: William Bynum and Mark Pinsky (community development financial institution representatives), Robert Gauthier (Native American tribal development representative), Richard Jaramillo and John Rigler II (insured depository institution representatives), Debra Schwartz and Pablo Wong (consumer/public interest organization representatives), and Carolyn Williams (community development representative).

August 28

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the Prime Minister's efforts to resolve conflicts between North and South Korea, and other issues concerning North Korea.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad: Steven Some,

Warren Lloyd Miller (Chairman), Ned Bandler, Chaskel Besser, Phyllis Kaminsky, Michael B. Levy, Lee Seeman, Amy S. Epstein, and Irving Stolberg.

August 29

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where, upon his arrival, he met with Herbert Rettke, a volunteer at the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Medical Center.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on education at Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Guam by authorizing an increase in Federal funding for the recovery from Typhoon Chata'an that struck the area on July 5–6.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 23*

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that on August 21 the President signed H.R. 223, H.R. 309, H.R. 601, H.R. 1384, H.R.

1456, H.R. 1576, H.R. 2068, H.R. 2234, H.R. 2440, H.R. 2441, H.R. 2643, H.R. 3343, and H.R. 3380

Released August 24

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Russian military aircraft attack on villages in northern Georgia

Released August 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 28

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released August 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Fact sheet: President Promotes Stronger Curriculum in Back-to-School Season

Released August 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 21*

H.R. 223 / Public Law 107–211
To amend the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993 to provide additional time for Clear Creek County to dispose of certain lands transferred to the county under the Act

H.R. 309 / Public Law 107–212
Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act

* This item was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

H.R. 601 / Public Law 107–213

To redesignate certain lands within the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and for other purposes

H.R. 1384 / Public Law 107–214

Long Walk National Historic Trail Study Act

H.R. 1456 / Public Law 107–215

Booker T. Washington National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2002

H.R. 1576 / Public Law 107–216

James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act

H.R. 2068 / Public Law 107–217

To revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to public buildings, property, and works, as title 40, United States Code, “Public Buildings, Property, and Works”

H.R. 2234 / Public Law 107–218

Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2002

H.R. 2440 / Public Law 107–219

To rename Wolf Trap Farm Park as “Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts”, and for other purposes

H.R. 2441 / Public Law 107–220

To amend the Public Health Service Act to redesignate a facility as the National Hansen’s Disease Programs Center, and for other purposes

H.R. 2643 / Public Law 107–221

Fort Clatsop National Memorial Expansion Act of 2002

H.R. 3343 / Public Law 107–222

To amend title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes

H.R. 3380 / Public Law 107–223

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 31, 2002

Good morning. In all of the trials we have faced this past year, countless acts of generosity and sacrifice have revealed the good heart of our Nation. Time and time again, our country has shown the strength of its character by responding to acts of evil with acts of good. And in coming weeks, I ask all citizens to answer the call to help those in need and make this month a "September of Service."

I created USA Freedom Corps, a single organization to encourage and assist Americans in finding service opportunities both locally and around the globe, to harness and put to good use the service and idealism we saw after the attacks of September the 11th. In addition, I called on all Americans to enlist in the armies of compassion and dedicate at least 4,000 hours in service to their communities, our country, and to the world.

The response to the call to service has been strong. VolunteerMatch, a group that matches volunteers to charities on the USA Freedom Corps Web page, reports that referrals have increased by more than 70 percent over last year. Requests for Peace Corps volunteer applications have increased 40 percent over the same period last year. Online AmeriCorps applications are up by 95 percent since January. And more than 48,000 individuals have signed up online to participate in the newly created Citizens Corps program.

The response we have seen is more than numbers, though. It is a reminder that when people help each other, our entire Nation benefits. As I have traveled across the country, I have met with volunteers who have set

an example with their uplifting acts of service, volunteers like Maxine Phipps, a 95-year-old Iowan who mentors and tutors local children through an online book club—she uses her computer skills as she and her students read and discuss books about the importance of citizenship—or Star Wallin, a college freshman from Mississippi who founded Project CARE in 1999. Project CARE is an organization that has impacted so many lives through activities such as matching elementary school students with high school mentors, collecting food, clothing, and furniture for impoverished families, and helping to refurbish the grounds of local public schools.

I hope the work of these individuals and that of volunteers all across the country inspires others, especially our young people. Young people have the energy and determination to do important work, and volunteer service can teach them valuable lessons about responsibility, community, and selflessness at an early age.

I urge our teachers and schools to begin service projects and activities in September and to make this new school year the start of a lifelong habit of service to others. In an effort to assist educators and students in getting started, we've developed a new guidebook, CD-ROM, and Web site called Students in Service to America. These resources offer valuable information about planning service activities and working with community groups.

More than 130,000 public and private, elementary and secondary, home schools and after-school programs throughout the country will receive these materials in September. In addition, we will encourage AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers to recruit more young people for service opportunities and to work closely with schools and community organizations to support in-school and after-school programs. Through these efforts, young people will learn how important service is to our Nation and how to get started today.

As September the 11th approaches, difficult memories of planes and buildings will resurface, but so will images of brave individuals coming to the aid of neighbors in need. That spirit of courage and selflessness has

shown the world why our Nation is the greatest force for good in history. I urge all Americans to honor the memory of those lost by serving others.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:41 a.m. on August 30 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 31. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7588—National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, 2002

August 31, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the thousands of innocent lives lost on that day, we recall as well the outpouring of compassion and faith that swept our Nation in the face of the evil done that day. In designating September 6–8 as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, I ask all Americans to join together in cities, communities, neighborhoods, and places of worship to honor those who were lost, to pray for those who grieve, and to give thanks for God's enduring blessings on our land. And let us, through prayer, seek the wisdom, patience, and strength to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice and to press for a world at peace.

For the families and friends of those who died, each new day has required new courage. Their perseverance has touched us deeply, and their noble character has brought us hope. We stand with them in faith, and we cherish with them the memory of those who perished.

In the aftermath of the attacks, the words of the Psalms brought comfort to many. We trust God always to be our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble. Believing that One greater than ourselves watches over our lives and over this

Nation, we continue to place our trust in Him.

The events of September 11 altered our lives, the life of this Nation, and the world. Americans responded to terror with resolve and determination, first recovering, now rebuilding, and, at all times, committing ourselves to protecting our people and preserving our freedom. And we have found hope and healing in our faith, families, and friendships. As we confront the challenges before us, I ask you to join me during these Days of Prayer and Remembrance in praying for God's continued protection and for the strength to overcome great evil with even greater good.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 6, through Sunday, September 8, 2002, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance with memorial services, the ringing of bells, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I invite the people of the world to share in these Days of Prayer and Remembrance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 5.

Remarks at a United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Labor Day Picnic on Neville Island, Pennsylvania September 2, 2002

Well, I thank you very much for this warm welcome. Thanks for inviting me. If I speak

too long, it's going to remind me of Crawford. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate you all coming. I love to see your families.

I'm here to talk about the greatness of this country. And it starts with the fact that we've got great Americans who work hard to make a living to put food on the table. Our workers are the most productive, the hardest working, the best craftsmen in the world. And I'm here to thank all those who work hard to make a living here in America. I also want to talk today about how to make sure our country is safer, our country is stronger, and our country is a better place for everybody.

But before I do so, I want to thank Doug. I appreciate his leadership. I appreciate his vision. But most of all, I appreciate the fact that Doug McCarron cares deeply, deeply about the members of his union. Each person in this union matters to Doug. You can tell it when you talk to him, and I've had a chance to talk to him quite a lot. He is a fine, fine man who cares deeply about people and who loves his country just as much as I do. Doug, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for your friendship.

I, too, want to thank Jack Brooks. I've had the honor of meeting Jack before. He's a decent, kind, smart, hard-working fellow. And I appreciate Jack's leadership as much as you do. I want to thank Ray Vogel, as well, for giving me a tour of the training center here. One of the things that distinguishes this union is that they understand, through training, somebody is going to get better pay. If you help a man or a woman enhance their skills, it's going to enhance their pocketbook. And I appreciate so very much the attention that this union pays to the skill level of its members. So I want to thank Jack and Ray for helping set this picnic up and giving me a chance to come by and talk to you all.

I also appreciate the Secretary of Labor being here. Elaine Chao is doing a fine job. Her door is open. People are able to come in and visit with her. She's a good, honest, and open person, and I appreciate her service to the country.

I want to thank your Governor, Mark Schweiker, your attorney general, Mike Fisher, your Allegheny County executive, Jim Roddey, and the mayor of Pittsburgh, Tom Murphy. Thank you all for coming. The

mayor has got a lot of spunk. He challenged me to a 3-mile run. *[Laughter]* I said, "Fine, see you in Crawford at 4 in the afternoon in August." *[Laughter]*

I do appreciate—I appreciate Melissa Hart and Phil English coming, Members of the United States Congress. Thank you all for being here.

I had the honor of meeting a lady named Doris Harris today. Where are you, Doris? Thank you for coming. You see, the reason I introduced Doris is because she volunteers her time to help people in need. Doris knows that when somebody is shut in, they're alone and lonely. And so she takes time to visit homebound seniors, to say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" Doris is a member—is a soldier in the army of compassion here in America. And the reason I bring that up is because there are soldiers in the armies of compassion here amongst you as well. I want to thank Doris, and I want to thank you all for doing everything you can to bring love and compassion to the neighborhoods in which you live. It's the true strength of the—America. Thank you, Doris.

You know, Doug mentioned, a year ago, Labor Day, I was in Wisconsin talking to carpenters. I said that we were a nation that's strong because our people are strong. See, we're a great nation because we've got great people. I said, "We're a decent nation because our people are decent."

I didn't realize, when I said that at the time, how tested we would be. But a couple of days later, the enemy hit us, and they tested the character of this country. They tested our will. They tested our very fiber. I don't know what was going through their mind when they attacked us. *[Laughter]* They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-absorbed, so selfish, that all we would do is shrug our shoulders and file a lawsuit, maybe. They didn't understand the America we know.

No, they hit us, and we united. They hit us, and we're now working together as a nation to make the Nation a safer place, a stronger place, and a better place. My most important job is to keep our families safe. That's my most important job now. I want you to know that there's still an enemy out there that hates America. I'm sure your kids,

they're wondering, why would you hate America? We didn't do anything to anybody. Well, they hate America because we love freedom. We cherish our freedoms. We value our freedoms. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God in a free land, any way they choose to worship. We value the idea of people speaking their mind freely here in America. We value a free press; we value our freedoms. But most importantly, we say, "Each life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody has got purpose. Everybody is important in life."

And the enemy doesn't view it that way. They don't view it that—they don't value life. See, they've hijacked a great religion, and they're willing to kill innocent people in the name of their sordid attitude about the future. And so, so long as we love freedom, which we'll do forever, and so long as this enemy is still standing, they're going to come and try to get us. That's just the reality that we face. And so, therefore, our biggest job is to protect the homeland.

And there are a lot of good people working hard to do so. There really are a lot of fine folks in Washington at the Federal level and here in Pennsylvania at the State level and at the local level in Pittsburgh, doing everything they can to run down every lead, to chase down every idea, to hold people to account, to disrupt. And we're making some pretty good progress. But I've asked the Congress to join me in creating a new Homeland Security Department. And the reason I did is because I wanted to be able to come and, when I see the people, say, "Our most important priority is to protect America, and therefore, I want all agencies involved with protecting America under one umbrella." See, if you want the most important thing to be done, you've got to gather up the over 100 agencies that have got something to do with homeland security and put them under one boss, put them under one lead, so you can not only change the priorities but change the culture.

I'll give you one example. We need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and whether or not they're leaving America when they say they are. But see, on your border, you've got your INS and your Customs and your Border

Patrol, three different agencies, and they've got different cultures. And we need to have them under one umbrella, so we can do a better job of assuring the American people we're doing their job. Look, anybody who wants to join a union can do so in this crowd, with the Homeland Security Department. I mean, if you're a whistleblower, you'll get protections. You'll have all the rights to be free to join. But I need the flexibility to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people, and the Senate better get it right.

No, we're doing everything we can. A lot of people are working hard, but the best way to secure our homeland for the long run is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what America is going to do.

And that's how you ultimately make America a safer place. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, you need to be proud of the job they're doing. I sure am. It's a different kind of war, though. In the old days, you could count tanks and figure out how strong the enemy was. This is an enemy that hides in caves. They try to find the darkest cave, the deepest cave, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a different kind of hater than we're used to.

But my attitude is, there's no cave deep enough and dark enough to hide from the long arm of justice of the United States and our friends and allies. And that's exactly what we're going to do, folks. It doesn't matter how long it takes. You see, they put the spotlight on us, and we're going to find out what we're made out of, and so are they. And what we're made out of is, we're freedom-loving people who are plenty tough and plenty determined to make sure the future for our children is a future that is free and peaceful.

And that's why I want to strengthen the military. Anytime you put a soldier in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. So a stronger America, to me, means a stronger military. And that's why I've submitted the biggest increase in defense spending since the mid-eighties, when Ronald Reagan was the President. I wanted to send a message.

The message is: We'll take care of our people. See, we owe it not only to those who wear the uniform; we owe it to their loved ones as well. We owe it to the husbands and wives of our soldiers. We owe it to the moms and dads. We owe it to the sons and daughters.

But I also wanted to send a message to the enemy and our friends that we're in this deal for the long haul. See, when it comes to defending that which we hold dear to our hearts, we're in it for the long pull. I've asked Congress to get that bill to my desk soon. They don't need to be playing politics with the defense bill. They don't need to hold it up for other reasons. They need to get home—come from their homes—they need to get to Washington and get me a bill as soon as possible, so we can win this war and fight this war. That's what—we owe it to those who wear the uniform to get the defense bill done early.

And part of making sure we have a strong America is to understand there are some people who want to find work and can't find work, and therefore, we're not as strong as we should be. A strong America is one where there's economic security. See, we want people working. I know the statistics and all that business. What I worry about is when I hear the stories of people who can't find work. And so we've got to make sure that we continue to focus on jobs and job creation and job growth.

I think the ingredients are pretty good. I mean, when you think about it, interest rates are low. That's good. Inflation is low, and that's positive. Productivity is up because we've got the best workers in the world, and that's important. So I'm encouraged about job growth, but I'm not satisfied. And neither should you be, and neither should the United States Congress.

And there are some practical ways that we can build on this foundation for growth, starting with getting a terrorism insurance bill out of the United States Congress. Let me tell you what that means. That means some of these big construction projects can go forward. See, a lot of them, they've been delayed because they can't get insurance. They can't get insurance because of what the terrorists did to America on September the

11th. So Doug and I and a lot of other concerned citizens have been working with Congress. We said, "Okay, that's fine. We'll take some of the risk to get these big construction projects moving." There's been over \$8 billion worth of projects that have been delayed because they can't get insurance. That means 300,000 workers aren't working. You see, if we want to do something to make sure the job base continues, Congress needs to get moving on a terrorism insurance bill. And this bill has got to be good for hardhats, not lawyers. This bill—we get this bill, a lot of folks are going to go back to work.

And the same with the energy bill. See, the energy bill that we're talking about is a jobs bill. You get the energy bill, we're going to get more jobs here in America. It's also a national security bill. See, we don't—the less we import oil from foreign sources, the more our national security is strong. And so we want to make sure that we conserve more, that we use our technologies to develop renewable sources of energy. That makes sense. We can do that. We can do a better job of exploring environmentally. But we need a bill—we need a bill. We need a bill on behalf of the American workers, and we need a bill on behalf of the national security of America. Congress needs to quit talking about energy and get back to work and do something on behalf of the American people when it comes to energy.

In order to get confidence back in the economy, we've got to do a good job of making America's pensions strong. You see, one of the things that we did, we passed a—part of this corporate reform bill, one of the things we passed which made a lot of sense is that, if the boss gets to sell, everybody else does. What's good for the head person is good for the people on the shop floor. We also allow people to diversify out of their 401(k)s. You ought not to be stuck in one stock forever. After a reasonable period of time, you ought to be able to diversify. You need to get the best investment advice. We need to make sure our workers are protected when it comes to pension reform. And the Congress needs to act on it. For the good of the economy, they need to act on this, just like they acted on corporate reform.

And now it's my turn to act. Let me tell you what's going to happen. If we catch somebody cooking the books, like we have been doing, it's no more easy money; it's just hard time. By far, the vast majority of our fellow citizens are honest and decent and honorable people; they just are. But a few have created a—put a bad name out there. They've created a sense of—lack of—they diminish the confidence of the American people. We're putting those days behind us.

We had Republicans and Democrats work together to pass the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. I put together a task force. And I want to assure you, my fellow Americans, here on Labor Day, that if we catch them cooking the books, if we catch them fudging the numbers, if we catch people trying to put a sleight of hand to the detriment of employees and shareholders alike, there are going to be serious consequences here in America. We expect people to behave responsibly in our society.

And finally, in order to make sure the economy continues to grow and there's jobs, we've got to be wise about how you spend your money. See, every idea sounds like a good idea up there. Everybody throws something out there, and it sounds like a brilliant idea. But they always cost in the billions, it seems like. One way I like to remind Congress about how to be fiscally responsible is to remind them whose money they're spending. It's not the Government's money they spend. It's your money. It's the people's money.

No, we can meet our needs. We can meet our needs. And by the way, we can make that tax relief a permanent part of the Tax Code. You need to have more money in your pocket, as far as I'm concerned. No, those are ways for us to make America a stronger place by continuing to focus on the economic security of all our citizens—every citizen.

And we've got to make sure that America is not only safer and stronger but a better place—a better place. And there are ways to do that. One, America will be a better place when our seniors have got prescription drugs as a part of Medicare. That's a better country, a country that understands that Medicare serves an important purpose. Medi-

cine has changed. Medicare hasn't. And therefore, our seniors don't have prescription drugs. It will be a better country when we do that.

It's a better country when we focus on educating every child, not just a few children but every single child. I want to thank the teachers who are here. *[Applause]* I could tell. But remember, if you're a mom or a dad, you're a teacher.

We're a better country when we help people get off welfare by finding them work. We're a better country when people learn to work. This training center here makes us a better country. It's a better country when you've got people who are willing to help people help themselves. It's a better country.

It's a better country when people can own their own homes. When you own something, it makes America a better place. We've got a minority gap in ownership here for homes in America. We need to do something about it. We need to close that gap. We need to help people with downpayments. We need to get some—we need to get more capital into the marketplace, so people can find ways to borrow money to build—to buy their own home.

No, it's a—the goal is more than just a safer country; it's a better place for all of us, see. I mean for all of us. You know, the enemy didn't realize, but out of the evil is going to come some incredible good here in America. I truly believe that. I believe that.

I believe that we can achieve peace. And I want you to tell your sons and daughters that we fight for our freedom in order for there to be peace, for the world to be more peaceful, not only here at home but for children all across the world. See, we value each human life as important. We don't try to distinguish—everybody has got worth in the eyes of the Almighty, as far as we're concerned in this Nation.

But peace is our goal—peace. There's going to be some steep hills to climb, no question about it, but we're going to work hard to achieve peace. Out of the evil done by these killers will come peace, we think—I think. We have to be tough and determined and resolute, but we can achieve peace.

And at home, we can have a better America. People say, "Well, what can I do to

help?” You can love your neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. You can help a neighbor in need. You can go to a shut-in and say, “I love you.” That’s just a part of being—a part of loving your neighbor. You can mentor a child. You can understand your most important responsibility, if you’re a mom or a dad, is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. You should tell them you love them every single day. Put your arm around them. Find somebody who hurts, understand there’s deep addiction and hopelessness in parts of our neighborhoods in America, and we can help change that, one person at a time.

See, Government can hand out money—pretty good at it—[laughter]—but it can’t put hope into people’s hearts. It can’t put a sense of purpose in people’s lives. Somebody said, “Well, I can’t do everything.” No, but you can do something. You can do something. See, we can change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And I call upon our fellow Americans, here on Labor Day, to be a part of that change in America. Be a part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency which show the true face and character of the greatest Nation, the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless you all. God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. outside the Carpenters’ Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; John A. “Jack” Brooks, executive secretary-treasurer, Greater Pennsylvania Regional Council of Carpenters; Ray Vogel, coordinator, Carpenters’ Training Center; and Jim Roddey, chief executive, Allegheny County, PA.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Honduras-United States Treaty for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Embezzled Vehicles and Aircraft With Documentation

September 3, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I trans-

mit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Embezzled Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, signed at Tegucigalpa on November 23, 2001. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, it will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, robbed, or embezzled and found in Honduras.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 3, 2002.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments on Health, Transportation Security, and International Assistance

September 3, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Transportation, and for International Assistance Programs.

These amendments continue my commitment to provide necessary resources to enhance transportation security, to assist Israel and the people of the West Bank and Gaza, and to fight the growing pandemic of HIV/AIDS among developing countries.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and

Budget. I concur with her comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

September 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's been my honor to welcome the leadership of the United States Congress here, to welcome them back from the August recess. We talked about a variety of issues—talked about the defense appropriations bill and terrorism insurance and an energy bill, spent most of our time talking about a serious threat to the United States, a serious threat to the world, and that's Saddam Hussein.

One of the things I made very clear to the Members here is that doing nothing about that serious threat is not an option for the United States. I also made it very clear that we look forward to a open dialog with Congress and the American people about the threat and that not only will we consult with the United States Congress—"we" being the administration—but that my administration will fully participate in any hearings that the Congress wishes to have on this subject, on the subject about how to make America a more secure country, how to best protect the American families in our country. At the appropriate time, this administration will go to the Congress to seek approval for—necessary to deal with the threat.

At the same time, I will work with our friends in the world. I've invited Prime Minister Blair to come to Camp David on Saturday, and he'll—he's coming. I've looked forward to talking with him about our mutual concerns about how to make the world more secure and safe. I will see Jean Chretien on Monday, as we—we'll talk about how to make our borders work better, but at the same time, I'll talk to him about this subject.

I'll be on the phone to leaders of the—China and Russia and France, and then I'll be giving the speech at the United Nations.

Saddam Hussein is a serious threat. He is a significant problem. And it's something that this country must deal with. And today the process starts about how to have an open dialog with the elected officials and, therefore, the American people about our future and how best to deal with it.

Let me answer a couple of questions. Steve Holland [Reuters], Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], and then Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], and that's it.

U.N. Weapons Inspectors in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, what's your opinion on putting U.N. weapons inspectors back in Iraq? Will you ask the U.N. to do that? Is that a viable option?

The President. First of all, I'll be giving a speech on Tuesday—or the 12th—and you can come and listen to it. But let me say to you that the issue is not inspectors; the issue is disarmament. This is a man who said he would not arm up. This is a man who told the world that he would not harbor weapons of mass destruction. That's the primary issue, and I'll be discussing ways to make sure that that is the case.

Ron.

Q. So you will be—you will be discussing ways to make sure that he disarms? Are you talking about having inspectors back in?

The President. I will first remind the United Nations that for 11 long years, Saddam Hussein has sidestepped, crawfished, wheedled out of any agreement he had made not to harbor—not to develop weapons of mass destruction, agreements he's made to treat the people within his country with respect. And so I'm going to call upon the world to recognize that he is stiffing the world. And I will lay out, and I will talk about ways to make sure that he fulfills his obligations.

Consultation With Congress

Q. Let me just follow up on your opening statement. When you say you're going to seek congressional approval, does that mean, in effect, Congress will have veto authority over your plan to oust Saddam Hussein?

The President. I'm confident we will be able to—I'll be able to work with Congress to deal with this threat to the American people. And that's what I meant.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you talked about Saddam Hussein stiffing the world. In your mind, has the time come to issue the Iraqi leader an ultimatum similar to that that you issued to the Taliban?

The President. I am going to state clearly to the United Nations what I think. And I think that he has not fulfilled any of the obligations that he made to the world. And I believe it's important for the world to deal with this man. And I believe it's really important for the United States Congress to have an open dialog about how to deal with this threat.

We are in a new era. The first battle of the—the first war of the 21st century took place in Afghanistan. The United States is under threats. We are—we spent a lot of time, people around this table, good-hearted people who care deeply about America spent a lot of time thinking about how best to secure our homeland even further. And this is a debate the American people must hear, must understand. And the world must understand as well that its credibility is at stake.

Thank you all for coming.

Maxwell Gregory

Q. Are you suggesting an ultimatum is coming? Is a deadline coming, sir?

The President. That's a fine-looking child, fine-looking child. *[Laughter]* Little Gregory. Little Stretch. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

Remarks on Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

September 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thank you for coming. I want to thank you all for com-

ing. I'm particularly grateful that some of the folks on the frontline of education reform are with us, not only here on the stage, but as I look out in the audience I see some familiar faces with people who are—refuse to accept the status quo when the status quo means mediocrity for our children.

So I want to welcome you here. I also want to assure you that one of the big challenges that I see for our country, besides keeping the peace and making the homeland secure, is to insist that every child be educated. Notice I said "every child." It starts with the mindset that every child can learn. And I don't need to tell that to the people in this room, but there is—some in our country believe in the—what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. They don't believe in the bigotry, but because there's low expectations, there is a soft bigotry.

And that's unacceptable. What that means is, there's certain kids just get shuffled through the system. Certain kids, they just get quit on. And we know who they are. They're generally inner-city kids, kids whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It's so much easier to walk into a classroom full of the hard-to-educate and say, "See you later. We're just going to move you through." And those days have got to end, and the people up here on the stage and the people here in the White House understand—standing here, sitting here in the White House—understand those days are going to end, for the good of the country.

One of the challenges is to make sure America is secure, is safe, is strong. But another one of our challenges is to make sure America is a better place for all of us, and that starts with insisting that every child get educated.

This is a passion that is shared by Republicans and Democrats. I don't view this as a partisan issue, I view this as an American issue. And that's why I was pleased earlier in my administration to travel the country with some of the bill sponsors, two of whom are here, both Republicans and Democrats, to sign this bill. That's a good signal to America that we're coming together to work on what's right for the country.

And I want to welcome Judd Gregg from the State of New Hampshire, who is one of

those with whom I had the honor of traveling, and John Boehner, who's the chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives, for being with us. And of course, an advocate for teachers and for education, Ralph Regula, is with us as well. So I want to thank the three Members of Congress for coming. I appreciate you boys coming over here after a long, long vacation. [Laughter]

Representative. [Inaudible]—back. [Laughter]

The President. Yes, back—[laughter]. Glad you're in town. [Laughter] But I do really appreciate your work on education. You've been great.

I also want to thank Rod Paige for agreeing to leave Texas—that's a hard thing for Texans to do—and come up here and serve his Nation. I didn't need any theorists in the Department of Education. I wanted somebody who had been on the frontlines, somebody that had actually been, in this case, a superintendent, somebody who had raised the bar, and somebody that had achieved results on behalf of all the students in that incredibly complex and difficult school district. And Rod did a fabulous job in Houston, and he's doing a darn good job here in Washington, DC. And Rod, I want to thank you for your leadership.

I also want to thank the MATHCOUNTS champs who are with us. I told them—[applause]. Thank you all for coming. I told them, in my State, sometimes too often we think of the champ only on the football field. I'm glad they're here to show that there's champs in the math arena and in the science arena.

These champs are just as important as any athletic champ we have in the country, and I want to thank them for setting high standards and working hard and showing your fellow classmates what is possible. And I also want to thank your teachers who are here. I know you represent teachers all across the country, and a great teacher can make a huge difference in a child's life, and these teachers with us today have shown exactly what I'm talking about. So congratulations to the student and teacher—[applause].

So I understand the difficulty of changing a system that doesn't like to change. After

all, I was a Governor at one time. And there is a certain—there's a certain unwillingness of people in the school system, certain school systems, to change. It's hard. I know that. And yet, the bill we passed says you've got to change. And so the meeting today is a way to tell people that change is possible; change can be orderly; and change can be, most important, productive for student and family alike.

And that's what we're talking about here today. The bill said that one—one of the cornerstones of that bill that we passed said we're going to trust the local people. That's one way to put it, is it's not all the smart people in the world live in Washington. There's plenty of smart people outside of Washington. And there is certainly an attachment to the school system, the public school systems, for those who live in the public school system's taxing district, for example.

Nobody cares more about the schools in their neighborhood than the parents and the teachers and the local citizens. And therefore, it made a lot of sense to pass power out of Washington, to create a certain amount of flexibility at the local level so people can chart their own path to excellence. This is one of the keys to success. And that's what this bill does.

And so what we have done today is we have asked people who have taken advantage of the flexibility, that have actually done some creative, positive, significant things so others can see what works. It's important for those in the public school systems around America to understand that it is possible to change and have positive results without disrupting the school systems.

And that's what we're here to talk about. And one of the cornerstones of any good school system is accountability. Now look, I have battled—I have fought the accountability fight for a long time. I've heard people say, "You test too much"—particularly the students. [Laughter] My answer is, if testing determines whether you can read, too bad that we test. As a matter of fact, it's to your advantage that we test.

How do you know, if you don't give people a chance to show us? How do you know? It's the systems that don't test are those that

quit on the kids. It's the systems where people say, "All kids can't learn. Therefore, let's don't try to determine whether they are learning." Those are the systems where we've really got a challenge. And one of the things we did say is if you receive Federal money, we want to know whether or not you're succeeding. If you want to—all the Title I money we're sending out, we expect there to be results because, you see, we believe every child can learn.

And there are creative things you can do with the accountability system, such as what they're doing in Indiana. And Suellen is here. For a while I thought she was from central Texas, with the name of Suellen—[laughter]—but it turns out—it turns out she's from Indiana. But they have got a—they decided, and wisely so, in the State of Indiana, that they're going to post results so people know, so parents know, so teachers know.

You see, with information, people can make constructive change. You can determine whether or not the curriculum you are using works. Accountability is incredibly important for the school systems. People shouldn't fear accountability. They ought to welcome an accountability system as a useful tool to make sure no child is left behind, a useful tool to make sure they make constructive improvements in their school districts and in their schools.

And Indiana has made a creative decision to put on the Internet, amongst other things, how the schools are performing, a comparative analysis of school performance, how the school's teachers—how many school teachers are certified under Indiana law. They can compare schools within a district. It is a useful way to use accountability as a management tool. It is also a useful way to encourage citizen involvement. You see, the more information a parent or a citizen knows, the more likely it is that parent or citizen is going to be involved in a school district.

Too often people say, "My schools are doing just fine." You all have heard that more than I have. Too often people—"Everything is just fine in my school. How do I know? My child told me," until you see a comparison, and then you realize that perhaps we need to ratchet up the bar a little higher. We need to make sure that the standards

are raised, because every child counts here in this country.

We've also got to make sure that the schools—the accountability system insists that the—that each child is recognized. There's a fancy word for it called "disaggregation of data." I don't want to disturb the press corps by using a long word. [Laughter] I know what it means. [Laughter] You see, we've got to make sure that we focus on an individual basis. This idea of lumping people into large groups of people will diminish the capacity of an accountability system to make sure no child is left behind. The State of Florida has been on the leading edge of making sure the accountability system is—challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations. And I want to thank Jim for coming—and tell the Governor hello. [Laughter]

I also believe there ought to be a consequence. If there's failure or mediocrity, something else has to happen. Otherwise, you've set up a nice system, but nothing changes. Without a consequence, without something to challenge the status quo, the status quo will remain.

And so therefore, one of the things—one of the interesting innovations that we put in the bill that I think is—probably can be used in a very creative way for school districts all around the country, is the capacity to have after-school tutoring—the money follows the child—and that there can be a lot of creative ways to set up after-school tutoring. People can go outside the system to do—to have these after-schools—after-tutoring classes.

There can be a whole kind of entrepreneurial effort made. There can be a charter schools—after-school charter schools, with funding available, because the money follows the child. It's a very wise thing that the State of Colorado and Colorado Springs School District is taking advantage of.

You see, if every child matters and your accountability system points out some are falling behind, this bill provides the resources necessary to make sure people catch up early, before it's too late. That's one of the keys to success, is that when you identify somebody who is failing, you get on it right away, and you help that person early, before it's too late. And a good way to do it is to take

advantage of the after-school tutoring program we have in the bill. It's really creative.

Once people see what's available and understand the options, there's going to be some—I predict there will be some creative responses, just like Colorado Springs' response, around the country.

It's also important that their public school choice be fully implemented. You see, when the parents start to move, it gets people's attention. And one of the things in this bill says that we expect and will facilitate the capacity of parents to make different choices for their students if they're dissatisfied with the quality of education that their student, that their child is receiving.

And St. Paul, Dr. Harvey, has done a very good job of making sure that those options are not only well-known—you see, sometimes what happens is the school districts don't really make it clear what can happen or what should happen. The lack of knowledge for citizens means that lack of opportunity is—that people don't have the opportunities that they can achieve what is necessary to start insisting that every child be educated. And so Dr. Harvey not only has worked hard to educate parents about what is available but has also worked in the school district to make sure people understand within the school district that this is an important part of educational excellence for every child.

The—as I said, I—options and consequences are all a part of making sure that the accountability system works. And here are two examples of school districts in our country seizing the moment to make sure that excellence prevails.

I also want to congratulate Arkansas and Alabama for their work on reading, because the truth of the matter is, no matter how fancy we get with systems, if kids can't read, it doesn't matter. It's hard to be a math scholar if you can't read. It's hard to be a scientist if you can't read. And so we have decided here at the Federal level to make a national initiative being one that every child's going to read. And the reason Arkansas and Alabama are here is they also understand that it requires a curriculum that works, if you want every child to read. They don't need fancy theories or what may sound good.

Science is not an art—I mean, reading is not an art; it's a science. We know what works.

And these schools, and these States, have adopted what works. And as you heard about from Alabama, Dr. Mitchell, they have retrained 2,500 teachers. Retraining is the right word; they've been trained once. Now they're being trained in a curriculum which will work, and it's essential we focus on reading first.

If you have an accountability system, it is unfair to have a society in which not every child kind of starts at the accountability system at the same place. It's not going to work the way we want it to work. And so the best way to make sure that the accountability system has merit and we can accurately measure, is to start teaching our children how to read early in life—I mean early—with a curriculum which works, and the willingness for States to recognize that sometimes teachers haven't been trained properly, and they need to be retrained. And that's what they did in Alabama. It's what we did in Texas, by the way. We spent time, money, and efforts to retrain our teachers, to give them the tools necessary so that they can do what they want to do, and which their desire is to do, which is to be as good a teacher as they can possibly be.

And so here are examples of—two examples of Reading First initiatives, which are on the leading edge of reform. They challenge the status quo when it doesn't work. They understand what I know, that reading is the new civil right. It's a part of making sure our students are free citizens. And we're going to do it. You watch here in America. This program is going to have a huge impact as we continue to insist that no child be left behind.

And finally, New York City deserves a lot of credit. You hear about teacher shortages here and there in other places. But sometimes they're so bound in rules and regulations, and challenged because they're unable to be entrepreneurial in their willingness to hire, the shortages persist.

But Joyce Coppin has figured out a way to have alternative certification, an intense recruiting campaign with New Teacher Project. I mean, this district has hired more

than 2,000 teachers this year, through a city's alternative certification program.

They saw a problem, and instead of being hidebound by the old way of doing things, they said, "Let's solve the problem first." Let's make sure we solve the problem. You can't—if—children will be left behind, unless there's teachers in the classrooms.

And Joyce, I want to thank you and thank your folks there in New York City for showing America what is possible; that it's possible to be creative and to use your imagination and to solve a teacher shortage that might exist. It is essential that Americans understand, from the examples we've seen here, that change is positive, change is incredibly important to achieve the goal which we all want, and that is to have the best public school systems in the world and make sure no child is left behind. There's no doubt in my mind that these goals are achievable, because we're America, and there's nothing we can't overcome.

The first step is to overcome timidity, and the first step is to overcome an unwillingness to confront mediocrity. And I think school districts and leaders around the country, when they realize what is possible from examples here, will be more than willing to challenge the status quo if the status quo is failing, to insist every child can learn, to raise the bar, and by raising the bar, raise the hopes of everybody who's lucky enough to be called an American.

So I want to thank you all for your leadership. I appreciate very much your commitment to your States, to the children in your States, and to the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Suellen K. Reed, Indiana superintendent of public instruction; Jim Horne, Florida secretary of education; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Patricia A. Harvey, superintendent, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN; Katherine Mitchell, director, Alabama Reading Initiative; and Joyce Coppin, chief executive of the division of human resources, New York City Department of Education.

Proclamation 7590—Patriot Day, 2002

September 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On this first observance of Patriot Day, we remember and honor those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We will not forget the events of that terrible morning nor will we forget how Americans responded in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in the skies over Pennsylvania—with heroism and selflessness; with compassion and courage; and with prayer and hope. We will always remember our collective obligation to ensure that justice is done, that freedom prevails, and that the principles upon which our Nation was founded endure.

Inspired by the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members, and other citizens, our Nation found unity, focus, and strength. We found healing in the national outpouring of compassion for those lost, as tens of millions of Americans participated in moments of silence, candlelight vigils, and religious services. From the tragedy of September 11 emerged a stronger Nation, renewed by a spirit of national pride and a true love of country.

We are a people dedicated to the triumph of freedom and democracy over evil and tyranny. The heroic stories of the first responders who gave their all to save others strengthened our resolve. And our Armed Forces have pursued the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and elsewhere with valor and skill. Together with our coalition partners, they have achieved success.

Americans also have fought back against terror by choosing to overcome evil with good. By loving their neighbors as they would like to be loved, countless citizens have answered the call to help others. They have contributed to relief efforts, improved homeland security in their communities, and volunteered their time to aid those in need. This spirit of service continues to grow as thousands have joined the newly established USA Freedom Corps, committing themselves to

changing America one heart at a time through the momentum of millions of acts of decency and kindness.

Those whom we lost last September 11 will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our Nation. As we mark the first anniversary of that tragic day, we remember their sacrifice; and we commit ourselves to honoring their memory by pursuing peace and justice in the world and security at home. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107–89), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2002, as Patriot Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services and candlelight vigils. I also call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day. Further, I encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time, or another appropriate commemorative time, to honor the innocent victims who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 9.

Message to the Congress Reporting a Certification Required by the Ratification Resolution of the Chemical Weapons Convention

September 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify pursuant to Condition 7(C)(i), Effectiveness of the Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain equally effective or more comprehensive controls over the export of: toxic chemicals and their precursors; dual-use processing equipment; human, animal, and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons applications; and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

The factors underlying this certification are described in the enclosed statement of justification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 4, 2002.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Proclamation 7589—National
Alcohol and Drug Addiction
Recovery Month, 2002**

September 4, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Drug and alcohol abuse destroys the hopes of men, women, and young people and takes a terrible toll on society. Addiction destroys the lives of countless Americans, shatters families, and threatens the safety of our neighborhoods.

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month provides an important opportunity to promote the values that have given people the strength to beat drug and alcohol abuse and remain drug-free. The theme of this year's commemoration, *Join the Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action*, emphasizes the critical role of communities in encouraging individuals with substance abuse problems to seek help. While those who suffer from addiction must help themselves, it is also crucial for family, friends, and people with shared experiences to support those fighting to overcome substance abuse. Those in recovery play a key role in helping others achieve healthy lives. They can convey important information about the toll of alcohol and drug addiction and the benefits of recovery, inspire others to succeed, and allow young people to learn valuable lessons about their experiences.

As a Nation, we must aggressively promote compassionate treatment for those suffering from addiction. When individuals begin the process of recovery, they take an important first step toward regaining dignity and hope. Across our Nation, we know that many Americans who are dependent on drugs are not receiving the treatment they need. My National Drug Control Strategy expands drug treatment to Americans who need it. For 2003, my Administration proposes \$3.8 billion for drug treatment, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2002. This includes a \$100 million increase in treatment spending for 2003 as part of a plan to add \$1.6 billion over 5 years. Staying clean and sober is a

lifelong responsibility, and those who succeed improve their health, can better enjoy their family and friends, and are more likely to find success in the workplace. The vast majority of people in recovery are capable individuals who contribute to America's strength. We celebrate the success of those in recovery, but we must help those still suffering from dependence and battling addiction.

My Administration is implementing an effective national strategy that is community-based. We have established the goal of a 10 percent reduction of drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction over the next 5 years. We must stop drug use before it starts, heal America's drug users, and disrupt the supply of and demand for drugs in our country. And we must continue the fight against alcohol abuse and the toll it takes on our society. Together, we can achieve these goals, help save lives, and restore hope to individuals and families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 2002 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 9.

Remarks to the Community in Louisville, Kentucky

September 5, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It is great to be here in the State of Kentucky. Let me tell you, it's great to be back to the State of Kentucky. I want to thank you all for coming. It is my—it's going to be my honor today to talk to you about our country, our future. I want to talk about how to make our country a safer country and a stronger country and, as importantly, a better country. And there's no better place to do it than Louisville, Kentucky.

I want to thank Anne for her kind introduction, and I want to thank the other members of the Kentucky delegation who are here today who are my friends, and that would be Senator Jim Bunning and Congressman Ken Lucas. I appreciate all three members of the congressional delegation coming down today. As you know, they're up there in Washington meeting, and it's an honor that three Members decided to come and hear the President. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank you Governor, Paul Patton, for coming today. Governor, I appreciate you taking time to be here. I'm honored that you're here. I want to thank Elaine Chao, who is a member of my Cabinet, the Secretary of Labor. I appreciate you coming, Elaine. I want to thank the head of the Small Business Administration, Hector Barreto, for joining us as well. Thank you, Hector. Oh, I forgot—I forgot to mention the first lady of Kentucky. One thing you learn is never to forget to mention the first ladies. I appreciate Judi Patton being here as well. Thank you for coming, Judi.

Speaking about first ladies, my wife is doing great, too. I like to remind people that when I married her, she was a public school librarian. And for all the public school librarians out there, you've got an advocate in the White House. For all the teachers out there, I want to thank you for being teachers, too. She didn't like politics, and she didn't like politicians when I married her. Now she's stuck with one. *[Laughter]* She's doing a great job. I'm really proud of her. She sends her love and her best to all the people of Kentucky.

I want to thank the members of the Louisville community who happen to be small-business owners for coming to visit. We just had a good hour discussion about small-business issues. You see, one of the best ways to make sure that our economy grows is to have an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and the small business can be strong. Most new jobs are created in America by small businesses, and therefore, we'd better worry about the health of small businesses, if we're worried about the health and security of the country.

And I'm worried about the health and security of our country; I am. And we've got a lot of work to do. I'm not worried about our future because I'm optimistic about America. We've got a great future ahead of us. But so long as anybody who wants to work can't find work, I think we've got a problem in America. And so, therefore, our thought process ought to be how to create jobs, how best to make sure that the foundation of economic growth remains strong and that we go forward with creating jobs.

And that's why I met with the small-business owners and listened to their concerns and heard their points of view. First, let me tell you the foundation for our economy is strong. I mean, after all, interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. Our productivity is high. We've got the best farmers and ranchers in the world. We're really good at a lot of things in America which creates the foundation for growth. I am not satisfied, however, until everybody can find work. And so, fundamentally, what can we do?

First, you've got to understand the role of Government is not to create wealth. It's to create an environment in which people can realize their dreams, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. And one way to encourage that is to let people keep more of their own money.

When we came in, it turns out the country was in a recession. That's three quarters of negative growth. Fortunately, I was able to team up with members of both political parties to take a chapter out of this textbook. It's the chapter that says, if you let people

keep more of their own money, they will demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief came at the right time for the American economy.

If you listen carefully to some of the dialog in Washington, you begin to hear a little tone about, "Well, maybe we ought to stop the tax relief from being fully implemented." That would be a mistake for our economy. That would be a terrible mistake for jobs and job creation. Not only should we resist anybody who wants to undo the tax relief, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

Well, people say, "How can cutting income taxes on the people affect small businesses?" Well, most small businesses are sole proprietorships, which means they pay tax at the individual income tax rate level. Or most small businesses are limited partnerships. And so when you cut the taxes on the people, you're really cutting the taxes on the sole proprietors and on limited partnerships. You're helping small business grow. And when small businesses grow, America is better off.

But let me also tell you that in the tax relief plan we began to mitigate the effects of the marriage penalty. Listen, the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. And the other thing is we sent the death tax on the way to extinction. The death tax is bad for Kentucky farmers; it's bad for Kentucky ranchers; and it's bad for Kentucky entrepreneurs.

And then you say, "Well, why, Mr. President, do you need to talk about making the tax relief permanent?" Because a quirk in the law in the United States Senate says that you won't—we're going to cut your taxes, but in 10 years it will have come back. It's hard for me to explain. I mean, how can you say, "On the one hand, we're cutting your taxes, on the other hand, it goes away after 10 years?" Well, that's just the way the Senate happens to work right now. But there's a way to change that, and that is to get the United States Senate to agree to make all this tax relief permanent. It will help people plan. It will help good policy, and anybody who

wants to find work is more likely to be able to do so if the tax relief is permanent.

In order to make sure people find work and our economy is strong, Congress must not overspend. Every idea sounds like a good idea in Washington—just that they cost billions of dollars. We need to set priorities, and we have set priorities in Washington, priorities of how to make America safer, stronger, and better. And it's my job to hold the line on spending the people's money.

See, it's important to have the right mind-set up there. We're not spending Government money; we're spending your money. In order to make sure it's spent wisely—I look forward to working with Congress to make sure we spend your money wisely. If we overspend, it will serve as a drag on our economy. If we overspend, it will make it harder for people to find work. I'm worried about people finding work. I want anybody who wants a job to be able to find one here in America.

There's some other practical things we can do in Washington, DC. We need to get us a terrorism insurance bill, to get our hardhats back to work. Over \$10 billion of construction projects are not going forward because people can't get the proper insurance because of what the terrorists did to America. The Government ought to help here. It makes sense that the Government help. We want our hardhats back to working. The construction trades believe that over 300,000 workers will go back to work if we can get this bill out of Congress. I want a bill out of Congress that helps the hardhats, not helps the plaintiffs' attorneys. I want people going back to work in America.

We need an energy bill. A good energy bill will create jobs in America. We also need an energy bill which will encourage conservation and the use of renewable energy. We can do that, but we also need an energy bill that will encourage exploration here in America, exploration in environmentally friendly ways, so that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. An energy bill is good for jobs, and it's good for national security, and it's time the Congress quit talking and get an energy bill to my desk.

Now, I'm optimistic about our economy. I'm optimistic about job growth. I'm optimistic about the future because I understand America. We've got problems, no question, but we have a spirit that is indomitable and strong. I'm also optimistic about being able to do my most important job, which is to protect the homeland.

You know, one of my concerns was the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more likely it would be that some in our country might not think the enemy still existed. But they do, and they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. That's all they are. People in our country wonder why, why would somebody hate America? It's because we love freedom; that's why. We love the idea that free people can worship an almighty God any way they so choose in America. We value the freedom for people to speak their mind in this country. We value a free press. We value freedom. And the more we value freedom, the more they hate us. That's why. That's why the enemy still exists.

And there's another reason. Every life matters in America. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth. And these killers don't think that way. They're willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion. And so my job is to do everything we can to protect our homeland—it's to make America more secure.

You need to know there's a lot of good folks working hard to protect us. I mean, any time we're getting a hint that the enemy might be thinking about doing something to us, we're moving on it. We communicate better. We're aware. We're aware of their hatred. Prior to September the 11th, we would never assume that America would be a battlefield. It is now. It's a different era. I want you to know that you should take comfort in the fact that a lot of good people are doing everything they can to make sure that America is secure, not only at the Federal level but at the State level and here at the local level. A lot of really good people are getting better information and are acting on it as quickly as possible.

I went to Congress, and I said, in order to help me and future Presidents—and notice I say future Presidents, because I don't

think this war and this hatred is going to go away anytime soon—that future Presidents can deal with the threat on the homeland, I've asked for a new department in Washington called the Department of Homeland Security. The reason I did is because there's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have something to do with protecting the homeland. They're scattered everywhere. In order to make sure the number one priority of these agencies is your protection, I've asked that they be put under one umbrella, one Cabinet Secretary to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

I want to be able to align authority and responsibility. I want to be able to say clearly to the American people, "We're doing a better job of protecting our borders." See, we need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and whether or not they're going to leave America when they say they're going to leave America. We need to do a better job of coordinating our first—the strategy of our first-responders, the brave police and fire and EMS teams that you've got right here in Louisville and all across America. We need to do a better job of being able to respond to potential weapons of mass destruction attacks—need to do a better job of taking the intelligence we have and analyzing it and addressing the vulnerabilities that may be evident here in America.

And so I've asked Congress to act, and I appreciate the fact that the House of Representatives has acted. And I'm sure on your TV screens, if you bother to watch TV, you'll see that the Senate is debating this bill. I've got deep concerns about where the Senate is headed, however. I need the flexibility necessary to be able to move people to the right place at the right time in order to protect America. And I'll give you an example.

On our borders we've got three different agencies involved with protecting the border, Customs, INS, and Border Patrol. They wear different uniforms. They have different strategies. They've got different bosses. For the sake of protecting America, any administration must have the flexibility to move people around to address our vulnerabilities. The enemy moves quickly, and so should the Federal Government be able to move quickly.

And yet, the bill out of the Senate has got rules this thick. They want to micromanage the process. The Senate must hear this: I expect to get a bill that is not in the best interests of vested interests in Washington but in the best interests of protecting the American people. The best way to protect our homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. The best way to secure America—the best way to secure our country and to protect our freedom is to find the killers.

This is a different kind of war, but the war goes on. We've got some great veterans in this hall who remember the way war used to be. You could determine the size of the enemy based upon the number of tanks they might have or the number of airplanes they have or the number of ships. This is a different kind of enemy. These are commanders who hide in dark caves and then send youngsters to their suicidal death. They kind of slither into cities and hope not to get caught. They're sophisticated. They understand we're after them. And they're elusive, and they're determined. But so are we. We've got a fabulous United States military, and they're on the hunt. We've got a strong coalition of nations which have heard, as Anne mentioned, the doctrine that says, either you're with us or you're with the enemy. We have upheld the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist.

And I want you to tell your youngsters, your children and your grandchildren, that when this great Nation went into Afghanistan, we didn't go to conquer anybody. We went in to liberate. We went in to liberate people from the clutches of the most barbaric regime in history. This great Nation and our friends and allies not only upheld an important doctrine, but as a result of our action, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And we're not leaving. We believe so strongly that every individual counts, that we want to help democracy flourish in that region. And we're not leaving because there's still Al Qaida and their buddies roaming around. And there's a lot of brave folks on the hunt, probably some of your relatives. And if you've got a relative in the United

States military or if you're in the United States military, this Nation is incredibly proud of what your relative is doing.

I have submitted a defense spending bill that is the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I did so for two reasons—two reasons: One, any time we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best equipment, and the best training; and secondly, I did so because I want to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. When it comes to the freedoms we love, when it comes to something we hold dear, this country is determined and patient and plenty resolved to achieve victory.

Congress is back. The House passed a version of the defense bill. The Senate passed a version of the defense bill. I expect the Congress to work together and get that defense bill to my desk as soon as possible. It's in the interests of the United States. The American people are not going to like it if they see the Congress playing politics with the defense bill when we're at war.

We're making progress. See, because the enemy is different and the nature of the war is different, sometimes you don't see what's going on. As I said early on, and right after September the 11th, sometimes you'll see what's happening, and sometimes you won't. That's just the nature of this war. Sometimes one of these killers will be brought to justice, and you'll hear about it, and sometimes they won't. But we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're bringing people to justice.

Notice I don't say, "Slowly but surely, we're seeking revenge." I said, "Slowly but surely, we're bringing people to justice." We owe that to our children. We owe that to our children's children. We must stay on the hunt for the sake of freedom here. We must continue to deny sanctuary. Once we get them on the run, we've also got to make it hard for them to light anywhere. We must make sure that those who would like to harbor them continue to get the message that there will be a consequence. We must anticipate problems before they occur. We must deal with threats to our security today, before it can be too late.

Yesterday I announced to the country that I would be working closely with our United States Congress and the American people to explain the threat that Saddam Hussein poses to world peace. I take the threat very seriously. I take the fact that he develops weapons of mass destruction very seriously. I remember the fact that he has invaded two countries before. I know for a fact that he's poisoned his own people. He doesn't believe in the worth of each individual. He doesn't believe in public dissent.

I look forward to a dialog. I'm a patient man. I've got tools—we've got tools at our disposal. And therefore, yesterday I began an important discussion about our future, about peace, about freedom; a discussion that I will continue to have with the United States Congress, Republican and Democrat alike; a discussion I will carry on with the American people; a discussion I will begin at the United Nations next week; a discussion I will have with the Prime Minister of Britain Saturday; a discussion I'll have with the Prime Minister of Canada on Monday; a discussion I'll be having with the President of Russia, Premier of China, President of France tomorrow.

I will remind them that history has called us into action, that we love freedom, that we'll be deliberate, patient, and strong in the values that we adhere to, but we can't let the world's worst leaders blackmail, threaten, hold freedom-loving nations hostage with the world's worst weapons.

I can't imagine what went through the enemy's mind when they hit us. I can't imagine what they were thinking. Let me guess. They probably said, America is so selfish and so self-absorbed and so materialistic, that after September the 11th we might file a lawsuit or two, but that's all we would do. They were wrong. See, they don't understand America. They don't understand our character, and they don't understand our fiber. They don't understand that, when we love something, we love it dearly. We love life, and we love freedom.

And they understand one thing about us, too. When we need to be plenty tough, we're going to be plenty tough. And they're learning another thing about America. When we need to be compassionate and loving, we can be compassionate and loving, too. You see,

I believe out of the evil done to America—and make no mistake, it was an incredibly evil act—will come incredible good. You need to tell your loved ones, the little ones in particular, that when they hear the President talking about Al Qaida, Iraq, and other places, I do so because I long for peace. See, I believe out of the evil done to America, if we're strong and focused and determined, we can achieve peace. We can not only achieve peace today for America but peace in the long term—but not only for America. See, every life matters in this country. And you don't have to be an American for you to matter, as far as this Nation is concerned. We want peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace. We want there to be peace in the Middle East. We want there to be peace in South Asia. We act because we believe in peace. And out of the evil done to America can come a more peaceful world.

And out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate America, too. A lot of people say, "Well, what can I do on the war against terror?" You can love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, is what you can do.

No, I'm for a safer and strong America, and I'm for a better America. A better America begins, by the way, with making sure every child gets an education in this country and no child is left behind. A better America is when we take care of people who can't help themselves with a health care system that's modern. A better America is one that calls upon the best of America. See, Government can hand out money—we do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a loving individual puts his arm around a fellow citizen and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

You see, America is changing, one person at a time—one person at a time. We're saving America one soul, one conscience at a time, because thousands of our fellow citizens have recognized it's important to serve something greater than yourself.

Robert Mihalovic is here. I met two groups of people—I met one group of people, and I met one person. I met Robert. I also met the Louisville Little League team, both kind

of heroes in their own way. One group of kids won a championship. I did remind them, it's just beginning for you. You've got a responsibility now that you're champs, a responsibility to make the right choices in life.

Robert is here—Robert, if you don't mind standing up—I'll tell you why Robert is here. He's a Navy World War II veteran. He's a Korean war veteran. But let me tell you something about him. He mentors children. See, he's decided that in order to make a difference, in order to be a patriot, he wants to help a child in need. Robert told me at Air Force One that his most beautiful moments come when the child hugs him and says, "Thank you," when the child says, "Thanks for giving me some hope, and thanks for giving me love."

No Government program can do that. It happens because thousands of citizens like Robert, who I call soldiers in the armies of compassion, have heard the call to love their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. One person, one Robert can't do everything, but he can do something. He can help change America, one heart, one soul at a time.

The enemy hit us. They did tremendous evil to America. But out of that evil is going to come a more compassionate country. We can deal with addiction and hopelessness and despair when our fellow citizens answer the call to make America a compassionate and a decent place. And that's what's happening in this country. It's happening in America. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good—peace and a better society, because we're the greatest Nation, full of the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. God bless. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in the Broadbent Arena at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Anne M. Northup of Kentucky, who introduced the President; Gov. Paul Patton of Kentucky, and his wife, Judi; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; and President Jacques Chirac of France. The Office of the Press

Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Anne M. Northup in Louisville

September 5, 2002

I want to thank you all. Thanks for coming. I'm really honored to have been invited back to Louisville by Anne to help in her reelection effort. She is a incredibly—she is a breath of fresh air in Washington, let me put it to you that way. She's honest. She's open. The thing I love about Anne is her heart. It is as big as Texas. *[Laughter]* She cares deeply about her fellow citizens.

You see, what we need in the political process is people who put the people ahead of partisanship. They put people's concerns and hopes and aspirations ahead of personal success—their own personal success.

See, I love the idea that this is a soul who is willing to work in neighborhoods where somebody might not have ever voted for her. She's not the kind of citizen who said, "Did you vote for me," and therefore, "I'm going to help you." She's the kind of citizen who says, "I'm honored to be in the position I'm in, and what can I do to make Kentucky, and Louisville, Kentucky, as hopeful a place for every citizen?" Anne Northup deserves to be reelected to the United States Congress.

I value her advice. I value her friendship. I value being able to work with her to do what's right for America. I also like the fact that she loves her family. She's got her priorities straight. She loves Woody, and she loves her kids. I love the fact that Anne is an adopted mom. It shows something special about her heart and her willingness to love. I enjoyed meeting her mother and dad. She probably listens to her mother about as much as I do—listen to mine. *[Laughter]* But she is—she's got her priorities straight, her faith and her family and the people of Louisville, Kentucky.

So I want to thank you all for coming to help this good lady. I want to thank you for contributing, and I urge you to contribute your time. It's—this fundraiser is going to be history in about 30 minutes, or if I keep

it shorter than that, about 20 minutes. But now you've got more work to do. And for those of you who are the grassroots activists here in this community, for those of you who help lead our party, I want to thank you for what you have done; I want to thank you for what you are going to do. You need to go to your coffee shops, churches, and community centers and synagogues and pass the word that when you've got a good soul like Anne Northup, citizens need to go out and support her. So, thanks for helping her, and thanks for coming.

I also want to thank a member of my Cabinet, Elaine Chao, for being here. I appreciate her leadership. She's doing a fantastic job, and I'm sure she would like me to mention the fact that she married old Mitch. [*Laughter*] And when you're remembering Anne, don't forget Mitch. He's a good—he's a great United States Senator. We need Mitch McConnell back in the Senate. He's doing a really, really good job for the State of Kentucky. I value his advice as well.

And we were just traveling today from Washington to here earlier with another fine United States Senator, and that's, of course, Jim Bunning. And I appreciate his leadership and his support. I want to thank Ellen Williams. I want to thank State Senate President David Williams. I want to thank the members of the statehouse who are here. I appreciate the fact that Geoff Davis, candidate for the U.S. Kentucky fourth district, is with us. And Geoff, I appreciate you putting your hat in the ring.

I appreciate all my fellow citizens. We've got some issues we've got to confront here in America, and I want to share some of them with you. A lot of these issues are going to require having the steady hand of Anne Northup in the Congress.

My job is to make America secure, to strengthen the country, and make it a better place. And starting with making America a better place means we better make sure every child is educated. I don't mean a handful or some in the suburban districts. Every child—I mean every child in America must be educated in order for America to be a better place. And I want to tell you how—what an influence Anne Northup had in a

significant piece of legislation that we passed. It's called the no child left behind legislation.

That bill means what it says: No child, not one child in America left behind. The philosophy of the bill should speak volumes to the people of this district about Anne's mentality. It first starts with understanding that every child can learn. You see, it challenges low expectations or the soft bigotry of low expectations. When you lower the bar, when you expect mediocrity, you tend to get mediocrity. And that's not good enough for our children.

No, this bill says every child can learn. It also says the people who care more about the children in Louisville, Kentucky, are the citizens of Louisville, Kentucky. We believe strongly in local control of schools. We expect the local people to chart the path to excellence for every child—every child—who lives here in Louisville, Kentucky.

But inherent in this bill are two other features that I want to explain to you. One that says, if you believe every child can learn—therefore you want to know if every child is learning. And therefore, in return for a lot of Federal money, we expect every school district in America to teach our children how to read and write and add and subtract. And so we measure. We want to know. We expect there to be accountability. We're willing to ask the question, "Have you succeeded?" And we're also willing to say, "If you haven't, we expect to see something different." We don't want our children trapped in schools—we won't be satisfied if our children are trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change.

But Anne's biggest contribution—and I mean, a significant contribution—was to fight for and get funding for a Reading First initiative. It is a Federal initiative that recognizes all this talk about structuring our schools, all the talk about making sure the public education system is reformed doesn't matter a whit if our children can't read. And so, Anne, working with some of the best experts in the country, calling together the best minds, put in this bill a significant reading program, one that's not only funded for a billion dollars but one that recognizes reading is a science, not an art. We know what works, and we expect the curriculum around

America to be in place that teaches every child how to read.

We've got work to do in our economy. There are some people in our country that can't find work, and they want to work, and that means we've got a problem. The foundations for growth are good. Inflation is down. Interest rates are down. Listen, we're the most productive workers in the world. We're really good at what we do in a lot of places. And even though there are some progress, I'm not satisfied. And one of the things I appreciate about Anne is that when we need to let people have more of their own money, to make sure that the economy didn't completely crater—and a matter of fact, to make sure that the growth started—that she joined me in fighting for tax cuts for the American people.

And we need her back up there, because there are some in Washington, DC, who want to take those tax relief plans away, see? There are some who can't stand the thought of letting the people have their money. They get confused about whose money we're talking about. We're not talking about the Government's money. We're talking about the people's money. And the best way to make sure there are jobs available for people who work is to understand, if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

We need to make the tax cuts permanent. We need to make the repeal of the death tax permanent. And Anne understands that. She understands that. That's the kind of mentality we need in Washington.

Washington is a tough and ugly town at times. We saw that today in the United States Senate. I named a really, really fine woman from Texas to one of the appellate benches. This woman was ranked highly qualified by the American Bar Association. She ran statewide in my State of Texas and got over 80 percent of the vote. She's highly respected by Republicans and Democrats. And I named her to a higher bench. And today her nomination was rejected by the United States Senate. A handful of Senators distorted her

record. A handful of Senators, acting out of pure politics, did not let this good woman's name go forward. The United States Senate must act in better stead. This is a—treating a fine woman this way is bad for the country; it's bad for our bench. And I don't appreciate it one bit, and neither do the American people.

I also appreciate the fact that Anne understands that the stakes are high for our future, that our country has entered into a new era, that our homeland is a battlefield, and that our most important job as a Government is to protect the American people, is to do everything in our power to keep America safe, is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. The enemy is still out there. They're people who just hate America; you know, they just do. They hate us because we love—we love freedom. We love our values. We love the fact that our citizens can worship an almighty God freely in America. That's what we love. We love—we love free speech. We love a free press. We love all aspects of our freedom. And the more we love our freedom, the more they hate us.

And you've got to understand something about these people. They do not value life. In America, every life matters. Every life is important. Every individual counts. The enemy is willing to take innocent life because they hate, and they have no compunction in doing so. These people are people who have hijacked a great religion, distorted its tenets, and they're still out there. And so, therefore, we've got to do a lot here in America to protect our country.

And we're making good progress; we really are. There's a lot of really fine people that are communicating like they've never communicated before, that are sharing information. See, now that we're on alert, now that we know they're there, we're much better about responding. We've got people at all levels of government working overtime to chase down any lead, to make sure that any hint that somebody might do something to us is followed up on.

And that's why I went to Congress, by the way, because this is our priority, to get them to give us a new type of arrangement about how to deal with the new threat of the 21st century. Listen, I promise you I didn't run—

or you know I didn't run on, "Vote for me. I want Government to be bigger." [Laughter] I ran on, "Vote for me. I'll try to make it work better when it's supposed to work." And one way to make it work better is to collect the agencies involved with the homeland security and put them under one Department of Homeland Security, so that we can make the number one priority of the people that are working hard in these agencies the protection of the homeland, so that we can do a better job of protecting our borders.

We've got three agencies on our borders, INS and Customs and Border Patrol, and they've got different cultures and different strategies. And they ought to be working seamlessly, to find out who's coming in our country, what they're bringing in our country, and whether they're leaving the country when they say they're going to be leaving the country.

And yet, if the Senate bill goes through on homeland defense, I won't have the capacity to move the right people in the right place at the right time in order to protect our homeland. We won't have the capacity to make this part of the homeland security work seamlessly. I am not going to accept a bill where the Senate micromanages, where the Senate shows they're more interested in special interest in Washington and not interested in the security of the American people.

But the surest way to secure the homeland, the only way to fully secure our homeland, is to chase the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. They hide in caves and send young kids to their suicidal death. They don't have formations and flotillas. They're resourceful killers, is what they are. And so they're kind of slithering around, hiding, and trying to find a dark corner to get in. And we're shining the light on them.

It's going to take a while, see? This isn't something that's going to end anytime soon. In order to secure freedom we must keep them moving, keep disrupting. And that's why I have submitted a defense bill to the Congress which is the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, because I understand that this isn't going to be a short-term operation. I want to send the signal to our friends and

allies that we're not quitting anytime soon. I want to send the signal to our enemy that you have aroused a compassionate and decent and mighty nation, and we're going to hunt you down.

I also asked for the increase because any time we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

The House passed a defense bill, and the Senate passed a defense bill. But since they're different, they've got to get together and reconcile. And so they need to start meeting today. You see, a lot of times in Washington they like to play politics with the defense bill. They like to hold it up. But I want to remind those who think they can play politics with the defense bill, the American people aren't going to stand for it in a time of war. They need to get the defense bill to my desk as soon as possible, so I can sign it.

And we're making good progress on our war. Sometimes you'll know it, and sometimes you won't. Remember, this is a different kind of war. We're having to adjust to the fact that sometimes we'll catch one of these killers, and everybody will know about it. And sometimes you just won't know about it. [Laughter] That's just the way it is.

Anne was right, we are enforcing the doctrines, however. We're enforcing the doctrines of this first war of the 21st century. One of the doctrines is, if you harbor one of these people you're just as guilty as they are. If you feed a terrorist, harbor a terrorist, hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent citizens on September the 11th. And the Taliban found out what we meant. See, it's important in the world, when you say something, that you do it.

But what was important about that action was not only did we uphold doctrine, but more importantly, we liberated a country. I want you to tell your kids, if they start questioning about the motives of the United States of America, if they start to get concerned about war—and I can understand why they would—you can remind them that this great country went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. And thanks to this Nation, and our friends

and allies, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

That's the way we think as a nation. We think about peace for our children and other people's children, and we think about liberating people, because every life matters to us, see. Everybody counts. When I say every life matters, I'm not talking about just American lives. I mean every life around the globe. We believe in the value of human life here in America. That's what we hold—we hold that dear to our hearts.

I also laid out a doctrine that says, either you're with us or with the enemy—either with us or with them. And a lot of times the actions that you're reading about are taking place because of friends and allies. I'll give you one example. Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, hauled in this guy—or actually, brought the guy to justice who was running the Abu Sayyaf* group which was a group of Al-Qaida-type killers that had kidnapped two Americans called the Burnhams and were holding them hostage. They didn't care about their lives. One guy, the dad, lost his life. But slowly but surely—my point to you is that this coalition of nations, which care for freedom and understand the stakes, are making good progress. We're hauling them in—sometimes they're not as lucky as that—but we're after them, one by one. And we're going to stay after them, one by one, until we win.

There are other challenges facing us. See, my job is to not only chase down those who have hit but to anticipate. We're a battleground. We've never been a battleground before, therefore, the stakes have changed. See, if you're not a battleground, if you don't have to worry about your people getting attacked because of vast oceans protecting you, then you can think one way. But September the 11th changed thought here in America. It should, because now we realize the enemy is willing to take the battle here. And they're resourceful.

One of my jobs is to think ahead and to think—is to cause debate, and I started that yesterday, to encourage the American people to listen to and have a dialog about Iraq. And I meant it when I said that I'm going to con-

sult with Congress. I want there to be an open discussion about the threats that face America. Tomorrow I'm calling leaders in Russia, China, and France to talk about the threats that face us all. I will see Tony Blair on Saturday. I will see Jean Chretien Monday. My point to you is, not only will I consult with Congress and talk to Congress—my administration and I will do so—I will also see many of the leaders of the world and remind them of the facts. The facts are, this is a man who gassed his own people, he's invaded two countries, a person who stifled the international organization time and time again.

I look forward to the debate. I look forward to the American people understanding the threats we face. But one thing is for certain, I'm not going to change my view, and it's this—and my view is, we cannot let the world's worst leaders blackmail America, threaten America, or hurt America with the world's worst weapons.

I believe—I believe—I believe that good is going to come out of the evil done to America, because I know America. I know the strength of our country. I truly believe that we have an opportunity to achieve peace. These killers hit us, and in their hatred they have given us a chance to achieve peace. If we're tough and strong, if we stay focused on how to achieve peace, if we remind the world in clear terms the difference between good and evil and speak clearly about the two, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for America, we can achieve peace for the people of Israel and Palestinians. We can achieve peace. I believe it. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia. No, this enemy, these killers hit America. They, in so doing, created an opportunity to achieve peace.

They hit us at home, and out of that evil will come some incredible good. America is a compassionate country. The irony of the attacks—the irony of the attacks is that America became a more compassionate place. In the face of the evil, thousands of our citizens understood that in order to fight evil they needed to do so by doing some good, that you can fight evil by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourselves, that it's the gathering momentum of

* White House correction.

millions of acts of kindness and compassion which define the true character of America.

And that's happening. You see, the definition of patriotism has changed in America for the better. A patriot is not only somebody who puts their hand on their heart. A patriot is somebody who helps somebody in need. A patriot is somebody who mentors a child. A patriot is somebody who goes to their church or synagogue and mosques and organizes a way to feed those who hunger or house those who need shelter. A patriot is somebody who goes to a shut-in and says, "I love you." A patriot is somebody who knows that somebody can't do everything, but somebody can do something to help America change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And that's happening. No, out of the evil done to America is coming a new culture, a culture which says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make, a culture which stands in stark contrast to, when I first got into politics, when it said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it here in America, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." No, there's a new day here in this country. It's a day in which we understand that there's addiction and hopelessness and despair and that Government can hand out money—and we do a pretty good job of it—but what Government can't do is change people's hearts or put a sense of purpose in people's life. That's done when loving, decent, kind Americans hug a neighbor in need.

So the enemy hit us, and instead of retreating, instead of filing—only filing a lawsuit, we decided not only to get after them, we decided not only to hold them to account, we decided that we're going to love our neighbor, just like we like to be loved ourself. And America will be a better country for it.

On September the 11th, we'll mourn the loss of life. We'll remember what happened to us. And at the same time, I hope our country doubles our effort to make this land the greatest land on the face of the Earth, a hopeful place for every citizen who's fortunate enough to be a citizen.

Thank you for coming. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the Medallion Ballroom at the Seelbach Hilton Louisville. In his remarks, he referred to Representative

Northup's husband, Robert Wood "Woody" Northup; Ellen C. Williams, chairman, Republican Party of Kentucky; Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth District; President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

Remarks to the Community in South Bend, Indiana

September 5, 2002

Listen, thank you all for coming. What a warm welcome. I appreciate this Indiana hospitality. I'm thrilled to be back here again. I wanted to come and talk to you about some of the problems we face and our—this Nation's great character and our ability to overcome anything that stands in our way. See, we're all going to work together to make America a safer place, a stronger place, and as importantly, a better place.

I appreciate John Barnes for introducing me. I appreciate all the good folks who put this event on. I want to thank my fellow citizens for coming out. I particularly want to thank those of you who brought your family members with you. I love to see our Nation's young. I love to be with our children.

I want to thank the mayor, Mayor Luecke of South Bend, Indiana, for greeting me here. I want to thank Mayor Beutter for coming as well. I want to thank Mayor David Miller for being here. I want to thank any local official who has taken time out of your busy day to come and say hello. There's one Member of the Congress who is here today. That's Steve Buyer. I appreciate Buyer being with us.

As you can see, I had some folks meet me out there at this unbelievable airplane that you provide for the President. [*Laughter*] I want to thank our long-time friend Digger Phelps for being here. I appreciate him coming to say hello. And as importantly, I want you to know that if you're a Fighting Irish fan, which I presume some people are, that this great university hired a really good man to be its head coach, Ty Willingham. I appreciate Ty coming over.

And what's interesting about my administration, at least one person in my administration, one of the finest women in America, one of the smartest women in America is my close adviser on foreign policy. That happens to be Condoleezza Rice. She was a former student here at Notre Dame, a former trustee at Stanford. She went and saw Notre Dame's first victory. She's constantly telling me to watch out for the Irish, because she knows Tyrone Willingham.

But anyway, I want to thank you all for coming. We've got some big challenges facing this great Nation. The first challenge is to make sure that there is economic security in America. See, a better America and a stronger America is an America in which people are able to find work. If they're looking for work and can't find work, we've got a problem, and we need to do something about it. Our country was in recession—when I got sworn in, it turns out the first three quarters of my time in Washington was in recession. Secondly, the enemy hit us, which shocked our economy. Thirdly, it turns out we had some people that thought they could cook the books in America, people that were—thought the best way to get ahead was to kind of shade the truth, to mistreat employee and shareholder. And we're dealing with all of them. We're dealing with the latter by passing law that says to those who want to cheat people, there's no easy money in America, just hard time. We're going to find you, and we're going to hold you to account.

We expect high standards. We expect high standards in America. And Democrats and Republicans came together. We passed the most comprehensive corporate reform bill since Franklin D. Roosevelt was the President. It's a good piece of legislation. By the way, it shows what's possible in Washington when we set aside our political parties and focus on what's doing right for the American people.

But our economy got hurt—was hurting and got hurt, but we're recovering. See, the foundations for growth are strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. The worker of the American—the productivity of the American worker is up. The entrepreneurial spirit is

strong. The foundation for growth is solid. It's solid.

One way to make sure that if people want to find work is to do more on the tax front. Let me tell you something about my view of taxes. Here's the textbook I read—and by the way, some in Washington aren't reading this textbook. They're reading another chapter. I believe if you let a person keep their own money, that person is more likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, in our society somebody is more likely to produce it. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax relief we planned came at the right time in American economic history. It was the right thing to do. It was good for small business. America must understand that 70 percent of new jobs are created by small-business people. And when you cut the tax rates like we did, and you understand most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships—in other words, they pay tax at the personal income tax level—what we did was infuse capital into the small-business sector of our society. People are more likely to find work because of the tax relief.

We also did two other things important. One, we mitigated the damage done by the marriage penalty. Our Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. And thirdly, we put the death tax on the way to extinction. The death tax is bad for Indiana farmers. It's bad for Indiana ranchers. It's bad for Indiana small-business owners. It is plain—it's just plain a bad tax.

But here's the problem—here's the problem—because of the Senate rules, all the tax relief that we passed, which both Republicans and Democrats voted for, goes away after 10 years. Now, that's a hard one to explain at the coffee shop there in Crawford. [Laughter] How do you say, on the one hand, you've got tax relief, but on the other hand, you don't. The one hand giveth, the other hand taketh away. It sounds like Washington to me. [Laughter] But those are the Senate rules.

And so here's one way to make sure we continue to have jobs for people, so that people can plan, so that people have certainty

when it comes to their businesses, so jobs will grow, is for Congress to make the tax relief permanent.

There are some who are beginning to make noises that they want to raise the taxes. They want to do away with the tax relief. For the sake of people who want to find work in America, for the sake of job creation, it is important for those voices in Congress to read the same textbook you and I have read, that tax relief is important for job creation.

I'll tell you what else is important for job creation, is to make sure that Congress does not overspend. The problem we have in Washington is, every program sounds like a beauty, sounds like a winner. Every program sounds good. Just the problem is, they all cost billions. What we need to do is set our priorities, the priorities on how to make America safer, stronger, and better and not overspend. It's essential that the United States Congress meet our priorities and hold the line on spending. And one way they can better understand how to do that is understand whose money we're talking about. The money we spend in Washington is not the Government's money. The money we spend in Washington is your money, the people's money.

We need an energy bill in America. An energy bill will be good for job security. It will also be good for national security. We need an energy bill which will encourage conservation, that will help unleash the technology necessary for us to conserve more, the technologies and the research necessary for us to do a better job with renewable sources of energy. But at the same time, we've got to understand technology has changed, and we can explore for energy here at home in safer ways. For the sake of job security and for the sake of national security—and I say “national security” because we must do everything we can to become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. They've been talking about an energy plan for months, and with the short time left before the Congress goes home for the elections, and for the sake of American jobs, they've got to stop talking and get me an energy bill. For the sake of the country, what's best for the country, we need an energy policy.

And we need, by the way, a terrorism insurance policy, too. When the terrorists hit us, they affected the ability of people to be able to get insurance necessary to start construction projects. There are over \$10 billion of construction projects which have been delayed because we can't get terrorism insurance for developers. Congress ought to help. Congress ought to help not for the sake necessarily of the developers but the sake of the over 300,000 hardhats who will be able to find work. If you want to help economic growth, Congress, get me a terrorism insurance bill that is—that recognizes the importance of the hardhat, rewards the hardhats of America, and does not reward the plaintiffs attorneys in this country.

I've got—I'm optimistic about our future, because I'm optimistic about America. I know the resiliency of our country. I know the strengths of our country. And while some hurt now because of the economic slowdown, I'm optimistic about our future. I really am. I feel strong—I feel strongly that there are better days ahead for people who can't find work. The foundation is there, and we'll keep working—we'll keep working.

My biggest job, however, is to protect you, the American people. That's my biggest job now, is to secure the homeland, is to make sure that we're safe, is to make sure our American families are protected. That job still exists, and it's important today because there's still an enemy out there that hates us.

It is really important for all of us to communicate the right message to our children when we talk with these harsh words. But you need to tell your kids that these killers hate America because of what we love. And what we love is we love freedom. We love the fact that freedom can worship an—the freedom to worship an almighty God the way we see fit. We love our freedoms. We hold them dear, and we're willing to defend them. We love freedom to speak. We love freedom to assemble. We love freedom of the press. We love those freedoms.

And the other thing—one of the other things that distinguishes from our enemy is

that we value the worth of each life. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. Each person has worth here in America. And that's not the way the enemy thinks.

See, they've hijacked a great religion, and they don't care about life. They've got their desires, their dark, dark ambitions. And if people get in the way from them, that's just too bad, as far as they're concerned. But the problem—what they've got is, they've got a mighty nation that stands between them and their ambitions. We know they're out there. We know they're out there, and therefore, we're doing everything we can to protect you. We're chasing down every lead, every hint. There's a lot of really good, hardworking people who are working overtime, working long hours to protect the homeland.

One of the reasons I've asked—or the reason I asked for us to create a new Department of Homeland Security is because I want to have all the tools at our disposal necessary to protect you—not just me but future Presidents. And notice I say “future Presidents,” because I believe this struggle is going to be going on for quite awhile, because we're not quitting freedom and they're probably not going to quit hating for a while.

I've asked the Congress to join me in creating this Homeland Department because I want the over 100 agencies involved with your protection to be under one agency. In other words, in order to affect the culture of an agency, in order to set the right priorities, they ought to be under one umbrella. They ought to be working toward the same goal. That doesn't mean they can't do other things, but the number one priority, the most important job that these agencies have is to protect America.

And we're making some progress. I appreciate the way the House voted the bill, but we've got a little problem in the Senate. And here's the problem. I need flexibility in order to make decisions necessary to protect you. I'll give you an example. One of the ways—one of the most important things to secure our homeland is to do a better job on our borders. See, we need to know who is coming in the country. We need to know what they're bringing into the country. We need to know what they're bringing in, and we need to

know if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. That's what we need to know.

And yet when you go down to the border, when you look at our border, there's Customs, and there's INS, and there's Border Patrol, three different uniforms, three different cultures, three different attitudes perhaps. In order to better secure America, the administration, the executive branch of Government needs the capacity to move people to the right place at the right time. The enemy moves quickly; we should be able to move quickly. Yet the bill coming out of the Senate micromanages the process. Listen, there are Senators up there who are more concerned about special interests in Washington and not enough concerned about the security of the American people.

And I'm not going to accept a lousy bill. I'm not going to accept a lousy plan. I insist for the sake of our security that the United States Senate get it right. The best way to secure our homeland and the best way to make sure that our children can grow up in a free world is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war than we're used to. In the old days, they could count tanks and figure out how strong the enemy was, or you could look at airplanes and formations and flotillas. This is a war where we're fighting tough people, smart killers, who hide in dark caves or who kind of slither into shadowy recesses in large cities and parts of the world and then send youngsters to their suicidal death. See, it's a different kind of war, which means we've got to think differently. We've got to be better at intelligence. We've got to uphold that doctrine that says, either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists.

We will be steady. We will be patient. Sometimes you'll see the action in this war, and sometimes you won't see the action in this war. Sometimes you'll know whether we bring one of them to justice; sometimes you won't know whether we bring one of them to justice. *[Laughter]* But you've got to know that we're after justice, that we're steadily, slowly but surely, we are slowly but surely doing everything we can to protect the homeland, slowly but surely finding these people.

Sometimes they think they can outwit us, but they can't outwit a powerful nation that's just on the hunt. Once we get them on the run, we're going to make sure that there's no place for them to light, make sure that other countries understand the consequences of accepting these Al Qaida killers and other terrorists who hate America.

I also laid out another doctrine—and by the way, I think it's very important that when the United States speak, we do what we say, for our credibility and for the sake of peace. I told the world loud and clear, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the killers who came to America.

And one group of folks found out what we meant, the Taliban. I want you to tell your children this, as well, that this great Nation went into Afghanistan—in upholding that doctrine—we went into that country not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. See, every life matters to us. Every life matters. You need to tell your young ones when they think about America and our values, that because of this country and our friends, many young girls went to school for the first time. We freed people from the clutches of a barbaric regime.

I submitted the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President to Congress recently. I did it for two reasons. It's important for you to know why. First, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, our soldiers deserve the best possible pay, the best training, and the best equipment. We owe it to our troops. We owe it to those who are sacrificing for our country, and we owe it to their loved ones. By the way, if you happen to have a son or a daughter or a nephew or niece or a mom or a dad in the military, you tell them, thanks, on behalf of a grateful nation.

I submitted that bill that size because I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul, that there's not a calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date we've got to quit. See, we love freedom. And it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend freedom. We will defend freedom in America. That's what we're made out of. That's the fiber of our country.

That's important for people to understand. If there is a threat to America, we will deal with it in a deliberative, smart way. If we face a threat, we must confront that threat if we want our children—see, there's a new—it's a new attitude around the world. We've got to understand that. The battlefield is now here in America. It used to be the oceans would protect us. But September the 11th taught us a new lesson, and it's a lesson that must—that we must take seriously. We must understand the possibilities of what can happen in the new war of the 21st century.

And that's why I started a dialog yesterday on another threat to America, a dialog about Saddam Hussein. I want to assure you that I want the American people to full understand all the consequences. That's why we're going to have a debate here nationally. That's why there's going to be a lot of discussion. That's why I've asked the Congress to be a part of the deliberations. That's why there will be open hearings. That's why members of—appropriate members of my administration will testify. That's why we'll share information as much as we possibly can with the American people, not only with the American people but with our friends and allies around the world.

I'll be meeting with Prime Minister Blair on Saturday, Prime Minister Chretien on Monday. I'll be talking to President Putin and Premier Jiang and President Chirac tomorrow. I'll be beginning to talk about the need for freedom-loving countries to deal with threats today, before they become incredibly serious tomorrow. See, I believe we owe that to our children.

Some things are certain, however. This is a man who used poisons on his own people. He's invaded two countries—two countries. He's a person who has ignored all admonitions by international organizations. There will be a good debate, but I firmly believe that the world cannot allow the world's worst leaders to hold America blackmail, to threaten America, to threaten our peace and threaten our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They probably thought, you know, America is so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so shallow

and so selfish that after September the 11th, oh, they might file a lawsuit or two, but that's all they would do. No, they don't understand our country, do they? They don't understand the fact that, when we need to be tough, we're plenty tough. And when we need to be compassionate, we've got a huge heart.

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. Out of the evil done to this country—see, the enemy never could predict that. Haters don't—can't see. They can't see beyond their selfishness. But I see something different, and I know many Americans do as well. I see peace. I believe that by being strong and forceful when we need to be strong and forceful, by speaking clearly about good and evil, by leading other peaceful and loving—freedom-loving people in a vast coalition, that we can achieve peace, that we can achieve peace not only for ourselves and for our children, but we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have quit thinking about peace.

We have a chance. The enemy hit us. They awoke a mighty country that not only will defend ourselves but will lead toward a more peaceful tomorrow. I want you to tell your children that when they hear all the talk and all the speculation and all the thousands of hours of so-called experts babbling away about this, that, or the other, that the true policy of this Government is to achieve peace for generations to come.

And at home the enemy hit us, and they have awakened a new spirit in the country. I used to tell people, "If you want to join the war on terror, do some good. If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to be a patriot, serve something greater than yourself."

Today we've got Ricardo Rios with us. He is a AmeriCorps member. Ricardo, give them a wave. I'll tell you about Ricardo. He's decided that he wants to serve something greater than self, so he became a teacher, a sixth grade teacher. He knows what I know—and I want you all to hear this loud and clear—one person can't do everything in society. I know that, but each of us can do something to help change America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

See, that's the great hope here for this country. The enemy has awakened a new spirit of compassion in America. We've got to recognize that in this great country there are pockets of despair; there are pockets of hopelessness; there's addiction. There are people who wonder about the American Dream. And that can be changed. There can be light where there is darkness, particularly when our fellow Americans put their arm around people in need and say, "I love you. What can I do to help? How can I help make your life better?" If you want to join the war on terror, if you want to be a part of the change in America, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, the enemy hit us, and as a result, there are more soldiers in the armies of compassion all across America. The enemy hit us, and as a result, people have taken a step back and have asked, "What's important in our lives?" We've taken an assessment of our worth, an assessment of our future. And as a result of what they have done, I think our culture is changing, a culture that used to say, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else for your problem," to a new day in which each of us understand we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you're a mom or a dad—if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're fortunate enough to be a citizen of South Bend, Indiana, you're responsible for the quality of education. You're responsible for the public school system. You're responsible for making sure that your faith-based groups, if they're looking for help, are joined. You're responsible for helping feed the hungry. It's your responsibility, in order to be an American, to serve something greater than yourself in life.

Perhaps the most vivid example of that came with Flight 93. I want you all to remember. For me, it's one of the most important moments of the change that is taking place in America, the most vivid and sad symbol of them all but, nevertheless, vivid and clear. People are flying across the country on an airplane; at least they thought they were. They learned the plane was going to

be used as a weapon. They got on their telephones. They were told the true story. Many of them told their loved ones goodbye. They said they loved them. They said a prayer; a prayer was said. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground.

It is that spirit, it is that willingness to serve something greater than yourself in life which is a part of this great country's soul and fabric. No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. And out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the greatest people.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:57 p.m. in the ATA Hangar at South Bend Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to John Barnes, vice chairman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Stephen J. Luecke of South Bend; Mayor Robert C. Beutter of Mishawaka, IN; Mayor David Miller of Elkhart, IN; Tyrone Willingham, head football coach, and Richard "Digger" Phelps, former men's basketball coach, University of Notre Dame; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; and President Jacques Chirac of France.

Remarks at a Dinner for Congressional Candidate Chris Chocola in South Bend

September 5, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. And thank you for that kind introduction, "Congressman." [Laughter] I'm proud to come back to my alma mater. Well, that is, my honorary alma mater. [Laughter] I'm proud to come back to support Chris Cacho—Chocola. [Laughter] He's a fine man. You're lucky he's running for Congress. The people of this district need to send him to Washington, DC.

I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate your support of Chris. I want to thank those who organized this dinner. I thank John Hiler, who's campaign chairman. I want to thank Father Scully from one of the greatest universities in America, that is Notre Dame.

I appreciate Doc Bowen. I asked him if he wanted to be called Secretary or Governor. He said, "Governor." I said, "I understand that." [Laughter] Former Congressman Bud Hillis is here. A current Congressman, Steve Buyer, is here, and I appreciate Steve coming. He's been a strong ally in the United States Congress. Brose McVey, who is running for Congress from the Indianapolis area, is with us today. And Brose, thank you for running for Congress, and sure hope you win. I appreciate Jim Kittle, who's the chairman of the party.

But most of all, I appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank you for supporting this good man. I want to thank you for what you have done, but most importantly, I want to thank you for what you're going to do, and that is turn out the vote. We need him in the United States Congress.

Chris Chocola is a man of faith and family. He's got good, solid Indiana values. He married above himself—[laughter]—and so did I. [Laughter] I love the story that's told about Chris sitting there yelling at TV screen on Sunday morning. Sarah finally said, "If you get so agitated at screaming at the TV screen about all the opinions being made, why don't you start talking to voters instead? Why don't you go out and ask for the vote and serve your country?" And thankfully, he said yes. I appreciate a good wife who stands by her husband, who is willing to work to see the best interests of this district are represented in Washington, DC.

I also love the fact that they place high priority on their children. There's nothing more important than having people in Washington, DC, who understand that their most important job is to be a good mom and a good dad. And you've got that in the Chocola family.

I had the honor of shaking some hands a little earlier. And more than one person, Chris, said they wished Laura were here. You drew the short straw. [Laughter] By the way, she's doing great. When I married here, she—we were both raised in Midland, Texas, for starters. And the truth of the matter is, when we met and married, she wasn't very interested in politics and wasn't too keen on politicians. Now she's the First Lady of the United States, and she's doing a fabulous job.

I'm proud of the way she has set an example. I'm proud of her calm demeanor in the face of crisis. I'm proud to call her wife. I love her dearly, and I wish she were here.

I like Chris because not only is he a good, honest fellow, he doesn't need polls to tell him what to believe, doesn't need to run a focus group to figure out what's in his heart, but he's also run a business. I've spent a little time in Washington now, and I can assure you, we need more people in the Nation's Capital who have met a payroll.

See, the entrepreneurial spirit is so incredibly important in America, and we need to—people need—we need people in Washington who understand that spirit. In this case, you've got a person who has helped build a small business to—I guess you'd call it a medium-size business. A lot of people would call it a large business when they understand this business employs over a 1,000 people.

See, what we need in Washington is people who understand the role of Government when it comes to enterprise. And the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which America's producers can flourish. And that starts with creating a tax environment that is hospitable to growth and jobs.

I suspect in this campaign you're going to find a difference of opinion about taxes. I'll give you our opinion. In the midst of slow times, economic times—and we're in slow economic times. As a matter of fact, history will show that the first three quarters of my administration—during the first three quarters of my administration, we were in recession. And it's then that it's best to stimulate economic growth and job creation by letting people keep more of their own money. Here's the difference of opinion in Washington, and you're beginning to hear it creep into the dialog. Some want to get rid of the tax cuts. Some want to raise taxes in the midst of a recession. That's the absolute wrong policy. Some want to raise tax when we've got slow economic times. That's the wrong policy.

The textbook we read from says, if you let a person keep more of their own money, you will enhance the demand for goods and services. And if somebody demands an additional good or service, somebody is going to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. What we're interested in is stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of America, stimulating small-business growth, so people in America can find work.

And one of the issues we're faced with is this—because of a quirk in the law, this tax relief plan that we have passed is going to expire in 10 years. I admit that's kind of hard to explain. That's tough to explain in Crawford, for example, when you tell them, "We'll get you tax cuts, but we're going to take it away from you." The Senate rules have it that after 10 years the tax relief that we passed go away. And that's bad for America. See, it's hard to plan when there's uncertainty in the Tax Code.

There's also some good social policy in the Tax Code. We mitigate the harm of the marriage penalty. We believe that the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. And one of the very important features of this bill, besides rate reduction, which is good for job creation, is that this bill puts the death tax on the road to extinction. The death tax is bad for Indiana farmers. It's bad for Indiana businessowners. It's bad for Indiana, period. And we need a Congressman who is willing to join me to make sure the tax cuts are permanent.

No, the economy is not like it should be. And we've made pretty good progress in Washington. We need people up there who understand the responsibility that comes with running a business. In this country, we expect people to tell the truth. We don't want people cooking the books. We don't want people fudging the numbers in order to try to get ahead. I had the honor of working with both Republicans and Democrats to sign the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. My attitude is, if you cheat the American people, if you cheat the taxpayer, if you cheat your

employees, we're going to hold you accountable. No more easy money in America, just hard time for those who betray the trust.

I appreciate so very much Chris' understanding of the need to make sure that every child—every child in America—gets a good education. There is a debate that rages in America about public schools, and there should be. Here's our attitude: Every child can learn. We believe it's essential to raise standards and raise the bar, to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe it's important to trust the local people to chart the path to excellence for every child. See, we're strong backers of local control of schools. We understand the people who care more about the children of South Bend, Indiana, are the people who live in South Bend, Indiana. And therefore, we should empower them—empower them to make sure that the public education meets the high standards. So local control of schools is a cornerstone of good education policy. We should never federalize education in America.

And thirdly, we believe in holding people accountable. You see, if you believe every child can learn—in other words, if you're willing to set high standards—then you want to know whether or not that's taking place. If you believe every child in America can learn, it's essential that we insist that we measure to determine whether they are learning.

We want to know whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract, and the only way to do that is to insist that States which receive Federal money develop accountability systems so parents and concerned citizens understand exactly that which is taken place. And when we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, as a society we must demand something better, because there is no second-rate children in America. Every child should be educated, and no child should be left behind.

And I hope the Second District sends somebody up to Washington who is strong on national defense, somebody who understands the challenges we face, somebody who is willing to join me in insisting that Congress adequately fund our military. I say that because the most important challenge the next

Congress will have is to join me in protecting our homeland. Economic security is vital, but I believe our economy is going to right itself and grow. The ingredients for growth are there: low interest, low inflation, high productivity amongst our workers, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well and recovering.

The biggest challenge is the homeland security. Our biggest challenge is to make sure that the enemy doesn't hit us again. And they're out there. That's the reality of the world in which we live. The battlefields of the past have shifted. The battlefield can now be here in America, as we learned tragically. And there is still a group of people out there, nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, by the way, that hate America. And they hate us because we love freedom. I want you to tell your kids that the reason there is an enemy that wants to strike America is because this great country, this great land loves freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can speak their mind. We love a free press. We love everything that freedom offers, and we're willing to defend it at all costs. The more we love freedom, the more the enemy hates us. And that's why we've got to protect the homeland.

And there's another interesting characteristic of these people. They don't value human life, and we do. Every life is precious in America. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth, no matter what their status. And the enemy doesn't think that way. And so long as we adhere to those values, and so long as they're running around, we've got a problem here at home. And we're going to deal with it. We're going to deal with it in a way that protects our Constitution. It's a sacred document, as far as I'm concerned. And we're going to do it in an intelligent way.

You need to know there's a lot of fine people working hard to protect America right now. Anytime we get a hint, anytime we get a lead—our antennae, by the way, are much more sensitive now than they were prior to September the 11th, obviously. We're aware of the new battlefield. And so we're moving on these hints and these leads, and we're disrupting, and we're after them here at home.

I went to Congress and asked the Congress to help me protect our homeland by setting

up a Department of Homeland Security. When I first laid out the initiative, some of our folks were a little concerned that I was trying to create big Government. I readily concede my slogan wasn't, "Don't vote for me. I'm for big Government." But I do want our Government to work. I want it to, particularly now that we're threatened. I want it to do what you want it to do, to do everything we can to effectively protect our homeland. So I sent up a comprehensive package to Congress to take all the agencies involved with homeland security—and there's over 100 of them in Washington—and put them under one umbrella, so that we can have the right focus and the right priority in this agency.

To tell you how Washington thinks, however—the House, by the way, responded well, and I want to thank Steve for his vote. But in the Senate, they're debating the issue, and they're trying to micromanage the process. There's a little confusion as to—over who is the executive branch and who is the legislative branch. The legislative branch wants to try to run how we run our operation. And that's unacceptable, and I'll give you an example.

In order to protect America better, we must do a better job of securing our borders. We've got to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and whether they're checking out when they say they're going to leave America. We've got three different agencies on our borders. We've got the INS and the Border Patrol and the Customs agency, all of which have got important duties, none of which do a very good job of working together. They wear different uniforms. They've got different strategies sometimes.

For the sake of homeland security, the Senate must give this President and future Presidents the ability to move people to the right place at the right time in order to disrupt the enemy. They should not micromanage the process. They've got to worry more about the American people and less about the special interest that roams the Hall of the United States Senate.

There's no doubt in my mind Steve would be with us in that spirit. He understands management, and he understands priority.

The reason I say we need people in Congress up there to—who understand the new world we're in and are willing to support our military, is because the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what the United States is going to do.

They hide in caves. See, this is a different kind of war. And part of my responsibilities as your President is to remind people about the realities that we face in America. One of the realities is, is that these people hide in caves. They find the darkest cave they can find, and then they sell—send their youngsters or young folks to their suicidal deaths. They don't have tanks. They don't have munition factories. They've got determination and hatred in their hearts. They've got suicidal killers. And so we've got to run them down, no matter where they are, one by one.

I sent a significant increase in the defense budget up to Congress. It's the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I wanted to send two messages. One, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best equipment, and the best possible training. You need a Congressman from this district who understands that. I also sent a second message to friend and foe alike, and that is, this country will stay the course no matter how long it takes to defend freedom, that we're in this for the long haul, that we understand the stakes and we value our liberty and we're going to defend our country for the sake of our children and our children's children.

And we're making some pretty good progress. Sometimes you see what happens; sometimes you don't. This is one of these kind of wars where things happen, and you just don't know about it. But I bet we have hauled in over a couple of thousand of these people. I say "we"; it's not only ourselves but our friends and allies. And they're still hitched up. They're still anxious to help, because they understand the stakes. Probably a like number weren't as lucky, but we're seeking justice around the world.

It's important for our youngsters to understand this about our country as well—when we say something, we've got to do it. When

we say something, we do what we say. When we told the world that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and we mean it. And Afghanistan and the Taliban found out exactly what the United States of America was talking about.

We went to that country not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. This great Nation liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in history. And now, thanks to America and our friends and allies, young girls go to school for the first time—many young girls go to school for the first time in their lives.

We've got a lot of work to do. Once we get them on the run, we intend to keep them on the run by denying them sanctuary or training or finances or camps. Once we get them moving, we're going to keep them moving until we bring them to justice. And it's going to take awhile, just is. But the price is worth it. I know the nature of the enemy. No matter what it takes, no matter what the cost, we owe it to history, we owe it to our children's freedom to be tough and strong and to pursue the killers.

I started a debate in Washington yesterday that is a very important national debate. It's a debate that we must have. It's a debate about our future and about peace, and it's a debate about Saddam Hussein. I want Congress involved in this debate. Tomorrow morning I'm going to call the leaders of China and Russia and France to talk about how to make the world more peaceful and more secure. I'm going to meet with Prime Minister Blair Saturday night, Prime Minister Chretien on Monday, all aimed at building a consensus and talking about a true threat that faces our country.

There is nothing more threatening than to have weapons of mass destruction in the hands of somebody who hates America and hates freedom. There's doubt in people's mind; I understand that. But there should be no doubt that Saddam Hussein has invaded two countries in recent history. There should be no doubt that he's totally defied the international community. You see, he agreed to disarm, and he's totally defied that—what he agreed to. Where I come from, if you say you're going to do something,

people expect you to do it. I expect him to do it.

There's no doubt that he has killed his own people. He's poisoned his own citizens at times. He has used chemical weapons on others. There's no doubt in my mind that we should allow the world worst leaders to hold America hostage, to threaten our peace, to threaten our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. I'm a patient man. We've got a lot of tools at our disposal. But I'm going to act on this premise, that freedom is precious, and we owe a free society to our children and our children's children.

The enemy struck a great country. You know, they must have ignored reality when they hit us, or they were operating on false premises, such as, this country is so materialistic and selfish, so feeble in our strength, so shallow in our beliefs that after September the 11th we might have filed a lawsuit or two, but that's all we were going to do. But they learned—they learned something about this country. They learned about our character and our fiber and our beliefs. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. They couldn't have possibly realized that, because they didn't understand who they were hitting. Out of the evil they have done to us—a tragic, tragic day in our history, September the 11th—will come peace.

If we stay steadfast and strong, if we're willing to delineate between good and evil, if we're willing to continue to work with others to protect freedom, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for our own citizens, but since we value all human life and everybody matters, we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace.

No, they hit us, but they roused a mighty spirit in this country, and they've given us a chance to seize the moment, to define history, to define our history as a peaceful history. It's going to be some steep climbing for awhile. We've got some high hurdles. But I want you to tell the young ones that the aims of this country, the aims of this great country is to achieve peace.

And here at home, we've got to recognize that in the midst of our wealth and prosperity, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness, people wondering whether or not

the American Dream is meant for them. My attitude is, when one of us suffers, all of us suffers. But I believe we now have a chance to rectify that, to make our country hopeful for every citizen, because I know what the spirit of America is all about, and I know what's taking place in community after community after community. After September the 11th, many of our citizens took a step back to assess that which is important in life. Many of our citizens understand to fight evil, you do so by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself; that it's the collective acts of kindness and goodness that take place in our society on a daily basis that stands strong against the evil done to America and paints the true face of a compassionate country.

I recognize, and I hope you do, that there is a role for Government. And Government can hand out money, and sometimes we do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when a loving citizen puts his or her arm around a despairing American, and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I teach you to read? What is it I can do to make your life more hopeful?"

See, one person can't do everything in America, but one person could do something. And each of us must be that one person doing something to stand tall in the face of evil. And that's what's happening here in America. All across our country there are churches and synagogues and mosques working miracles of change in people's lives. There are people who, on a daily basis in America, feed those who hunger, provide shelter for those who need shelter, teach values to our children.

No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't realize what was going to happen. They didn't realize that we're going to do whatever it takes to defend our freedom. Nor did they realize that this country is going to emerge a stronger and more compassionate land.

The culture of our country—I first ran for Governor, and one of the main reasons why was because I wanted to be a small part of a cultural change in America. I felt it was incredibly important for the future of this country to be a part of a change of a culture

from one which had said, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." My hopes and dreams still exist for a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life."

If you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living in South Bend, Indiana, you're responsible for the quality of education in your neighborhood. You're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. You're responsible for the quality of life around you. If you're running a corporation, you're responsible for telling the truth. This responsibility era is beginning to take place.

There's—an amazing event happened on September the 11th that helps define what I'm talking about. It defines that concept of serving something greater than yourself in life. It was on Flight 93, when some of our fellow citizens were flying across the country. They had heard from cell phones, generally from their loved ones, that the plane that they were on was going to be used as a weapon. And a lot of them on that airplane told their loved ones goodbye. They spoke about love. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they served something greater than themselves in life by taking that plane into the ground.

This country is a fabulous country because of that spirit. You see, there's a new patriotism in America, a new sense of responsibility to something greater than ourselves. There's no doubt in my mind that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, will come peace and a compassionate tomorrow, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the greatest people.

May God bless you all. Thank you for coming. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. at the Century Center. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Otis R. "Doc" Bowen of Indiana; Rev. Timothy R. Scully, executive vice president, University of Notre Dame; Sarah Chocola, wife of candidate Chris Chocola; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Prime Minister Jean

Chretien of Canada. Mr. Chocola is a candidate for Indiana's Second Congressional District.

Statement on the Senate Judiciary Committee Vote on Priscilla Owen

September 5, 2002

The Senate Judiciary Committee today voted to deny the American people the service of an outstanding individual with a record of accomplishment and a brilliant legal mind. The committee has voted down Justice Priscilla Owen, my nominee to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and is preventing the full Senate from voting on her nomination.

I know Justice Owen well. She is an outstanding judge and a woman of integrity who has received outspoken bipartisan support. Based on her distinguished service with the Texas Supreme Court for 7 years, the American Bar Association unanimously rated her "well qualified," the highest rating the organization can bestow upon a nominee. She is known to be a fair and impartial judge who strives to interpret the law fairly.

What the Democrat members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have done to Justice Owen is shameful, even by Washington standards. They have distorted her record and misconstrued her opinions. They have determined that a nominee's experience, academic credentials, and character are inconsequential.

Justice Owen's nomination should be brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If the full Senate were to vote on her nomination today, I am confident she would be confirmed. The Democrats on the Judiciary Committee know this and, therefore, voted to prevent it.

As I have said before, today's vote is about more than one woman or one seat on an individual court. The committee's action today continues its pattern of obstruction at a time when there are too many vacancies in our Federal courts, a problem that the Chief Justice of the United States has called "alarming." Today's action by this small group of Democrat Senators is wrong. It has harmed a good person, harmed our courts, and harmed the American people.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Liechtenstein-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

September 5, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Principality of Liechtenstein on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Vaduz on July 8, 2002. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, and fraud and other white-collar offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; taking the testimony or statements of persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; providing documents, records and items; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets and restitution; initiating criminal proceedings in the Requested State; and any other form of assistance consistent with the purposes of this Treaty and not prohibited by the laws of the State from whom the assistance is requested.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 5, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5763

September 6, 2002

I send greetings to the Jewish community in the United States and around the world as you observe Rosh Hashanah.

As you mark the beginning of the High Holy Days, take time to reflect on the past year. In seeking forgiveness and renewal, may you again appreciate the love and mercy of the Almighty, and look to the year ahead with hope and faith. I encourage you to draw strength from the many examples of courage, sacrifice, and compassion we have witnessed during the last year.

As we face the challenges of a new era, America remains committed to freedom, justice, and opportunity for all people. During this time of examination and remembrance, I join you in looking forward to a future of tolerance and peace.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed holiday spent with family and friends.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 1

In the morning, the President returned from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

September 2

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Neville Island, PA, where he toured the Carpenters' Training Center. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

September 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with Republican Senate leaders to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada in Detroit, MI, on September 9 to discuss border issues and cooperation against terrorism, and other bilateral and international issues.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia to the White House for a meeting and working lunch on September 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dale Cabaniss to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott W. Muller to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Grover Joseph Rees to be Ambassador to East Timor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rafael Cuellar (proprietor of small business representative) and Michael Scott (U.S. Department officer representative) to be members of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Damelin to be Inspector General of the Small Business Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda M. Springer to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Keane to be Ambassador to Paraguay.

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip N. Hogen to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allen I. Olson and Irene B. Brooks to be Commissioners of the International

Joint Commission—United States and Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Museum Services Board: Judith Ann Rapanos; Edwin Joseph Rigaud; Margaret Scarlett; Thomas E. Lorentzen; Peter Marzio; Nancy S. Dwight; Maria Mercedes Guillemard; Peter Hero; Terry L. Maple; David Donath; A. Wilson Greene; Elizabeth J. Pruet; Harry Robinson, Jr.; and Beth Walkup.

September 4

In the morning, the President met with Republican and Democrat Senators to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia.

In the evening, the President visited the home of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in northwest Washington, DC, and later returned to the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis X. Taylor to be Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security and Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation: Madeleine Will (Chair); Claudia Coleman; Brenda Leath; William Lori; Lon Solomon; Karen Staley; James Brett; Kenneth Lohff; Vijayalakshmi Appareddy; Edward Mambruno; Nancy Blanchard; Mary Christine Bruene; Kathleen Hargett; Alvaro Marin; Kim Porter-Hoppe; Gene Stallings, Jr.; Olivia Colvin; Annette Talis; and Windy Smith.

The President announced his designation of S. Eric Benson as Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

September 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Louisville, KY, where, upon his arrival at Louisville International Airport, he met with players and coaches from the 2002 Little League World Series champion Valley Sports American team. Later, in the Broadbent

Arena at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, he participated in a roundtable discussion with small-business leaders.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to South Bend, IN. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard J. Peltz to be Alternate Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne B. Pope to be Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate David N. Greenlee to be Ambassador to Bolivia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robin Renee Sanders to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo.

The President announced his intention to appoint William Brody as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

September 6

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Jacques Chirac of France, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, and President Jiang Zemin of China to discuss the situation in Iraq. He then met with the National Security Council and had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with interfaith leaders as part of the National Days of Prayer and Remembrance established in Proclamation 7588, which was signed August 31. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barosso of Portugal on September 10.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations

to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 3

Irene B. Brooks,
of Pennsylvania, to be a Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, vice Susan Bayh.

Dale Cabaniss,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 29, 2007 (reappointment).

Harold Damelin,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration, vice Phyllis K. Fong.

Philip N. Hogen,
of South Dakota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of 3 years, vice Montie R. Deer, term expired.

Kim R. Holmes,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organizations), vice C. David Welch.

John F. Keane,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Paraguay.

Scott W. Muller,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, vice Robert M. McNamara, Jr., resigned.

Allen I. Olson,
of Minnesota, to be a Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, vice Alice Chamberlin.

Linda M. Springer,
of Pennsylvania, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice Mark W. Everson.

Submitted September 4

Rafael Cuellar,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Co-operative Bank for a term of 3 years, vice Sheila Anne Smith, term expired.

David Donath,
of Vermont, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2004, vice Jeanne R. Ferst, term expired.

Nancy S. Dwight,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2005, vice Ayse Manyas Kenmore, term expired.

A. Wilson Greene,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2004, vice Charles Hummel, term expired.

Maria Mercedes Guillemard,
of Puerto Rico, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2005, vice Lisa A. Hembry, term expired.

Peter Hero,
of California, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006, vice Alice Rae Yelen, term expired.

Thomas E. Lorentzen,
of California, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006, vice Phillip Frost, term expired.

Terry L. Maple,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2005, vice Townsend Wolfe, term expired.

Peter Marzio,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006, vice Ruth Y. Tamura, term expired.

Elizabeth J. Pruet,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2004, vice David A. Ucko, term
expired.

Judith Ann Rapanos,
of Michigan, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2002, vice Kinshasha Holman
Conwill, term expired.

Judith Ann Rapanos,
of Michigan, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2007 (reappointment).

Grover Joseph Rees,
of Louisiana, to be Ambassador Extraor-
dinary and Plenipotentiary of the United
States of America to the Democratic Repub-
lic of East Timor.

Edwin Joseph Rigaud,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Mu-
seum Services Board for a term expiring De-
cember 6, 2002, vice Arthur Rosenblatt, term
expired.

Edwin Joseph Rigaud,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Mu-
seum Services Board for a term expiring De-
cember 6, 2007 (reappointment).

Harry Robinson, Jr.,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2003, vice Alberta Sebolt
George, term expired.

Margaret Scarlett,
of Wyoming, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2007, vice Jerry D. Florence,
term expiring.

Michael Scott,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the
Board of Directors of the National Consumer
Cooperative Bank for a term of 3 years, vice
Ewen W. Wilson.

Francis X. Taylor,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of
State (Diplomatic Security), vice David G.
Carpenter, resigned.

Francis X. Taylor,
of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of
Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of
Ambassador during his tenure of service, vice
David G. Carpenter.

Beth Walkup,
of Arizona, to be a member of the National
Museum Services Board for a term expiring
December 6, 2003, vice Robert G. Breunig,
term expired.

Submitted September 5

David N. Greenlee,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,
to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-
potentiary of the United States of America
to the Republic of Bolivia.

Richard J. Peltz,
of Pennsylvania, to be Alternate Federal Co-
chairman of the Appalachian Regional Com-
mission, vice Ella Wong-Rusinko, resigned.

Anne B. Pope,
of Tennessee, to be Federal Cochairman of
the Appalachian Regional Commission, vice
Jesse L. White, resigned.

Robin Renee Sanders,
of New York, a career member of the Senior
Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be
Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-
potentiary of the United States of America
to the Republic of Congo.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released August 31

Fact sheet: September of Service *

* This item was made available by the Office
of the Press Secretary on August 30 but was em-
bargoed for release until 10:06 a.m. on August
31.

Released September 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Uribe of Colombia To Visit Washington

Released September 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, September 13, 2002

The President's Radio Address

September 7, 2002

Good morning. Next week, our Nation will pause to honor and remember the lives lost on September the 11th. We must also remember a central lesson of the tragedy: Our homeland is vulnerable to attack, and we must do everything in our power to protect it.

We protect our country by relentlessly pursuing terrorists across the Earth, assessing and anticipating our vulnerabilities, and acting quickly to address those vulnerabilities and prevent attacks. America needs a single department of Government dedicated to the task of protecting our people. Right now, responsibilities for homeland security are scattered across dozens of departments in Washington. By ending duplication and overlap, we will spend less on overhead and more on protecting America. And we must give the Department of Homeland Security every tool it needs to succeed.

One essential tool this new Department needs is the flexibility to respond to terrorist threats that can arise or change overnight. The Department of Homeland Security must be able to move people and resources quickly, without being forced to comply with a thick book of bureaucratic rules.

For example, we have three agencies working to safeguard our borders, the INS, the Customs Service, and the Border Patrol. They all have different cultures and different strategies but should be working together in a streamlined effort. Other Federal agencies dealing with national security already have this flexibility, the FBI and the CIA and the new Transportation Security Administration. It seems like, to me, if it's good enough for these agencies, it should be good enough for the new Department of Homeland Security.

In addition, the new Secretary of Homeland Security needs the authority to transfer some funds, limited funds, among Govern-

ment accounts in response to terrorist threats. This requirement is nothing new; such authority is presently available to numerous agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy.

The House of Representatives has passed legislation that would ensure the flexibility and authority needed for the Department of Homeland Security to effectively carry out its mission. The legislation now in the Senate would not. The Senate bill would not allow the new Secretary of Homeland Security to shift resources or streamline functions in response to a terrorist threat without a time-consuming approval process. And the legislation would keep in place a process that can take up to 18 months just to fire an employee.

The Senate bill also provides no transfer authority for the Secretary of Homeland Security. Under the Senate bill, the Secretary would have to ask the President to submit a supplemental budget request to Congress, and then wait for Congress to act every time new terrorist threats presented a need for additional funding. In this war on terror, this is time we simply do not have.

Even worse, the Senate bill would weaken the President's well-established authority to prohibit collective bargaining when a national security interest demands it. Every President since Jimmy Carter has used this authority, and a time of war is not time to limit a President's ability to act in the interest of national security.

Senators need to understand I will not accept a homeland security bill that puts special interests in Washington ahead of the security of the American people. I will not accept a homeland security bill that ties the hands of this administration or future administrations in defending our Nation against terrorist attacks.

America has been engaged in this war for nearly a year, and we've made real progress. Yet more work remains. A new Department of Homeland Security will help us to protect our country, but only if it has the tools to get the job done. I urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass legislation that gives the Department the flexibility and the authority it needs to protect the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:35 a.m. on September 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

September 7, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister back to Camp David. I look forward to spending a good 3 hours talking to our friend about how to keep the peace. This world faces some serious threat—and threats—and we're going to talk about it. We're going to talk about how to promote freedom around the world. We're going to talk about our shared values of—recognizes the worth of every individual.

And I'm looking forward to this time. It's awfully thoughtful of Tony to come over here. It's an important meeting, because he's an important ally, an important friend.

Welcome.

Prime Minister Blair. Thanks.

I'm looking very much forward, obviously, to discussing the issues that are preoccupying us at the moment, with the President. And I thank him for his kind invitation to come here and his welcome.

The point that I would emphasize to you is that the threat from Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, potentially nuclear weapons capa-

bility, that threat is real. We only need to look at the report from the International Atomic Energy Agency this morning showing what has been going on at the former nuclear weapons sites to realize that. And the policy of inaction is not a policy we can responsibly subscribe to. So the purpose of our discussion today is to work out the right strategy for dealing with this, because deal with it we must.

President Bush. AP lady [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what conclusive evidence of any nuclear—new evidence you have of nuclear weapons capabilities of Saddam Hussein?

President Bush. We just heard the Prime Minister talk about the new report. I would remind you that when the inspectors first went into Iraq and were denied—finally denied access, a report came out of the Atomic—the IAEA that they were 6 months away from developing a weapon. I don't know what more evidence we need.

Prime Minister Blair. Absolutely right. And what we—what we know from what has been going on there for a long period of time is not just the chemical, biological weapons capability, but we know that they were trying to develop nuclear weapons capability. And the importance of this morning's report is it yet again shows that there is a real issue that has to be tackled here.

I mean, I was just reading coming over here the catalog of attempts by Iraq to conceal its weapons of mass destruction, not to tell the truth about it over—not just over a period of months but over a period of years. Now, that's why the issue is important. And of course, it's an issue not just for America, not just for Britain; it's an issue for the whole of the international community. But it is an issue we have to deal with. And that's why I say to you that the policy of inaction, doing nothing about it, is not something we can responsibly adhere to.

President Bush. Do you want to call on somebody? You don't have to if you don't want to. [Laughter]

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. A question for the President and the Prime Minister—will you, Mr. President, seek a U.N. resolution prior to any action against Iraq?

And for the Prime Minister, would you sanction any action against Iraq before—without a U.N. resolution?

President Bush. Well, first, I'm going to give a speech next Thursday, and I'd like you to tune in.

Prime Minister Blair. As I said to you, I think at the press conference we gave earlier in the week, this is an issue for the whole of the international community. But the U.N. has got to be the way of dealing with this issue, not the way of avoiding dealing with it. Now, of course, as we showed before in relation to Afghanistan, we want the broadest possible international support, but it's got to be on the basis of actually making sure that the threat that we've outlined is properly adhered to.

Because the point that I would emphasize to you is it's not us—it's not Britain or America that's in breach of United Nations resolutions. It's Saddam Hussein and Iraq. And therefore, this issue is there for the international community to deal with. And we've got to make sure that it is a way of dealing with it.

President Bush. Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Yes.

Q. —what is your actual target in Iraq? Is it weapons of mass destruction or Saddam Hussein? And if the Prime Minister could answer too.

President Bush. Well, as you know, our Government in 1998—action that my administration has embraced—decided that this regime was not going to honor its commitments to get rid of weapons of mass destruction. The Clinton administration supported regime change. Many members of the current United States Senate supported regime change. My administration still supports regime change. There's all kinds of ways to change regimes.

This man is a man who said he was going to get rid of weapons of mass destruction. And for 11 long years, he has not fulfilled his promise. And we're going to talk about what to do about it. We owe it to future generations to deal with this problem, and that's what these discussions are all about.

Final question.

Call on somebody. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Blair. Yes, sure.

President Bush. Yes?

Support for Action Against Iraq

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, do you have any support from any—

President Bush. Pardon me?

Q. Do you have any support from any other countries in the world, apart from Britain? And Mr. Blair too.

President Bush. Yes. A lot of people understand that this man has defied every U.N. resolution—16 U.S. resolutions he's ignored. A lot of people understand he holds weapons of mass destruction. A lot of people understand he has invaded two countries. A lot of people understand he's gassed his own people. A lot of people understand he is unstable. So we've got a lot of support. A lot of people understand the danger.

Prime Minister Blair. Yes, and I can tell you from the discussions I've had with people—of course, there are people asking perfectly reasonable questions about this, but the one thing that no one can deny is that Saddam Hussein is in breach of the United Nations resolutions on weapons of mass destruction—that is, chemical, biological, nuclear weapons—that that poses a threat not just to the region, because there is no way, if those weapons were used, that the threat would simply stay in the region.

People understand that. Now, we've got to make sure that we work out a way forward that, of course, mobilizes the maximum support but does so on the basis of removing a threat that the United Nations itself has determined is a threat to the whole of the world.

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you. Thanks.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Pardon me?

President's Reaction to September 11

Q. Will you take one on 9/11, sir?

President Bush. Yes, go ahead.

Q. Let me ask you, sir, when you asked the American people for support——

President Bush. The only reason why is, he's a fine fellow.

Go ahead.

Q. When you asked the American people for support 2 years ago, there was no way, sir, anyone could have imagined the grim nature of the job you would take on. Had you known then what the job would entail, would you still have asked for it, sir? And would you have had any compunction about——

President Bush. There's no way that I could have possibly known what we were going to have to deal with. I'm a citizen of a country that has had these two vast oceans protecting us. For all these years we were safe. People couldn't come and attack us—so we thought. Of course, Hawaii got attacked, but that's not a part of our mainland. We felt secure here in the country.

There's no way we could have possibly envisioned that the battlefield would change. And it has. And that's why we've got to deal with all the threats. That's why Americans must understand that when a tyrant like Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction, it not only threatens the neighborhood in which he lives—it not only threatens the region—it can threaten the United States of America or Great Britain, for that matter. The battlefield has changed. We are in a new kind of war, and we've got to recognize that.

There's no way I could have possibly predicted that future. I'm honored to be the President. And so long as I am the President, I'm going to work hard to make America safe and the world more peaceful.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:51 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Military
Personnel and Civilians Involved in
the Antinarcotics Campaign in
Colombia**

September 5, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. The report provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere. This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of July 12, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 170 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 228 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during May, June, and July 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 9.

**Remarks on Implementation of the
“Smart Border” Declaration and
Action Plan in Detroit, Michigan**

September 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks. Thank you all. Thank you for joining us today. It's a pleasure to be back in Detroit—just across the river from Windsor—to reaffirm a special relationship, an important relationship, and to address a common challenge. America and Canada face new threats to our security. It's the new reality of the 21st century, and we can't forget that.

And some of those threats must be stopped at our borders. This great and peaceful border must be open to business, must be open to people, and it's got to be closed to terrorists and criminals. And so today we're taking two steps to turn this vision into reality.

I appreciate so very much the Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, for joining us here. He has been a steadfast friend. I really enjoy dealing with him on a personal basis. He's a plain-spoken fellow with a good sense of humor—probably won't go too good up here in Canada, but he'd be a great Texan. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate Tom Ridge joining us. Tom is my adviser for Homeland Security, former Governor of Pennsylvania. I want to thank Tom for working hard with the Deputy Prime Minister John Manley from Canada, who—both these two men work hard to—*[applause]*. The Prime Minister and I, of course, get the credit if it goes well. *[Laughter]* They get the blame if it doesn't. *[Laughter]* The truth of the matter is, they did a lot of the work, and I want to thank both of you men for working hard for what's best for our countries.

I appreciate so very much the members of our congressional delegation who have shown up here, Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Carolyn Kilpatrick. I had a chance to say hello to Congresswoman Kilpatrick's little boy at the airport. *[Laughter]* He's doing a fine job as the mayor of Detroit. I know she's proud of what a fine job he is doing. I want to appreciate very much Congressman John Conyers as well and Sandy Levin and Nick Smith from the—both Republicans and

Democrats who share deep concern about our border and what transpires here. So I thank the Members of Congress for coming today.

I also appreciate so very much our Ambassador from Canada, Paul Cellucci, my close friend, for being here as well. Mr. Ambassador, thank you for coming.

I want to thank Robert Bonner of the Customs, U.S. Customs, for being here, and Rob Wright, who's the Commissioner of Canadian Customs. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate Jim Ziglar so very much, the head of our INS, for being here. He's got a tough job, and he's handling his job in fine fashion. Jim, I want to thank you for your service to the country.

I appreciate very much our friend the Governor from Michigan, John Engler, for introducing me. Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus is with us today. Lieutenant Governor, thanks for coming. And Candice Miller, the Michigan secretary of state, is here as well. And I want to appreciate all the officials for coming.

This bridge right here is a symbol of the close and unique relationship—close and unique relationship—between our two nations. This single bridge carries more trade than any other border crossing on this continent. And that's saying a lot. This is a—this is an active bridge. Thanks to the North American Free Trade Agreement, more than 500,000 people and over a billion dollars worth of goods cross the U.S.-Canadian border every day. The ties of trade and travel and family between America and Canada are closer than ever. And our countries are better for it.

Yet, nearly a year ago, we saw the terrorists, coldblooded killers, using our openness, the openness of our societies against us. We were awakened to threats that can arrive across our borders. We realized, at least in our country, that we had become a battlefield. And we've got to confront those threats. We have no choice but to confront the threats head-on, while we preserve the freedom and the openness of our societies.

We have hard-working inspectors at this border, and I want to thank all the folks who work hard to expedite the traffic here.

I believe my job is to—at least on the American side—is to make sure that you're able to do your jobs more effectively and to figure out how to use technologies and the systems necessary so that you can do your job in a better fashion. You see, we want our inspectors to be able to focus on the greatest risks, not on legitimate trade and travel. We want their time focused on stopping terror, criminality. We've got to recognize that inspections create bottlenecks on both sides of this bridge. That's one of the realities. When you start looking closer, you're going to start creating bottlenecks, and that's not good. It's not good for families that want to be together. It's not good for trade and traffic. And so we've got to reduce the backups, and at the same time strengthen our mutual security.

So today Canada and the United States are launching what we call the FAST, which stands for Free and Secure Trade. The Prime Minister and I got to see the FAST system in operation. It says that American and Canadian companies can register their goods and their trucks and their drivers with their Governments and then border inspectors can review this information up to an hour prior to arrival. Once the agents have determined the safety of each shipment, the trucks can cross in special lanes, using tested technology, technology that the Prime Minister and I just saw. Border inspectors will be able to instantly verify the contents and identify each truck as it pulls up. Stop times will be reduced from a few minutes to seconds, and that's important.

We're also announcing a second initiative for safer and smarter borders that will benefit individual travelers. We're dramatically expanding a program to issue special photo identifications to people who are screened to ensure they are not security threats to either country. These cards entitle people to travel across the border in dedicated lanes, where there will be little or no delay for inspections. We're trying to help people cross the borders as quickly as possible.

This kind of program for simplifying travel for thousands of people who regularly cross the border is now in place in Washington—Washington State and British Columbia. And so, starting today, we're launching the pro-

gram here in Detroit, accepting applications from Americans and Canadians who want to travel across the border in faster fashion.

With these two initiatives, we'll ensure faster movement of legal, low-risk goods and faster travel for people across our borders. And we'll be able to better enhance security. Our inspectors will spend less time inspecting law-abiding citizens and more time inspecting those who may harm us.

We're doing everything we can here in America to protect our homeland. Along with Canada, we've got some of the finest troops in the world hunting down the Al Qaida killers in Afghanistan, hunting them down one at a time, to make sure we can better secure our respective countries.

And at home I've asked our Congress to join with me to set up a Department of Homeland Security so that we can do a better job on our borders, a better job with our first-responders. I do not need a bunch of rules and regulations trying to micromanage the process. I want the ability to be able to look the American people in the eye and say, "I'm doing everything," or "we're doing everything we can to protect you." And so the Senate, the United States Senate must not focus on narrow, special interests, but must focus on the security of the American people.

And so I'm—Mr. Prime Minister, this country is doing everything we can to address a common problem, and you need to know, sir, that we're determined, and we're patient, and we're resolved to win this war against these terrorists, because, like you, we love freedom. We value our freedoms. We want to leave a legacy of freedom behind for our children and our grandchildren.

It's now my honor to welcome to the podium a friend, a strong leader, the Prime Minister of our important neighbor, Jean Chretien.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:41 a.m. outside the U.S. Customs cargo inspection facility next to the Ambassador Bridge. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick of Detroit. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Chretien.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Jean Chretien on Implementation of the “Smart Border” Declaration and Action Plan

September 9, 2002

Nearly one year ago, terrorists launched an attack on our common commitment to freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and an open world economy. The United States and Canada have responded together with the shared determination that has always characterized the partnership between our two great nations.

American and Canadian troops have fought side-by-side to free the Afghan people from Taliban rule, and to destroy the Al-Qaeda terrorist network. Our governments are sharing intelligence and coordinating law enforcement action to address threats to our societies. We have partnered diplomatically, working together at the G-8 Summit in June to secure the commitment of the world's largest economies to increase the security of the global transportation and trading system. Officials from dozens of American and Canadian agencies have worked together with determination and dedication and our citizens have found countless ways to support each other.

When we met on September 24th last year, we resolved to prevent terrorists from undermining the national and economic security of our citizens. We charged Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister John Manley with coordinating our governments' cooperation along the longest, non-militarized border in the world. They recognized the urgent need to enhance security in a way that strengthened the extraordinary trading relationship between our countries and the prosperity that it provides our citizens.

On December 12, 2001 Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley signed “The Smart Border Declaration,” and immediately began implementing an aggressive and sweeping 30-point action plan to build a smart border for the 21st century—a border that is secure and efficient; a border open for business but closed to terrorists.

On June 28, 2002, they reported on the tremendous progress that has already been made in implementing the Smart Border Action Plan. We are on-track to implement many action plan elements over the coming months and years, bringing continuous and steady improvement to the efficiency and security of our shared border. Today, we mark important milestones in two of the programs that are central to building a smart border.

The United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship of any two countries in the world, and more trade flows between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario than through any other border crossing. Today we announce a major step forward in ensuring the secure and efficient flow of goods across the border with the opening of registration for the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program. This revolutionary program partners the United States and Canadian governments with the private sector to ensure a secure supply chain for low-risk goods. FAST will make many cross-border commercial shipments simpler, cheaper, and subject to fewer delays—all while enhancing security. FAST will be open by December 2002 at the following crossings: Blaine/Douglas, Detroit/Windsor, Port Huron/Sarnia, Buffalo/Fort Erie, Lewiston/Queenston, and Champlain/Lacolle.

The closeness of our two societies is evidenced by the fact that over 200 million people cross our shared border every year. In order to allow known travelers to cross the border quickly and easily, the United States and Canada have begun fielding a new program called NEXUS that provides dedicated “fast lanes” for pre-approved, low-risk travelers. NEXUS is already running at four border crossings. Today we are opening the joint NEXUS application center in Detroit. NEXUS will be operational at both Detroit/Windsor and Buffalo/Fort Erie beginning in January of 2003 and will be expanded to all other high-volume crossings between the two countries by the end of 2003. We have also developed a NEXUS-Air program, which we will begin piloting in airports in early 2003.

A secure and efficient border is key to our economic security. We must continue our efforts to involve the private sector as we proceed with modernizing our shared border. To

this end, Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley will work with our key agencies and departments to ensure that they have in place efficient and effective mechanisms for consulting with the private sector. This will be part of an ongoing process of formally involving private sector leaders in our border work.

More work remains, and the United States and Canada reaffirm our commitment to fully realize the smart border vision. Some of the smart border action items will take sustained cooperation, effort and investment. We have directed Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley to continue overseeing implementation of the Smart Border Action Plan, and provide us periodic progress reports. In addition, we have asked that they identify and initiate work in other areas where close cooperation serves our mutual interests, such as biosecurity and science and technology research and development.

Our relationship has never been stronger. We are neighbors who share a common border, but more importantly we are neighbors bound together by common values: freedom, democracy, the rule of law, the inherent dignity and rights of every human being.

We are also neighbors who share a common mission: to protect the security and enhance the prosperity of our citizens. Working together, we will fulfill this mission.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal

September 10, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome Prime Minister Barroso of Portugal to the Oval Office. He's one of the bright young leaders on the international stage. And it's a conversation I've been looking forward to having with Jose.

He comes at a very interesting time. It's a time where the world is discussing the present and the future. Today—tomorrow we'll be reliving a horrible reminder of what is possible in the 21st century; that is, no country is immune from attack.

We will discuss today our mutual desire to fight terror. And I appreciate the Government of Portugal for its strong support in the war against terror. We will also discuss future threats that we face, all of us face, the dire possibilities that outlaw regimes will develop weapons of mass destruction and use them with terrorist organizations or use them on their own against countries which love freedom, countries such as Portugal.

We will discuss our relationship in NATO, and of course, we've got a very important conference coming in NATO about the expansion. I look forward to hearing the Prime Minister's views on that important issue.

So you're here at a perfect time—

Prime Minister Durao Barroso. Thank you.

President Bush. —to discuss important issues. I value his judgment. I look forward to his advice.

Mr. Prime Minister, if you'd like to say a few things.

Prime Minister Durao Barroso. Okay, thank you very much. Let me first of all thank very much Mr. Bush, President Bush, for receiving me here today. I think it is very important the United States of America and President Bush listens to the opinion of close allies, and Portugal is a very close ally of the United States.

I think that it was Winston Churchill that said once that: "The problem with allies is that sometimes they have opinions." [Laughter] And I come here to listen to President Bush, but also—

President Bush. I'm going to listen. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Durao Barroso. —to give you my opinion, very frankly, the opinion of a friend, the opinion of a close ally of the United States, a country that shares the same basic values.

And I think at this very moment, where there are some global threats that have to have a global answer, we should act globally. And that's one of the messages I will convey to President Bush, a personality I admire very much for everything he represents, for the free world, the way he has led this global coalition against terrorism.

And I'm very proud to be today here with you, to convey to you the deep respect of

the Portuguese people—indeed, I would say, of Europe—in all our common endeavors against global terrorism.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks at the Embassy of Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters

September 10, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you for coming. I just—please, be seated. I had the opportunity of meeting with distinguished members of the Arab American and Muslim American communities, and I want to thank you all so very much for coming to share with me your thoughts.

Like all Americans, they're proud of our country; they're proud of our military; they're proud of our allies for working together to free Afghanistan. They will never forget the joy of the Afghan people who were liberated. They appreciate the fact that we work in concert to destroy terrorist training camps in Afghanistan so that those terrorists might not hurt others. They wanted to come with me to show their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and to show that America has a vibrant and important and dynamic Muslim faith tradition.

I appreciate so very much Ziad, the president of the American Arab Anti-Defamation League for being here.

Mr. Ambassador, thank you and your sweet wife for having us here. The Ambassador has a fabulous story. He's an American citizen, renounced his citizenship in order to become the Ambassador of Afghanistan, to serve this Nation. I appreciate that, appreciate your leadership.

I want to thank Andrew Natsios, who is with us today, who is doing a fine job of helping people in need around the world. I want to thank—where's Zal? There he is. Zal, thanks for coming. Zal Khalilzad is a member of the National Security Council and very much involved with our efforts to help Afghanistan.

It's important for our fellow Americans to understand that Americans of Muslim faith share the same grief that we all share from what happened to our country, that they're just as proud of America as I am proud of America, that they love our country as much as I love our country.

They share my profound belief that no American should be judged by appearance, by ethnic background, or by religious faith. I believe that strongly, and so do they.

Bigotry is not a part of our soul. It's not going to be a part of our future. Sure, there may be some, but that's not the American way, and we must reject bigotry of all kinds in this great land. In order for us to reject the evil done to America on September the 11th, we must reject bigotry in all its forms.

George Washington says, "America gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." And that is true today. We treasure our friendship with Muslims and Arabs around the world. One year ago, the people of Afghanistan lived under oppression. Their country was a haven for terror. Today, they're an emergency democracy—an emerging democracy and building a better future. And we are proud to continue to stand by them and to stand with them.

Americans are helping the people of Afghanistan in their time of hardship and need, and we will continue to do so. The United States has committed more than \$700 million in aid to Afghanistan for food and seeds and roads and bridges, water and sanitation systems. I was most proud of the fact that American children from all walks of life contributed to the America's Fund for Afghan Children. It was such a strong statement, of children uniting to help people in need.

All Americans must recognize that the face of terror is not the true faith—face of Islam. Islam is a faith that brings comfort to a billion people around the world. It's a faith that has made brothers and sisters of every race. It's a faith based upon love, not hate.

As we mourn tomorrow, we must remember that our enemy is a radical network of terrorists, not a religion; that governments which support them are our enemies, not faithful Muslims who love their families, who

yearn for a more peaceful and safe world for their children.

Tomorrow Americans of all faiths will come together in a spirit of unity and remembrance and resolve. I call on every American to uphold the values of America and remember why many have come here. In our war against terror, we must never lose sight of the values that makes our country so strong, the values of respect and tolerance. The value that we believe that everybody ought to worship the Almighty, however they so choose.

Mr. Ambassador, thank you for letting me come by on the eve of this important day for our country. I'm honored to be here at your Embassy.

Ambassador Shahryar. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. May God bless you, may God bless Afghanistan. May God continue to bless America.

I'll answer a few questions. Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Homeland Security Alert

Q. Yes, Mr. President, with this increased threat level, can you say what your level of concern is that Americans will be attacked again? And what is your advice to Americans in this time?

The President. Well, we are—we take every threat seriously. The threats that we have heard recently remind us of the pattern of threats we heard prior to September the 11th. We have no specific threat to America, but we're taking everything seriously, obviously. And so, therefore, we have gone to a different level of concern, a different threat level, which means our Government will be providing extra security at key facilities and that we'll be increasing surveillance.

We'll do everything we can to protect the American people. And Americans need to go about their lives. They just need to know that their Government, at the Federal and State and local level, will be on an extra level of alert to protect us.

Heidi [Heidi Przybyla, Bloomberg]. You haven't asked a question in a while.

President's Upcoming United Nations Address

Q. Thank you. I appreciate it. What do you think of French President Chirac's idea to give Hussein a 3-week deadline to comply with weapons inspections or face—

The President. I think—Heidi, I think it's important that, so that you will pay attention to my speech on Thursday, that I reserve judgment about what may or may not be in my speech. [Applause] Even got applause—you finally got a question and applause. [Laughter]

I do—I'll have something to say, obviously, and I look forward to speaking to that international body about—about how best we can work together to keep the peace, how best to make the world a more peaceful place. And so I hope you understand that I'll not reveal my speech ahead of time. I know that many are trying to find out what it is, and that's your job. But my job is not to answer you. [Laughter]

Katie, [Katie Textor] ABC.

Q. Sir, if you decide on a military solution to Saddam Hussein, have you resigned to go through the U.N. Security Council? Or are you determined to go it alone?

The President. Katie, thank you for asking me about what's going to be in my speech tomorrow. [Laughter]

Let me get to the U.N. and give what is an important speech for me. I'll make the case of how I think we ought to proceed, on how we work together to keep the peace.

I'm going to the United Nations to give this speech for a reason—because I believe this is an international problem and that we must work together to deal with the problem. And I am also very mindful of my job as the American President to do everything we can to protect the American people from future attack.

And I'm deeply concerned about a leader who has ignored all—who ignored the United Nations for all these years, has refused to conform to resolution after resolution after resolution, who has weapons of mass destruction. And the battlefield has now shifted to America, so there's a different dynamic than we've ever faced before. And I take these threats seriously. The thing I take most seriously is my job to protect innocent

life here on the homeland, and I will respond to this threat starting Thursday. And I look forward to the chance to do so.

In the meantime, tomorrow is going to be a hard day for a lot of Americans. It's going to be a day of tears and a day of prayer and a day of national resolve. It also needs to be a day in which we confirm the values which make us unique and great. And that's one of the reasons I came here today, to be with friends to assure all Americans that we will embrace those values.

So thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. outside the Embassy. In his remarks, he referred to Ziad Asali, president, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Ishaq Shahryar, and his wife, Hafizah. A reporter referred to President Jacques Chirac of France and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia September 11, 2002

One year ago, men and women and children were killed here because they were Americans and because this place is a symbol to the world of our country's might and resolve. Today we remember each life. We rededicate this proud symbol, and we renew our commitment to win the war that began here.

The terrorists chose this target hoping to demoralize our country. They failed. Within minutes, brave men and women were rescuing their comrades. Within hours, in this building, the planning began for a military response. Within weeks, commands went forth from this place that would clear terrorist camps and caves and liberate a nation. And within one year, this great building has been made whole once again.

Many civilian and military personnel have now returned to offices they occupied before the attack. The Pentagon is a working building, not a memorial. Yet, the memories of a great tragedy linger here. And for all who knew loss here, life is not the same.

The 184 whose lives were taken in this place—veterans and recruits, soldiers and civilians, husbands and wives, parents and chil-

dren—left behind family and friends whose loss cannot be weighed. The murder of innocence cannot be explained, only endured. And though they died in tragedy, they did not die in vain.

Their loss has moved a nation to action, in a cause to defend other innocent lives across the world. This war is waged on many fronts. We've captured more than 2,000 terrorists; a larger number of killers have met their end in combat. We've seized millions in terrorist assets. We're reorganizing the Federal Government to protect the homeland. Yet, there's a great deal left to do. And the greatest tasks and the greatest dangers will fall to the Armed Forces of the United States.

I came to the Presidency with respect for all who wear America's uniform. Every day as your Commander in Chief, my respect and that of our Nation has deepened. I have great confidence in every man and woman who wears the uniform of the United States of America. I am proud of all who have fought on my orders, and this Nation honors all who died in our cause.

Wherever our military is sent in the world, you bring hope and justice and promise of a better day. You are worthy of the traditions you represent, the uniform you wear, the ideals you serve. America is counting on you, and our confidence is well placed.

What happened to our Nation on a September day set in motion the first great struggle of a new century. The enemies who struck us are determined, and they are resourceful. They will not be stopped by a sense of decency or a hint of conscience, but they will be stopped.

A greater force is amassed against them. They are opposed by freedom-loving people in many lands. They are opposed by our allies who have fought bravely by our side. And as long as terrorists and dictators plot against our lives and our liberty, they will be opposed by the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines.

We fight as Americans have always fought, not just for ourselves but for the security of our friends and for peace in the world. We

fight for the dignity of life against fanatics who feel no shame in murder. We fight to protect the innocent, so that the lawless and the merciless will not inherit the earth.

At every turn of this war, we will always remember how it began, and who fell first—the thousands who went to work, boarded a plane, or reported to their posts.

Today the Nation pays our respects to them. Here and in Pennsylvania and in New York, we honor each name and each life. We ask God to bring comfort to every home where they are loved and missed. And on this day and on every day, may He watch over the United States of America.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 a.m. at the September 11, 2001, crash site. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Address to the Nation on the Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11 From Ellis Island, New York

September 11, 2002

Good evening. A long year has passed since enemies attacked our country. We've seen the images so many times, they are seared on our souls, and remembering the horror, reliving the anguish, re-imagining the terror is hard and painful.

For those who lost loved ones, it's been a year of sorrow, of empty places, of newborn children who will never know their fathers here on Earth. For members of our military, it's been a year of sacrifice and service far from home. For all Americans, it has been a year of adjustment, of coming to terms with the difficult knowledge that our Nation has determined enemies and that we are not invulnerable to their attacks.

Yet, in the events that have challenged us, we have also seen the character that will deliver us. We have seen the greatness of America in airline passengers who defied their hijackers and ran a plane into the ground to spare the lives of others. We've seen the greatness of America in rescuers who rushed up flights of stairs toward peril. And we continue to see the greatness of America in the

care and compassion our citizens show to each other.

September the 11th, 2001, will always be a fixed point in the life of America. The loss of so many lives left us to examine our own. Each of us was reminded that we are here only for a time, and these counted days should be filled with things that last and matter: Love for our families, love for our neighbors, and for our country; gratitude for life and to the Giver of life.

We resolved a year ago to honor every last person lost. We owe them remembrance, and we owe them more. We owe them and their children and our own, the most enduring monument we can build, a world of liberty and security made possible by the way America leads and by the way Americans lead our lives.

The attack on our Nation was also attack on the ideals that make us a nation. Our deepest national conviction is that every life is precious, because every life is the gift of a Creator who intended us to live in liberty and equality. More than anything else, this separates us from the enemy we fight. We value every life. Our enemies value none, not even the innocent, not even their own. And we seek the freedom and opportunity that give meaning and value to life.

There is a line in our time and in every time between those who believe that all men are created equal and those who believe that some men and women and children are expendable in the pursuit of power. There is a line in our time and in every time between the defenders of human liberty and those who seek to master the minds and souls of others. Our generation has now heard history's call, and we will answer it.

America has entered a great struggle that tests our strength and, even more, our resolve. Our Nation is patient and steadfast. We continue to pursue the terrorists in cities and camps and caves across the Earth. We are joined by a great coalition of nations to rid the world of terror. And we will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilization with weapons of mass murder. Now and in the future, Americans will live as free people, not in fear and never at the mercy of any foreign plot or power.

This Nation has defeated tyrants and liberated death camps, raised this lamp of liberty to every captive land. We have no intention of ignoring or appeasing history's latest gang of fanatics trying to murder their way to power. They are discovering, as others before them, the resolve of a great country and a great democracy. In the ruins of two towers, under a flag unfurled at the Pentagon, at the funerals of the lost, we have made a sacred promise to ourselves and to the world: We will not relent until justice is done and our Nation is secure. What our enemies have begun, we will finish.

I believe there is a reason that history has matched this Nation with this time. America strives to be tolerant and just. We respect the faith of Islam, even as we fight those whose actions defile that faith. We fight not to impose our will but to defend ourselves and extend the blessings of freedom.

We cannot know all that lies ahead. Yet, we do know that God has placed us together in this moment, to grieve together, to stand together, to serve each other and our country. And the duty we have been given, defending America and our freedom, is also a privilege we share. We're prepared for this journey. And our prayer tonight is that God will see us through and keep us worthy.

Tomorrow is September the 12th. A milestone is passed, and a mission goes on. Be confident. Our country is strong, and our cause is even larger than our country. Ours is the cause of human dignity, freedom guided by conscience and guarded by peace. This ideal of America is the hope of all mankind. That hope drew millions to this harbor. That hope still lights our way. And the light shines in the darkness. And the darkness will not overcome it.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:01 p.m. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Address to the United Nations
General Assembly in New York City
September 12, 2002**

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentle-

men: We meet one year and one day after a terrorist attack brought grief to my country and brought grief to many citizens of our world. Yesterday we remembered the innocent lives taken that terrible morning. Today we turn to the urgent duty of protecting other lives, without illusion and without fear.

We've accomplished much in the last year in Afghanistan and beyond. We have much yet to do in Afghanistan and beyond. Many nations represented here have joined in the fight against global terror, and the people of the United States are grateful.

The United Nations was born in the hope that survived a world war, the hope of a world moving toward justice, escaping old patterns of conflict and fear. The founding members resolved that the peace of the world must never again be destroyed by the will and wickedness of any man. We created a United Nations Security Council so that, unlike the League of Nations, our deliberations would be more than talk, our resolutions would be more than wishes. After generations of deceitful dictators and broken treaties and squandered lives, we dedicated ourselves to standards of human dignity shared by all and to a system of security defended by all.

Today, these standards and this security are challenged. Our commitment to human dignity is challenged by persistent poverty and raging disease. The suffering is great, and our responsibilities are clear. The United States is joining with the world to supply aid where it reaches people and lifts up lives, to extend trade and the prosperity it brings, and to bring medical care where it is desperately needed.

As a symbol of our commitment to human dignity, the United States will return to UNESCO. This organization has been reformed, and America will participate fully in its mission to advance human rights and tolerance and learning.

Our common security is challenged by regional conflicts—ethnic and religious strife that is ancient but not inevitable. In the Middle East, there can be no peace for either side without freedom for both sides. America stands committed to an independent and democratic Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. Like all other people, Palestinians deserve a government

that serves their interests and listens to their voices. My Nation will continue to encourage all parties to step up to their responsibilities as we seek a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict.

Above all, our principles and our security are challenged today by outlaw groups and regimes that accept no law of morality and have no limit to their violent ambitions. In the attacks on America a year ago, we saw the destructive intentions of our enemies. This threat hides within many nations, including my own. In cells and camps, terrorists are plotting further destruction and building new bases for their war against civilization. And our greatest fear is that terrorists will find a shortcut to their mad ambitions when an outlaw regime supplies them with the technologies to kill on a massive scale.

In one place—in one regime—we find all these dangers in their most lethal and aggressive forms, exactly the kind of aggressive threat the United Nations was born to confront.

Twelve years ago, Iraq invaded Kuwait without provocation, and the regime's forces were poised to continue their march to seize other countries and their resources. Had Saddam Hussein been appeased instead of stopped, he would have endangered the peace and stability of the world. Yet this aggression was stopped by the might of coalition forces and the will of the United Nations.

To suspend hostilities, to spare himself, Iraq's dictator accepted a series of commitments. The terms were clear to him and to all, and he agreed to prove he is complying with every one of those obligations. He has proven instead only his contempt for the United Nations and for all his pledges. By breaking every pledge, by his deceptions, and by his cruelties, Saddam Hussein has made the case against himself.

In 1991, Security Council Resolution 688 demanded that the Iraqi regime cease at once the repression of its own people, including the systematic repression of minorities, which the Council said threatened international peace and security in the region. This demand goes ignored.

Last year, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights found that Iraq continues to

commit extremely grave violations of human rights and that the regime's repression is all pervasive. Tens of thousands of political opponents and ordinary citizens have been subjected to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, summary execution, and torture by beating and burning, electric shock, starvation, mutilation, and rape. Wives are tortured in front of their husbands, children in the presence of their parents, and all of these horrors concealed from the world by the apparatus of a totalitarian state.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council, through Resolutions 686 and 687, demanded that Iraq return all prisoners from Kuwait and other lands. Iraq's regime agreed. It broke this promise. Last year, the Secretary-General's high-level coordinator for this issue reported that Kuwaiti, Saudi, Indian, Syrian, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Bahraini, and Omani nationals remain unaccounted for—more than 600 people. One American pilot is among them.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council, through Resolution 687, demanded that Iraq renounce all involvement with terrorism and permit no terrorist organizations to operate in Iraq. Iraq's regime agreed. It broke this promise. In violation of Security Council Resolution 1373, Iraq continues to shelter and support terrorist organizations that direct violence against Iran, Israel, and Western governments. Iraqi dissidents abroad are targeted for murder. In 1993, Iraq attempted to assassinate the Amir of Kuwait and a former American President. Iraq's Government openly praised the attacks of September the 11th, and Al Qaida terrorists escaped from Afghanistan and are known to be in Iraq.

In 1991, the Iraqi regime agreed to destroy and stop developing all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles and to prove to the world it has done so by complying with rigorous inspections. Iraq has broken every aspect of this fundamental pledge.

From 1991 to 1995, the Iraqi regime said it had no biological weapons. After a senior official in its weapons program defected and exposed this lie, the regime admitted to producing tens of thousands of liters of anthrax and other deadly biological agents for use

with Scud warheads, aerial bombs, and aircraft spray tanks. U.N. inspectors believe Iraq has produced 2 to 4 times the amount of biological agents it declared and has failed to account for more than three metric tons of material that could be used to produce biological weapons. Right now, Iraq is expanding and improving facilities that were used for the production of biological weapons. United Nations' inspections also revealed that Iraq likely maintains stockpiles of VX, mustard, and other chemical agents, and that the regime is rebuilding and expanding facilities capable of producing chemical weapons.

And in 1995, after 4 years of deception, Iraq finally admitted it had a crash nuclear weapons program prior to the Gulf war. We know now, were it not for that war, the regime in Iraq would likely have possessed a nuclear weapon no later than 1993.

Today, Iraq continues to withhold important information about its nuclear program, weapons design, procurement logs, experiment data, an accounting of nuclear materials, and documentation of foreign assistance. Iraq employs capable nuclear scientists and technicians. It retains physical infrastructure needed to build a nuclear weapon. Iraq has made several attempts to buy high-strength aluminum tubes used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon. Should Iraq acquire fissile material, it would be able to build a nuclear weapon within a year. And Iraq's state-controlled media has reported numerous meetings between Saddam Hussein and his nuclear scientists, leaving little doubt about his continued appetite for these weapons.

Iraq also possesses a force of Scud-type missiles with ranges beyond the 150 kilometers permitted by the U.N. Work at testing and production facilities shows that Iraq is building more long-range missiles that it can inflict mass death throughout the region.

In 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the world imposed economic sanctions on Iraq. Those sanctions were maintained after the war to compel the regime's compliance with Security Council resolutions. In time, Iraq was allowed to use oil revenues to buy food. Saddam Hussein has subverted this program, working around the sanctions to

buy missile technology and military materials. He blames the suffering of Iraq's people on the United Nations, even as he uses his oil wealth to build lavish palaces for himself and to buy arms for his country. By refusing to comply with his own agreements, he bears full guilt for the hunger and misery of innocent Iraqi citizens.

In 1991, Iraq promised U.N. inspectors immediate and unrestricted access to verify Iraq's commitment to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles. Iraq broke this promise, spending 7 years deceiving, evading, and harassing U.N. inspectors before ceasing cooperation entirely. Just months after the 1991 ceasefire, the Security Council twice renewed its demand that the Iraqi regime cooperate fully with inspectors, condemning Iraq's serious violations of its obligations. The Security Council again renewed that demand in 1994 and twice more in 1996, deploring Iraq's clear violations of its obligations. The Security Council renewed its demand three more times in 1997, citing flagrant violations, and three more times in 1998, calling Iraq's behavior totally unacceptable. And in 1999, the demand was renewed yet again.

As we meet today, it's been almost 4 years since the last U.N. inspectors set foot in Iraq, 4 years for the Iraqi regime to plan and to build and to test behind the cloak of secrecy.

We know that Saddam Hussein pursued weapons of mass murder even when inspectors were in his country. Are we to assume that he stopped when they left? The history, the logic, and the facts lead to one conclusion: Saddam Hussein's regime is a grave and gathering danger. To suggest otherwise is to hope against the evidence. To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble. And this is a risk we must not take.

Delegates to the General Assembly, we have been more than patient. We've tried sanctions. We've tried the carrot of oil for food and the stick of coalition military strikes. But Saddam Hussein has defied all these efforts and continues to develop weapons of mass destruction. The first time we may be completely certain he has a—nuclear weapons is when, God forbids, he uses one. We owe it to all our citizens to do everything

in our power to prevent that day from coming.

The conduct of the Iraqi regime is a threat to the authority of the United Nations and a threat to peace. Iraq has answered a decade of U.N. demands with a decade of defiance. All the world now faces a test and the United Nations a difficult and defining moment. Are Security Council resolutions to be honored and enforced or cast aside without consequence? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding, or will it be irrelevant?

The United States helped found the United Nations. We want the United Nations to be effective and respectful and successful. We want the resolutions of the world's most important multilateral body to be enforced. And right now those resolutions are being unilaterally subverted by the Iraqi regime. Our partnership of nations can meet the test before us by making clear what we now expect of the Iraqi regime.

If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately and unconditionally forswear, disclose, and remove or destroy all weapons of mass destruction, long-range missiles, and all related material.

If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately end all support for terrorism and act to suppress it, as all states are required to do by U.N. Security Council resolutions.

If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will cease persecution of its civilian population, including Shi'a, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkomans, and others, again as required by Security Council resolutions.

If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will release or account for all Gulf war personnel whose fate is still unknown. It will return the remains of any who are deceased, return stolen property, accept liability for losses resulting from the invasion of Kuwait, and fully cooperate with international efforts to resolve these issues, as required by Security Council resolutions.

If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately end all illicit trade outside the oil-for-food program. It will accept U.N. administration of funds from that program, to ensure that the money is used fairly and promptly for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

If all these steps are taken, it will signal a new openness and accountability in Iraq. And it could open the prospect of the United Nations helping to build a government that represents all Iraqis, a government based on respect for human rights, economic liberty, and internationally supervised elections.

The United States has no quarrel with the Iraqi people. They've suffered too long in silent captivity. Liberty for the Iraqi people is a great moral cause and a great strategic goal. The people of Iraq deserve it; the security of all nations requires it. Free societies do not intimidate through cruelty and conquest, and open societies do not threaten the world with mass murder. The United States supports political and economic liberty in a unified Iraq.

We can harbor no illusions, and that's important today to remember. Saddam Hussein attacked Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990. He's fired ballistic missiles at Iran and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Israel. His regime once ordered the killing of every person between the ages of 15 and 70 in certain Kurdish villages in northern Iraq. He has gassed many Iranians and 40 Iraqi villages.

My Nation will work with the U.N. Security Council to meet our common challenge. If Iraq's regime defies us again, the world must move deliberately, decisively to hold Iraq to account. We will work with the U.N. Security Council for the necessary resolutions. But the purposes of the United States should not be doubted. The Security Council resolutions will be enforced, the just demands of peace and security will be met, or action will be unavoidable. And a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power.

Events can turn in one of two ways: If we fail to act in the face of danger, the people of Iraq will continue to live in brutal submission; the regime will have new power to bully and dominate and conquer its neighbors, condemning the Middle East to more years of bloodshed and fear; the regime will remain unstable—the region will remain unstable, with little hope of freedom, and isolated from the progress of our times. With every step the Iraqi regime takes toward gaining and deploying the most terrible weapons, our own options to confront that regime will narrow. And if an emboldened regime were to

supply these weapons to terrorist allies, then the attacks of September the 11th would be a prelude to far greater horrors.

If we meet our responsibilities, if we overcome this danger, we can arrive at a very different future. The people of Iraq can shake off their captivity. They can one day join a democratic Afghanistan and a democratic Palestine, inspiring reforms throughout the Muslim world. These nations can show by their example that honest government and respect for women and the great Islamic tradition of learning can triumph in the Middle East and beyond. And we will show that the promise of the United Nations can be fulfilled in our time.

Neither of these outcomes is certain. Both have been set before us. We must choose between a world of fear and a world of progress. We cannot stand by and do nothing while dangers gather. We must stand up for our security and for the permanent rights and the hopes of mankind. By heritage and by choice, the United States of America will make that stand. And delegates to the United Nations, you have the power to make that stand as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:39 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Kavan of the United Nations; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Yuli Vorontsov, High-Level Coordinator for the Return of Missing Property and Missing Persons from Iraq to Kuwait; missing American pilot Lt. Comdr. Michael S. Speicher, USN; former President George Bush; and Amir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan in New York City September 12, 2002

President Bush. Mr. President, it's great to see you again. Thank you for your leadership.

Our Government believes you're doing a really fine job of setting a vision for the Afghan people and leading towards that vision,

that you love freedom and that you are working hard to make your country more secure. And we appreciate your leadership. We also appreciate your understanding that jobs are important for your country. And today I had the honor of informing President Karzai that the United States, along with Saudi Arabia and Japan, will be providing \$180 million for road improvement projects in Afghanistan. We'll help develop a modern infrastructure so that the Afghan entrepreneur will be able to move product from one city to the next and so that people will be able to find work; people will be able to put food on the table.

Our commitment to a stable and free and peaceful Afghanistan is a long-term commitment, Mr. President, and we're confident in your leadership. And I want to thank you again. It's good to see you again.

President Hamid Karzai. Thank you. Good to see you.

Well, Mr. President, I'm very happy to be meeting with you again, after the meeting in January. We are, as before, very, very grateful for the help the United States of America gave to Afghanistan to liberate itself from the scourge, from the occupation of terrorism that murdered and killed and destroyed our country for so many years, that brought about the disaster in New York and your own country. The Afghan people continue to share that pain with you. And I came here earlier than the General Assembly to participate, to mourn that date. And we've had a commemoration of that in Kabul as well, yesterday.

The Afghan people know the help that you have given to us, and the Afghan people will know the announcement that you've just made. They'll be very happy. Mr. President, I assure you that you will find the Afghan people as your very best partners in the fight against terrorism. And as your very best partners wherever you bring justice in this part of the world, we'll be with you. The Afghan people, as you rightly say, would like to have some bread on their table, and they would also like to, in some time, to make that bread themselves, to earn it themselves.

So the help that you are giving us to have our highways, to have other infrastructure correct in the country is a step in the right

direction towards self-reliance in Afghanistan. And I must thank you very much once again.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. at the United States Mission at the United Nations Headquarters. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Joint Statement on Road Construction in Afghanistan by the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia
September 12, 2002

Since the horrific events of September 11, 2001, the Governments of the United States, Japan, and Saudi Arabia have worked together both on ridding the world of the scourge of terrorism and, following the success of Operation Enduring Freedom, supporting Afghanistan's Transitional Administration, led by President Hamid Karzai. With Japan, our joint work on this endeavor grows from the close bilateral relationship that has long existed between our peoples and our governments as reflected in the U.S.-Japan Partnership for Security and Prosperity, based on our shared values, mutual trust and friendship, reaffirmed at Camp David in June 2001. Similarly, the United States and Saudi Arabia have built a strong bilateral relationship over the past 60 years based on mutual trust and respect and a common vision of a just, peaceful, and prosperous world.

In November 2001, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Japan foresaw the need for the community of nations effectively to plan how to provide humanitarian relief and reconstruction for Afghanistan as the Taliban fell from power. This culminated in the Tokyo Pledging Conference in January 2002, which yielded 4.5 billion dollars in pledges to finance Afghanistan's humanitarian and reconstruction needs over the next five years.

Our governments have acted as leaders in the international community to address the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, including

repatriation and resettlement of refugees and the internally displaced.

While these challenges continue, it is now time for the international community to take strong, visible steps to begin Afghanistan's physical reconstruction. Traditionally, Afghanistan's key unifying transportation artery has been the road connecting Kabul in the east to Herat in the west. This is the key link in Afghanistan's "ring road" which also connects its northern provinces with the capital.

To launch the reconstruction of this key transportation network, which now lies in ruins, the United States, Japan, and Saudi Arabia are committing today to reconstruct the road from Kabul, through Kandahar, to Herat to international standards. We invite others to join us in this project. But to make clear our determination, the United States is today committing eighty million dollars toward this project, Japan is committing fifty million dollars focusing its effort on the road from Kabul to Kandahar, and Saudi Arabia is also committing fifty million dollars. Taken together, this initial funding alone should complete the bulk of this roadway.

Because it is essential for Afghanistan's people to see the fruits of their government's work and the commitment of Saudi Arabia, Japan and the United States made real, we intend to begin initial construction before winter sets in and will make every effort to complete the entire highway—from Kabul to Kandahar to Herat—within thirty-six months.

We intend to use this project to foster opportunity for economic growth and prosperity in Afghanistan. It is our belief that this road, along with others that will connect Afghanistan to its neighbors north and south, can set the stage for a complete transportation system, the lowering of tariff and other barriers to trade, and the establishment of links through Afghanistan from the Indian Ocean to Central Asia and from the Caspian Basin to the Far East. With this vision in mind, we look forward to the day that Afghanistan regains its place along the "Silk Road" connecting East and West in a highway of mutual understanding, commerce, and peace.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at a Luncheon Honoring Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations in New York City

September 12, 2002

The President. Mr. Secretary-General, and distinguished members of the United Nations community, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to New York. My country is honored to be the home of the United Nations. And I'm honored to be with you today for the opening week of the 57th Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

We gather in a city that was changed forever by the events of one year and one day ago. Secretary-General, the people of the United States will never forget your leadership in the days following September the 11th. Within a day, the General Assembly strongly condemned the terror, and very quickly the U.N. took strong action to support and strengthen a global coalition against global terror. The United States is grateful to the U.N. and to every person and every nation that has joined this cause.

We gather to address the urgent challenges of a world awakened to danger. Mr. Secretary-General, thanks to your leadership, the U.N. is playing a valuable role in meeting these challenges. The U.N. Charter commits each nation here to promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. Today we rededicate ourselves to these ideals.

Mr. Secretary-General, I offer a toast to you to continued cooperation between the United States and the United Nations.

[At this point, the participants drank a toast.]

The President. Thank you. Let's eat.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. in the U.N. Delegates Lounge at United Nations Headquarters.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Implement the Healthy Forests Initiative

September 12, 2002

Just 3 weeks ago, I visited Oregon to see firsthand the devastating effects of the catastrophic wildfires that have burned more than 6 million acres of forests across the West this summer. I also announced a new and commonsense initiative to restore forest health and prevent these unnaturally severe fires. I directed Secretaries Veneman and Norton to work with Congress to develop legislation to address the crisis in forest and rangeland health that has put more than 190 million acres of public land—an area twice the size of California—at risk of catastrophic fires. We have a simple choice: We can act now to protect these forests, or we can stand by and watch them burn. Secretaries Norton and Veneman delivered to Congress a legislative package that meets our responsibility to reduce fire risks quickly in high-priority areas, and I am very pleased that this proposal was introduced in the House of Representatives today. There is bipartisan agreement that public lands of the West are desperately in need of active management efforts to restore forest and rangeland health. I call upon Congress to act upon this urgent priority as quickly as possible.

Remarks at a Reception for Heads of United Nations General Assembly Delegations in New York City

September 12, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Laura and I appreciate you all coming. It's an honor to be with you tonight. I want to apologize for the photo line taking so long. I'm the person to blame; I talked too much. But thank you for coming. I appreciate so very much all the Presidents who are here and the Prime Ministers who are here and the Foreign Ministers who are here, the Ambassadors to U.N. who are here. I want to thank my citizens from our country who are here. I appreciate John Negroponte, the Ambassador to the United Nations. I want to

thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I see one, two, three, four, five—they're everywhere. These guys know a good free meal when they see one. [Laughter]

I especially want to say a word of phrase to Kofi Annan, who is the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his strong leadership and his good heart and his decency. I enjoy working with him a lot. He's a class act, as we say in the State of Texas, and I know you all agree with me in that.

We gather tonight here in a place—right next to a place of great tragedy and great sorrow. And we also gather in a garden of great hope and renewal. From this room, we can view the empty space where these magnificent towers once stood and remember those who perished one year and one day ago. And in this room, we see and feel the common commitment of our nations to build a better world, to work hard to see to it that good can overcome evil.

Ever since it opened in 1988, the Winter Garden has been one of New York's most beautiful public spaces, a place where people gathered to hear music and view art against the backdrop of one of the world's greatest skylines. September the 11th, in just a few moments, that skyline was a scene of fire and murder. This atrium was filled with steel and glass, and history turned a page. Scores of nations lost citizens that day. And in the 366 days since, scores of nations have committed themselves to confronting and combating the threat of global terror.

Our nations have enjoyed—have employed the powers of law enforcement, of diplomacy, military force, and financial controls to bring justice, not to seek revenge but to bring justice, and to prevent further attacks. Much has been accomplished, and it's important to remember much remains to be done.

On behalf of the people of the United States, on behalf of the good people of this land, I want to thank every nation that has joined us in this great global struggle.

The terrible losses of September the 11th are close to our thoughts tonight, but so are the common hopes of our nations for a better world, a world beyond terror. And again, this room is a powerful symbol of these hopes.

In one short remarkable year, the Winter Garden has been reborn. The speed and success of this rebuilding effort is a testament to the optimism and determination of the people of New York and the people of the world. More than one million pounds of marble for this building was quarried in Italy and Spain. As one quarry official stated, "We didn't consider this a job. It was a duty."

Now the world is called to urgent duties. We're called upon to reaffirm great founding purposes of the United Nations, universal standards of human dignity, and a global system of peace and security. We're called to confront great challenges to these ideals, from poverty and disease to terror and the aggression of tyrants.

By our determination, by our faith, by cooperation, we can and we will meet these tests. And by our efforts, we will lift the lives of people on every continent.

Thank you all for coming tonight. May God bless your countries, and may God bring peace to the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 p.m. in the Winter Garden at the World Financial Center.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks *September 12, 2002*

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, in Proclamation 7463, with respect to the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

By Executive Order 13223 of September 14, 2001, and Executive Order 13253 of January 16, 2002, I delegated authority to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation to order members of the Reserve Components to active duty and to waive certain statutory military personnel requirements. By Executive Order 13235 of November 16, 2001, I delegated authority to the Secretary of Defense to exercise certain emergency construction authority.

Because the terrorist threat continues, the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, and the measures taken on September 14, 2001, November 16, 2001, and January 16, 2002, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 14, 2002. Therefore, I am continuing in effect for 1 year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, with respect to the terrorist threat.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., September 12, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13 and published in the *Federal Register* on September 13.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Central African Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in New York City

September 13, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. First, I'm honored to be able to meet with my colleagues from Central Africa. The Secretary of State and I look forward to a very frank and constructive dialog about how to continue our common pursuit against terror and how we will work together to promote prosperity. I look forward to constructive dialog. So thank you all for coming.

Before we begin our discussion, let me answer a few questions. Are the interpreters working right now? They are? Yours isn't working, okay. Before we begin our dialog, I'll take three questions from the American press corps, starting with Mr. Fournier, who writes for the Associated Press.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. Knowing what you know about Saddam, what are the odds that he's going to meet all your demands and avoid confrontation?

The President. I am highly doubtful that he'll meet our demands. I hope he does, but I'm highly doubtful. The reason I'm doubtful is he's had 11 years to meet the demands. For 11 long years he has basically told the United Nations and the world he doesn't care. And so, therefore, I am doubtful but, nevertheless, made the decision to move forward to work with the world community. And I hope the world community knows that we're extremely serious about what I said yesterday, and we expect quick resolution to the issue. And that's starting with quick action on a resolution.

Randy [Randy Mikkelsen, Reuters].

United Nations Resolution

Q. Yes, sir, how soon are you expecting the resolution from the United Nations? In a week, month, days?

The President. As soon as possible.

Q. And how—what kind of deadline would you perceive within that resolution?

The President. Well, there will be deadlines within the resolution. Our chief negotiator for the United States, our Secretary of State, understands that we must have deadlines. And we're talking days and weeks, not months and years. And that's essential for the security of the world. This man has had 11 years to comply. For 11 long years, he's ignored world opinion, and he's put the credibility of the United Nations on line.

As I said yesterday, we'll determine—how we deal with this problem will help determine the fate of a multilateral body, which has been unilaterally ignored by Saddam Hussein. Will this body be able to keep the peace and deal with the true threats, including threats to security in Central African and other parts of the world, or will it be irrelevant?

Judy Keen [USA Today].

Timing of Congressional Action/Russian President Putin

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Are you concerned that Democrats in Congress still don't want a vote there until after U.N. action? And secondly, have you spoken with President Putin since your speech yesterday?

The President. I have not spoken to President Putin since my speech. I did speak to

his Foreign Minister, as did Colin Powell. I'll speak to President Putin, I'm confident, soon. I'll have—I think we've got a scheduled phone call, actually.

And the first part of the question was, Democrats waiting for the U.N. to act? I can't imagine an elected United States—elected Member of the United States Senate or House of Representatives saying, "I think I'm going to wait for the United Nations to make a decision." It seems like to me that if you're representing the United States, you ought to be making a decision on what's best for the United States. If I were running for office, I'm not sure how I'd explain to the American people—say, "Vote for me, and, oh, by the way, on a matter of national security, I think I'm going to wait for somebody else to act."

And so I—we'll see. My answer to the Congress is, they need to debate this issue and consult with us and get the issue done as quickly as possible. It's in our national interests that we do so. I don't imagine Saddam Hussein sitting around, saying, "Gosh, I think I'm going to wait for some resolution." He's a threat that we must deal with as quickly as possible.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Foreign Minister Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia. Participating in the meeting were: President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi; President Paul Biya of Cameroon; President Ange-Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic; President Idriss Deby of Chad; President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea; President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon; President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; and President Fradique De Menezes of Sao Tome and Principe.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 8

During the day, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

September 9

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, in his capacity as President of the European Union, to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Detroit, MI, where he met with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. He then toured the U.S. Customs cargo inspection facility next to the Ambassador Bridge.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Concert for America at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

September 10

In the morning, the President met with the National Security Council and had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia, and President Vicente Fox of Mexico to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Embassy of Afghanistan where he participated in a roundtable discussion with Arab and Muslim American leaders.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to Camp David, MD, on September 14.

The President announced his intention to nominate James M. Stephens to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes on June 8–August 11.

The President declared a major disaster in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on September 2.

September 11

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a private service at St. John's Episcopal Church. Later, on the South Lawn of the White House, they participated in a moment of silence to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The President and Mrs. Bush then traveled to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, where they participated in an observance commemorating the terrorist attacks. Following the observance, they traveled to Shanksville, PA.

In the afternoon, in Shanksville, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath laying ceremony for victims of the September 11, 2001, plane crash at the site of the crash.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to New York City, where he participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

September 12

In the morning, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, the President had separate meetings with Secretary-General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Kavan of the United Nations.

In the afternoon, at the United Nations Headquarters, the President had separate meetings with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Xanana

Gusmao of East Timor to the White House on October 2.

September 13

In the morning, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, the President met with President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter DeShazo for the rank of Ambassador during his service as Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States and U.S. Representative to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.

The President announced his intention to designate David Barrett Cohen as U.S. Special Representative to the Northern Mariana Islands.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas G. Bowman as Acting Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 10

James M. Stephens, of Virginia, to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2005, vice Ross Edward Eisenbrey.

Glenn T. Suddaby, of New York, to be U.S. States Attorney for the Northern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel J. French, resigned.

Submitted September 12

Glen L. Bower,
of Illinois, to be a Judge of the U.S. Tax
Court for a term of 15 years after he takes
office, vice Carolyn Miller Parr, term ex-
pired.

Ralph R. Erickson,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. District Judge
for the District of North Dakota, vice Rodney
S. Webb, retired.

Maura Ann Harty,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,
to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Con-
sular Affairs), vice Mary A. Ryan.

S. Maurice Hicks, Jr.,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Louisiana, vice Don-
ald E. Walter, retired.

Thomas L. Ludington,
of Michigan, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of Michigan, vice Paul
V. Gadola, retired.

William D. Quarles, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for
the District of Maryland, vice William M.
Nickerson, retired.

Victor J. Wolski,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court
of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years,
vice Bohdan A. Futey, term expired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released September 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: United States-Canada NEXUS
Program

Fact sheet: United States-Canada Free and
Secure Trade (FAST) Program

Summary of Smart Border Action Plan Status

Released September 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Attorney General
John D. Ashcroft and Homeland Security Di-
rector Tom Ridge on increasing the national
threat level to "Condition Orange"

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to North Dakota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Wisconsin

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcom-
ing visit of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi
of Italy

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attor-
ney for the Northern District of New York

Released September 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Excerpts From the President's Address to
the Nation

Advance text of the President's address to
the Nation on the anniversary of the terrorist
attacks of September 11

Released September 12

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
President Gusmao of East Timor

Fact sheet: United States Rejoins UNESCO

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the Western District of Lou-
isiana, the District of North Dakota, the Dis-
trict of Maryland, the Eastern District of
Michigan, and a Judge of the U.S. Court of
Federal Claims

A Decade of Deception and Defiance: Saddam Hussein's Defiance of the United Nations *

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court

Released September 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

* This item was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 11 but was embargoed for release until 3 a.m. on September 12.

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, September 20, 2002

**Proclamation 7591—National
Hispanic Heritage Month, 2002**

September 13, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's cultural diversity has always been a great strength of our Nation. The Hispanic-American community has a long and important history of commitment to our Nation's core values, and the contributions of this community have helped make our country great. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the many achievements of Hispanic Americans and recognize their contributions to our country.

In 1968, the Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, and this observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration to honor our Nation's Hispanic heritage. During this month, America celebrates the traditions, ancestry, and unique experiences of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, the countries of Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have enriched the American way of life, and we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans whose love of family, hard work, and community have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation. As entrepreneurs and public servants, scholars and artists, Hispanic Americans have provided wisdom, energy, and leadership to our communities, and to our country. During the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut, son of Revolutionary War hero Jorge Farragut of Spain, won fame as a Union hero by blocking Southern ports. The Congress rewarded his valor by naming him the Navy's first four-star Admiral. Today, a statue honoring his many accomplishments stands in Farragut Square, Washington, D.C. Nearly a century

ago, Hispanic actresses Myrtle Gonzalez and Beatriz Michelena were popular stars in silent films. Many others followed as the industry expanded in the 20th Century, including Rita Hayworth, Fernando Lamas, and Anthony Quinn. In 1959, Dr. Severo Ochoa was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of RNA (ribonucleic acid), one of the chemical building blocks of life. In the world of sports, athletes such as Roberto Clemente earned the admiration of countless Americans for his athletic skill and commitment to humanitarian efforts.

We also remember those Hispanics who established the vibrant and diverse American cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Fe, San Antonio, and many others. We remember those who were instrumental in exploring and mapping our great hemisphere and we honor those proud Hispanic-American patriots who fought and died for our country in every war and conflict since our founding. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture and encourage all citizens to recognize the important role of Hispanics in creating and building this great Nation.

To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2002, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September,

in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Proclamation 7592—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2002

September 13, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

American farm and ranch families embody our Nation's values of hard work, love of the land, and love of country. Farming not only feeds our country but increasingly provides more of our Nation's energy needs. The success of America's farmers and ranchers is essential to our economy, and helping to ensure their safety is an important goal for our country.

Because their homes also serve as their workplace, our country's farm families are often exposed to unique hazards. These include powerful machinery, dangerous chemicals, unruly livestock, and buildings containing high dust and gas levels. To ensure safety, young family members helping with farm work must be trained to recognize these dangers; and we must also safeguard older farm workers whose health risks may increase due to aging and previous injuries.

Professionals in the engineering safety and rural health fields have made significant progress in preventing accidents in agricultural settings. To protect machinery operators, industry has made great strides to incorporate safeguards to prevent rollovers, entanglements, and other accidents. Personal protective gear, new and safer packaging, and advances in respiratory protection and hearing conservation help protect agricultural workers from contact with hazardous prod-

ucts, excessive dust, gas, and unduly loud noise in the work environment.

To ensure our farmers' continued health, we must increase public awareness of available safety precautions. Simple, economical tools and procedures can help prevent accidents on farms. With proper installation and care, lighting and marking devices reduce the risk of highway collisions between farm equipment and vehicles. By clearly labeling farm chemicals and storing them in locked containers, we can help avoid poisonings and injuries.

America's farmers make invaluable contributions to our country, and my Administration is committed to preserving the farm way of life for future generations. In May, I was pleased to sign the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. This generous new law will strengthen American agriculture and support our farmers through difficult times, without encouraging overproduction and depressing prices. I also intend to aggressively use my trade promotion authority to open markets to American farmers. By promoting farm safety, we strengthen our farm economy and help our Nation's farmers continue to be the best, most productive farmers in the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 15 through September 21, 2002, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve America's agricultural workers to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also encourage American citizens to recognize the importance of our agricultural heritage and the valuable contributions America's farmers, ranchers, and farm workers make to our Nation's economy and vitality.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

**Proclamation 7593—National
Historically Black Colleges and
Universities Week, 2002**

September 13, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities are a vital part of our Nation's higher education system. During National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we renew our dedication to these institutions and strengthen our commitment to securing educational freedom, opportunity, and access for every American.

Emerging more than a century ago in a segregated society, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have provided quality education and promoted greater participation by African Americans in every sector of our society. These institutions continue to serve as centers of hope and opportunity, reflecting the belief that every student in America should have access to a college education. While constituting less than 3 percent of America's institutions of higher education, today they enroll 14 percent of all African Americans enrolled in colleges or universities.

These schools represent a source of accomplishment and great pride for both the African-American community and our entire Nation. The various founders of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities understood that high standards and quality instruction would prepare their students to follow their dreams and succeed in life. By opening doors to new academic pursuits, these schools have encouraged and enabled generations of African Americans to reach their full potential.

America must continue to support these important institutions, because they provide

educational opportunities that otherwise might not be available. In 1980, Executive Order 12232 established a Federal program to enhance equal opportunity and strengthen the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide excellence in education. My Administration remains committed to this important mission and to making the goal of higher education accessible to our citizens.

America recognizes and honors the many achievements of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and their invaluable contributions to our country. They help foster a culture of achievement and create a brighter future for all Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through September 21, 2002, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and citizens of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs in order to show our appreciation for these remarkable educational institutions, and to commend the achievements of their talented graduates.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

The President's Radio Address

September 14, 2002

Good morning. Today I'm meeting with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi about the growing danger posed by Saddam

Hussein's regime in Iraq and the unique opportunity the U.N. Security Council has to confront it.

I appreciate the Prime Minister's public support for effective international action to deal with this danger. The Italian Prime Minister joins other concerned world leaders who have called on the world to act. Among them, Prime Minister Blair of Great Britain, Prime Minister Aznar of Spain, President Kwasniewski of Poland. These leaders have reached the same conclusion I have, that Saddam Hussein has made the case against himself.

He has broken every pledge he made to the United Nations and the world since his invasion of Kuwait was rolled back in 1991. Sixteen times the United Nations Security Council has passed resolutions designed to ensure that Iraq does not pose a threat to international peace and security. Saddam Hussein has violated every one of these 16 resolutions, not once but many times.

Saddam Hussein's regime continues to support terrorist groups and to oppress its civilian population. It refuses to account for missing Gulf war personnel or to end illicit trade outside the U.N.'s oil-for-food program. And although the regime agreed in 1991 to destroy and stop developing all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles, it has broken every aspect of this fundamental pledge.

Today, this regime likely maintains stockpiles of chemical and biological agents and is improving and expanding facilities capable of producing chemical and biological weapons. Today, Saddam Hussein has the scientists and infrastructure for a nuclear weapons program and has illicitly sought to purchase the equipment needed to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon. Should his regime acquire fissile material, it would be able to build a nuclear weapon within a year.

The former head of the U.N. team investigating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program, Richard Butler, reached this conclusion after years of experience: "The fundamental problem with Iraq remains the nature of the regime itself. Saddam Hussein is a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction."

By supporting terrorist groups, repressing its own people, and pursuing weapons of mass destruction in defiance of a decade of U.N. resolutions, Saddam Hussein's regime has proven itself a grave and gathering danger. To suggest otherwise is to hope against the evidence. To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble. And this is a risk we must not take.

Saddam Hussein's defiance has confronted the United Nations with a difficult and defining moment: Are Security Council resolutions to be honored and enforced or cast aside without consequence? Will the United Nations serve the purposes of its founding, or will it be irrelevant?

As the United Nations prepares an effective response to Iraq's defense, I also welcome next week's congressional hearings on the threats Saddam Hussein's brutal regime poses to our country and the entire world. Congress must make it unmistakably clear that when it comes to confronting the growing danger posed by Iraq's efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction, the status quo is totally unacceptable.

The issue is straightforward: We must choose between a world of fear or a world of progress. We must stand up for our security and for the demands of human dignity. By heritage and choice, the United States will make that stand. The world community must do so as well.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on September 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of
Italy and an Exchange With
Reporters at Camp David, Maryland
September 14, 2002**

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome Silvio Berlusconi, the Prime Minister of Italy, to Camp David. I've been looking forward to having a chance to spend some quality time in a quality place. We're going to have a good visit, meeting about our common interests. And we'll have a good lunch with my wife. And I've invited my brother and my sister; I want my family members to meet a good friend, a strong leader.

We're making progress in the war against terror. I tell the American people all the time that we're doing everything we can to protect our homeland by hunting down killers, one person at a time. And yesterday, thanks to the efforts of our folks and people in Pakistan, we captured one of the planners and organizers of the September the 11th attack that murdered thousands of people, including Italians. One by one, we're hunting the killers down. We are relentless. We are strong, and we're not going to stop.

Secondly, I had a chance to speak to the United Nations to talk about another threat that face—we face—that we face, all of us face, in the civilized world, and that is a threat of weapons of mass destructions in the hands of leaders who disregard human liberty, that do not believe in freedom—a leader, in this case, who's poisoned his own people, poisoned his neighbors, attacked in his neighborhood, and refuses—refuses—to comply with United Nations' regulations, as a matter of fact, defies the United Nations. And we're making progress.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, you're here at an important time. I look forward to talking with you, and thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you. Well, first of all, I'm glad to be here with President Bush, with whom I have a very deep friendship. I'm here as the Prime Minister of a country which is a loyal and faithful ally of the United States of America.

The United States is a country to which my people bears a deep gratitude because it owes to the generosity of this great democ-

racy its freedom and its prosperity. We'll never forget the fact that about a half a century ago, through the sacrifice of so many young Americans, Italy and Europe were saved from totalitarianism. I'm here as a sincere ally, and I know that we, as an ally, we respected and we heard. So I'll be able to speak as a friend, speak truthfully, in order to find, as usual, common solutions and common positions.

President Bush. Thank you.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I would like to add one more thing.

President Bush. Sure.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I consider the flag of the United States is not only a flag of a country but is a universal message of freedom and democracy.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

His English is very good. [Laughter]

Here's what we're going to do. I'm going to call upon an American reporter. Silvio will call upon an Italian reporter. I then will call upon an American reporter. Silvio will call upon an Italian reporter. And that's it, because we've got to go have our talks.

Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press]. And I will this time let the interpreter—pardon me for not allowing her to work.

Situation in Georgia/United Nations

Q. Thank you, sir. President Putin is borrowing your logic to argue he has the right to attack terrorists in Georgia. Would that action be justified in your view? Are you concerned other countries, India, Pakistan, China, may use your arguments to justify actions they see fit?

President Bush. I made it very clear to the Georgian Government that we expected them to rout out the Al-Qaida-type terrorists in the Pankisi Gorge. We are working with the Georgian Government and training Georgian troops. I have told Vladimir Putin that he must give the Georgians a chance to achieve a common objective, an objective that's important for Georgia, an objective that's important for Russia, an objective important for the United States, and that is to get the Al Qaida killers and bring them to justice. And so I urge him to continue to work with us to allow the Georgians—troops—to do their job.

And finally, one final point for the world to hear: Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations 16 times. Not once, not twice—16 times he has defied the U.N. The U.N. has told him after the Gulf war what to do, what the world expected, and 16 times he's defied it. And enough is enough. The U.N. will either be able to function as a peacekeeping body, as we head into the 21st century, or it will be irrelevant. And that's what we're about to find out.

But remember what I said in my speech, now is the time to deal with the problem.

Q. What about the appropriation of your argument?

President Bush. I should have clarified it by my statement. I just clarified it by my—not should have, I just.

Support for the President's Action

[At this point, a question was asked in Italian, and no translation was provided.]

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Well, first of all, as I said before, we want a common position with the United States of America. And we welcome the decision of President Bush to bring the problem to the table in the Security Council. As it was stated clearly, the United Nations cannot continue to see its image undermined and its resolutions flaunted.

I would hasten to add, the decision taken by President Bush found agreement of my European colleagues and of the Russian Federation.

President Bush. Thank you.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

United Nations

Q. Mr. President, if Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations 16 times and stiffed the world for a decade, why does he deserve one more chance?

President Bush. That's a very interesting question. Why don't you interpret the question? He stiffed the world 16 times, why does he get another chance?

First of all, the United Nations deserves another chance to prove its relevance. See, we're entering a new world. Wars of the future are not going to be like wars of the past. We fight these terrorists that hide in caves and send their youngsters to suicidal death.

They strike America, but they're likely to strike Italy. They hate freedom. They also are willing and want to work with countries like Iraq to develop the capacity to deliver weapons of mass destruction. And therefore, the international community must work together to prevent this from happening.

So this is a chance for the United Nations to show some backbone and resolve, as we confront the true challenges of the 21st century. It's a chance for the United Nations to show its relevance, and that's why I gave the speech I gave. But make no mistake about it, if we have to deal with the problem, we'll deal with it.

Italy's Role in the War on Terrorism

[At this point, a question was asked and answered in Italian.]

President Bush. Thank you all. Welcome to Camp David. No, you misunderstood. Two questions apiece. Sorry. Two and two, *si*.

Q. —English, Mr. President.

President Bush. Oh, you want an English translation. Sorry, thought you might have been trying to defy the two-question rule. Very good. [Laughter]

Q. What was the question?

Interpreter. The question was—

President Bush. That doesn't matter. Just write the answer.

Interpreter. —is Italy able to play the mediating role—

Prime Minister Berlusconi. The role of Italy, now.

Interpreter. At this moment, what's the role Italy is going to play?

And the reply was: Italy today is playing a role which it wasn't able to play up to some times ago, because Italy finds itself at a center of a series of relationships with the countries of the European Union, with the countries of the Middle East, with the countries of the Mediterranean, and we have the special friendship with the Russian Federation, with our common friend Vladimir Putin. So Italy is playing its part, and it's able then to play its role in this context.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Grazie. Arrivederci.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

September 13, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading with the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95-223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 12, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 47943), the exercise of certain authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2002.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to the applicable countries is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95-223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2003, the exercise of those authorities with respect to countries affected by:

- (1) the Foreign Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 500;
- (2) the Transaction Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 505; and
- (3) the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 16.

Remarks to Employees of Sears Manufacturing Company in Davenport, Iowa

September 16, 2002

Thank you all very much. It's an honor to be here. In 1992, the Sears Company got the A team. [Laughter] I'll leave it at that. [Laughter]

I'm honored to be introduced by Jim Leach. He is a distinguished, honorable, honest man. We need those kind of people in Washington. I'm proud of him. I'm proud to call him friend, and I'm real proud he introduced me. I want to thank other members of the Iowa delegation who are here today, starting with Senator Chuck Grassley. I appreciate his friendship. I appreciate his leadership. I'm also proud to be with Jim Nussle and Greg Ganske, two Members of the United States Congress from the State of Iowa. We're flying back to Washington—I hope the reason they're here is to hear my speech, not to get a free ride. [Laughter] Well, we'll find out after I give the speech. [Laughter] But these are good folks. They care deeply about our country, and so do I.

I'm here to talk to you about how to make our country safer and stronger and better. That's what we've got to be thinking about during these troubling times. Before I begin, I'm grateful to Steve Lovejoy, who is the director of operation here at Sears Manufacturing Company, for giving me the tour. Big Steve. [Laughter] I appreciate the employees who greeted me on the assembly line. I want to thank all the hard-working people here at Sears for doing such a fine job, for working hard, for caring deeply about your families, for upholding your responsibilities as a mom or a dad.

I appreciate the Sears family, Jim and Steve and Lisa Ware, for upholding a fine family tradition of not only making a quality product but remembering they have a responsibility to the employees who work here and treat the employees with dignity and respect, like you do. I appreciate your leadership.

I appreciate Bob Lane, the chairman and CEO of John Deere, coming over here today to say hello. It's very interesting, his comment was. He said, "I'm fortunate to be a

customer of this fine company.” That’s a good sign.

Finally, at Air Force One, I had the honor of meeting a fellow named Dean Claussen. You probably don’t know Dean. *[Applause]* Dean brought all his cousins with him. *[Laughter]* The reason I wanted Dean to come here with me is because I had the honor of thanking him for being a soldier in the army of compassion. He’s a high school junior. He was obviously raised right by Dale and Kathy, his mom and dad who are with us. But Dean is the kind of person who understands that we can change America for the better, one person at a time.

And so he, as a member of the Scott County 4-H Council—and he volunteers his time. He volunteers his time to help those in need. He is—told me they’re raising books for some kids in Fiji, that he has recently fed the hungry, that he understands to be a citizen of this country is to serve something greater than yourself. See, the great strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. And when a neighbor loves a neighbor, indeed, America as a whole benefits. And Dean, I want to thank you for your leadership and your compassion.

People oftentimes ask me, “What can I do to help our country in the face of some difficult times?” And one of them is to love a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to make a impact in the community in which you live, find somebody who hurts, and love them.

I mentioned we’ve got some big issues here in America, and we do, but there’s nothing we can’t overcome. After all, this is the finest country on the face of the Earth, full of the greatest people.

I think a lot about the security of our homeland. Matter of fact, I think about it every single day. And at the same time, it’s important for Congress and my administration also never to forget the security of the American people. You see, my attitude is, somebody who wants to work can’t find a job, we’ve got a problem, and we need to deal with it. And so, while the security of the homeland is an important priority, so is the security of the American worker.

I’m going to do everything I can to make sure that the environment for job creation is strong. I want people working. I want people to be able to put bread on the table for their families. I want moms and dads who want to work to be able to do so, for the sake of their families and for the good of the country.

One of the ways we’ve got to make sure that we keep our economy strong is to be wise about how we spend our money. If you overspend, it creates a fundamental weakness in the foundation of economic growth. And so I’m working with Congress to make sure they hear the message—the message of fiscal responsibility.

See, it starts with understanding whose money we spend in Washington. It’s not the Government’s money we spend. The money we spend is your money, and that’s the most important premise when it comes to budget.

It also means that we’ve got to set priorities. You know, every idea sounds like a brilliant idea in Washington. Everybody’s idea is a great idea—just up there they come with billions as the price tag. The bill is a little high. So I said, “Why don’t we work together to create some priorities, starting with the most important priority which is, defend America against killers.” That’s the most important priority.

I can’t put it any other way about them, either. They’re nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers. You’ve just got to understand that about the nature of the enemy. They hate us because we love. They hate. We love freedom, is why they hate us, and we’re not going to quit loving freedom. And so our most important priority, when it comes to budgeting and time and effort, is to protect innocent life here in America. And make no mistake about it, we will—we’ll do just that.

But in order to make sure there is a—priorities are funded, there needs to be a budget. And thanks to Jim Nussle, who is the budget man in the House of Representatives, we have a budget that focuses on setting priorities and focuses on getting us back to a balanced budget. But there’s been no budget out of the United States Senate. They haven’t passed a budget. They have no plan to balance the budget.

And that's of concern. It's of concern because if you have no budget, it means there's no discipline. And if there's no discipline, it's likely that the Senate will overspend. And when they overspend, they not only overspend for this year, this coming year, they'll overspend for every year afterwards too. For the sake of fiscal sanity, the United States Senate must remember whose money we're spending and get us a budget and get us to head toward a balanced budget.

And while they're worrying about the budget and money, they need to give me a defense bill. They need to get—stop talking, and get a defense bill to my desk. If the number one priority is to defend the American people, the best thing they need to do is pass the defense bill, so we can get after defending the American people next year.

So we've got to worry about how much we spend. And by the way, there's plenty of money up there. We've got to worry about how much we spend, in order to make sure that our economy continues to grow. I'm worried about the economic security for every American. I'm also optimistic about the future, because inflation is down, interest rates are down, the productivity of the American worker is the best in the world, we've got the best farmers and ranchers in the world.

I've read that textbook, that economic textbook that says, when there's a recession—and by the way, when we first came in, there was a recession. We had three quarters of negative growth. That's the definition of recession. One way to encourage economic growth is to let the people keep more of their own money. You see, if you have more money in your pocket, you're going to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce or to make that good or produce that service. And when somebody produces the good and service, it means somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan we passed, which says we trust the American people with their own money, came at the right time in American economic history, and we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

I had the honor of saying hello to the head of the construction union, the local man who

runs the construction union here, at the airport. He came out because we're working closely together with the head of the national union to get passed what we call terrorism insurance. If you're worried about jobs in America, like I am, then you've got to make sure that your construction industry is working. You want your hardhats out there working.

And yet when the terrorists attacked us, it created a dilemma for people who want to build big building projects. They can't get the insurance necessary to go forward. Congress needs to help on this. Congress needs to pass a bill that is good for the hardhats of America, not good for the trial lawyers, and get a terrorism insurance bill to my desk, so over 300,000 workers can find work and get back to work. I say 300,000—those are the number of jobs which have been delayed or scuttled as a result of Congress not coming together to act on this important matter.

And we need an energy bill too. If you're worried about economic security in America, we ought to have an energy bill, one which encourages conservation, one which encourages renewable sources of energy such as ethanol, and one at the same time that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. It's in our economic interests that we have an energy plan. It's in our national security interests that we have an energy plan. Congress has been talking about energy. They need to get a bill to my desk before they go home to run for reelection.

And so my message to the Congress is, "Don't forget there are some people who are still trying to find work." And we need to work together. We need to put aside all this Republican stuff and Democrat stuff and work together to make sure the economy is strong and vibrant, and the great American worker can find work.

And at the same time, we've got to remember that there's still an enemy out there trying to hit us. There's an enemy that I mentioned earlier, hates what we stand for. It's a different kind of enemy than we have fought in the past. These are the kind, they don't have tanks and formation of aircraft or flotilla of ship. These are the kind that hide in caves and then send somebody to their suicidal death. These are the kind that hijack

a great religion—a religion, by the way, which preaches love and compassion and tolerance—they hijack it and then murder in the name of that religion. These are the kind that have hate in their heart. And these are the kind that we need to do everything in our power to stop. We owe it to the sake of our freedom, and we owe it to our children.

The first thing we've got to do is to make sure our country responds here at home to this threat, to this ever—to this threat that just keeps going on. And that means that we've got to get our Government working in coordination. I proposed a Department of Homeland Security to make sure that the agencies involved with securing the homeland have as their number one priority your protection. That means that there needs to be a single agency where these agencies are housed, so that we create a culture of coordination and cooperation, a culture that allows for there to be fast movement when it comes to moving people to the right place at the right time, in order to respond to an enemy which still exists.

And I'll give you one area where we need to do a better job, and that's on our borders. We need to know who's coming into America. We need to know what they're bringing into America. We need to know if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave America. For the sake of the security of the country, we need to have a border which is secure, a border which facilitates trade and honest traffic but a border which recognizes there—a border—a strategy which recognizes there's risks here in the 21st century. We've got to deal with it.

Now, right now, when you go down to the border, there's three different departments dealing with the border, the INS, the Customs, and the Border Patrol, all full of fine people. But sometimes the strategy differs between the agencies. The uniforms look different, which may be all right, but in order to do what's right for the American people, I need the capacity to be able to have these agencies work closely together. We'll protect workers' rights. We'll protect the collective bargaining rights for those who want to join a union at the Federal level. But I need flexibility.

The House passed a good bill. The Senate better not pass a bad bill. Otherwise, I will veto it. They need to worry more about the security of the American people and less about special interests in Washington, DC.

So we're working hard to secure the homeland. There's a lot of fine folks that are spending a lot of time on America's behalf. Listen, we're sharing information. Any time we get a hint—and you've seen these alerts—sometime these alerts come up because we're getting people talking, and we're hearing what they're saying, and we're sharing information better. We assess every threat. We take everything seriously. And America is responding.

But the best way to respond to the threats that we face is to find these killers, one person at a time, hunt them down, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what America is going to do.

It takes time. It takes a lot of effort. But we're a determined nation. You know, I had the feeling that after September the 11th that some around the world would grow weary and tired of this effort. Some would say, "Well, the threat really doesn't exist anymore." That's not how America feels. That's not how that fellow we just picked up in Pakistan feels too. He's the one that thought he was going to be the 20th bomber. He thought he could hide. He thought he could still threaten America. But he forgot the greatest nation on the face of the Earth is after him, one person at a time.

We put together a great alliance. There are other people in this world who love freedom just like we do. There are other countries with some strong leaders who understand the stakes, that understand that history has now put the spotlight on us to find out what we're made out of. And so our alliance is strong, and we're hunting them down one at a time. We've captured over 2,500 or so of these; about that many weren't as lucky.

Thanks to the United States military—and by the way, those who serve our military are some of the finest citizens we have here in America. Troops have made a huge sacrifice—they're sacrificing for freedom. They fight at mountain—on mountaintops in thin air—they're looking down caves. They're slowly but surely doing what I've asked them

to do, to be on pursuit for the sake of freedom, for the sake of our liberty, so your child can grow up in a safe environment.

And that's why, when I went to the Congress, I asked for a substantial increase in defense spending, because I want our troops who are placed in harm's way to have the best training, the best pay, the best possible commitment. We owe it to them, and we owe it to their loved ones. And that defense appropriations bill, which I mentioned Congress hasn't passed yet, needs to get to my desk soon—and also sends a signal to friend and foe alike, we're in this deal for the long haul. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there is no artificial date when we say, we quit. When it comes to securing a future for our children and our children's children, we will stay the course.

And that not only means hunting down Al Qaida and Al-Qaida-type terrorists which hate America, it also means dealing with true and real threats that we can foresee. One of the most dangerous threats America faces is a terrorist network teaming up with some of the world's worst leaders who develop the world's worst weapons.

I gave a speech to the United Nations, talking about Iraq and making it crystal clear to the United Nations that Saddam poses an international problem. This is a man who poisoned his own people, poisoned his neighbors. He's invaded two countries. He signed agreements that said he would develop no weapons of mass destruction, wouldn't hold any weapons of mass destruction. Yet, for 11 years, he's totally ignored what he said he would do. He basically told the United Nations, "Your deals don't mean anything to me."

I told the United Nations, it can show us whether or not it's going to serve its purpose to help keep the peace, or whether it's going to be irrelevant. We, of course, want the United Nations to be relevant. We want them to be a part of a framework of peace as we head into the 21st century. But I also made it clear, this: that unless there's action from the nations at the United Nations, that that's not satisfactory, as far as the United States is concerned.

And if Iraq regimes continues to defy us and the world, we will move deliberately yet

decisively to hold Iraq to account. We owe this to our children. We must anticipate. Somebody said, "Well, you know, they don't have a nuclear weapon." I said, "Well, the most dangerous thing"—and we know they're trying to get one—"the most dangerous thing would be to find out they had a nuclear weapon after they developed one."

It's a new world we're in. We used to think two oceans could separate us from an enemy. On that tragic day, September the 11th, 2001, we found out that's not the case. We found out this great land of liberty and of freedom and of justice is vulnerable. And therefore we must do everything we can—everything we can—to secure the homeland, to make us safe. We need a safe America, a strong America, and a better America.

One way to make sure we have a better America is to make sure every single child gets educated in this country. I don't mean a few. I don't mean only those in suburban districts. I mean every single child. I'm proud to have worked with Members of Congress to pass a bill which says, here in America, we believe in high standards when it comes to educating children, that we will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, that we believe the people of Iowa should chart the path to excellence for the children of Iowa, and that we expect there to be accountability in return for Federal money.

See, we want to know—if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning. And if they're not, we'll correct the problems early, before it's too late. There are no second-rate children in Iowa or in America.

To make sure there's a better America, we've got to have a place where every senior has access to high quality health care. We need a Medicare system which works, a Medicare system which recognizes medicine has changed and needs to be reformed, a Medicare system which will provide better coverage for Iowa's seniors, including prescription drug coverage. I look forward to working with Congressman Nussle, Congressman Leach, Senator Grassley on the Senate side, to come up with a bipartisan effort to make sure this important program, Medicare, works for the senior citizens of the State of Iowa.

And as we think about helping people, we've got to make sure our welfare system remembers that work is an integral part of dignity, that we want to help people. We want to help them find jobs.

No, we can make—do a better job of passing legislation that will help America be a better place. But the truth of the matter is, like I mentioned earlier, America will become a better place when people follow their hearts, when people help people in need.

One of my most important initiatives in Washington is what I call the Faith-Based Initiative, because I recognize that Government can hand out money, but what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. What I want to do is unleash the great compassion of America, by changing America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. You see, when you love a neighbor, you fight evil, but you also leave behind a legacy of compassion and decency. It's what I call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency, which take place in spite of Government. It takes place because our fellow citizens have heard the call, the call to personal responsibility.

One of the things that the enemy did when they hit us is they awoke a new spirit in America. It used to be, you know, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, as part of our culture. If you've got a problem, blame somebody else. America now understands that ushering in a period of personal responsibility, responsible for something other than yourself, is important for our country.

If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children. You're the one who is responsible for loving your children with all your heart. If you're living right here in the great State of Iowa, you're responsible for the quality of life in your community. It's you who is responsible for making sure your public schools are the best. If you find a neighbor in need, you're responsible for serving that neighbor in need; you're responsible for loving a neighbor just like you'd like to love yourself.

No, there's a new patriotism here in America. It's more than just working on homeland defense. It's more than putting your hand over your heart. It is serving something larger

than self. And when we all do that, we will make it clear to the enemy that not only did they hit a great nation, they hit a nation which is compassionate and decent and loving.

No, evil done to America was mighty and tough, and still many grieve. But out of that evil can come incredible good. Out of the evil done to America can come peace, peace for our children, peace for our children's children. And out of evil done to America can come a more compassionate and decent and hopeful country. There's no question in my mind—no question in my mind—that we will succeed, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:34 a.m. on the manufacturing floor at Sears Manufacturing Co. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Sears, president and chief executive officer, Steve Sears, president, truck division, and Lisa Ware, director, financial services, Sears Manufacturing Co.; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Jim Nussle in Davenport

September 16, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Thank you all. Mr. Chairman—Mr. Chairman, I'm here to remind the good people of this congressional district that Jim Nussle is not only a fine man who cares deeply about the citizens of Iowa, but it's in your best interest to make sure that Jim Nussle is reelected to the United States Congress.

Anytime—anytime you introduce a candidate as "Mr. Chairman," that ought to tell you something about whether or not you want a change or not. You see, when you've got somebody who's honorable and decent and full of integrity as a chairman, you need to keep him. It's in your interests. It's not only in your self interest, it's in the interest for your State. And I'm here to tell you it's

in the interest of the United States of America to make sure this good man is reelected to the Congress.

I know him well. I've seen him under fire. I've seen people put immense pressure on him to change, to forget why he got elected in the first place. He's steady as a rock. He's a loyal ally. He's a strong American. He has earned the right to get reelected. Don't make a mistake; this district shouldn't make a mistake. When you've got a good one, you make sure you keep him. And Jim Nussle is a good one, and it's in your interests you keep him.

Jim, I'm proud to be by your side, and I urge the people of this district to send you back to Washington, DC.

I want to thank Karen Nussle for standing by Jim's side. It's important to have a—in this business we're in, it's important to have somebody stand by your side. *[Laughter]* We both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]* I wish Laura were here with me. She's back in the White House, but I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she's doing. I want to thank you for holding up the Laura book. *[Laughter]* Yes. I haven't read it yet, but it better say she's one of the finest women God's ever produced. *[Laughter]* If they're interested in the truth, they know that she's doing a great job as the First Lady, and she sends her best to all the good friends of ours here in the State of Iowa.

It's good to have met Sarah and Mark Nussle, Jim's children. It's good to have met his mother. I asked Ms. Laura Nussle whether or not Mark—I mean, Jim was still listening to her. She said, "About half the time." *[Laughter]* I said, "Well, that's about as much time as I listen to mine too." *[Laughter]*

It's great to have the Nussle family here. I'm also honored to be traveling today with a great United States Senator. I emphasize "great" because he's worked hard on behalf of the citizens of Iowa. When he was the Chairman of the Finance Committee—something that I dearly hope happens again soon—he made a huge difference for our country, and that's, of course, Chuck Grassley.

I'm also honored to be traveling today with a fine United States Congressman, a gentleman, a really bright citizen of our country, somebody who cares deeply about America,

and that's Jim Leach. In case some of you all are not in Nussle's district but in Leach's district, it's really important to send him back too. *[Laughter]* He's a fine man, brings a lot of integrity and class.

And so does the next United States Senator from the State of Iowa, and that's Greg Ganske. I appreciate you being here, Greg. He's a hard worker. He's going to make a fine Senator. I look forward to working with both he and Senator Grassley on working on the interests of the citizens of Iowa but, more importantly, the interests of the citizens of the entire country. That's the way these two men think.

I'm proud to be here with a Congressman—a state senator now, soon to be a Congressman, named Steve King. Steve, thank you for coming today. Oh, hi, Steve. I appreciate Chuck Larson, who is the chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa, for coming. Good to see you, Chuck.

I want to thank all of you who have come to help Jim. This is a huge turnout. It's a good sign, it seems like to me. But I also want to thank those of you who are working the grassroots here in the State of Iowa. I want to thank you for what you have done and, as importantly, what you're going to do, which means turn out the vote.

You see, all this stuff helps; these rallies help. But the most important thing is to turn out the vote, is to find your neighbors. When you go to your coffee shops or your churches or your community centers, you've got to pass the word—pass the word that people need to participate in the process, and as they start to head to participate, tell them about the qualities of the man that we're supporting here today. Grassroots politics makes a huge difference in the outcome of these races. And so for those of you who are willing to volunteer your time and to lick the envelopes and make the phone calls and stick the signs in the ground, thanks. Just get ready. Get your uniforms on. *[Laughter]* We're coming down the stretch. We need your help.

Chairman Nussle is the head of the budget. The House passed a budget. The Senate can't pass a budget. *[Laughter]* That says something about his leadership. It's important to have a budget in Washington, because

without a budget, there is a tendency to overspend. [*Laughter*] Without a budget, every idea sounds like a brilliant idea. Without some kind of constraint on the appropriations process in Washington, as they might say in this part of the world, somebody is liable to go hog wild. [*Laughter*]

And sometimes those somebodies who go hog wild forget whose money they're spending. Nussle and I understand this: When it comes to spending the money in Washington, it's not the Government's money we spend. It's your money. It's the people's money.

And Jim understands that, and so do I. And that's why we're going to have to have some budget restraint. In order to make sure our economy—the foundation of economic growth doesn't crumble, we've got to make sure there is budget restraint in Washington. We've got plenty of money up there. We can fund our priorities. The thing I appreciate about this chairman's leadership is, he has a clear vision of how to get back to a balanced budget. And that's important for you. It's important to have a leader up there who understands that.

He also understood what I understood: In the face of a recession, you've got to let the people have their own money. You see, if you're worried about jobs like we're worried about jobs, the best way to help the economy recover is to trust the people with their own money. And so we cut the taxes on the people. People have more money to spend, and when you spend it, somebody is going to produce a good or a service to meet your demand. And when they do that, somebody is more likely to find work.

Our tax relief plan came at the right time in American history, and I'm proud of the work Jim did. I'm proud of the work Chuck Grassley and Jim Leach and Greg Ganske did. And now, for the sake of the hard-working people of Iowa and for the sake of the farmers and ranchers in this part of the world, we need to make sure the tax relief is permanent and the death tax is forever extinguished.

You listen to these debates in these congressional campaigns in the Senate race, they're going to use every excuse in the book to take the tax relief away. That's a tax increase, as far as I'm concerned. And one

thing you don't do in the midst of an economic slowdown is raise the taxes on the people. If you're interested in job creation, if you're interested more about spending a person's pocketbook rather than the Government's pocketbook, you let the people keep their own money. And Jim Nussle understands that.

He also understands the importance of education. We passed a really good education bill. It's one that sets high standards, that says that every child can learn. It challenges what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, we understand, if you lower the bar, you get bad results. If you have expectations that are something other than excellent, if you have mediocre expectations, you'll get mediocrity out of your school systems.

As well, Jim and I understood, as do the other members of the Iowa delegation, that the place to enhance educational excellence is to trust the local people. See, we understand the people of Iowa care more about the children in Iowa than bureaucracies in Washington, DC, do. So this bill passed power out of Washington.

And finally, we finally began to say in America that if you take Federal money, you need to show us whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. See, if you believe every child can learn, the next question is, "Well, are the children learning to read and write?" If you believe that, then you want to ask the question, and you want to know. And if they are, then we ought to praise the teachers in school districts that are meeting this high standards. But if not, we need to teach children early, because Jim and I understand there's no second-rate children in America. No child should left behind—be behind in this country.

Jim mentioned a very important issue, and that is Medicare. See, the Medicare system is an important system—really important we get it right. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. And one of the things that Jim Nussle is on the—is leading in Congress—I mean, leading—is to make sure that there's a level playing field for Iowa seniors. He and Chuck Grassley, Greg Ganske, and Jim Leach spent a lot of time on this issue, and they understand that they need to work with Congress

to get it done. I'm proud of the leadership of Jim Nussle. I'm proud of the leadership of Chuck Grassley and Greg Ganske and Jim Leach. These fine Iowa citizens know there's a problem, and they're working with both parties to solve the problem. If you want the problem solved, you better make sure that this man is reelected to the United States Congress.

Nussle is a friend of the farmer, and so am I. I understand good agricultural policy is important for the economy of our country. I also want us an energy bill that includes a strong renewable section in the energy bill, which means ethanol. But also, Jim understands what I understand, that if you're good at something, you want to promote it. And since we're the best farmers in the world, we ought to be doing everything we can to sell our farm products around the world. And I appreciate so very much his strong support for a trade bill that will be good for the Iowa farmers.

And Greg, I appreciate your support on a trade bill that will be good for the Iowa farmers. Same with you, Senator, and Congressman Leach as well. It's an important piece of legislation I signed. And I promise you, I'm going to use this legislation to open up markets, so our farmers can make a living.

Finally, I appreciate Jim Nussle's understanding that we're—we've got a problem with an enemy that hates us, that he clearly sees like I see that there is a true threat to our freedoms. People say, well, you know—I'm sure youngsters say, "Well, why would somebody want to hurt America?" And the answer is, because we love freedom. The answer to those youngsters who wonder why we're at war is, because they hate us, because we love something precious. The more we love our freedoms, the more they hate us, and that's just the reality of the 21st century.

You see, we love the idea of people being able to worship freely, to worship an almighty God the way they want to worship an almighty God. We welcome that. We treasure that. We hold that dear, and the enemy hates that idea. We believe in open debate. We believe in freedom of the press. We love our freedom in America. And nobody is going to take it away from us, no matter how hard they try.

See, we're in a new era here in this world. It used to be we thought there was two oceans that separate us from an enemy. And we learned differently. We learned that there are no oceans which can protect us. We used to think that war was a measurement of tanks and artillery and airplanes and ships. This is a new war. It's the kind where the enemy hides—the leadership of the enemy hides in caves and send their youngsters to their suicidal death. They kind of move around in the shadows of big cities in some countries and hide and then strike hard. It doesn't require a lot of weaponry for them to be successful, because they're coldblooded killers. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers.

A major difference between this great country, this decent, compassionate land, and the people we're hunting down is, we value life. We say, "Every life is precious. Everybody counts. Everybody matters in this country."

Our most important job is to protect the homeland. Our most important job is to do everything in our power to make sure that you're safe, that the enemy is unable to take innocent life again. And it's a big job, because we're a big country. But we're making progress—we're making good progress at home.

We've got a lot of people on alert. We've got a lot of hard-working Americans running down every lead. If we get a hint that somebody might be thinking about doing something, you need to know we're acting on it—within the confines of the United States Constitution, I might add. We believe in our freedoms, and we're going to protect our freedoms. But we're running down every single—every single lead. And we're getting a lot of leads. We are.

The other day, as you know, the country went on a higher status of alert, for a reason—the noise level began to gin up. A lot of people are working hard to protect you. I've asked the Congress to join me—I want to thank the House of Representatives for hearing that call—to join me in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security so we could better coordinate the Government agencies involved with your protection.

Prior to September the 11th they would be worried about different things in the

Coast Guard or different things in the Border Patrol. Now the number one priority for these agencies is your protection. And therefore, they ought to work under one agency. And I also need, in order to protect you better, the flexibility to move people from one place to another in order to respond to the needs of—the enemy.

The House heard that, and I want to thank Jim for his vote. I want to thank Ganske and Leach for their votes. It looks like, to me, the Senate is heading down the wrong path. I hope not, but it may be. You see, they want to micromanage the process. They're more interested in special interests in Washington, as opposed to your interests, which is protecting the homeland. I expect there to be a bill on my desk soon, and I expect there to be a bill that gives me the flexibility—and future Presidents the flexibility—necessary to do everything we can to protect the American people from an enemy which hates.

The best strategy, and only strategy, to defend the homeland is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. It's—if they're in a cave, we head into a cave. If they're in some shadowy neighborhood, we'll finally put the spotlight on the shadowy neighborhood. It doesn't matter where they hide; we're after them, one person at a time.

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. The other day I'm sure you picked up your newspapers or saw on your TVs that we captured the guy that thought he wanted to be the 20th hijacker. I want to thank the Pakistani Government for cooperating with U.S. personnel to bring this person to justice. This guy is just another killer, and we got him—he along with several thousand others we have gotten. And another like number hadn't been quite so lucky. They weren't got—they were gotten the ultimate way. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling a terrorist network which wants to do more harm on America.

And I want to thank those of you who have got a relative in the United States military. My, we have got a fabulous United States military.

I asked our Congress for an increase in defense spending—a significant increase in

defense spending, because my attitude is this: Anytime we put our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

I also wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul, and when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, this mighty country is going to stay the course, that we're not going to forget what happened on September the 11th, that we're steadfast and resolved because we believe in peace. We owe it to our children to make the world more secure, that freedom has a chance, and that it's a peaceful tomorrow. That's what we owe it to them.

It's going to be a rocky hill at times, getting to that peace. There's some threats out there that we have to deal with. The other day I gave a speech at the United Nations, delineating one of the clearest threats we face. See, we've got a man in that part of the world who agreed to disarm, agreed to pay compensation to the victims of the horrible crimes he committed, agreed not to harbor terrorists, and he's broken every single agreement.

For 11 long years he has stiffed the world community. I went to the United Nations and said, "Either you can be relevant in the world or not, your pick. We want you to be a part of keeping the peace. We want you to be strong."

But I also had another message: We the world cannot let the world's worst leaders harbor and develop the world's worst weapons. This tyrant must be dealt with, for the sake of our children and our children's children. We owe it to the world to show strength and resolve and leadership.

This country is a great and strong country. Witness the fact that—what happened after 9/11. Instead of being cowed by these terrorists, we rose up in mighty indignation. But we also did something else, and it's happening all across Iowa and all across America. People understand that in order to fight evil, you can do so by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

In community after community, citizens understand there's a different calling to patriotism today, that a patriot is more than somebody who just puts his hand over his heart.

A patriot is also somebody who wants to make the community in which they live a more decent and honorable place, a more compassionate place.

In the midst of our plenty, there are people in America who hurt. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness. And Government can hand out money, and frankly we do a pretty good job of it. But what it cannot do is put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a citizen puts his or her arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? Can I mentor you? Can I teach you to read? As a shut-in, what can I do to make your day a brighter day?" No, my call to the American people, if you want to join the war on terror, is to love your neighbor, is to help somebody.

Flight 93—I had the honor of going to the site and hugging the families of the 40 who were on that airplane. Flight 93, it's the flight where people flying across the country heard the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They called their loved ones on cell phones and told them, "I love you." They told—one of them said, let's—they said a prayer; a guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It's an example of what is happening in America, where people understand serving something greater than self is a part of being a complete American. I call upon all of you all—my call to our fellow Americans is, when you find hurt, be a part of healing and recognize that while you can't do everything, you can do something to help change America, one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us—they hit us. But out of that terrible day can come some good. There's no doubt in my mind, if America remains strong and steadfast, we can achieve peace—can achieve peace for this generation and for future generations to come.

And the enemy hit us, and out of the evil done to America that day is going to come

a more compassionate and decent and hopeful America, because they hit the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless. God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:07 p.m. at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Nussle's wife, Karen, and his mother, Laura; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Representative Nussle is a candidate for reelection in Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5763

September 16, 2002

*The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of his unfailing love.*

Psalm 33:5

Yom Kippur is a day of holy reflection and reverence. Jewish tradition sets this day aside as a time to seek atonement, and to return, in forgiveness, to the enduring love of the Almighty. As you pray, may you place your trust in the promises of God, and look to the future with hope.

As we face the challenges of a new era, faith is an important source of strength and goodness in America. At this time of renewal, I encourage you to recommit to a life of compassion, love, and service. Together we can transform our Nation, one heart and one soul at a time.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed day.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7594—Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 2002

September 16, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

With these words, written more than 200 years ago, our Forefathers laid the foundations for a great Nation, adopting a Constitution that has since proven to be an enduring and true guide for American government. The Constitution's powerful framework for establishing and preserving liberty, justice, and opportunity has enabled us to prosper as a Nation and thrive as a people through more than two centuries of political change, social transformation, and economic challenge.

The Founders secured the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence by establishing a government that derives its power from the consent of the American people. The government established by the Constitution formed a remarkably resilient structure, balancing necessary authority with inherent freedoms, national unity with individual rights, and Federal interests with State powers. In setting this foundation, the Founders also recognized the potential for necessary change. They included a constitutional amendment process, which has proven to be a vitally important mechanism for achieving equality and fairness for all our citizens.

Our Constitution is sustained by Americans who daily defend the principles of democracy and freedom. We understand that with great privileges come great responsibilities. Citizenship not only involves a commitment to our Nation but also to our neighbors and those in need. Over the past year, we have seen many outstanding examples of self-

less sacrifice, courageous compassion, and true generosity. We remain committed to building a culture of service and responsibility that inspires citizens to reach out to the needy, take leadership in improving our communities, and participate fully in our democratic process.

Today, the United States stands as a beacon of democracy and tolerance, inviting the nations of the world to pursue justice, provide freedom, and protect liberty for their people. As we face the challenges of a new era, we remain resolved and vigilant in the defense of life and liberty against tyranny and terror. Drawing strength and guidance from our Constitution, we will work to ensure that the blessings of American liberty endure and extend for generations to come.

In remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strive to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106, as amended), designated September 17 as "Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108, as amended), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2002, as Citizenship Day and September 17 through September 23, 2002, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our commitment as citizens of our great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

September 13, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Interior, and Transportation; International Assistance Programs; and the National Capital Planning Commission.

In total, these amendments would not affect the budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 Budget.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Announcing the Teaching American History and Civic Education Initiatives

September 17, 2002

Thank you all very much. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Thanks for getting up so early.

I do want to appreciate David McCullough. It's an honor to be introduced by David McCullough. I appreciate his contribution to our Nation. He's made history come alive for millions of Americans. He's encouraged the teaching of history in our classrooms. He's made a lasting contribution to our Nation, and we're grateful for that contribution.

It is fitting that on the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, the three branches of our Government are represented here.

Here in America, we see a broad renewal of American patriotism. And this is something to give thanks for; it really is. And it's something we must build on. To properly un-

derstand and love our country, we must know our country's history.

Today I am announcing several initiatives that will improve students' knowledge of American history, increase their civic involvement, and deepen their love for our great country.

I appreciate so very much Lynne Cheney, her—well, the fact she married a great Vice President, for starters. *[Laughter]* But she loves history. She has written books to encourage our children to understand history. Today she's hosting a celebration of the 215th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution at the Vice President's house—she kindly invited Laura to go.

I appreciate Justice Anthony Kennedy for coming. Not only is he a great Supreme Court Justice, he cares about the community in which he lives. He's worked with the American Bar Association on what they call a Dialogue on Freedom, an initiative to foster discussions in our Nation's classrooms about American civic values. Thank you, Justice Kennedy, for that. *[Applause]* Delayed applause is better than no applause. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so very much our Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Rod is a—he's a straightforward fellow who cares deeply about our children. When we say no child should be left behind, he means it. He's doing a great job. Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming.

I do want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I'm especially pleased that Senator Kennedy and Senator Gregg from the Senate have come. These two strange bedfellows worked together to pass one of the most comprehensive education reform plans in our Nation's history. They care deeply about our country. I'm honored that you two are here.

And also two fine Members from the House of Representatives, Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and Congressman Tim Roemer, we're honored that you're here. Thank you for coming. And thank you for your deep concern about our country and its future.

I thank Bob Cole for being here, who's the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I thank John Carlin, who's the national Archivist, and Cathy Gorn,

who's the executive director of National History Day. I thank Les Lenkowsky, who's the CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. I appreciate my friend Stephen Goldsmith, who's chairman of the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, for being here. And thank you all for coming.

In the last year, in this last year of American history, we have witnessed acts of sacrifice and heroism, compassion and courage, unity and fierce determination. We have been reminded that we are citizens with obligations to each other, to our country, and to our history.

These examples are particularly important for our children. Children reflect the values they see in their parents and in their heroes. And this is how a culture can be strengthened and changed for the better.

During the last year, our children have seen that lasting achievement in life comes through sacrifice and service. They've seen that evil is real but that courage and justice can triumph. They've seen that America is a force for good in the world, bringing hope and freedom to other people.

In recent events, our children have witnessed the great character of America. Yet, they also need to know the great cause of America. They are seeing Americans fight for our country. They also must know why their country is worth fighting for.

Our history is not a story of perfection. It's a story of imperfect people working toward great ideals. This flawed nation is also a really good nation, and the principles we hold are the hope of all mankind. When children are given the real history of America, they will also learn to love America.

Our Founders believed the study of history and citizenship should be at the core of every American's education. Yet today, our children have large and disturbing gaps in their knowledge of history. Recent studies tell us that nearly one in five high school seniors think that Germany was an ally of the United States in World War II. Twenty-eight percent of eighth graders do not know the reasons why the Civil War was fought. One-third of fourth graders do not know what it means to "pledge allegiance to the flag." Graduating seniors at some of our leading colleges and

universities cannot correctly identify words from the Gettysburg Address or do not know that James Madison is the father of the Constitution.

This is more than academic failure. Ignorance of American history and civics weakens our sense of citizenship. To be an American is not just a matter of blood or birth. We are bound by ideals, and our children must know those ideals.

They should know about the nearly impossible victory of the Revolutionary War and the debates of the Constitutional Convention. They should know the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and how Abraham Lincoln applied its principles to flight—to fight slavery. Our children should know why Martin Luther King, Jr., was in a Birmingham city jail and why he wrote a magnificent letter from that place. Our children need to know about America's liberation of Europe during World War II and why the Berlin Wall came down. At this very moment, Americans are fighting in foreign lands for principles defined at our founding, and every American—particularly every American child—should fully understand these principles.

The primary responsibility for teaching history and civics rests with our elementary and secondary schools, and they've got to do their job. The Federal Government can help, and today I'm announcing three new initiatives spearheaded by the USA Freedom Corps and designed to support the teaching of American history and civic education.

The first initiative is called We the People—it will be administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities—which will encourage the teaching of American history and civic education. The program will provide grants to develop good curricula, hold training seminars for schoolteachers and university faculty, sponsor a lecture series in which acclaimed scholars like David McCullough will tell the story of great figures from American history, and enlist high school students in a national essay contest about the principles and ideals of America. We will use technology to share these important lessons with schools and communities throughout America.

The Federal Government conserves and protects some of our greatest national treasures, and we need to make them more readily available to Americans in their schools and local communities. Our second initiative is called Our Documents, an innovative project that will be run by the National Archives and the National History Day. This project will use the Internet to bring one hundred of America's most important documents from the National Archives to classrooms and communities across the country, to provide lesson plans, and to foster competitions and discussions about these defining moments in our history.

Students and their teachers will see documents online in their original form, well-known documents such as our Constitution or the Emancipation Proclamation or the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They will also see other important but less widely available documents, such as the Lee Resolution, which first proposed independence for American colonies, and Jefferson's secret message to Congress regarding the exploration of the West.

Third, early next year we will convene a White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service. We will discuss new policies to improve the teaching of history and civics in elementary and secondary schools and in our colleges and universities. We will hear from educators and scholars about ways to better monitor students' understanding of American history and civics and how to make more of our great national treasures—how to make them more accessible and more relevant to the lives of our students.

American children are not born knowing what they should cherish—are not born knowing why they should cherish American values. A love of democratic principles must be taught.

A poet once said, "What we have loved, others will love, and we will teach them how." We love our country, and we must teach our children to do the same. And when we do, they will carry on our heritage of freedom into the future.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:42 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to historian David McCullough; and

Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Senatorial Candidate Lamar Alexander in Nashville, Tennessee

September 17, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks. Thank you. Thanks a lot. Thank you, "Senator." [Laughter] There's no doubt in my mind Lamar Alexander will make a great—a lot of great contributions to our Nation. But one of the lasting contributions he will make is a contribution he made before when he held office, and that is, he brought honor and dignity to the office to which he had been elected.

I'm proud to be back in Tennessee. I want to thank you all for having me here. I'm proud to come back and say as clearly as I can to the citizens of Tennessee, Lamar Alexander should become the next United States Senator. And there's a lot of reasons why, and one of them is because he married well. Like me, he married a Texan. And like me, he married above himself. We appreciate Honey, and she's a class act like Lamar is, and I'm proud to know them both.

I wish my wife were here with me. You may remember, or maybe you don't know, but when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics; she didn't like politicians. Now here she is, the First Lady of the United States. Thank goodness. What a fabulous job she is doing. I bring her greetings to Lamar and Honey and all of you all. She is doing great, by the way. She's settled in. Public housing is all right there in Washington. [Laughter]

I do want to thank the members of the mighty Tennessee delegation who are here, starting with Fred Thompson. There's only one man in this State who can fill the shoes of Fred Thompson, and that's Lamar Alexander. And Fred, thank you for your service. I appreciate his service to Tennessee and to America. Fortunately, he isn't quitting early. He's still got some—he's got some—he's got a task ahead there on the floor of the Senate, and that's to make sure I get a Homeland Security Department that is unfettered from

Government rules and bureaucracies, a Homeland Security Department that will allow this President and future Presidents to move people to the right place at the right time, in order to protect the homeland from an enemy which still hates us. And Fred Thompson is leading that charge. And as he succeeds and when he succeeds, he will leave behind a fabulous legacy for future administrations and Senators. Fred, thank you. You've been a great Senator.

I appreciate Senator Bill Frist. He too is a fine Senator. You sent two good ones up there, and you're about to send another good one in Lamar. But thank you for being here, Senator Frist. I appreciate the next Governor of the State of Tennessee, Van Hilleary, for joining us today. I want to thank Ed Bryant, and I want to thank Zach Wamp as well for being here. I hope these Congressmen are here to hear my speeches. I hope it's not just to get a free ride on Air Force One heading back to Washington. Either way, you'll find the speeches are probably too long and the accommodations on Air Force One is just fine. But these are fine Members of the Congress. I'm proud to work with them.

I'm also traveling today—since we're going to a school here in Nashville, I'm traveling with our Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, who's doing such a fantastic job on behalf of the children of America. And Rod, thank you for coming.

I want to thank all those who helped put on this event. I want to thank Ted Welch. I want to thank Beth Harwell and Stephanie Chivers. I want to thank my friend David Kustoff. I want to thank all of you all who are involved in grassroots politics.

One thing people like Lamar and I understand is that we can't win without the folks who are willing to dial the telephones and put the signs in the yards and make sure the mailers go out on time, make sure the voters go up to vote. I want to thank you for what you have done, and I want to thank you for what you're going to do. It is really important that you go back to your coffee shops, your houses of worship, your community centers, and remind the good people of Tennessee what a fine leader Lamar Alexander has been, is, and will be on behalf of the people of Tennessee.

He should win this race just on what he has done. He was one of the great Governors of this State. He's one of the most imaginative and reform-oriented Secretaries of Education. He'd been in higher education. He loves his family. He loves his country. He's got fabulous values. The thing I appreciate about him is that he does not rest on his laurels; he's a forward-thinking man. He knows that we've got to continue to work together to challenge the status quo when we find our children trapped in mediocre schools. He understands that mediocrity must be challenged. He challenged—liked to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. It's going to be good to have a man in the United States Senate who will stand by my side to insist upon strong accountability, to make sure that no child in America—not one single child—gets left behind in our public education system.

As Lamar mentioned, we're going over to a school here in Nashville to talk about the importance of teaching history and civics to our Nation's youth, that we want to make sure that when we talk about how—why we defend liberty, they understand the history of liberty; they understand the great ideals of our country and the values that make America the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. I look forward to going with Lamar over to East Literature Magnet School to talk about the promise of America and the hope for a better world, not only here but around the world. He understands the value of education.

He also understands the need to make sure our economy grows. In Washington, sometimes when you listen to the rhetoric of some of them up there, they believe Government creates jobs. See, the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur and small business can flourish, so people can find work. And that's why it's going to be important to have somebody who understands that when you let a person keep more of their own money, that person is likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in this country, in this system, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody

produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

And the whole economic package of this administration is based upon jobs. We will do everything in our power to make sure that jobs are available for people who want to work, and that starts with letting people keep more of their own money. The interesting thing is, we have passed this tax relief plan, and yet because of a quirk in the law, a quirk in the Senate rules, the law goes away after 10 years. That's kind of a hard one to explain to the ranchers in Crawford, Texas. "We're going to cut your taxes, but we're really not cutting them." What we've got to make sure is, you send the United States Senator from Tennessee who will make the tax cuts permanent on behalf of the working people of this State.

By the way, one of the things we did in our tax relief package, besides laying the groundwork for economic growth, was we started putting the death tax on its way to extinction. The death tax is bad for Tennessee farmers. The death tax is bad for Tennessee ranchers. The death tax is bad for Tennessee entrepreneurs. The death tax is just plain bad. And you better send you a Senator up there who will get rid of the death tax once and for all.

The foundation for economic growth is strong here in America. Inflation is down. Interest rates are low. Productivity of the American worker is up. But one of the things that you need to be concerned about is Congress overspending, is Congress not understanding the need for fiscal responsibility, so that our economy continues to grow. If Congress overspends, it will serve as a drag on economic vitality. You see, some of them up there don't understand whose money we're spending. We don't spend the Government's money in Washington; we're spending your money. And it's important to have United States Senators like Thompson and Frist who understand fiscal sanity is important in Washington.

See, every program sounds great up there. Everybody's idea sounds wonderful. The problem, in Washington terms, they've all got billions of dollars worth of price tags attached to them. They can't even get a budget out of the United States Senate. We need a

budget. If you don't have a budget, the likelihood that—the likelihood is, the Senate is going to overspend. How can you set priorities without a budget? And my priorities are defending the American people, making sure the homeland is secure. And therefore, we need to have Senators in Washington, DC, who are there to protect the taxpayer's money, to be fiscally sound.

No, I've got a veto, and I intend to use it if they overspend. But it would certainly be helpful to have Senators up there that don't cause me—necessary to use it.

I appreciate the fact that I'll be able to work with Lamar on making sure the good people who I nominate to our Federal benches will not only get a fair hearing but a speedy hearing and will get approved. The country got to see what happens when the Senate gets so politicized that they won't give people a fair hearing when it comes to judicial nominees.

I named a fabulous woman out of Texas, named Priscilla Owen, to the Fifth Court. And they distorted her record. She had the highest ranking from the ABA, and yet having listened to the rhetoric coming out of a highly politicized and polarized committee, you never would have realized how qualified she is. She was turned down for purely political purposes. For the sake of a Federal judiciary that is strong and solid, we need United States Senators like Lamar Alexander who will be fair and reasonable and realistic and will not play politics with the President's judicial nominees.

And I look forward to having this good man in the United States Senate to stand side by side with me to help fulfill the most important role we have in Washington, and that's to protect the homeland. Our most important job is to protect an enemy which still exists and still hates from taking other lives.

People say, "Well, you know, are you sure they're still out there?" Yes, I'm sure, and I know they still hate. I want you to tell your children who ask the question, "Why would America be under attack," to look them square in the eye and tell them, "It's because we love freedom, is why we're under attack." We hold freedom dear. We love the idea of worshiping freely in America, and we'll never let go of our freedoms. And so long as we

hold dear to our freedoms, the enemy will hate us, because they hate freedom. These are people that do not value human life. And here in America, we say, "Everybody matters. Each life is precious. Everybody counts." These are people who hijacked a great religion in order to justify their murder.

So our most important job is to do everything we can to make sure our homeland is secure. And it starts with an issue that I talked to you about that Fred's working on, and that is to combine the agencies involved with homeland security in such a way that we can properly enforce our borders, for example. We need to know who's coming into America. We need to know what they're bringing into America. We need to know if they're leaving America when they say they're going to leave America.

And yet when you look down at our borders, north and south, there are three different United States agencies involved with the security of our border, Customs, INS, and Border Patrol, all of them manned by very fine men and women, all of them staffed by hard-working Americans. But they've got different cultures, different strategies. It makes no sense for the President not to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the homeland.

And the problem is, in the United States Senate, they're more interested in Washington's special interests than they are in the interests of protecting the American people. I hope they get a good bill out of the Senate before they go home to campaign. But I'm going to make good on my promise that if the flexibility is not in the bill, the flexibility that Fred is so hard-working on, that I'm going to use my veto power. I will not accept a lousy bill that makes it impossible for the President—this President or future Presidents—to do what the American people expect, and that's to protect the homeland.

The best way to secure the homeland, the best way to make sure that we protect our children and our children's future, the best way to defend freedom and civilization itself, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States of America is going to do.

We're in a different kind of war. But make no mistake about it, it's still war. In the old days, you could count the enemy's tanks or airplanes or ships, and say, "Well, look how much we demolished," or, "Their industrial capacity can't keep up with the war demands, and therefore, they're diminished as an enemy." This is a different kind of enemy. Remember, these are the kind of enemies that hide in caves. They find the darkest cave they can find. They burrow in there, and then they send some youngster to their suicidal death. These are people that hate. These are people that take innocent life at the drop of a hat. These people are resourceful, and they're wily, and they're determined. But they are not as determined as the mighty United States of America. There is no cave deep enough; there's no neighborhood dark enough for them to hide in, as far as I'm concerned.

And thanks to a coalition of countries that love freedom as much as we do, and thanks to a fantastic United States military, we're making good progress on the war against these killers. Just read your newspaper. The other day, the fellow that thought he wanted to be 20th hijacker is in custody. He's off the streets. He thought he could hide. He thought he could run. He thought he could escape the justice of the United States of America. No matter how long it takes, this mighty Nation will do everything is required to defend our freedom.

I bet we've hauled in over 2,500 of them so far. I say "we"—it's not just the America military; it's our friends and allies. Remember the doctrine, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," and that doctrine still stands. And as a result, over a couple thousand of them have been hauled in, and that number—about the same number met a different fate. They weren't as lucky.

And another doctrine still stands. It says, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you house a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent American lives." And the Taliban found out what we want. I want you to remind your children, with all—in the midst of all this war talk, the midst of the—on the television screens seeing our troops and all the stuff going on—remind them that this

mighty Nation went into a country, as we upheld that doctrine, not to conquer anybody but to liberate a people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, many young girls, for the first time, go to school.

No, this great, compassionate Nation will not only defend our Nation; we will believe in freedom for everybody. See, we think everybody matters, every life counts, every person has got worth, whether they be American or anywhere else around the globe.

Speaking about barbaric regimes, we must deal with probably one of the most—not probably—one of the most real threats we face, and that is the idea of a barbaric regime teaming up with a terrorist network and providing weapons of mass destruction, to hold the United States and our allies and our friends blackmail.

I gave a speech at the United Nations. I said, for the sake of peace, for the sake of security, after 11 years of not doing what he said he would do, it is time for us to deal with the true threats; it's time with us to deal with Saddam Hussein; it's time for us to secure the peace. The United Nations must act. It's a time for them to determine whether or not they'll be the United Nations or the League of Nations. It's time to determine whether or not they'll be a force for good and peace or an ineffective debating society. The United States will remain strong in our conviction that we must not and will not allow the world's worst leaders to hold the United States and our friends and allies blackmail or threaten us with the world's worst weapons.

I have asked Congress to support me in this war. And I must say, the bipartisan support has been strong, and I appreciate that. But Congress has been lacking in one area. I requested the most—the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons. One, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that the United States is not going to relent in our quest for freedom, that we're in this deal for the long haul, that

there's not a calendar on my desk that says by such-and-such a date, we quit. See, that's not what you do when you face an enemy which hates. That's not what you do when you know that history has called us to defend our freedoms.

I say the Congress failed because the House passed a defense bill and the Senate passed a defense bill, but they haven't gotten together to get me a defense bill yet. They need to act. The leadership in Washington needs to move a defense bill to my desk as quickly as possible. They not ought—they ought not to play politics with the defense appropriations bill in the midst of a war, a war that will define civilization itself.

I don't know what got into the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought the Nation was so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so selfish and so shallow that after September the 11th, 2001, all we would do is file a lawsuit or two. They didn't understand America. They don't know that when they struck us, they struck a mighty nation that loves freedom. They didn't realize that out of the evil done to this country can come incredible good. And I believe that. I believe that by remaining tough and strong on terror, by working with nations around the world and reminding them the stakes—about the stakes, by always adhering to the ideals that make our Nation strong, that we can achieve peace.

I want you to tell your kids, my dream is peace. I want the world to be a peaceful world, not only for our children but children everywhere. I want there to be peace in the Middle East, and I believe by remaining tough and strong, we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia. I understand that the hurdles are going to be great, and there's going to be rough moments. But the enemy has given us a chance to achieve some good out of the evil, by realizing peace. And here at home, we have a chance to foster a more compassionate society.

In the midst of our plenty, there are people who hurt in America. There are people who are addicted, who are lonely. There are people who wonder whether or not the so-called American Dream is meant for them. I understand that Government can hand out

money, and we do a pretty darn good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when a fellow American puts their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

There's a new spirit in America, thanks to what happened on September the 11th. We still mourn for the loss of life, but there are thousands of our fellow citizens who have asked the question, "How can I help?" And they've heard the call: You can help fight evil by doing good. You can fight evil by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, in this country, there's a new sense of responsibility. People are learning that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart and saying the pledge allegiance. Being a patriot is serving a cause greater than yourself.

The enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. They've—they hit a country with a strong spirit, a strong sense of purpose, a strong drive to make sure that every single citizen has a chance. And so I remind my fellow Americans, it doesn't take much to be a part of a change, to be a part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that will define the true face of our country. Mentor a child. Go to a shut-in's house and say, "Can I help you?" Be a part of the Boys and Girls Clubs.

I met a young man who—today who wants to run a—is going to run an after-school program in the Boys and Girls Club. He's a junior in high school. He heard the call. Join the Peace Corps. If you're a youngster, be a member of the USA Freedom Corps. Serve a country by serving a neighbor in need. And that's what's taking place.

You know, I first got into politics because I believed our culture ought to change from one that said, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life." And if you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living in Nashville, Tennessee, you're responsible for the quality of education in the neighbor-

hoods; you're responsible for the quality of life. If you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible to your shareholders and your employees to tell the truth and not lie about your books. If you're a responsible America, it means you love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's what's happening.

There's no question in my mind this great country is going to rise to the challenges we face. There's no doubt in my mind that by remaining strong and steadfast, we can win the war on terror and help the world become more peaceful. And there's no doubt in my mind that we can find those dark corners of hopelessness and help bring light, by loving them—by loving a neighbor in need.

You know why I say, "no doubt in my mind"? Because this is the finest country on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent, honorable people. I'm proud you came today. I'm proud to support Lamar Alexander.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the East Exhibit Hall at the Nashville Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Honey Alexander, wife of candidate Alexander; Ted Welch, finance chairman, Alexander for Senate; Beth Harwell, chairman, and Stephanie Chivers, national committeewoman, Tennessee Republican Party; David Kustoff, candidate for Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Boys and Girls Club volunteer Harry Ingle, Jr.

Remarks at East Literature Magnet School in Nashville *September 17, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. Thanks for that warm welcome—really warm welcome. [Laughter] Across America today, Americans are reciting 31 words—words that help define our country. In one sentence, we affirm our form of government, our belief in human dignity, our unity as a people, and our reliance on Providence.

And this pledge takes on a special meaning in a time of war. Our enemies hate these

words. That's what you've got to understand. They hate the words, and they want to erase them. We're determined to stand for these words and live them out in our lives. Our allegiance has never been stronger. We've never been more determined. And we must work to teach our children to love our Nation as much as we do.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I particularly want to thank our Secretary of Education for traveling with me, Rod Paige. I picked Rod out of a lot of really good candidates because I wanted somebody to be in Washington who had actually been on the frontlines of educating every child. We didn't need any more theory in Washington. We needed people that had actually done. And when we talk about raising the bar and challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations, so that every child can learn, when we talk about having an accountability system to make sure no child is left behind, our Secretary of Education has actually done it. He ran one of the largest school districts in my State, our State, and he did so with class and dignity. And the children of Houston, Texas, are better off for it. Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming.

I'm also proud to be sharing the stage with another superintendent, Pedro Garcia. *Mucho gusto, Pedro*. Pedro is a good leader. It's very interesting—we were talking before we came out here and Pedro was a part of what they call Operation Pedro Pan—Operation Peter Pan. So, by the way, was a member of my Cabinet, Mel Martinez. When both Pedro and Mel were young men, their parents wanted their children to grow up in freedom, so they put them on an airplane to a foreign land. They had great faith in America, faith—so much faith in the ideals of our country that they were willing to trust their teenage children with a stranger in a foreign country. And they came and were loved. I don't know about, Pedro, whether your mom and dad came, but Mel's mother and daddy came.

And I want you all to remember these stories about Pedro, who's now your superintendent of school, or Mel, who's in my Cabinet, that this country offered so much hope and so much promise, because we believe so strongly in freedom that people such

as the Garcias and the Martinezes were willing to give up their children so they could grow up in a free society. I love the story of Pedro Pan. I love the job you're doing, and I wish you all the best.

And I'm also so appreciative for Kaye, Kaye Schneider, the principal of East Literature Magnet School, for opening up this school. She said it's been an amazing experience. I bet it has, with all these—[laughter]—all these advance people and all the entourage here. But thanks for opening up this great school. I'm here because this is a center of excellence, a school that refuses to leave any child behind, and it starts with having a good, solid, sound principal. So Kaye, thank you very much.

I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Thank you for taking on a noble profession. Old Sam Houston, he used to live in Tennessee. And at one time he had been the Governor of Texas and a Senator from Texas. And he was a famous Tennessee guy, and he was a President of the Republic of Texas. And they said, "Of all the jobs you've ever had, Sam, what was the most important one?" He said, without hesitation, "teacher," because he had been a teacher.

I want to thank the mothers and dads who are here. Thank you for coming. You too are teachers. The best education starts at home, by loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. I want to thank the students who are here. Thanks for letting me come by and visit with you.

I appreciate so very much elected officials who have come today: Senator Fred Thompson, Senator Bill Frist, Congressman Zach Wamp, Congressman Van Hilleary, Congressman Bob Clement, Congressman Bart Gordon, Congressman Ed Bryant. I want to thank your mayor, Bill Purcell, for coming as well, the mayor of Nashville. Thank my friend Lamar Alexander for being here.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share some thoughts. It is very important for our youngsters to understand history, the history of our country, the ideals that make our country strong. This morning in the Rose Garden I kicked off a national initiative, and I'm going to describe some of what we're

going to do to make sure that we teach more history to our children.

Especially important in a time of war that our children understand the context of why we fight. You see, ours is a history of freedom. One of the most precious ideals we have is freedom for everybody. We love our freedoms. We love the idea of being a free society. And throughout our history, people have fought for freedom. Whether it's been in the Revolutionary War or the heroic struggle to end slavery or civil rights wars in the United States Congress or whether it's World War II where we fought to free people from tyranny, the history of this Nation has been a history of freedom and justice.

Our children are growing up in a difficult time for America, because they see on their TV screens the fact that America is now a battlefield. When we were kids, or a lot of us were kids, growing up, oceans separated us from danger. We were confident in our ability to resist evil because evil could never make it to our shore, unless it was created internally. But now we've entered a new period where we're vulnerable. It's tough for our children to comprehend that, I know.

But you've got to understand why we're vulnerable, and that is because there are people in the world that hate the fact that we love freedom. People cannot stand the fact that your great Nation not only allows but encourages people to worship an almighty God in any way they want to. We welcome that in America.

We speak our mind freely. All you've got to do is remember it's an election year. *[Laughter]* We believe in a free press. And we're not going to change. We love our freedoms. Our history has taught us that. And today, we love them just as strongly as others in the past have.

The other thing the children are learning is the notion of people serving something greater than themselves in life. You know, I think one of the most defining moments of the recent American history was Flight 93. Flight 93 is an amazing lesson. Laura and I had the honor of going to the site there in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the other day to hug and cry and visit with and smile with—if they wanted to smile—with the family

members of those brave souls who were on that airplane.

But it's a lesson of people loving freedom so much and loving their country so much, that they're willing to drive a plane into the ground to save other people's lives. What a powerful message, that part of being an American is to serve something greater than yourself, part of being a citizen in this great land is to not only take from the land but to give.

So today, when you realize there are military people looking in caves in Afghanistan or moving around the world to try to fight tyranny and terrorism, they do so to serve something greater than themselves, because of a strong ideal, a strong sense of purpose, a strong sense of country.

You've got to understand there are some in this world that simply do not adhere to the ideals we believe in. In Iraq, they don't put their hand over their heart and say, "Liberty and justice for all." They don't believe in liberty. The dictator who runs Iraq doesn't believe in justice. He only believes in liberty and justice for those who he decides get liberty and justice.

There's a lot of talk about Iraq on our TV screens, and there should be, because we're trying to figure out how best to make the world a peaceful place. There's an old saying in Tennessee—I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee—that says, fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me—you can't get fooled again. You've got to understand the nature of the regime we're dealing with. This is a man who has delayed, denied, deceived the world. For the sake of liberty and justice for all, the United Nations Security Council must act, must act in a way to hold this regime to account, must not be fooled, must be relevant to keep the peace.

Part of the American history teaches us that we must lead toward a more peaceful world. Part of the history of the world shows that as threats develop, we must deal with them before they become too acute, unmanageable. Part of our history is, is that we're a peaceful people. We love and long for peace, that we want peace for generations to come. But sometimes we must act in order to achieve the peace.

And all our history says we believe in liberty and justice for all, that we see oppression, we cry; that when we found out that young girls in Afghanistan could not go to school because they were in the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, we acted not only to uphold doctrine and to fight the war against terror, we acted to liberate people. Our history shows that we're not a nation which conquers. We're a nation which liberates.

History is important for our children to understand, to give them a better sense of how to understand what we do and a sense of what it means to be an American, a sense of importance of serving something greater than yourself in life.

The first initiative that we're going to put out is called *We the People*, which will encourage American history and civic education all around the country. There will be a grant program to encourage the development of good curricula and a lecture series and essays by high school students on liberty and justice and freedom.

We've got a great store of documents here in America, and so we're going to put out a program called *Our Documents*. The national Archivist is going to work with us to make sure all of the archives of America are now online, so schools can easily tap in to find out how our history developed through the archives of the country. It ought to be a really interesting way for our students to learn more about America.

We're going to have a White House forum there in Washington, DC—obviously, that's where the White House is—in January or February of next year, to call in experts as to how better teach our history, and at the same time, teach the ideals that make us a great nation. We're going to do our part at the Federal level. It's very important that you all do your part here in Nashville, Tennessee, and insist upon good civics lessons, the true lessons of history, to make sure our children understand the ideals that make us great.

And one of the things our youngsters and those of us not quite so young can do—and this is important—is to celebrate patriotism by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, it's important to realize that one person can't do everything to change America, but one person can do something. Every child who hurts, who receives your love, is part of changing America for the better, is part of fighting evil with acts of kindness and decency.

I met Harry Ingle, Jr., at Air Force One. He's an East Literature Magnet student. He's a junior. He was out there because he is involved with mentoring children. He's a soldier in the army of compassion here in Nashville, Tennessee. He's a part of the true strength of America, which is neighbor loving neighbor, those of us who are on our feet helping those who aren't on their feet. He's a part of the light that can help shine into corners of darkness, where there may be despair and addiction and loneliness.

No, part of patriotism is not just to put a hand over our heart, but part of being a patriot is to serve the ideals of this country by serving something greater than yourself.

I want the students here to understand that this great Nation of ours longs for peace, but we also want to practice compassion. And you can be a part of the compassionate future by helping somebody in need.

It is an honor to be here at this fine school, in this fine city, in this great State, to celebrate with millions of students all across the country the Pledge of Allegiance, the Pledge across America. It is my honor to be here to remind people of the great ideals of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the school's auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Pedro Garcia, director of schools, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools; Mayor Bill Purcell of Nashville; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

**Memorandum on Classified
Information Concerning the Air
Force's Operating Location Near
Groom Lake, Nevada**

September 13, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-30

*Memorandum for the Administrator of the
Environmental Protection Agency, the
Secretary of the Air Force*

Subject: Classified Information Concerning
the Air Force's Operating Location Near
Groom Lake, Nevada

I find that it is in the paramount interest of the United States to exempt the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, the subject of litigation in *Kasza v. Browner* (D. Nev. CV-S-94-795-PMP) and *Frost v. Perry* (D. Nev. CV-S-94-714-PMP), from any applicable requirement for the disclosure to unauthorized persons of classified information concerning that operating location. Therefore, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), I hereby exempt the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate or local provision respecting control and abatement of solid waste or hazardous waste disposal that would require the disclosure of classified information concerning the operating location to any unauthorized person. This exemption shall be effective for the full one-year statutory period.

Nothing herein is intended to: (a) imply that in the absence of such a Presidential exemption, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or any other provision of law permits or requires disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons; or (b) limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, except those provisions, if any, that would require the disclosure of classified information.

The Secretary of the Air Force is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Telecommunications Payments to
Cuba**

September 17, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 17, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Congressional Leaders and an
Exchange With Reporters**

September 18, 2002

The President. Listen, I want to thank the Vice President and the leadership of the Congress for coming down for breakfast today. We had a really good discussion about our common concerns. The leadership is committed to moving important legislation forward, legislation that will help expand our job base. We talked about the energy bill. We talked about terrorism insurance. We talked about the defense appropriations. We talked about the appropriations process.

We also talked about Iraq. We talked about the fact that Saddam Hussein has stiffed the United Nations for 11 long years and that, once again, he said—made some kind of statement, trying to take the pressure off of himself. This statement about unconditional inspections was something he's made

in the past. He deceives. He delays. He denies. And the United States and, I'm convinced, the world community, aren't going to fall for that kind of rhetoric on—by him again.

We talked about a resolution out of Congress and how it was important for us to work with Congress to pass a strong resolution. I told the Members that within the next couple of days this administration will develop language as—that we think is necessary. And we look forward to working with both Republicans and Democrats to get a resolution passed.

I want to thank the leadership for its commitment to get a resolution done before Members go home for the election break. I think it's an important signal. It's an important signal for the country, but as importantly, it's an important signal for the world to see that this country is united in our resolve to deal with threats that we face.

And so, thank you all for coming. I'll take a couple of questions: Fournier, [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]; Keil [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Iraqi Acceptance of U.N. Inspections

Q. Like it or not, is it accurate to say that Saddam playing his move has made the allies go wobbly—

The President. Do what now?

Q. Has Saddam's latest move helped make the allies go wobbly on it?

The President. Oh, all they've got to do is look at the record. It's his latest ploy, his latest attempt not to be held accountable for defying the United Nations. He's not going to fool anybody. I mean, he is—we've seen him before. And we'll remind the world that by defying the United Nations he is becoming more and more threat to world peace. And I'm convinced that the world understands the ploy. And one of the jobs the United States has is to remind people about not only the threat but the fact that his defiance has weakened the United Nations. And the United Nations, in order for the world to be a more peaceful place, must rise up and deal with this threat and hold him to account. And that's what we expect out of the Security Council.

Dick.

U.N. Security Council

Q. Mr. President, a follow on Ron's question. Do you think that you'll be able to persuade France and Russia to go along with us on whatever it is you and the Congress decide to do? And frankly, sir, is that necessary? Are you prepared to go it alone?

The President. Listen, we're speculating about what nations are going to do. I'm convinced that when we continue to make the case about his defiance, his deception, his—the fact that time and time again, dozens of times, he has told the world, “Oh, I will comply,” and he never does—that the nations which long for peace and care about the validity of the United Nations will join us.

And so we're going to work hard to continue to make the case. I think reasonable people understand this man is unreasonable. And reasonable people understand that this is just a ploy; this is a tactic; this is a way to try to say to the world, “Oh, I'm a wonderful, peaceful fellow,” when, in fact, he not only kills his own people, he's terrorized his neighborhood, and he's developing weapons of mass destruction. We must deal with him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:03 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic

September 18, 2002

President Bush. Mr. President, welcome to the Oval Office. Are you going to interpret? We're so glad you are here. It's my honor to welcome a truly remarkable person, a man who symbolizes courage and determination, and a man who loves freedom.

Mr. President, you are a unique person who has helped change the world. I am proud to call you friend, and my Nation is proud to call the Czech Republic friend as well. I look forward to our discussion about important issues today, and I also look forward to having a dinner tonight.

So, welcome. Welcome to our capital, and welcome to the Oval Office.

The President is going to say some remarks here.

President Havel. I would like to thank Mr. President for his kind words on my address. I'm very moved. I thank you for your hospitality, for the time which Laura Bush and you made for us. And I hope we shall have important and interesting discussions about the future of human rights and about human security.

I would like, publicly, to thank you for your solidarity and your support during terrible floods which were in my country. I would like to assure you that the Czech Republic is and will remain good friend of the United States, good ally. I hope that the next step will be done in the summit of NATO, which will be in Prague, which is for us a big honor.

I think that now it will be important if NATO will able to identify itself, to find its new identity in this very changed world. And especially now, after 11th of September, I think there is a lot of new kind of evil in this world, and it is necessary to face this evil and to face all who support it.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks on Preventive Cancer Screenings

September 18, 2002

The President. Thank you for coming. Please be seated. Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. Welcome to the White House. I'm glad you're here.

The fight against cancer has seen major victories and is on the verge of major breakthroughs. It's important for Americans to understand. Medical science is helping cancer victims survive and helping survivors lead better lives. With exercise, nutrition, and changed behavior, we can reduce the chances of developing cancer. With well-funded research, we are pushing toward new cancer therapies and new cancer cures. The commitment of this Nation is clear: We will win the fight against cancer.

I appreciate our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, for being here and being on the leading edge of this fight. He is a general in the war against cancer. I want to thank our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, who is with us today. Thank you for coming, Annie.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who are here today. Two fine Senators, Senators Gregg and Brownback, of New Hampshire and Kansas, respectively—thank you all for coming—three Members from the House of Representatives: Deborah Pryce, Roger Wicker, and Sue Myrick. We're honored you all are here. Thanks for coming.

I'm honored that Andy von Eschenbach is here, who is the Director of the National Cancer Institute. Andy, thanks for coming—my fellow Texan. *[Laughter]* I appreciate the Director of the National Institutes of Health, Elias Zerhouni, is here. Elias, thanks for coming.

The Surgeon General is here, Rich Carmona. Rich, I appreciate you being here. Julie Gerberding, who is the Director of the Centers for Disease Control, is with us as well. Good to meet you.

I'm honored to be on the stage with some courageous Americans, survivors of cancer: Paige Brown, Trischa Goldman, Jamal Rasheed, Cynthia Rubin, Matthew Skowronski, and, of course, Lance Armstrong. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here.

Our progress against cancer is dramatic, and it's improving. We know that focused and sustained efforts can make a huge difference, because we have seen survival rates rise. Lance Armstrong's inspiring career is striking proof that testicular cancer survivors can go on to lead extraordinary lives. Thanks to the advances in science, 5-year survival rates for testicular cancer have reached an amazing 95 percent. That's progress.

Overall, more than 60 percent of the Americans diagnosed with cancer today can expect to be alive in 5 years. The survival rate for children after 10 years is approaching 70 percent. Today, 8.9 million Americans are cancer survivors. And research and new technology offer hope, offer a lot of hope that

this number will continue to grow significantly. Every life, every name, is a triumph of medicine and a triumph of hope.

Given the statistics, the good news about cancer survivors also presents a real challenge to our country. Cancer survivors need high-quality followup care to detect early signs of recurrence and to treat other problems that come from the illness and its treatment. For example, many childhood cancer survivors do not receive any followup care after being treated and cured. Because cancer treatments can harm growing tissues, children are particularly vulnerable to recurrences and complications.

The National Cancer Institute, under Andy's lead, is committed to improving the long-term care for all survivors of cancer and especially for our children. NCI-funded scientists are exploring new ways to enhance high-quality, followup care.

We must also accelerate our progress against cancer itself. Despite all our gains, the disease continues to take a terrible toll on our country. Despite all the progress, there are some startling statistics that break my heart. More than 1,500 Americans die from cancer every day. Three out of every four American families will have at least one family member diagnosed with cancer. Scientists, health care providers, and public health professionals are working tirelessly to find cures for this disease, and they need our full—full support.

My 2003 budget would increase funding for cancer research by \$629 million, for a total investment in cancer research throughout the National Institutes of Health of more than \$5 billion. In order to win the war against cancer, we must fund the war against cancer. And I appreciate the Members of Congress here, who are committed to making sure this budget gets—gets enacted, soon. [Laughter]

Prevention is critical. And we're just beginning to make progress on cancer prevention. There are smart choices all Americans can make to reduce our chances of disease, choices we're promoting in our HealthierUS Initiative. Even modest improvements in diet, in fitness, and behavior can help prevent many serious health problems, including cancer.

There's a growing body of evidence that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables reduces the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. In fact, it's been estimated that dietary changes could reduce cancer deaths in the United States by a third. I'm going to start eating broccoli. [Laughter] I want to be a part of the third. [Laughter]

Regular exercise is another way to prevent illness and add years to your life. Last June, I signed an Executive order directing Federal agencies to work together to develop new policies to promote fitness. I reconstituted the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. I named Lynn Swann to head the Council. Exercise is a really important part of my life, and I urge all Americans to make it an important part of your life as well.

Of course, when it comes to behavior, there are healthy choices we can all make—like, don't smoke—in addition to a nutritious diet, regular exercise, and smart choices. Preventative health screenings can also help save lives. They can detect many forms of cancer at earlier, less dangerous stages, allowing doctors to defeat a cancer before it spreads.

Last month, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman learned that she has breast cancer. This is one of the hardest things a woman can hear from her doctor and one of the toughest challenges any family will face, including the White House family. Fortunately, Secretary Veneman's cancer was diagnosed at a very early and curable stage. The good news is, her doctors expect her to enjoy a full recovery.

I checked with her in the Oval Office before coming over here, just to make sure she's going to show up for work. [Laughter] The good news for me is, she is going to carry out her responsibilities during her treatment. I appreciate her courage. I'm really proud of her. Our prayers are with her. I'm proud of the example she sets. She is—I knew I picked an extraordinary person when I named her to run—the Secretary of Agriculture. I didn't realize I was going to pick an heroic figure as well, an example for many people, to understand the need to—the need to get a mammogram, the need to take care of yourself, the need to screen early, the need to understand that we can stop cancer in its tracks if we all take wise

moves. And so, Ann, thank you for your example.

I've tried to do the same thing myself. Earlier this year, to detect whether or not I could be infected with colorectal cancer, I had a screening. Turns out everything the President does is in the public view. *[Laughter]*

Screenings can save lives, and that's important. None of us are immune. All of us can be wise about how we take advantage of technologies. I want not only to make Americans aware of screenings, but scientists are now actively investigating new ways to make screenings better, so we can detect cancer earlier.

For example, again Andy's outfit, the National Cancer Institute, is launching a new clinical trial to study the most effective ways to detect lung cancer. Scientists have also developed promising new tests that analyses a single drop of blood to detect ovarian cancer in its earliest stages, even before symptoms develop. Many women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer too late, because the symptoms can easily be mistaken for other conditions. This new discovery brings great hope, great hope, for overcoming this disease.

There are still many high medical hurdles that we're going to have to clear here in America. But for the first time in human history, we can say with certainty, the war on cancer is winnable. And this Nation will not quit until our victory is complete.

And now it's my pleasure to introduce a man who doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit." Just a few years ago, he was diagnosed with cancer. He was weakened by chemotherapy treatments and told he had a 50-50 chance of surviving. But he's done more than survive. As anybody who knows anything about sports knows, he's triumphed. His story, from cancer diagnosis to his fourth straight victory in the Tour de France, is one of the great human dramas in sports history.

And today—he asked me not to say it, so I'm going to say it anyway—*[laughter]*—is his 31st birthday. And now, it's my honor to present to you a son of Texas, a great American, a wonderful champ, Lance Armstrong.

[At this point, Lance Armstrong made brief remarks.]

The President. Appreciate you, Lance.

Again, thank you all for coming. We'll all be celebrating Lance's birthday in the State Dining Room here at the end of the hall. He made a little cake for you. He looks forward to you singing "Happy Birthday" to him. *[Laughter]*

In the meantime, many in this room are involved in this war. I want to thank you for your efforts, thank you for your love for your fellow Americans.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Armstrong. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the John F. Kennedy Center Plaza Authorization Act of 2002

September 18, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5012, an Act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act, authorizing a construction project to improve, among other things, pedestrian, vehicular, and bicycle access to the Kennedy Center.

As added by H.R. 5012, however, section 12(b)(5) purports to make the Secretary of Transportation's (Secretary) entry into contracts "[s]ubject to the approval of the Board." Because the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center (Board) by law includes Members of Congress, the Board cannot constitutionally exercise executive power, such as the power to approve the exercise of contracting authority by the head of an executive department. The exercise of such power by Members of Congress would violate the separation of powers embodied in our Constitution.

It is not evident that the Congress would have withheld contracting authority from the Secretary absent the invalid Board approval requirement. Therefore the executive branch shall treat the Board approval requirement as severable from the remainder of section 12(b)(5), leaving fully operative the contracting authority granted to the Secretary.

As a matter of comity, the Secretary shall consult the Board as appropriate in relation to the Secretary's exercise of the authority to enter into contracts under section 12(b)(5).

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5012, approved September 18, was assigned Public Law No. 107-224.

**Executive Order 13274—
Environmental Stewardship and
Transportation Infrastructure
Project Reviews**
September 18, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to enhance environmental stewardship and streamline the environmental review and development of transportation infrastructure projects, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The development and implementation of transportation infrastructure projects in an efficient and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people and a strong American economy. Executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law and available resources, to promote environmental stewardship in the Nation's transportation system and expedite environmental reviews of high-priority transportation infrastructure projects.

Sec. 2. Actions. (a) For transportation infrastructure projects, agencies shall, in support of the Department of Transportation, formulate and implement administrative, policy, and procedural mechanisms that enable each agency required by law to conduct environmental reviews (reviews) with respect to such projects to ensure completion of such reviews in a timely and environmentally responsible manner.

(b) In furtherance of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with agencies as appropriate, shall advance environmental

stewardship through cooperative actions with project sponsors to promote protection and enhancement of the natural and human environment in the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of transportation facilities and services.

(c) The Secretary of Transportation shall designate for the purposes of this order a list of high-priority transportation infrastructure projects that should receive expedited agency reviews and shall amend such list from time to time as the Secretary deems appropriate. For projects on the Secretary's list, agencies shall to the maximum extent practicable expedite their reviews for relevant permits or other approvals, and take related actions as necessary, consistent with available resources and applicable laws, including those relating to safety, public health, and environmental protection.

Sec. 3. Interagency Task Force. (a) *Establishment.* There is established, within the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes, the interagency "Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force" (Task Force) to: (i) monitor and assist agencies in their efforts to expedite a review of transportation infrastructure projects and issue permits or similar actions, as necessary; (ii) review projects, at least quarterly, on the list of priority projects pursuant to section 2(c) of this order; and (iii) identify and promote policies that can effectively streamline the process required to provide approvals for transportation infrastructure projects, in compliance with applicable law, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protection.

(b) *Membership and Operation.* The Task Force shall promote interagency cooperation and the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal, and local agency consultation, review, approval, and permitting of transportation infrastructure projects. The Task Force shall consist exclusively of the following officers of the United States: the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Transportation (who shall chair the Task Force), Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Defense, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation,

and Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force functions of the member, any person who is part of the member's department, agency, or office and who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate or a member of the Senior Executive Service. The Task Force shall report to the President through the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Sec. 4. Report. At least once each year, the Task Force shall submit to the President a report that: (a) Describes the results of the coordinated and expedited reviews on a project-by-project basis, and identifies those procedures and actions that proved to be most useful and appropriate in coordinating and expediting the review of the projects.

(b) Identifies substantive and procedural requirements of Federal, State, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with, duplicative of, or are structured so as to restrict their efficient implementation with other applicable requirements.

(c) Makes recommendations regarding those additional actions that could be taken to: (i) address the coordination and expediting of reviews of transportation infrastructure projects by simplifying and harmonizing applicable substantive and procedural requirements; and (ii) elevate and resolve controversies among Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies related to the review or impacts of transportation infrastructure projects in a timely manner.

(d) Provides any other recommendations that would, in the judgement of the Task Force, advance the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.

Sec. 5. Preservation of Authority. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals.

Sec. 6. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, en-

forceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on September 23.

Memorandum on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Consultations

September 17, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 70,000 refugee admissions during FY 2003, to be allocated by specific region as follows:

Africa	20,000
East Asia (including Amerasians) ...	4,000
Latin America/Caribbean	2,500
Near East/South Asia	7,000
Former Soviet Union	14,000
Eastern Europe	2,500
Unallocated Reserve	20,000

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers to be made available for the adjustment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States;
3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who, if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and an Exchange With Reporters

September 19, 2002

The President. Good morning. I appreciate our Secretary of State coming by to brief the Vice President and me and Condoleezza Rice about our progress in working with the United Nations, convincing the United Nations Security Council to firmly deal with a threat to world peace.

Before we talk about that, I do want to express our condolences to those who lost their lives in Israel. It's been back-to-back suicide bombings. We strongly condemn terror. We strongly condemn violence. And we continue to send our message to the good people of that region that if you're interested in peace, that if you want people to be able to grow up in a peaceful world, all parties must do everything they can to reject and stop violence.

At the United Nations Security Council, it is very important that the members understand that the credibility of the United Nations is at stake; that the Security Council must be firm in its resolve to deal with a true threat to world peace, and that is Saddam Hussein; that the United Nations Security Council must work with the United States and Britain and other concerned parties to send a clear message that we expect Saddam to disarm. And if the United Nations Security Council won't deal with the problem, the United States and some of our friends will. That's the message the Secretary of State has delivered forcefully. That's the message that he will continue to carry.

And Mr. Secretary, I appreciate your hard work. You're doing a fine job.

Secretary Powell. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. And we're proud of your efforts.

Secretary Powell. Thank you, sir.

The President. I'll be glad to answer a few calls—answers, starting with Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Coalition Against Iraq

Q. How many of our friends are willing to join the United States in this effort?

The President. Ron, I think time will tell. I think you're going to see a lot of nations—that a lot of nations love freedom. They understand the threat. They understand that the credibility of the United Nations is at stake. They heard me loud and clear when I said, "Either you can be the United Nations, a capable body, a body able to keep the peace, or you can be the League of Nations." And we're confident that people will follow our lead.

Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News].

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Good to see you, Campbell, for starters. Glad you're here—finally showed up. [Laughter]

Iraq

Q. The chief weapons inspector is going to be briefing the U.N. Security Council today, and there have already been some reports that, in his talks with the Iraqis, that they're limiting access to certain sites. Are those reports true? And do you think they're trying to—

The President. Well, I haven't gotten a report from what he intends to say. But let me give you just some general observations. First of all, there are no negotiations to be held with Iraq. They have nothing to negotiate. They're the people who said that they would not have weapons of mass destruction. The negotiations are over. It is up to the U.N. Security Council to lay out resolutions that confirms what Iraq has already agreed to, see.

Secondly, I don't trust Iraq, and neither should the free world. For 11 years, they have deceived the world. They have said, "We'll conform to resolutions." They've never conformed to resolutions. They've never conformed to the agreement that they laid out 11 years ago. Sixteen times they've defied Security resolutions.

And so, they—the burden of proof is—must be placed squarely on their shoulders. But there's no negotiations about whether or not they've been telling the truth or not.

Let's see here—Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

Congressional Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, are you going to send Congress your proposed resolution today?

The President. I am.

Q. And are you asking for a blank check, sir?

The President. I am sending suggested language for a resolution. I want—I've asked for Congress' support to enable the administration to keep the peace. And we look forward to a good, constructive debate in Congress. I appreciate the fact that the leadership recognizes we've got to move before the elections. I appreciate the strong support we're getting from both Republicans and Democrats and look forward to working with them.

Q. Mr. President, how important is it that that resolution give you an authorization to use force?

The President. That will be part of the resolution, the authorization to use force. If you want to keep the peace, you've got to have the authorization to use force. But it's—this will be—this is a chance for Congress to indicate support. It's a chance for Congress to say, "We support the administration's ability to keep the peace." That's what this is all about.

Q. Will regime change be part of it?

The President. Yes. That's the policy of the Government.

Campbell, congratulations, you got two questions in one day.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. And it wasn't even a followup. That's a brilliant performance.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission for Iraq.

Remarks Following a Visit With Homeland Security Employees and an Exchange With Reporters

September 19, 2002

Homeland Security Legislation

The President. I appreciate Governor Ridge giving me a tour of this important facil-

ity. It's—we're working hard to make sure that we do everything we can to protect our homeland, coordinate among the various agencies, until we get a Department of Homeland Security.

Our House of Representatives has passed a good bill. The Senate is struggling with a bill. I urge the Senate to get a bill to my desk before they go home, a bill which gives us the flexibility necessary to move the right people to the right place in order to better protect the homeland, a bill which safeguards prerogatives that former Presidents have had in regards to national security matters. We're at a time of war, and the Senate shouldn't be making it harder for an administration, whether it be this one or future administrations, to do their job. Nor should the Senate be trying to strip this administration or future administrations from any prerogatives or power that former administrations have had.

We're aware that there is hard work on the Senate floor by Senator Gramm of Texas, a Republican, and Senator Miller of Georgia, a Democrat, to develop a comprehensive substitute for a piece of legislation which we believe is flawed. We hope the Senate would work with Senator Gramm and Senator Miller, vote that bill off the Senate floor, so we can get it to a conference committee and get the bill to my desk before they go home.

This is a really important piece of legislation. America is still threatened. There are enemies out there which still hate us. We must do everything we can to secure the homeland today and, at the same time, leave a legacy behind so future Presidents and future Members of Congress can deal with what will be an ongoing threat to our freedoms and to our people.

But anyway, I appreciate your hospitality, Governor. You've got some fine people here working hard on behalf of the American people. It's wonderful to see you all again today. Thank you.

Q. Is one vote enough—is Zell Miller's vote enough on this compromise?

The President. [*Inaudible*]—I'm not counting votes. I'm just calling on the right—calling on the Senate to do the right thing for the American people.

Iraq and the United Nations

Q. Did you hear the Iraqi Foreign Minister's speech at the U.N., sir? What did you think of it?

The President. I didn't hear it, but let me guess: "The United States is guilty. The world doesn't understand. We don't have any weapons of mass destruction." It's the same old song and dance that we've heard for 11 long years. And the United Nations Security Council must show backbone, must step up and hold this regime to account. Otherwise, the United States and some of our friends will do so.

For the sake of peace, for the sake of world security, for the sake of a viable United Nations, they must act. And if they don't have it in their will to do so, if they're not willing to fashion a resolution which is new and different and strong and holds Iraq to account, holds them to the agreements they have made, the United States will be willing to do so.

Q. Should the American people prepare themselves for war with Iraq, Mr. President?

The President. The American people must understand the serious threat which Iraq places on America. We've learned after September the 11th that oceans no longer protect us from an enemy. We also know full well this is a man who has invaded two countries; this is a man who has poisoned his own people; this is a man who's poisoned his neighbors; this is a man who says that Stalin is his hero; this is a man who hates; this is a man who doesn't believe in freedom; this is a man who has weapons of mass destruction and says he doesn't. He poses a serious threat to the American people. And the first step is to get the United Nations to prove to the world whether it's going to be relevant or whether it's going to be a League of Nations, irrelevant.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. at the Nebraska Avenue Homeland Security Complex. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Foreign Minister Naji Sabri Ahmad al-Hadithi of Iraq.

Proclamation 7595—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2002

September 19, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout American history, many men and women have bravely served in our military and sacrificed much to preserve our country and protect the democratic ideals that make our Nation a beacon of hope. Some of those who answered the call to service were captured in conflict and imprisoned by our enemies; and many remain missing in action.

Each year on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor those Americans who were prisoners of war and recognize them for the courage and determination they showed in the face of unspeakable hardships. We also honor those who remain unaccounted for, especially remembering the sacrifices of their families who must courageously face each day without knowing the fate of their loved ones.

Nearly 60 years after the end of World War II, the fate of more than 78,000 Americans who fought in that conflict remains unknown. More than 8,100 from the Korean War are missing, more than 120 from the Cold War, more than 1,900 from the Vietnam War, and three from the Gulf War. These Americans, who dedicated their lives to preserving and protecting our freedoms, will never be forgotten.

On September 20, 2002, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia will be flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, U.S. military installations, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country. With this observance, we reaffirm our commitment to those who have suffered the horrors of enemy captivity, to those who have yet to return from battle, and to their

families. We remain dedicated to resolving discrepancy cases, achieving the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and missing in action, and bringing them home with the honor and dignity that they deserve.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2002, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in honoring former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity, and in renewing our commitment to those still missing. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism
September 19, 2002

On September 23, 2001, by Executive Order 13224, I declared a national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania,

and on the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States. Because the actions of these persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on September 23, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 23, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:39 p.m., September 19, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism
September 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that

the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2002.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Persons Who Commit, Threaten To
Commit, or Support Terrorism**

September 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith the 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2002.

**Remarks at the Republican
Governors Association Fall
Reception**

September 19, 2002

The President. Well, thank you all very much. John, thank you very much. I appreciate the invitation to get out of the house. [Laughter] I'm honored to come to thank you all for supporting our Governors.

I love our Governors. I know them well. I was one. [Laughter] And these are fine, fine public servants who bring a lot of class and dignity to the office they hold. They put results ahead of process. These are people who put success ahead of excessive verbiage. They're on the frontlines of reform. They care deeply about our country. I'm honored to be in their presence. And I want to thank you for supporting their reelections.

Governors get things done. And Governors can make a tremendous difference in people's lives. I knew that when I started forming my Cabinet. I knew that I needed to surround myself with people who not only would bring honor to the office to which I appointed them but also would work hard to get something done for the country. And that's why I named John Ashcroft, former Governor; Christie Todd Whitman, former Governor; Tommy Thompson, former Governor; and Tom Ridge, former Governor, to serve our country.

I want to thank Johnny Rowland for his leadership of the Republican Governors Association and for his fine leadership for the State of Connecticut. [Applause] He got one peep. [Laughter] Bill Owens is the vice chairman, from the great State of Colorado, and I appreciate his leadership as well.

I want to thank all the first ladies who are here. First ladies really define the Governor—or first gentlemen—define the Governor—[laughter]—just like our great First Lady has helped me a lot and defined me as a person. You know, people get to know a lot—you can judge the nature of a man, in my case, by the person he marries. And I married above myself. [Laughter] People have gotten to know Laura. They now understand why I asked her to marry me. Lot of folks are still wondering why she said yes.

[*Laughter*] She sends her love to our Governors and their wives. She sends her appreciation to you. And I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she's doing for America.

I appreciate these Governors being on the frontline of making America a stronger place, a safer place, and a better place for all citizens, regardless of their party affiliation, regardless of where they live. That's the spirit of these can-do people.

And that's a job we all have in America, to make America a safer, stronger, and better place. And to make sure America is a strong place, we need to continue to work to make sure our fellow citizens can find work. A strong America is an America in which people who want to work and can't find a job are able to do so. A strong America is an America that recognizes the vibrancy of the entrepreneur in America. A strong America understands the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small-business owner can grow his or her business.

A strong America is one that recognizes that in times of recession—and I want you all to remember that when Dick Cheney and I got sworn in, the country was in a recession—and a strong economy, a strong America, is one that recognizes that the engine to growth is the American people. And so when we let American people keep more of their own money, we sent a clear, strong signal to economic vitality.

Some up here don't get it, see. They forget whose money we're talking about. They think we're talking about the Government's money. One thing we all understand is, when it comes to tax money, it's your money. And the tax cuts we passed in Washington came at the right time. And that's just one of the first things we have done here to make sure our economies grow, to make sure people can find work.

I was the first President in a long time to get what they call trade promotion authority. My attitude is, if you're good at something, you ought to promote it. [*Laughter*] We're good at growing crops. We're good at raising cattle. We're good at the entrepreneurial spirit. We're good at high-tech. We ought not to fear trade. We ought to welcome trade. And for the sake of jobs, I got the

Congress to pass the trade promotion authority, so our people would be more likely to find work.

For the sake of economic vitality, we sent a chilling signal to our fellow Americans who feel like they can fudge the books, who feel like they can get ahead by not telling the truth. Every one of these Governors understands the need for corporate responsibility in their States and all across America. I proudly signed the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin D. Roosevelt was the President of the United States. And for the sake of a stronger America, we sent this signal: No more easy money, just hard time if you betray the trust of your employees and your shareholders in America.

Now, we've got a foundation for economic vitality and growth that is strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. The productivity of the American worker is the best in the world. But we're not going to rest until people find work. A stronger America requires a strong economy. And there are some things that Congress can do to help us in our desire to make America a stronger place.

And I'll give you one example. There are over 300,000 jobs that don't exist because many developers and project managers cannot find terrorism insurance. The Congress ought to pass a law that provides a backstop for terrorism insurance, to get our hardhats working again. And by the way, it needs to be a law that does not reward trial lawyers but rewards the hardhats of America.

We need an energy bill in America, an energy bill that fosters more conservation, an energy bill that enhances renewables like ethanol, but an energy bill that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. An energy bill is needed. There's too much talk in Washington and not enough action.

And finally, to make this economy strong, to make sure people can find work, we've got to make sure Congress holds the line on spending. There's an enormous appetite for spending your money up here. Every project sounds wonderful in Washington, DC. Problem is, is that the price tags run in the billions. It is important for Congress to set priorities.

It's hard to set priorities, however, when the Senate can't even pass a budget. The

House passed a budget. The Senate can't pass a budget. My message to Congress, and I hope you help send the message, is we expect the appropriators to be wise with the people's money. We expect them to stay focused on national priorities. We expect them not to overspend. We expect them to be reasonable and sound. Because if we overspend, it will make it harder for people to find work.

No, the grounds for economic growth are strong. After all, this is America. There's a lot of problems that we can overcome. But I just want to assure you, and I want to assure my friends who are the Governors, this administration will not rest; we will stay focused on economic vitality, because we understand a strong America is an America in which people can find work.

And we're working hard here in Washington, and we're working hard with our Governors to make sure we have a safer America. We need to work hard because there's still an enemy out there which hates our country. They hate America. They hate us because we love. We love freedom. We love the idea of our fellow citizens being able to worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. We love the idea of welcoming people to our country and letting them rise to their own level that talents will take them. We love the idea of being able to speak our minds, to have political discourse. We love a free press. We love freedom. But the enemy hates freedom.

We also value each life in America. Everybody counts. Everybody has got worth. Everybody matters. But that's not the way our enemy thinks. They don't value life. They don't care about innocent life. And so long as we hold these values dear, which we will do, there will be an enemy trying to hurt America.

And so, therefore, my most important job is to protect the American people from further harm, is to guard our homeland. You need to know a lot of good folks are working hard to do just that. I can testify for those here in the Federal Government that are spending hours upon hours chasing down every lead, running down every hint. We get a whiff of anything that might be happening or going to happen to America, we're moving on it—and at the same time, I can proudly

report, safeguarding the United States Constitution.

And so are these Governors. They're working hard to protect their fellow citizens. They're working hard at the State level and working in coordination at the local level to prepare, to be ready, to be on alert. And I want to thank them for their service to our country.

I asked Congress to work with me to make a—to make the Government work better. I readily concede my slogan wasn't, don't—"Vote for me. I'm going to make Government bigger." But I do want to make it work better. And that's why I called upon our Congress to set up a Department of Homeland Defense, so we can better coordinate amongst agencies, so we can have the protection of our homeland as our number one priority, so if need be, we can change cultures so that this President and administration and future Presidents and administrations can say to the American people, "We're doing everything in our power to protect you."

And we're making some progress. Republicans and Democrats came together in the House of Representatives to pass a good homeland security bill. We're kind of bogged down in the Senate, however. You see, the Senate wants to take away some of the powers of the administrative branch. The Senate wants to micromanage the process, and I'm not going to let them do it.

For the sake of homeland security, the Senate—for the sake of the security of our homeland, the Senate needs to be more worried about the American people and less worried about special interests here in Washington, DC.

But the best way to secure our homeland is to chase the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States is going to do. It's a different kind of war. It's a war that is not measured by the destruction of tanks or ships or aircraft, because we're fighting a different kind of enemy. This is a war that is measured in terms of killers caught.

We're making progress, thanks to a coalition we have put together. And we're making progress, thanks to one of the finest militaries our Nation has ever seen.

Audience member. Thanks to our Commander in Chief!

The President. This is an enemy which hides in caves or in the dark corners of cities and then sends youngsters to their suicidal death. It's a different kind of enemy and a different kind of war. But our resolve is just as fierce today as it has been in the past. And we're making progress. We're making progress. I don't have an exact count, but the number of those who the United States and our coalition partners have arrested, detained, whatever you want to call it, is over a couple thousand. And about a like number weren't as lucky. They're just not around anymore.

We got a guy the other day, just as an example, thought he could hide in Pakistan. I don't know if you remember that doctrine I laid out, said, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy." President Musharraf in Pakistan is with us when it comes to hunting these killers down. The person who thought he'd be the 20th hijacker, bin al-Shibh, is no longer a threat to the United States of America and our friends and allies.

Oh, I know for some who are trying to fill the airways with speculation and noise and news and all that stuff, it's not a very glamorous war. But you've just got to know, this Nation is steady in our pursuit. We're strong in our resolve. No matter how long it takes, we're going to hunt them down, one person at a time. We're going to get them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run, until we bring them to justice.

I have submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I sent that up to the Congress for two reasons. One, anytime this Nation sends our troops into harm's way, anytime we ask our youngsters to go into the thin air of the mountains of Afghanistan or anywhere else in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We not only owe it to their—to the soldiers, we owe it to their loved ones as well.

And a defense bill sends another message. It sends a clear message to our friends and to our foe that the United States is in this for the long pull. There's not an artificial quitting date. There's not a moment that

says, you know, well, we've been at it for a period of time; we're getting kind of worn out; and freedom isn't that important. The message is that no matter how long it takes, and no matter what the cost, we will defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

The House passed a defense bill. The Senate passed the defense bill. The way the process works is, they're supposed to get together, reconcile their differences, and get me a defense bill. It languishes. It languishes. This Congress must do its duty and get me a defense bill before it goes home. For the sake of our country, for the sake of this war, for the sake of the military, I need a defense appropriations bill.

Now, we've got a big task ahead. See, history has put the spotlight on us. History will determine whether or not this Nation was strong and resolved in our defense of freedom. History will determine whether or not we uphold our values, the values that say we not only care for individuals here at home, but everybody matters. So far, I think history is going to judge us well.

I want you to remember that when it came time to uphold the doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you house a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist," we upheld that doctrine. And in so doing, we freed a group of people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I want you to tell your children when they ask about this war that our country went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. And as a result of the United States and our friends and allies, many young girls now go to school for the first time.

No, this mighty nation believes that everybody matters. Each person has worth. Everybody counts, regardless of where they are from. And we're going to have tough times ahead of us, no question about it, as we pursue our goals. There's going to be some rocky paths that we're going to have to climb up. There's going to be some high hurdles we have to cross.

One of the highest hurdles is to recognize that as a nation, we're no longer protected by two vast oceans. No longer are we safe.

We used to think, well, there's a little conflict going over there, or perhaps a leader over here who is a despicable person couldn't hurt us. We learned a new lesson after September the 11th, that we're vulnerable. For the sake of our security, we must not allow—for the sake of the future of our country and for the future of other regions in the world, we must never allow the world's worst leaders to develop, to deploy, to blackmail the free world with the world's worst weapons.

I believe it is important that there be an international organization that is strong and vibrant and capable of helping freedom-loving countries keep the peace. You see, if the enemy hides in caves, and a different kind of enemy, different kind of war, we need a collection of friends sharing intelligence, cutting off money, routing these people out. So I went to the United Nations. And I made it clear to the United Nations that our Nation hopes that the United Nations succeeds. We want there to be a strong United Nations. We want the United Nations to be more than a debating society. We don't want the United Nations to become the League of Nations. We want the United Nations to have backbone and to enforce—enforce the resolutions and doctrines and mandates.

I also made it clear, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom for our country, if the United Nations will not act, the United States and our friends will. We owe it to our children; we owe it to our grandchildren to make sure that the dictator in Iraq never threatens our country or our children or our children's children with the world's worst weapons.

As we work to make our country stronger and safer, we also must never forget to work to make it better. That's why I'm so strong for these Governors—they understand that. I signed one of the most comprehensive education reform bills in our Nation's history. It says, we expect there to be high standards in American schools. We want to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. I believe and these fine Governors believe that every child in America can learn. Everybody can learn. And therefore, we expect everybody to learn.

If you believe everybody can learn, then you should expect everybody to learn. Inher-

ent in that bill is my great trust for the Governors of the United States and for local folks. I strongly believe in local control of schools. But I also believe in this, that if you take Federal money, if you receive a dime of Federal money, you owe it to the taxpayers to show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, there will be plenty of praise for our Nation's teachers. But if not, we must not allow our children to be trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change.

A better tomorrow recognizes that when it comes to reforming welfare, we must insist upon work. People find dignity in a job. I look forward to working with our Governors to make sure we continue the great progress of welfare reform by helping people help themselves, by helping people find job training so that instead of being dependent upon Government, they can find a job and be dependent upon their skills and their talents to provide for their families.

A better tomorrow recognizes the great power of our faith-based institutions in America. A better tomorrow recognizes that in our churches, in synagogues and mosques, we find great compassion and love. We understand that Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do—and by the way, we do a pretty good job of it up here—but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's found in—all across America. It's found particularly in places that exist because of the universal dictum that people should love their neighbors just like they should be loved themselves.

You know, the enemy hit us. The enemy hit us, and they didn't know who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought that after September the 11th, 2001, we'd kind of regroup and file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't realize that this bold country is a great country, full of decent and compassionate people. I want you to know that out of the evil done to America is going to come great good. Around the world, if we remain tough and strong, we can achieve peace. If we're willing to speak clearly about good and evil, if we continue to denounce terror, if we

understand the plight of the human condition, which we do in America—that people must have hope, that everybody matters, that freedom counts—we can achieve peace in this world.

Oh, you'll hear a lot of war rhetoric. But I want you to know, my goal is peace. I long for peace. And I believe out of the evil done to America can come peace in places around the world that have quit on peace, including the Middle East and South Asia. I also want you to know—I want you to know that we will be a better America, too, because the strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

People say, “How can I help on this war against terror? How can I fight evil?” You can do so by mentoring a child, by going into a shut-in's house and say, “I love you,” by running a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop, by being involved in your Boys and Girls Clubs, by joining the USA Freedom Corps. If you're interested in helping America fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

An educated America, a working America, an America that understands the power of our faith-based and charitable organizations is an America that is going to be a better America. There is no question in my mind that out of the evil done to this country, that we will be able to help eradicate those pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist. In our land of plenty, there are people who hurt, people who cry, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And this society of ours, this society of ours is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, because thousands of our fellow citizens are loving a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

People understand in America now that a patriot is somebody who not only puts his hand over his heart and says, “I pledge allegiance to one Nation under God,” but somebody who serves something greater than themselves.

See, that was the example of Flight 93, an example which is vivid in my mind and, I'm sure, vivid in yours. It's an historic moment in many ways, a sad, tragic moment. On the other hand, it's a moment that I hope

people remember for a long time. After all, it was a flight full of our fellow citizens. They learned that the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye, or, “I love you.” They said a prayer. One guy said, “Let's roll.” They drove the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, the spirit of America was alive on that airplane. The spirit of America is alive today. No, out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more compassionate, a more decent, a more hopeful country. There's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve the big goals before us, because this is the finest country on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Forces in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11

September 20, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 24, 2001, I reported the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of locations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. On October 9, 2001, I reported the beginning of combat action in Afghanistan against terrorists and their Taliban supporters. In my report to the Congress of March 20, 2002, I provided supplemental information on the deployment of combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of foreign nations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. As a part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, I am reporting further on U.S. efforts in the global war on terrorism.

Our efforts in Afghanistan have met with success, but as I have stated in my previous reports, the U.S. campaign against terrorism will be lengthy. To date, U.S. Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, have executed a superb campaign to eliminate the primary source of support to the terrorists who viciously attacked our Nation on September 11, 2001. The heart of the al-Qaida training capability has been seriously degraded. The Taliban's ability to brutalize the Afghan people and to harbor and support terrorists has been virtually eliminated. Pockets of al-Qaida and Taliban forces remain a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and to the Afghan government. What is left of both the Taliban and the al-Qaida fighters is being pursued and engaged by U.S. and coalition forces.

Due to our success in Afghanistan, we have detained several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat support forces deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, in the Southern Command area of operations since January 2002, continue to conduct secure detention operations. We currently hold approximately 550 enemy combatants at Guantanamo. All are being treated humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

In furtherance of our worldwide efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, we continue to work with the Government of the Philippines to protect U.S. and Philippine citizens and to defeat international terrorism in the Philippines. The combat-equipped and combat support forces that were deployed to the Philippines in January 2002 to train with, advise, and assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines made great progress in enhancing the Philippine government's counterterrorist capabilities. United States forces have reduced their presence in the Southern Philippines, but will continue a long-term effort to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Additionally, we are conducting maritime interception operations in the Central and European Command areas of responsibility to deny the high seas as a haven for moving, arming, or financing international terrorists.

Combat-equipped and combat support forces also have been deployed to Georgia and Yemen to assist their armed forces in enhancing their counterterrorism capabilities, including by training and equipping their armed forces. We continue to assess options for working with other nations to assist them in this respect.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. In addition, these actions are consistent with Public Law 107-40. As I stated in my previous reports, it is not possible to know at this time either the duration of combat operations or the scope and duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States. I will direct additional measures as necessary to exercise our right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Public Law 107-40. Officials of my Administration and I have been communicating regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress, and we will continue to do so. I appreciate the continuing support of the Congress in our effort to protect the security of the United States of America and its citizens, civilian and military, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 14

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

September 15

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

September 16

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Davenport, IA, where, upon arrival at Quad City International Airport, he met with volunteer Dean Claussen. Later, he toured facilities at the Sears Manufacturing Co.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, he received former President Theodore Roosevelt's Medal of Honor from members of the Roosevelt family, to join President Roosevelt's Nobel Peace Prize on display in the room.

September 17

In the morning, the President traveled to Nashville, TN.

In the afternoon, at East Literature Magnet School in Nashville, he participated in a Pledge Across America recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rickey Dale James (civilian/civil engineer representative) and Nicholas Augustus Pahl (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration representative) to be Commissioners of the Mississippi River Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur James Collingsworth to be

a member of the National Security Education Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate John L. Morrison to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Portman Higgins to be Inspector General of the Department of Education.

September 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with members of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

During the day, the President met with Members of Congress in the Cabinet Room to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner at the White House with President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and his wife, Olga Havlova.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee: Richard K. Davidson (Chairman); Alfred R. Berkeley III; Martin G. McGuinn; Richard M. Kovacevich; L. George Martinez; Charles O. Holliday, Jr.; Margaret Grayson; John W. Thompson; Thomas E. Noonan; George H. Conrades; Craig R. Barrett; Enrique Hernandez, Jr.; Maynard G. Webb; Erle Nye; Marilyn Ware; Archie W. Dunham; Donald John Carty; Thomas H. Weidemeyer; Linwood H. Rose; William F. Owens; Jorge Santini; Raymond W. Kelly; Gilbert G. Gallegos; and Karen Katen.

September 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the Prime Minister's visit to North Korea and the situation in Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to discuss the situation in Iraq and cooperation against terrorism. He also had a telephone conversation with President Aleksander

Kwasniewski of Poland to discuss the upcoming NATO summit and the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met in the Cabinet Room with a bipartisan group of House members working to pass a resolution concerning the situation in Iraq.

September 20

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands and President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situation in Iraq. He then met with a group of Republican Governors.

Later, in the Oval Office, the President met with Minister of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia to discuss the implementation of the Moscow Treaty on strategic offensive reductions. He then met with Senators Phil Gramm of Texas and Zell Miller of Georgia, and other members of a bipartisan group of Senators working to pass proposed homeland security legislation.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 17

Peter DeShazo,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during tenure of service as Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States.

John L. Morrison,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2004, vice John J. Pikarski, Jr., term expired.

Withdrawn September 17

John Roderick Davis,
of Alabama, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice E. Gordon Gee, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on May 6, 2002.

Submitted September 18

Arthur James Collingsworth,
of California, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years, vice John W. Hechinger, Sr., term expired.

John Portman Higgins,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Education, vice Lorraine Pratte Lewis, resigned.

Rickey Dale James,
of Missouri, to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission for a term of 9 years (reappointment).

Rear Adm. Nicholas Augustus Pahl,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved 28 June 1879 (21 Stat. 37)(22 USC 642).

Submitted September 20

John Francis Clark,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice John William Marshall, resigned.

Kevin J. O'Connor,
of Connecticut, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen C. Robinson, resigned.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the need for a new U.N. Security Council resolution

Released September 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Teaching American History and Civic Education

Timeline: Saddam Hussein's Deception and Defiance

Released September 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released September 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President submitted to Congress the National Security Strategy of the United States

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on intelligence related to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 18

H.R. 5012 / Public Law 107-224

John F. Kennedy Center Plaza Authorization Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, September 27, 2002

**Proclamation 7596—Minority
Enterprise Development Week, 2002**
September 20, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Entrepreneurs help make America strong and are essential to our economic success. Their talent, skill, and hard work have helped sustain our Nation since its founding; and their disciplined work ethic and capacity for innovation reflect the true character of our country. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we celebrate our more than 3 million minority-owned businesses, and we recognize the important contributions they make to the United States of America.

To promote prosperity in our Nation, Government must help create an environment where innovative, hardworking, and determined individuals have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in our economy. Last year's tax relief initiative, including the repeal of the "Death Tax," was an important part of developing an enhanced business climate in America. And this year, I signed two pieces of legislation into law that will promote growth. The Trade Act of 2002 gives me new Trade Promotion Authority that will help boost our economy, create new jobs, and provide America with the opportunity to participate in new and emerging international markets. And the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 will improve business practices by creating tough corporate responsibility laws that will help expose and punish acts of corruption and protect small investors. These vital initiatives will benefit minority business enterprises and help these important job creators compete fully and fairly in the global economy.

My Administration, through the efforts of the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and

the Small Business Administration (SBA), is committed to promoting the growth of minority businesses. In FY 2001, the MBDA assisted minority businesses in gaining access to \$1.6 billion in contracts. In addition, last year the SBA offered assistance to more than 1 million small business owners, and continues to play a major role in our Nation's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans available to Americans. The important efforts of the MBDA and SBA help businesses build entrepreneurial opportunity for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 22 through September 28, 2002, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate observances, ceremonies, and activities, and to recognize the countless contributions of our Nation's minority enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

The President's Radio Address
September 21, 2002

The President. Good morning. In the past week, U.S. officials in Pakistan took custody

of five Al Qaida members, including a key strategist for the September the 11th attacks. And here in America, Federal agents arrested six men suspected of having trained at Al Qaida terrorist camps in Afghanistan.

These arrests remind us that we are engaged in a new kind of war, fought on many fronts, including the homefront. The arrests also remind us that the enemy is still at large, threatening our safety and security. Defeating terrorism requires constant vigilance and preparation by our citizens and by our Government.

One way for the Congress to protect the American people is to pass legislation creating a new Department of Homeland Security. This new Department must have a single, overriding responsibility, to coordinate our homeland defense efforts, which are now scattered across the Government.

After less than a week of debate, the House of Representatives passed a good bill, a bill that gives me the flexibility to confront emerging threats quickly and effectively. Yet after 3 weeks of debate, the Senate has still not passed a bill I can sign. The legislation the Senate is debating is deeply flawed. The Senate bill would force the new Department to fight against terror threats with one hand tied behind its back. The Department of Homeland Security must be able to move people and resources quickly, to respond to threats immediately without being forced to comply with a thick book of bureaucratic rules.

Yet the current Senate approach keeps in place a cumbersome process that can take 5 months to hire a needed employee and 18 months to fire someone who is not doing his job. In the war on terror, this is time we do not have.

Even worse, the Senate bill would weaken my existing authority to prohibit collective bargaining when national security is at stake. Every President since Jimmy Carter has had this very narrow authority throughout the Government, and I need this authority in the war on terror. As Democrat Senator Zell Miller said, "The daunting task of securing this

country is almost incomprehensible. Let's not make it more difficult by tying this President's hands and the hands of every President who comes after him."

In an effort to break the logjam in the Senate, Senator Miller and Republican Senator Phil Gramm have taken the lead in crafting a bipartisan alternative to the current flawed Senate bill. I commend them and support their approach. Their proposal would provide the new Secretary of Homeland Security much of the flexibility he needs to move people and resources to meet new threats. It will protect every employee of the new Department against illegal discrimination and build a culture in which Federal employees know they are keeping their fellow citizens safe through their service to America.

I ask you to call your Senators and to urge them to vote for this bipartisan alternative. Senators Miller and Gramm, along with Senator Fred Thompson, have made great progress in putting the national interest ahead of partisan interest. I'm confident that every Senator, Republican and Democrat, wants to do what is best for America. Creating a new Department of Homeland Security will make America stronger and safer. It is time for the Senate to act.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:15 p.m. on September 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and suspected terrorists Sahim A. Alwan, Yahya A. Goba, Yasein A. Taher, and Shafal A. Mosed, who were arrested in Lackawanna, NY, on September 13, Faysal Galab, who was arrested in Lackawanna on September 14, and Mukhtar Ali Albakri, who had also been living in Lackawanna and whose arrest was announced on September 16. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7597—Family Day, 2002*September 20, 2002**By the President of the United States of America***A Proclamation**

America's character begins in the home, where children learn proper standards of conduct, principled values, and the importance of service. Families provide children the encouragement, support, and love they need to become confident, compassionate, and successful members of society. We must work together to promote and preserve the health and security of our families by upholding the timeless values that have sustained our society through history.

Recent events have reminded Americans of the blessings of family and friends, and of the importance of faith. As a Nation, we have a renewed dedication to our freedom, our country, and our principles. In homes, schools, places of worship, the workplace, and civic and social organizations, we must continue to encourage responsibility, compassion, and good citizenship.

Americans must also act to fight crime and drugs, and provide a safe and healthy environment for our children. We can begin by working to strengthen the bonds and improving communication between parents and children. Research done by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University has consistently shown that the more often children eat dinner with their parents, the less likely children are to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs. Naturally, parents should be the most prominent and active figures in their children's lives. By spending more family time together, parents can better engage with their children and encourage them to make the right choices.

The nurturing and development of our families require investment, focus, and commitment. Strong families make strong and drug-free communities. By taking time to develop positive and open relationships with their children, parents help fight the war on drugs and encourage positive choices. Across our land, citizens, schools, and civic institutions can assist families by helping to meet

the needs of all those who live in our communities. As we work together to strengthen our families, we will build a Nation of hope and opportunity for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2002, as Family Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day by spending quality time with family members and engaging in other nurturing activities to strengthen the relationships between parents and children and help fight against substance abuse.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 23, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Remarks to the Community in Trenton, New Jersey*September 23, 2002*

Thanks a lot for coming out this morning. It is my honor to be back in New Jersey. I want to thank you all for coming out. I want to thank the people of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard for your hospitality. I'm here to talk about how best to make America a stronger country, a safer country, and a better country for all of us.

There is a old bridge over the Delaware River that says, "Trenton makes; the world takes." It talks about the work ethic of the people of this part of our country. It talks about the creativity. It talks about the true strength of America. The true strength of America are our fellow citizens. The strength of our country is the people of America. And

I'm honored to be with such hard-working people.

Congress can help. Congress needs to work hard before they go home. Congress needs to get some things done, which means a Homeland Security Department, a budget that reflects our priorities. They've got to make sure they don't overspend your money. They've got to remember, everything they do must go to make sure America is a stronger and safer and better place.

I want to thank Brigadier General Glenn Rieth for opening up this hangar and for inviting me to this base. I want to thank all the Guard personnel who serve the United States of America. I want to thank you for your service. I want to thank you for your sacrifice.

I want to thank your Governor for being here today. I appreciate Governor McGreevey being at the steps of Air Force One. I'm thankful for his hospitality. I appreciate him coming to say hello, and I'm honored he's here today to hear this speech. Governor, thank you for coming.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation. Congressmen Ferguson, Saxton, and Smith from New Jersey, thank you all for being here. I want to thank Bob Prunetti, who is the Mercer County executive, for greeting me here as well. And I want to thank you all for coming.

Here's what's on my mind: I want our people to work here in America. Anytime somebody who wants to work can't find a job, it means we've got a problem in this country. And we will not rest until people can find work. A stronger America means a strong economy. A stronger country means that our good, hard-working Americans are able to put food on the table for their families.

Now, we're making progress. Listen, interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the best, hardest workers and smartest workers in the world. We've got the ingredients for growth. But what has taken place so far is not good enough for me, and I hope it's not good enough for the Congress. What's happening in the economy is not good enough for a stronger America, and Congress can help.

Listen, I come from the school of thought that says, if you've got an economic problem—and remember, for the first three quarters of my administration we were in negative growth. The stock market started to decline in March of 2000. Economic growth started to slow down in the summer of 2000. We were in recession in the first three quarters of 2001.

In order to make sure the country was stronger, I pulled this page out of the economic textbook, the page that says, "If you let people keep more of their own money, they're going to spend it on a good or a service. If they spend it on a good or a service, somebody will produce the good and service. And if somebody produces a good or service, some American is more likely to find work." The tax relief came right at the right time for economic growth and jobs.

And if Congress wants to help in job creation, they need to make the tax relief permanent. They need to make the tax relief permanent so our New Jersey small businesses and entrepreneurs can plan for the future. After all, most growth of new jobs comes from small businesses all across America.

Congress also must understand they've got to pass an energy bill. You see, an energy bill will be good for jobs. An energy bill will be good for national security. We need an energy bill that encourages consumption, encourages new technologies so our cars are cleaner, encourages new renewable energy sources, but at the same time encourages increase of supply here at home, so we're less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Congress needs to get some work done before they go home. And one of the most important things they can do is to pass an anti-terrorism insurance bill. See, we need an insurance bill to cover potential terrorist acts, so that hardhats in America can get back to work. And I want a bill on my desk that says we care more about the working people and less about the trial lawyers. We want a bill that puts the hardhats back to work, not enriches the trial lawyers here in America.

In order to make sure our country is stronger and our economy grows, Congress must be wise with your money. Notice I said "your money." When it comes time to budgeting and appropriations, which means

spending, sometimes in Washington they forget whose money they're talking about. You hear them talking about the Government's money. No, the money in Washington is not the Government's money. The money in Washington is your money, and we better be careful about how we spend your money. And if Congress overspends, it's going to be a problem for making America's economy continue to grow. And so my message to Congress is: Remember whose money you're spending.

Now, one of the problems we have is that anytime you're worried about spending, you set a budget. That's what you do. The Senate hasn't been able to do so. They don't have a budget, which means it's likely they're going to overspend. See, every idea in Washington is a good idea. Everybody's idea sounds good, except the price tag is generally in the billions. In order to make sure the country is stronger, we need fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC. We need to make sure that Congress does not overspend. Without a budget, they're likely to overspend.

They set deadlines on you when it comes to paying your IRS, paying your taxes. There ought to be a deadline on them in order to get a budget passed and to get bills passed.

Now, because they haven't been able to move, they're going to send to my desk soon what looks like what they call a temporary spending bill. And that temporary spending bill should not be an excuse for excessive Federal spending. The temporary spending bill ought to remember whose money they're spending. A temporary spending bill ought to be clean, so that we don't overspend as the economy is trying to continue to grow.

What we need in Washington is fiscal responsibility, fiscal sanity. We need to set priorities with your money. And the most important priority I have is to defend the homeland—is to defend the homeland from a bunch of killers who hate America.

It's very important for the schoolchildren here to listen to what I'm about to say. You're probably wondering why America is under attack. And you need to know why. We're under attack because we love freedom, is why we're under attack. And our enemy hates freedom. They hate, and we love. They

hate the thought that this country is a country in which people from all walks of life can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. They hate the thought that we have honest and open discourse. They hate the thought that we're a beacon of liberty and freedom.

We differ from our enemy because we love. We not only love our freedoms and love our values; we love life, itself. In America, everybody matters; everybody counts; every human life is a life of dignity. And that's not the way our enemy thinks. Our enemy hates innocent life. They're willing to kill in the name of a great religion. And as long as we love freedom and love liberty and value every human life, they're going to try to hurt us. And so our most important job is to defend the freedom, defend the homeland—is to make sure what happened on September the 11th doesn't happen again. We must do everything we can, everything in our power, to keep America safe.

There are a lot of good people working hard to keep you safe. There are people at the Federal level and at the State level, a lot of fine folks here at the local level, doing everything we can to run down every lead. If we find any kind of hint, we're moving on it—all within the confines and all within the structure of the United States Constitution. We're chasing down every possible lead because we understand there's an enemy out there which hates America.

I asked the Congress to work with me to come up with a new Department of Homeland Security to make sure that not only can this administration function better but future administrations will be able to deal with the true threats we face as we get into the 21st century, a Homeland Security Department which takes over the 100 different agencies and brings them under one umbrella so that there's a single priority and a new culture, all aimed at dealing with the threats.

I mean, after all, on our border, we need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, are they leaving when they're supposed to be leaving America. Yet, when you look at the border, there are three different Federal agencies dealing with the border. There is Customs and INS and Border Patrol, and sometimes

they work together and sometimes they don't—they don't. They've got different work rules. They've got different customs. Sometimes they have different strategies. And that's not right.

So I asked Congress to give me the flexibility necessary to be able to deal with the true threats of the 21st century by being able to move the right people to the right place at the right time, so we can better assure America we're doing everything possible. The House responded, but the Senate is more interested in special interests in Washington and not interested in the security of the American people. I will not accept a Department of Homeland Security that does not allow this President and future Presidents to better keep the American people secure.

And people are working hard in Washington to get it right in Washington, both Republicans and Democrats. See, this isn't a partisan issue. This is an American issue. This is an issue which is vital to our future. It'll help us determine how secure we'll be.

Senator Gramm, a Republican, Senator Miller, a Democrat, are working hard to bring people together. And the Senate must listen to them. It's a good bill. It's a bill I can accept. It's a bill that will make America more secure. And anything less than that is a bill which I will not accept; it's a bill which I will not saddle this administration and future administrations with, allowing the United States Senate to micromanage the process. The enemy is too quick for that. We must be flexible. We must be strong. We must be ready to take the enemy on anywhere he decides to hit us, whether it's America or anywhere else in the globe.

But the best way to secure our homeland, the only sure way to make sure our children are free and our children's children are free is to hunt the killers down wherever they hide, is to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter how long it takes. See, we're talking about our freedom and our future. There's no cave deep enough, as far as I'm concerned, and there's no cave deep enough, as far as the United States military is concerned, either. I want you all to know, if you wear the uniform of our great country, I'm proud of you.

I've got confidence in you. I believe that you can handle any mission.

No, it's a different kind of war than our Nation has seen in the past. One thing that's different is, oceans no longer keep us safe. The second thing is, in the old days, you could measure progress by looking at how many tanks the enemy had one day and how many he had the next day, whether or not his airplanes were flying or whether or not his ships were floating on the seas. It's a different kind of war. And America has begun to adjust its thinking about this kind of war.

See, this is the kind of war where the leaders of the enemy hide. They go into big cities or, as I mentioned, caves, and they send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of war we're having. It's not measured in equipment destroyed; it's going to be measured in people brought to justice. And we're making progress. I had made it clear to the world that either you're with us or you're with the enemy, and that doctrine still stands. And as a result of the hard work by our United States military and the militaries and law enforcement officers of other countries, we've arrested or brought to justice a couple thousand or more. Slowly but surely, we're finding them where we think they can hide.

We brought one of them in the other day. He thought he was going to be the 20th hijacker, or at least he was bragging that way. I don't know if he's bragging now. But see, he thought he was immune. He thought he was invisible. He thought he could hide from the long arm of justice. And like many—about the like number haven't been so lucky as the 20th hijacker. They met their fate.

We're getting them on the run, and we're keeping them on the run. They're going to be—as part of our doctrine, we're going to make sure that there's no place for them to alight, no place for them to hide. These are haters, and they're killers. And we owe it to the American people and we owe it to our friends and allies to pursue them, no matter where they try to hide.

And that's why I asked the Congress for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I firmly believe that any time we

commit our troops into harm's way, you deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. I also asked for a large increase because I wanted to send a clear signal to the rest of the world that we're in this for the long haul, that there is no calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a day we're going to quit, that by such and such a day we will all have grown weary; we're too tired; and therefore we're coming home.

That's not the way we think in America. See, we understand obligation and responsibility. We have a responsibility to our children to fight for freedom. We have a responsibility to our citizens to defend the homeland. And that only means—not only means dealing with real, immediate threats; it also means anticipating threats before they occur, before things happen. It means we've got to look out into the future and understand the new world in which we live and deal with threats before it's too late.

And that's why I went into the United Nations the other day. And I said to the United Nations, "We have a true threat that faces America, a threat that faces the world, and a threat which diminishes your capacity. And I'm talking about Iraq. That country has got a leader which has attacked two nations in the neighborhood; a leader who has killed thousands of people; a leader who is brutal"—see, remember, we believe every life matters and every life is precious—"a leader, if there is dissent, will kill the dissenter, a leader who told the United Nations and the world he would not develop weapons of mass destruction, and for 11 long years has stiffed the world."

He looked at the United Nations and said, "This is a paper tiger. Their resolutions mean nothing." For 11 years he has deceived and denied. For 11 years he's claimed he has had no weapons. And yet, we know he has.

So I went to the United Nations and said, "Either you can become the League of Nations, either you can become an organization which is nothing but a debating society, or you can be an organization which is robust enough and strong enough to help keep the peace. Your choice."

But I also told them that if they would not act, if they would not deal with this true

threat we face in America—if they would not recognize that America is no longer protected by oceans and that this man is the man who would use weapons of mass destruction at the drop of a hat, a man who would be willing to team up with terrorist organizations with weapons of mass destruction to threaten America and our allies—if they wouldn't act, the United States will. We will not allow the world's worst leaders to threaten us with the world's worst weapons.

I want to see strong resolutions coming out of that U.N., a resolution which says the old ways of deceit are gone, a resolution which will hold this man to account, a resolution which will allow freedom-loving countries to disarm Saddam Hussein before he threatens his neighborhood, before he threatens freedom, before he threatens America, and before he threatens civilization. We owe it to our children, and we owe it to our grandchildren to keep this Nation strong and free.

And as we work to make America a stronger place and a safer place, we always must remember that we've got to work to make America a better place too—a better place. And that starts with making sure every single child in America gets a great education, make sure that every child—make sure that we focus on each child, every child. It says we expect and believe our children can learn to read and write and add and subtract. As a society, we will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations.

We believe every child can learn. Every child matters, and therefore we expect to be told whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if we find they're not, if we find there are certain children who aren't learning and the systems are just shuffling through as if they don't matter, we must challenge the status quo. Failure is unacceptable in America. Every child matters, and no child should be left behind in this great country.

A better America—a better America is one which makes sure that our health care systems are responsive to the patient and makes sure our health care systems, particularly for the elderly, are modern. We need prescription drug benefits for elderly Americans. The Medicare system must be reformed, must be

made to work so that we have a better tomorrow for all citizens in this country.

A better America is one that understands as we're helping people go from dependency to freedom, from welfare, we must help them find work. A better America understands that when people work, there is dignity in their lives.

A better America is America which understands the power of our faith-based institutions in our country. It's in our churches and synagogues and mosques that we find universal love and universal compassion.

You know what's really interesting about what's taking place in America is this: The enemy hit us, but out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because of the nature of our soul, the nature of our being.

On the one hand, I believe we can achieve peace. Oh, I know the kids hear all the war rhetoric and tough talk, and that's necessary to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're plenty tough, if you rouse this country, and we're not going to relent. But we're not going to relent because my desire is to achieve peace. I want there to be a peaceful world. I want children all across our globe to grow up in a peaceful society.

Oh, I know the hurdles are going to be high to achieving that peace. There's going to be some tough decisions to make, some tough action for some to take. But it's all aimed at making America safe and secure and peaceful, but other places around the world too. I believe this: I believe that if our country—and it will—remains strong and tough and we fight terror wherever terror exists, that we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East. We can achieve peace in South Asia. We can achieve peace. No, out of the evil done to America can come a peaceful world.

And at home, out of the evil done to our country can come some incredible good as well. We've got to understand, in America there are pockets of despair and hopelessness, places where people hurt because they're not sure if America is meant for them, places where people are addicted. And Government can help eradicate these pockets by handing out money. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or

a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when neighbor loves neighbor. That's done when this country hears the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, out of the evil done to America is coming some incredible good, because we've got citizens all across this land, whether they be a part of our faith-based institutions or charitable institutions, citizens all across this land who have heard the call that if you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to resist the evil done to America, love your neighbor; mentor a child; put your arm around an elderly citizen who is shut in and say, "I love you"; start a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop; go to your Boys and Girls Clubs; help somebody in need.

No, this country, this country has heard the call. This country is a country full of such incredibly decent and warmhearted and compassionate citizens that there's people all across New Jersey and all across America who, without one Government act, without Government law, are in fact trying to make the communities in which they live a more responsive and compassionate and loving place.

Today I met Bob and Chris Morgan, USA Freedom Corps greeters, who coordinate blood drives right here in New Jersey for the American Red Cross. Nobody told them they had to do that. There wasn't a law that said, "You will be a part of collecting blood." They decided to do it because they want to make America more able to address emergency and help people in need. Whether it's teaching a child to read, whether it's delivering food to the hungry or helping those who need housing, you can make a huge difference in the lives of our fellow Americans.

See, societies change one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. Everybody has worth, and everybody matters. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come a compassionate society. Now, this great country will show the world what we're made out of. This great country, by responding to the challenges we face, will leave behind a legacy of sacrifice, a legacy of compassion, a legacy of peace, a legacy of decency for future generations of people fortunate enough to be called an American.

There's no question in my mind—I hope you can tell, I'm an optimistic fellow about our future. I believe we can overcome any difficulty that's put in our path. I believe we can cross any hurdle, climb any mountain, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the earth, full of the most decent, hard-working, honorable citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. at the National Guard facility at Trenton-Mercer Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, Army National Guard, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Gov. James E. McGreevey of New Jersey; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Senatorial Candidate Doug Forrester in Trenton

September 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Well, thank you, "Senator." I appreciate those kind words. [Laughter] I believe it's in New Jersey's interests—I believe it's in America's interests that Doug Forrester be the next United States Senator from this State.

And I want to thank you all for helping him become that Senator. I want to thank you for being here today. I want to thank those of you who are involved in grassroots politics. I want to thank you for what you have done and what you're going to do. I want to thank you for going to your coffee shops, your community centers, your churches, and your synagogues and your mosques to talk about a good man who has decided to serve the people of New Jersey.

I want to thank you for getting ready to stuff the envelopes and to dial the phones and to put up the signs and to turn out the vote for a good man, a man who didn't need to run for office, a man that had a nice, com-

fortable life. After all, he married well. [Laughter] He's got a fine family. He's a successful businessman. And yet, he decided to serve his State and his country, because he believes deeply in the future of the country. I like to put it this way: When you find a good one, you've got to back him. [Laughter] You've got a good one in Doug Forrester.

I'm honored to be standing beside a man who was an Eagle Scout as a youngster, who they tell me sold flags door to door. It makes him a patriot and an entrepreneur. [Laughter] I appreciate the fact that he moved to this State to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary. It's a man of faith, a man who is self-made, a man who has got his priorities straight, a man who will be a breath of fresh air for New Jersey in the United States Senate.

We both married above ourselves. [Laughter] And it didn't take me long to figure that out, having met Andrea and her children. My wife sends her best. I thought about her today. Actually, I thought about her more than once, since I delivered her her coffee this morning. [Laughter] Good lesson for you guys out there. [Laughter] Just trying to set the example for others. [Laughter]

We met some fine folks who help the Red Cross here in New Jersey at Air Force One. And the lady said, she said, "You know, I'm a public school librarian, just like your wife." And I said, "Well, Laura was a public school librarian. When she married me, she wasn't interested in politics, didn't particularly care about politicians either." [Laughter] "And now she's First Lady of the United States, bringing great comfort to the people of this country." She sends her best to the Forresters. She looks forward to seeing Andrea when Doug wins.

I want to thank members of the New Jersey congressional delegation being here. I see Chris Smith and Frank LoBiondo. Are you here, Franky? There he is. Appreciate you for coming, Frank. Jim Saxton is here, I know. I appreciate you coming, Jimmy. Thanks for being here. I want to thank Mike Ferguson for coming as well. Thank you, Mike.

You've got two members—two folks here who are running to become Members of Congress: Scott Garrett, who's running in the

fifth—thank you for coming, Scott—Buster Soaries, my friend who's running in the twelfth. Thank you, Buster.

I know Donnie DiFrancesco is here. I appreciate you coming, Don. It's good to see you. Give your wife my best. I appreciate so very much the party chairman of the State of New Jersey, Joe Kyrillos. Joe, where are you? Thanks, Joe, Mr. Senator. I want to thank Bob Prunetti for coming back again a second day—second event in one day.

And finally, I want to thank the chairman of this campaign, a man who brought a lot of class to the Governor's office here in New Jersey, Tom Kean. Thank you, Tom, for being here.

I ended with Tom because this is where Doug cut his teeth in politics. See, he worked for the good Governor. He was a part of his budget office and then ran his—a director of pensions, ran the pension system as director of pensions, made sure that the people were taken care of. If you're interested in understanding his priorities, look at the job he did when he worked for this good man as the Governor.

See, he cares a lot more about people than politics. He's going to keep his commitments when he—he's the kind of fellow, when he says he's going to do something, that's what he's going to do. That's what you need from New Jersey. He's somebody who speaks plainly and just was running to get something done, as opposed to running just for the sake of holding the office. If he says he's going to protect seniors when it comes to Social Security, that's what he's going to do. He's going to work with me to modernize Medicare, to make sure our seniors have got prescription drug benefits.

He understands what I know, that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur and small business can grow. That's the role of Government. When we got up to Washington, DC, the country was headed into a recession. The market started correcting in March of 2000; that's when it peaked. And then the summer the economic growth started to slow. And so by the time the Vice President and I showed up in Washington, DC, we were in three-quarters of recession. And we had to do something about it. See, my

attitude is, anytime anybody wants to find work can't find a job, we've got a problem in America. I want our people working.

So here's what I did—and Doug understands this; that's why I'm standing by his side. We took a page out of this textbook. It's a little different from what some of the other folks in Washington are trying to do. The page says that if you've got an economic slowdown, one way to help the economy recover is to let people keep their own money. We've got a lot of hard-working Americans, who, if you give them more of their own money, let them keep their own money, they're going to spend it on a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody will provide. And when somebody provides for that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

Now what's interesting about what happened in the tax relief plan is, thanks to a quirk in the Senate rules—it's one of these deals where Washington gives tax relief and then takes it away after 10 years. I must confess that's hard to explain in Crawford—*[laughter]*—and probably in the fire stations and police stations here in Trenton. It's hard to tell people who work hard for a living that you've got tax relief, but then because of a quirk in the rules, it goes away. Listen, we need a Senator up there who agrees with me that we've got make this tax relief permanent. We've got to provide relief for the working people.

And I need somebody up there to work with me to make sure that the Senate does not overspend. See, I'm going to stay focused on our economy, because I understand it's part of how we make sure America is a stronger place. But if the Senate and the Congress overspends, it will serve as a drag to any economic recovery. It's one thing to fund priorities, and we will do that. But you've got to understand something about Washington: Every idea is a brilliant idea. *[Laughter]* Everybody's program sounds like just a perfect program. And then when you add up all the perfect programs and all the good ideas, we're not talking millions; we're talking billions of dollars.

The second problem we have in Washington is, sometimes the spenders forget whose money they're spending. You'll hear,

we're going to spend—the Government is going to spend the Government money here, and the Government is going to spend the Government here. We're not spending the Government's money, folks. It's your money we're spending, and we need fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC.

We need to set priorities and fund those priorities. You know, the Senate doesn't even have a budget. It couldn't get a budget passed. If you don't have a budget, guess what happens? You have the tendency to overspend. If you don't have a budget, there's no discipline or fiscal restraint. And so for the sake of fiscal sanity, we need Doug Forrester in the United States Senate.

I say priorities—I say priorities. The most important priority we have today and tomorrow is to protect the homeland. That's the most important priority in America. It's a priority because there are people who hate America still on the loose, see. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate, and we love freedom. And we love the fact that people from all walks of life can worship freely in this country. That's what we love. We love the idea that people from all backgrounds can worship an almighty God the way he or she sees fit. The enemy hates that. They hate that idea.

We love the idea that people can debate and speak their mind and holler and whoop about politics. They hate it. They hate free thought and free speech. We love a free press. They hate it. See, they hate freedom, and we love freedom. And for so long as we love freedom, which will be forever as far as I'm concerned, they're going to try to hurt us again. And so our number one priority should be reflected in our budget—it is reflected in how I think and what I do—is to make sure this great country is secure from a bunch of coldblooded killers. And that's all they are.

There's a lot of good people—there's a lot of good people, a lot of good people who wear the uniform at the local level, working hard to secure the homeland. A lot of good firefighters and EMS and police officers spend a lot of time, a lot of time worrying about you and your health. There are a lot of good people at the State level, a lot of fine people at the Federal Government level

worrying about our security. We're running down every lead. You've got to just know, any time we get a hint, a whiff, a suggestion that somebody might be trying to come back to America, we're moving. We'll protect our rights.

Listen, I believe in strongly in the United States Constitution. And I know we can protect that Constitution and at the same time make sure this homeland is secure. We've got the FBI and the CIA talking like they never have been before. We're sharing intelligence. We've got people around the world helping us. We've got freedom-loving countries sharing information with us. No, we're moving hard.

But to make sure that we even do a better job, I asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. Listen, I didn't run for—my slogan wasn't, "Vote for George. He wants Government to be bigger." But I do want it to work. I do want to be able to say to the American people we've left behind—I do want it to be said we worked together. Republicans and Democrats worked together to leave behind a strategy and the ability for future Presidents to more adequately secure the homeland.

And we're having a little problem in the Senate, see. The House passed a good bill. It allows me to move people anytime, any place, anywhere in order to best deal with an enemy which isn't going to be bound by bureaucratic rules or handbooks or volumes of micromanagement. That's not what they have to deal with. And I refuse to have future Presidents or this President deal with a Senate trying to tell me through micromanaging the process how best to secure the homeland.

I'll give you one example. On our borders we need to know who's coming into America. We need to know what they're bringing. We need to know if they're bringing something in the country, and we need to know if they're going to leave when they say they're going to leave. That's logical, and that makes common sense. And yet, on our borders, we've got three different departments dealing with our border security. We've got the INS and the Border Patrol and the Customs, all full of fine people, staffed by really great Americans, all working hard to make sure

that border security is a part of the homeland security. Except in cases now, they've got different uniforms, different cultures, different styles, perhaps different strategies. And for the sake of the country, I need to have the flexibility to meld those organizations together. I need to be able to say to the American people that we're working together. The Senate doesn't hear it yet, but the Senate is going to hear from me if they don't pass a good bill as this.

And my message to the Senate is: You need to worry less about special interest in Washington and more about the security of the American people. But the best homeland security strategy is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war, but folks, we're still at war. We're still at war. This is an enemy which—it used to be you could count an enemy's tanks or the size of its fleet, the number of aircraft they had, and say, "Oh, gosh, we're making progress. They had a thousand airplanes. Now they've got 50. We're making progress." [Laughter] That's not the way this war works right now. See, that's not the way it works. You've got to remember, their commanders hide in caves or in the dark corners of certain cities around the world and then send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. Theirs is an army which doesn't take a lot to fund. They're resourceful, and they're tough, but they are not as tough as the United States of America.

And we're making progress. It's hard to tell whether we're making progress or not, but we are. One person at a time, one person at a time—

Audience members. [Inaudible].

The President. —thank you—one person at a time. The other day, as you noticed, there was a fellow hiding in the dark caves—or dark corners, not caves—it was in the city, dark—dark corners of a city in Pakistan. He was going to be the 20th hijacker, bin al-Shibh. He wanted to come here to kill. He didn't make it, because we fortunately did not give him access. His brothers obviously made it. They're all now dead. And he thought he was going to come. And he thought he could hide, however. You can't hide from our justice. We finally got him.

And it's typical of what's taken place. We're running them down one at a time. We've got them on the run. We're going to keep them on the run. There have been over a couple thousand of these killers who we have brought to justice. We have arrested them. It's either us or—remember that doctrine, either you're with us—by the way, a doctrine which still stands—either you're with us, or you're with them. And we're rounding them up slowly but surely. And the other piece of news is, about like number weren't as lucky as bin al-Shibh. They're off the face of the planet. They're no longer around. Slowly but surely, we're going to dismantle the Al Qaida terrorist network, so they can never hurt America and freedom again.

I sent a defense bill that says—and it's a big increase, because I strongly believe that anytime we send one of our troops into harm's way, he or she deserves the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to the troops, and we owe it to their loved ones. And if you're anybody out there who has got a member of the United States military in your family, first of all, thanks. You thank them on behalf of the Commander in Chief. I'm confident and proud of our abilities.

And secondly, I've asked for this increase in defense spending because I want to send a signal to the world, to both friend and foe alike, that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we're in this for the long pull. We're in it for the long haul. There's no calendar on my desk that says, because we're getting tired, we're going to quit. When it comes to freedoms, no matter how much the cost, no matter how long it takes, we will defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

The Congress has got the defense bill in committee. They passed it out of the House, and I'm grateful. They passed it out of the Senate, and I'm grateful. But what I'm not grateful for is, they can't get it to my desk. They need to reconcile their differences, set this as a priority, get it to my desk. For the sake of our national security, I want to sign the defense bill before they go home.

That's why we need people like Doug up there in the Senate. We don't need to play

politics with the defense bill. We need to do what's right for the country. And we need to also send a message, and I sent a message the other day, right up the way here, to the United Nations.

Here's the message I sent. I said, when we see a threat to our country, we want to work with others, of course. When we see a threat to freedom—let me put it to you that way, not just to our country, but to freedom—we'll work with others to make sure that threat doesn't materialize. See, we believe not only in dealing with the immediate. We want to make sure that we deal with problems before they become so acute that we look back and say, where were we—where were we?

And we're dealing with a man in Iraq who has done a couple of things that I remind you about. One, he gassed his own people with weapons of mass destruction. He has invaded two countries since 1980. He's a man who told the United Nations time and time and time again, "I will disarm. I don't have weapons." He lied or deceived. He has made that body look weak. For the sake of peace, the United Nations must make a decision as to whether or not it's going to be a debating society, like the League of Nations, or have the capacity to keep the peace. It's their choice to make. It is their choice to make.

There are no negotiations with Saddam Hussein about what he should or should not do. He's already said what he would do. The negotiations—the discussion is within the United Nations Security Council, and soon they will tell the world whether or not they're going to be relevant or whether or not they're going to be weak. For the sake of world peace, I hope they're relevant. However, for the sake of freedom and peace, if the United Nations will not deal with Saddam Hussein, the United States and our friends will.

We owe it to our children to defend freedom. We owe it to our children and children elsewhere to keep the peace. I want you to know that behind the rhetoric is my strong desire for the world to be a—to live in peace. And I believe it's possible. I believe it is possible that if we remain strong and focused, speak clearly about good and evil, speak clearly about the need for all of us to bind together to fight terror, to resist those who

hate peace, that we can achieve peace. I recognize it might be a steep hill to climb. There's going to be some hurdles to cross. But by being resolved and determined, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only here at home, but we can achieve peace in the Middle East. We can achieve peace in South Asia. By leading the world, we can achieve peace in places where people have quit dreaming about peace.

See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They thought probably after the September the 11th, 2001, we'd kind of take a hard look and then maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand the character of this Nation. They don't understand our determination, nor do they understand our good heart and good will.

I want you to remind your kids that when it came to enforcing the doctrine that said either—the doctrine said, "If you harbor one of those killers, you're just as guilty as the killers," that we went into Afghanistan—the first theater we went into, as a great country—with friends, but we went in not to conquer anybody, not to conquer anybody. We went in to uphold doctrine and liberate people. There are young girls going to school in Afghanistan for the first time, thanks to the United States of America.

That's the nature of our country. That's the kind of people we are. We love freedom. You see, one of the things that distinguishes us from the enemy is, everybody has worth, as far as we're concerned. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. Life is precious. That's what we believe in America. And it's not just American lives that are precious; it's the life of every child, every citizen around the world. That's what they didn't understand about this country, and now they're learning the hard way.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, I believe. Here at home as well, we can achieve great good. See, there are pockets of despair here in America. There are places where people hurt. Sadly enough, there are some neighborhoods where people say, "The American Dream isn't meant for me. When you say American Dream, what are you talking about? It's not meant for me." There are

places where people are addicted, people are lonely, people have just given up.

And as long as they hurt, we hurt. And we have a chance to do something about it here in America. See, people have asked me, right after September the 11th, 2001, "What can I do to help?" I said, "What you can do to help is, you can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to fight evil, help somebody who hurts."

No, some of the greatest welfare programs in America come out of our churches and synagogues and mosques, because you know why those institutions exist? To love somebody. There's a universal call, and that's what's happening in America. This country is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. It changes when you put your arm around a child and says, "Can I help you learn to read?" It changes when you walk into a shut-in's house and say, "Can I love you," or, "Can I help you?" It changes when you run a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout troop. It changes when you care about the quality of education in your neighborhood. It changes when you become a responsible citizen.

See, one of the reasons I first sought office down in Texas was because I wanted to work—be a part of a cultural change, the change of culture from one which it said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I wanted to be a part of a cultural shift that said, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if you're a mom or a dad, it's you who is responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul."

If you're living in Trenton, New Jersey, you're responsible for the quality of life in Trenton. If you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible for telling the truth and treating your employees and shareholders with respect.

No, the enemy hit us. The enemy hit us, but instead of weakening America, it strengthened America. We still grieve for those who lost their life, but the country is responding so magnificently. People do love a neighbor more. People are loving their children more.

Perhaps the most vivid example of serving something greater than yourself, perhaps the most vivid example of being not self-absorbed and materialistic that you don't understand the call, happened on Flight 93. It's a serious lesson for our youngsters to understand. It's a serious moment. It's a significant and serious moment in our Nation's history. After all, we had people flying across the country. They thought they were on a normal trip. They learned the airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They learned that America's oceans—the oceans no longer protected America. They told their loved ones goodbye or, "I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save life, to serve something greater than yourself in life. These brave souls represented the true spirit and greatness of our country.

You can probably tell I'm an optimistic person. I am, and I have every reason to be. After all, the United States is the greatest country on the face of the Earth, full of the greatest people. I know Doug Forrester wants to keep it that way, and so do I.

I'm honored you all came today. Thanks for supporting Doug. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Sovereign Bank Arena. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Tom Kean of New Jersey; former Gov. Don DiFrancesco of New Jersey, and his wife, Diane; Robert D. Prunetti, county executive, Mercer County, NJ; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Askar Akayev on the Relationship Between the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic
September 23, 2002

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, desiring to promote a shared vision for the 21st century of a peaceful, prosperous, and sovereign

Kyrgyz Republic that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations.

We reaffirm our deep appreciation for the strong relations that have been established between our two countries based on mutual respect and the common goals of stability, peace, and prosperity. We will advance our cooperation on democratic political and free-market economic reforms, and the development of the resources of the Kyrgyz Republic and its people. We affirm that these political and economic reforms are a necessary condition to ensure political, social, and economic stability; sustainable development; prosperity; and national security.

We recognize that the threats of terrorism, trafficking of narcotics, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction endanger the security not only of the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic, but also of the Central Asian region and the world at large. We, therefore, seek to develop our security cooperation to address these challenges and foster cooperation among the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic, its Central Asian neighbors, the other regional powers, and our European partners.

Recognizing the essential role that the Kyrgyz Republic plays in the war against terrorism, we declare our intention to cooperate in this war to its conclusion and within the framework of the international coalition. We emphasize our support for the Afghan Transitional Administration and the goal that it be at peace internally and with its neighbors and integrated into the regional and international economic structures. We also express our readiness to support Afghanistan's reconstruction and the development of its natural and human resources.

In the spirit of partnership, the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States intend to strengthen joint activity to ensure security and stability in Central Asia. We agree that the expansion of trade and economic ties among the states of Central Asia, and deepening of regional integration in important areas such as the environment, water resources, and transportation systems, are a basis for regional security and prosperity. The United States is enhancing assistance programs to the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen

border security and to increase the defensive capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We recognize that free-market economies, democratic political systems, and the rule of law provide the most effective means to advance the welfare of our citizens and the stability of our societies. The United States and the Kyrgyz Republic pledge to develop further our bilateral trade and investment relations, including through expanded contacts between the business communities of our countries. We are united in our mutual efforts to cooperate to accelerate the development of an attractive, transparent, and predictable investment climate in the Kyrgyz Republic. Achieving this goal requires the removal of legislative and administrative barriers to investment, strengthening respect for contracts and the rule of law, reducing corruption, and enhancing the Kyrgyz Republic's strong record on economic reform.

We reaffirm our commitment to work diligently and on a regular and sustained basis in the areas specified in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Washington on February 15, 2002, with the goal of strengthening the economic component of our bilateral cooperation. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, both sides have agreed that a high-level Kyrgyz government delegation will visit Washington in October 2002 for the purpose of further identifying realistic and achievable objectives aimed at accelerating economic reforms and development in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Recognizing that democracy is a cornerstone of long-term stability, we reaffirm our desire to strengthen democratic institutions and processes, such as civil society, independent media, local government, political pluralism, and free and fair elections. We also reaffirm our mutual commitments to advance the rule of law and promote freedom of religion and other universal human rights as enshrined by the founding documents of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. Finally, we confirm our mutual efforts to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two

countries by promoting people-to-people exchanges, initiatives of non-governmental organizations, and contacts between business people.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and the Presidents of the Central African States

September 23, 2002

We, the Heads of State of the United States, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe, met September 13, 2002 at the 57th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

We confirmed our commitment to cooperate to pursue regional peace, prosperity, freedom, and stability in Central Africa. In pursuit of these goals, we renewed our commitment to the political and economic reforms necessary to improve the lives of the people of Central Africa, and mobilize the resources required to advance development in the region. We will continue to show the leadership required to achieve these goals as the cornerstone of human freedom and dignity.

We will strengthen the capacity of the Economic Community for Central African States (CEEAC) and the Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) sub-regional organizations, and work with the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) to prevent and resolve conflict, reduce human suffering, and promote regional economic integration.

Convinced that peace and security are global, we support the call by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and President Bush for Iraq to fulfill its obligations toward the United Nations. We agree that the UN Security Council must face its responsibilities and demonstrate the resolve to enforce its resolutions.

We further agreed that cooperation is essential to combat terrorism, and affirmed our commitment to build regional and national capabilities to share information and imple-

ment United Nations Security Council resolutions to eliminate and deny sanctuary for terrorist organizations, networks, and finance across Central Africa.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. Participating in the issuance of the joint statement were: President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi; President Paul Biya of Cameroon; President Ange-Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic; President Idriss Deby of Chad; President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea; President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon; President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; and President Fradique De Menezes of Sao Tome and Principe.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 23, 2002

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared by the President on September 26, 1993, by Executive Order 12865, to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The order prohibits the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S. registered vessels or aircraft, of arms, related materiel of all types, petroleum, and petroleum products to the territory of Angola, other than through designated points of entry. The order also prohibits the sale or supply of such commodities to UNITA.

The President took additional measures with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865 by issuing Executive Orders 13069 and 13098 on December 12, 1997, and August 18, 1998, respectively. Those orders close all UNITA offices in the United States, block all property and interests in property of UNITA and designated UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families, prohibit the importation of certain diamonds exported from

Angola, and impose additional sanctions with respect to the provision of mining and transportation equipment and services.

Because of our continuing international obligations and because of the prejudicial effect that discontinuation of the sanctions would have on prospects for peace in Angola, the national emergency declared on September 26, 1993, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 26, 2002. Therefore, I am continuing the national emergency with respect to UNITA.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 24, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to UNITA**
September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 49084).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998) continue to oblige all member states to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the prospects for peace in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its military operations.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
UNITA**

September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Plan Colombia

September 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e), of Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2002 in support of Plan Colombia.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 23, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

September 24, 2002

The President. Thanks for coming. We just had a very productive Cabinet meeting. We realize there's little time left in—before the Senate and the House goes home, but we're optimistic a lot can get done between now and then. Congress must act now to pass a resolution which will hold Saddam Hussein to account for a decade of defiance.

It's time to get a homeland security bill done, one which will allow this President and this administration, and future Presidents—give us the tools necessary to protect the homeland. And we're working as hard as we can with Phil Gramm and Zell Miller to get this bill moving. It's a good bill. It's a bill that both Republicans and Democrats can and should support.

My message, of course, is that, to the Senators up here that are more interested in special interests, you better pay attention to the overall interests of protecting the American people.

We can get budget going. I need a defense bill. The Senate needs to get and the House needs to get their differences reconciled and get a defense bill to my desk before they go home. That's a very important signal to send. And at the same time, since there is no budg-

et in the Senate, they've got to be mindful of overspending, very important for those up there who keep talking about budget—balanced budget and all that—to not overspend. If they're truly that concerned about the deficit, then one way they can help is to be fiscally sound with the people's money.

We talked about the need to get pension reform and an energy bill, terrorism insurance. There's time to get all this done, and we look forward to working with the Members of Congress to get it done.

I'll answer a couple of questions, starting with Fournier [Ron Fournier] of the AP.

British Dossier on Iraq/Al Gore

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Can I have your reaction to two recent assessments on the situation in Iraq? First, Tony Blair said today that Saddam has tried to acquire significant quantities of uranium and can quickly deploy chemical and biological weapons. But there seems to be little new information in the dossier. Secondly, former Vice President Al Gore——

The President. That might explain why.

Q. Pardon me, sir?

The President. Explain why he didn't put new information—to protect sources. Go ahead.

Q. If you could explain why, I'd appreciate it. And secondly, Vice President Al Gore——

The President. That's right, I forgot our different roles. [Laughter]

Q. I couldn't even get on the ballot. [Laughter]

The President. Did that have something to do with the background check? [Laughter]

Q. When I have something on that, I'll let you know, sir. [Laughter]

The Vice President yesterday said that you've managed to replace the world's sympathy on Iraq with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. And you're using the issue to steer attention away from the inability to get Usama bin Laden.

The President. I'm confident that a lot of Democrats here in Washington, DC, understand that Saddam is a true threat to America. And I look forward to working with them to get a strong resolution passed.

Prime Minister Blair, first of all, is a very strong leader, and I admire his willingness

to tell the truth and to lead. Secondly, he has—continues to make the case, like we make the case, that Saddam Hussein is a threat to peace, that for 11 years, he has deceived the world. For 11 years, he's ignored the United Nations, and for 11 years, he has stockpiled weapons. And we shouldn't deceive ourselves about this man. He has poisoned his people before. He has poisoned his neighborhood. He is willing to use weapons of mass destruction. And the Prime Minister continues to make the case, and so will I.

And I again call for the United Nations to pass a strong resolution holding this man to account. And if they're unable to do so, the United States and our friends will act, because we believe in peace. We want to keep the peace. We don't trust this man, and that's what the Blair report showed today.

The reason why it wasn't specific is because—I understand why—he's not going to reveal sources and methods of collection of sensitive information. Those sources and methods may be—will be used later on, I'm confident, as we gather more information about how this man has deceived the world.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Yes. Sorry. Excuse me. Go ahead.

Q. Sir, do you want to specifically respond, please, to Al Gore, instead of just generally about Democrats? What did you think about his—

The President. I just responded. I mean, there's a lot of Democrats in Washington, DC, who understand that Saddam Hussein is a true threat and that we must hold him to account. And I believe you'll see, as we work to get a strong resolution out of the Congress, that a lot of Democrats are willing to take the lead when it comes to keeping the peace.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, Arab leaders are warning the terrorism coalition and your efforts in Iraq are at risk because of the Arafat siege. Why didn't U.S. support last night's U.N. resolution, and what can you say to get Israel to end the siege?

The President. What we do support is this, Steve—and our abstention should have sent a message that we hope that all parties

stay on the path to peace. And I laid out what the path to peace—what the path to peace was here at the—in the Rose Garden. First of all, we all have got to fight terror. But as we fight terror, particularly in the Middle East, they've got to build the institution necessary for a Palestinian state to emerge, that we've got to promote the leadership that is willing to condemn terror and, at the same time, work toward the embetterment of the lives of the Palestinian people. There are a lot of suffering people there, and we've got to help end the suffering.

And I thought the actions the Israelis take—the Israelis took were not helpful in terms of the establishment and development of the institutions necessary for a Palestinian state to emerge. We will continue to work with all parties in the region, Israel and everybody else who wants to fight off terror. We'll do that.

In order for there to be peace, we must battle terror. But at the same time, we must have a hopeful response. And the most hopeful response of all for the Palestinian people is for—to work for a state to emerge. And that is possible. I believe strongly it can happen. I believe it's—I believe in peace in the Middle East. And I would urge all governments to work toward that peace.

And we're making progress, and that's what's important for the world to know. We're making progress on the security front. We're making progress on the political reform front. We're making progress to make it clear that if there is to be a peaceful settlement, that the Palestinians must be given the opportunity to bring forth leadership which is willing to work toward peace. And it was not helpful what happened recently.

Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, we haven't asked you about the economy in quite some time. Consumer confidence numbers out today—not real good. Later this month, lots of Americans are going to receive their 401(k) statements, many of them probably cringing about what they're going to see in there. Do you feel like the economy is on the right track, that the stock market can mount any

kind of a recovery in coming months? And if you are optimistic, what are your reasons for your optimism?

The President. Yes. Well, I'm optimistic because, one, I'm optimistic about America in general. I mean, the American people are resilient; they're strong. We've got the best workers in the world. Inflation is down. Interest rates are low. So when you combine the productivity of the American people with low interest rates and low inflation, those are the ingredients for growth.

But there's more to do. That's why we need a terrorism insurance bill. We need to get our hardhats working again. We need to make the tax cuts permanent so that entrepreneurs and small businesses have got certainty in the Tax Code. We need to make sure Congress doesn't overspend. If Congress overspends, it will send a chilling signal to markets. And so there are things that Congress and the administration can do, working together to make sure people work.

But I'm an optimist. I'm optimistic because this is America; that's what makes me optimistic. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong, and we're really good at a lot of things we do.

But no question that, you know, that things changed, I mean, from the boom days. The market started to decline in March of 2000. That's when it peaked. The sellers outnumbered the buyers starting in March of 2000. And then in the summer of 2000, the economy began to slow down, people began to see a serious slowdown. And then we came into office, and we had three quarters of negative growth. That's called a recession.

And we're dealing with it. We're dealing with a sound—a fiscal policies, starting with letting people have more of their own money. See, the tax cut was actually necessary, a necessary part of economic recovery. And there are some up here in Washington, DC, who would like to raise the taxes on the people. And that's just—that's bad economics; that's bad policy. People up here want to stop the reduction in income taxes for the American people. That's bad policy in the face of an economic slowdown.

So you bet I'm optimistic. But I understand we've got a lot of work to do. And we

will—we will continue to work hard to make sure that people can find work.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Spring Championship Teams

September 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Welcome. Please be seated. Thank you. This is champions day here at the White House, and I want to welcome all the champs who are here. I particularly love being around those who've set high goals, worked hard to achieve them, and win.

I want to thank the chancellors, presidents, athletic directors, supporters, family members for being here as well. I'm honored to welcome people of high accomplishment to the White House. You're here during extraordinary times. This is a time of challenge for our country. It's really a time to determine the fiber of our Nation, the character of our people. We're being tested. But because we're Americans, because we believe things—hold values deeply in our heart, we will succeed. There's no question in my mind.

And one way we're going to succeed is for all of us, particularly the champs here, to remember there is a responsibility that comes with being a champion. I happen to believe you have a responsibility to set an example for others, that as you succeed on the field of play, you've got to remember there are youngsters looking at you, trying to determine how they should live their life. So as you set high standards for yourself, I hope you remember people are watching and that you can affect people's lives in an incredibly positive way.

There's another way you can serve your community as well, by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that a champion on the field can be a champion off the

field by mentoring a child or caring for somebody in need or helping to eliminate pockets of despair and hopelessness in the country. You've got an opportunity as champions to be champions off the field in the community in which you live. And there's no question in my mind that when you put your mind to it, you can. You can help shape the character of the country. You can overcome—help overcome evil by doing some good in the communities in which you live.

So I want to welcome you all here. I want to welcome two Members of the United States Congress, Jim Walsh and Joe Wilson—Jim from New York, and Joe from South Carolina.

I appreciate all the team captains who are up here. And it's now my honor to kind of go through the roster of the champs, those who have earned the title of NCAA champion and, therefore, get to come to this fabulous place—[laughter]—my temporary home.

First, out of the State of California, the softball champs, NCAA softball champs from the University of California, coached by Diane Ninemire. These girls beat a tough field. They got a one-hitter from Jocelyn Forrest to win the championship. It's my honor to welcome the Golden Bears of California here to the White House.

[At this point, third baseman Candace Harper presented the President with a team jersey.]

The President. Next, men's lacrosse. This year was dominated by Syracuse. I say “dominated”—they won the last four games by one goal, but they were 15 and 2. [Laughter] They were 15 and 2. They've won their eighth national championship. They are coached by John Desko. A fine group of people from Syracuse. Congratulations, and welcome to the White House.

[Team captain Josh Coffman presented the President with a signed team poster.]

The President. And then the best women's lacrosse team in the history of Princeton University is with us. At least, that's how they were rated by those who know something about women's lacrosse. Their coach is Chris Sailer—Gary Walters, the athletic director.

These ladies scored the most points and the most goals in Princeton history. I know the Syracuse men beat Princeton. It's lucky you didn't play the women this year. [Laughter] Anyway, it's my honor to welcome the Princeton Tigers, NCAA champs here.

[Team co-captain Lauren Simone presented the President with a T-shirt featuring the final score of the team's win against Yale during the season.]

The President. Tennis team. [Laughter] The University of Southern California Trojans have been coached by a man named Dick Leach for 23 years. And under his leadership, they've won four NCAA championships; they've won 16 in their school's history.

It is my honor to welcome Coach Leach, the University of Southern California Trojan champions, along with new coach Peter Smith and Athletic Director Mike Garrett. Welcome to the White House.

[Team captain Andrew Park presented the President with an inscribed tennis racket.]

The President. Stanford University. They win a lot of things, and this year the women's tennis team is here at the White House because they won the NCAA champions. They're coached by Lele Forood. They have been here a lot. They were here 2 years in a row. This is their second year in a row. They have won the national championship 12 times in 22 years. It is my honor to welcome a group of ladies from a school that has had an unbelievable tradition of winning NCAA championships, and that is the Stanford women's tennis team. Welcome.

[Team members presented the President with a T-shirt.]

The President. Men's golf. The University of Minnesota won its first NCAA men's golf championship this year. Incredibly enough, it was the only team in the tournament to finish below par. That's a hard course.

I want to thank Brad James, the head coach, and Joel Maturi, who is the athletic director, for coming. And congratulations to the Golden Gophers golf team of Minnesota.

[Assistant coach Andrew Tank presented the President with a box of golf balls.]

The President. Guy must think I play golf a lot around here. *[Laughter]*

And the women's golf team of Duke University is the NCAA champs, coached by Dan Brooks. This is their second national title. Joel Alleva is here as well, who is the athletic director. Dan Brooks must be a great coach—looks like a pretty young guy to me, and he's already in the National Golf Coaches' Association Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Duke. Congratulations for a victory. These girls told me they're going to be back next year. I look forward to seeing them again.

[Team captain Candy Hanneman presented the President with a box of golf balls.]

The President. LS&U, right across the border from where I used to live. I want to welcome the men's outdoor track and field team and the women's indoor track and field team. If you ever follow college track, you know that LSU has been dominant, to say the least. And once again, they have been dominant. This is the 23d championship under Coach Pat Henry's leadership. And I want to welcome, first, the men's outdoor track team. Welcome to the White House, and congratulations for a great victory.

[Team member Walter Davis presented the President with a gift.]

The President. And the women's indoor track team routed the field this year. Their closest competitor was 14 points. Welcome to the LSU Tigers women's track team. Congratulations.

[Team members presented the President with a T-shirt.]

The President. The University of South Carolina had never won an NCAA championship until this year, when the women's outdoor track and field team beat a tough field. It's my honor to welcome Andrew Sorensen, who is the president of the University, Mike McGee, the athletic director, Coach Curtis Frye, and the women from the University of South Carolina. It's a great tribute to your skill and talent. It's a great honor for you to have won your university's first NCAA championship. Welcome to the White House.

[Team member Demetria Washington presented the President with a team warm-up jacket.]

The President. And finally—*[laughter]*—the mighty Longhorns of the University of Texas. There were a lot of people here in the White House that were sweating out the NCAA final in college baseball this year. I'm probably going to rewrite a little history here, but I was the Governor when Augie Garrido first came to the University of Texas. And as I recall it, he said, "I'm going to win a national championship for Texas." He just didn't tell me he was going to win the national championship and I was going to be the President. *[Laughter]* He forgot the second part.

But we're really proud of the University of Texas. We're proud of Coach Garrido. We're proud of the—we're proud of—all the Texans here that work here in Washington, DC, are proud to be able to "hook the horns." Congratulations.

[Team captain Ryan Hubele presented the President with a team jersey.]

The President. So that concludes championship day here at the White House. We hope to see you all here next year. In the meantime, I want you to remember that you're a citizen of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John R. Thune September 24, 2002

Thank you all for coming. "Senator," thanks for that kind introduction. There should be no doubt where my allegiance is in South Dakota, and that's with John Thune, the next Senator from the State of South Dakota.

There's a lot of reasons why I think John ought to be in the Senate, starting with the fact that he really married well. *[Laughter]* Probably some of you haven't had a chance

to meet Kimberley, but you'll know it's true when I say he married above himself. [Laughter] They've got a fabulous family. Every time I've been to South Dakota, they've been there to greet me. And there's no doubt in my mind where his priorities lay, and that is with his family and his faith and his State and his country. He's a man of deep value, a good, honorable guy. He's a man who will bring credit to the United States Senate, and I'm proud to endorse him and to work as hard as I possibly can to see that he becomes the next Senator from South Dakota.

Kimberley was wise enough to skip my speech, and so was Laura. [Laughter] She sends her affection to the Thunes and joins me in thanking you all for being here to support this good fellow.

Laura is doing great, by the way. She was a, you know, public school librarian when I married her, and she didn't like politics and really didn't like politicians, if the truth be known. [Laughter] She liked a few of them, but she could never envision herself being involved in the political process. And thank goodness she said yes when I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering why she did that. But she's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady. She sends her best.

I want to thank some Senators here who are anxiously awaiting the arrival of John Thune. I know Trent Lott is here, soon to be majority leader of the Senate. I know Bill Frist is here, from Tennessee, in the back. Thank you for coming, Bill. I see my friend Larry Craig is here. I appreciate you coming, Larry.

I know a lot of Members of Congress who are here because they know John and like him a lot. I want to thank all the supporters and organizers who have helped in the past and are helping this time again. I appreciate you all coming. It's good to be with friends and people who care deeply about the future of our country—something we all have got to be concerned about, the future of our country.

One of the things I like about John is that he's a fellow who can get things done on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota and the citizens of our country. As you know, a lot of folks are suffering out there as a result

of a drought. And in Washington there's always a lot of talk about trying to get something done, and a lot of times something doesn't get done in this town.

But thanks to his leadership, his willingness to represent the farmers and ranchers of South Dakota, he worked with Ann Veneman and my administration to get immediate relief to people who hurt. So while Washington was talking, John Thune was doing on behalf of the people of South Dakota.

Not only is the drought the challenge, but so is our economy. We've got people who want to work and can't find work, and we've got to do something about it. And I want somebody in the Senate who understands the role of Government, and that's not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, an environment in which we understand the role of Government is to lay the foundation for growth. And that's what we have been doing here in Washington, much to the objections of some.

I want you to remember back during the tax cut debate, I said—and John agreed—that we needed to let people keep more of their own money. When the economy began to slow, it was important to let people have more of their own money so they could spend, and when they would spend, somebody would produce a good or a service. And when somebody produced the good or service to meet their demand, somebody is more likely to find work.

We got the tax cut passed. But because of the rules of the Senate—and this one's a hard one to explain. It's a hard one to explain in South Dakota, and it's a hard one to explain in Crawford, Texas. But because of the rules of the Senate, that tax relief plan we passed goes away in 10 years, 9 years from now. And that creates uncertainty in the economy. It's hard to plan when the Tax Code shifts around. It's hard to— it's hard to envision a future that's stable. And people need a stable environment in order to create jobs. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, I need people in the Senate who will make the tax cuts permanent, a permanent part of our Tax Code.

And that includes permanently repealing the death tax. That should be an issue in South Dakota. There's a lot of farmers and ranchers who are going to get run off their farms and ranches if we don't repeal the death tax forever. We don't need people playing games with the death tax to mask their desire to keep the death tax in place. When this man says he's going to support us to get rid of the death tax, he means it. It's an important voice to have in the Senate.

As well, we've got a problem with fiscal sanity in Washington. Every idea is a good idea up here. The problem is, every idea costs billions of dollars. The Senate hasn't passed a budget. And when you don't have a budget, it is—it's liable to encourage excessive spending. And if there's excessive spending, it's going to serve as a drag on job creation.

If you're interested in job vitality, it's important for Washington, DC, to be fiscally sound with the people's money, to spend money on priorities and only spend money on priorities. And John Thune understands that. We need more fiscal sanity in the United States Senate, and he will bring that. We proposed—my budget I proposed shows us a way to get back to balance after a difficult period of time, after an attack and an emergency and a recession. And some in the Senate hadn't heard that message. But John Thune will hear it. He understands what I understand: The money we spend up here is not the Government's money. The money we spend up here is the taxpayers' money, and we need to watch it carefully.

We need an energy bill, for the sake of job creation as well as for national security purposes. We need a terrorism insurance bill to get our hardhats working again and, by the way, a bill which will reward hard work but not reward trial lawyers.

We need commonsense thinking when it comes to our national forests. John understands this. Larry understands this. We've allowed our forests to build up like giant piles of kindling, as a result of backward environmental policy. We need commonsense practices. We need commonsense thinking in the United States Senate. And that's the kind of thinking John will bring.

And we also need to have people up there who understand the true challenge we face in America, and the challenge we face is the security of our homeland. My most important job, I believe the most important job of our Congress, is to work together to make the homeland secure, is to do everything we possibly can to prevent an enemy which hates America from attacking us again.

Oh, I know some would wish the enemy would go away, but they're not. You see, they hate freedom, and we love freedom. They can't stand what we stand for. But we're going to stand for what we stand for forever. See, we love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can come to our country and realize their dreams. We love the fact that people can debate freely. We love a free press.

We love everything there is about freedom, and we also value each life in our country and around the world. Everybody matters. Everybody has worth. Everybody counts. But that's not the way the enemy thinks. They don't believe in every life matters. They're willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

And so we've got a big task ahead of us today and tomorrow and down the road, and that is to defend our freedoms. And that's why I asked the Congress to respond to this notion of setting up a Department of Homeland Security. We've got to be able to better coordinate between our agencies the defense of our homeland. If the number one priority is homeland defense, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency involved with homeland defense. And the best way to ensure that happens is to put them under one umbrella and then give the President, this President and future Presidents, the ability and the flexibility to move people at the right place at the right time in order to defeat an enemy and to defend America.

And yet right now in the Senate, the Senate feels like they want to micromanage the process—not all Senators but some Senators. They want to have a pile of books this thick that will hamstring future administrations as to how best to protect our homeland, and I'm not going to stand for it.

I appreciate John's vote on a good homeland security bill. And the Senate must hear

this, because the American people understand it. They should not respond to special interests. They ought to respond to this interest: Protecting the American people from a future attack.

Finally, you all know this—John understands this, and I hope you do as well—the best way to defend our homeland is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and to bring them to justice. And that’s what we’re going to do. That’s what this country is going to do. And that’s why I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did so for two valid reasons. One, our people deserve the best pay. If you put the uniform on and you go into harm’s way, you’ve got to have the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, I asked for that bill because I wanted to send a clear signal to everybody that we’re in this deal for the long pull, that there’s not a moment in time where we say, “Well, gosh, we quit,” that this country will do whatever it takes to defend our freedoms.

And one of the things I just call upon the Congress to do before they go home is to get the defense bill to my desk. It passed the House. It passed the Senate. It’s now clogged up in a conference committee. For the sake of sending the right signal, for the sake of doing what’s right for our military, for the sake for doing what’s right for planning, for prosecuting this war, I need a defense bill before they go home.

Our job is to keep the peace. Our job is to leave a legacy of freedom for our children and our children’s children. My job is to remain firm and to uphold the doctrine, “Either you’re with us, or you’re with the enemy.” That still stands. The doctrine says, “If you harbor a terrorist and feed a terrorist, you’re just as guilty as a terrorist.” That still stands.

It also stands that we must not allow leaders who develop the world’s worst weapons to blackmail the United States or our friends and allies, to hold us hostage. I went to the United Nations because I want the United Nations to have heard not only the case about Saddam Hussein—the fact that he has weapons of mass destruction, the fact that he

gassed his own people, the fact that he terrorized his neighborhood, the fact that he has terrorized his own people much worse than Mr. Milosevic did. I also made it clear to the United Nations, we want, for the sake of peace, for the United Nations to be an effective body. We don’t want it to be a League of Nations. We want it to be a body that can—that has got the backbone necessary to keep the peace. I’m willing to work with nations in the United Nations to not only strengthen that institution but to hold Saddam Hussein to account.

But if the United Nations won’t act, if they won’t disarm Saddam Hussein, if they won’t expose this liar for what he is, then the United States and other friends of ours around the world will do just that. We owe it to our children, and we owe it to our children’s children.

And I want to thank members of both parties in the United States Congress for working to develop a strong resolution and strong signal to the world that this Nation is determined. We love peace. Military is not our first choice. But nevertheless, we will not let the challenges that we face go unheeded. We understand the reality. We understand the nature of the man with which we deal. Everybody matters. Every life counts, including those who have been tortured and killed and suppressed in Iraq.

See, we believe in freedom. We believe in freeing people while we free ourselves from threats. I understand the—I understand that the world is—some in the world are—don’t see it that way. But if we have to and when we succeed, the world will thank the United States and our friends and allies for making our world more secure and more peaceful.

I appreciate the fact that people say to me, you know, “How are things going?” And my answer very quickly is, “Great, because we’re the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. We are showing the world the true nature of our country, that we’re tough when we have to be tough, and we’re compassionate at the same time.”

I met with a group of Afghan women who are involved in their Government. I reminded them what I like to remind people

all across our country, particularly the youngsters, that we went into their country to uphold doctrine. But we also went in to liberate people. Ours is a nation which does not conquer. We have no territorial designs or desires. But we love freedom.

It made me feel so great to see 14 women, who had lived under the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, sitting in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, talking about how to enhance education, asking us never to leave until they're secure—which I promised them we wouldn't—talking about peace, talking about a hopeful future, thanks to the resolve of the United States of America and her people.

I also want you to know that not only will that kind of good come out of the evil done to us, but I passionately believe not only can we achieve peace in places in the world which have quit on peace, but we can address some of our own problems at home in a way we have never addressed them before.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this country; there just are. There are people who hurt. There are people who are addicted. There are people who say, when somebody says "the American Dream," they don't know what they're talking about. See, they've given up on the American experience. But that can be overcome as our fellow citizens love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

You see, the enemy hit us. But they didn't know who they were hitting. I like to say that they probably thought that after 9/11/2001, we would file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] What they found is, they found they touched a nerve in this country, a nerve that says we'll defend our values at any cost.

But also they touched a nerve where Americans have taken a step back and realize that being a patriot is more than putting your hand over your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Being a patriot is helping a fellow American who hurts, mentoring a child, starting a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop, being involved with a church or synagogue and mosque program necessary to feed the hungry or to find shelter for those who have no place to live. That's the America that is now showing its face to the world. Out of

the evil done to America will come incredible good, because our people are so good, and we are so great as a nation.

I want to thank you for helping John. He'll be a great United States Senator. Thank you for coming, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:18 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Kimberley Thune, wife of Representative Thune; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and former President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Representative Thune is a candidate for the U.S. Senate in South Dakota.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and an Exchange With Reporters

September 25, 2002

President Bush. Thank you. Welcome. Here's what we're going to do. I am going to give a statement; President Uribe will give a statement. I will call upon an American journalist; the President will call upon a Colombian journalist. I will then call upon another American journalist; the President will call upon a Colombian journalist. And then you all will leave. [Laughter]

Mr. President, welcome to the Oval Office. It is my honor to welcome this good man, this friend of freedom, to the Oval Office. I have been incredibly impressed by his vision for a peaceful Colombia and a prosperous Colombia. He's a man who told the people of his country that he would work to eradicate terrorism, narcotrafficking. The Colombian people believe him, and so do I. And today I want to affirm our country's strong desire to help the Colombian Government and the Colombian people prosper and to live in freedom. I appreciate his leadership. I appreciate his strength of character. I appreciate his clear vision.

So, Mr. President, *bienvenidos a la Oval Office, aqui en la Casa Blanca.*

President Uribe. Muchas gracias, Presidente.

[At this point, President Uribe continued in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Would you like that translated into English?

President Uribe. Thank you, Mr. President, for this warm welcome. We need the support of your country, the support of your Government, your personal support for my country to solve problems of violence, economic and social problems. You have set up a very effective example of the way we need to go on to fight and to defeat terrorism. We are in necessity to have allies such as you and your Government for Colombians to restore law and order, for Colombians to restore a way of creating employment, of improvement of our standard of living.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. *Por nada.* [Laughter]
Patsy Wilson, Reuters.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Al Qaida

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that Saddam Hussein is a bigger threat to the United States than Al Qaida?

President Bush. That's a—that is a interesting question. I'm trying to think of something humorous to say—[laughter]—but I can't when I think about Al Qaida and Saddam Hussein. They're both risks. They're both dangerous. The difference, of course, is that Al Qaida likes to hijack governments. Saddam Hussein is a dictator of a government. Al Qaida hides; Saddam doesn't. But the danger is, is that they work in concert. The danger is, is that Al Qaida becomes an extension of Saddam's madness and his hatred and his capacity to extend weapons of mass destruction around the world.

Both of them need to be dealt with. The war on terror—you can't distinguish between Al Qaida and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror. And so it's a comparison that is—I can't make because I can't distinguish between the two, because they're both equally as bad and equally as evil and equally as destructive.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Question for a Colombian reporter?

Assistance to Colombia

Q. Mr. President Bush, the Colombian Government is here asking for support from the U.S. Government, economic support,

both with the Andean Trade Preference Act and also maybe from the Department of Treasury. Is the Government—the U.S. Government willing to help the Colombian Government?

President Bush. We're certainly willing to help the Government and the Colombian people realize a prosperous future. I've asked my Secretary of Treasury to be here today to listen to the dialog with the President. There will be further discussions. The Andean Trade Preference Act has been renewed and revitalized to the benefit of the Colombian economy. We had a big discussion here in America, and I got a favorable vote out of our Congress that I'm confident will benefit those who seek work in Colombia. We look forward to working with international institutions to help this good man and this good—important country to grow and prosper.

And so the purpose of this visit is to not only talk about prosperity and economic growth and vitality, but it's also to talk about how to fight terror. And I'm looking forward to a good and active discussion.

Terry Moran [ABC News].

2002 Elections and the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, are you politicizing the war? Do you think Americans should base their vote in November in part on where a candidate stands on the war?

President Bush. I think the American people ought to understand that life has changed here in this country, that it used to be two oceans would separate us from danger, that we were quite comfortable in our shores knowing that it would take an unusual circumstance to be attacked. After September the 11th, we were attacked, and the American people understand that this country must deal with the true threats.

I am as determined today as I was on September the 11th to pursue an enemy which still wants to hurt America. I am absolutely determined to make sure that 10 years from now we don't look back and say, "What happened? Why did America go soft? Why did we ignore true threats that face our people?"

And I hope the American people understand that. I was concerned, of course, after September the 11th, that as time went by,

some might forget, some might forget the true threats. Of course, I'm reminded of that every day when I come here to the Oval Office, that we face true threats. And Terry, my job is to protect the American people. It's my most important job, most important assignment I have. And I will continue to do that, regardless of the season.

Q. So it's a legitimate political issue?

President Bush. Legitimate national security concern is what it is. You may try to politicize it. I view it as my main obligation; that is to protect the American people. It's the most important job this President will have, and it's the most important job future Presidents will have, because the nature of war has changed. We're vulnerable, and therefore, I expect—the American people should expect me, and any President, to do everything we can to protect the homeland. And I will. I'll do that.

Carlos Costano/International Criminal Court

Q. Mr. President, a question for both. What are your reactions on the U.S. extradition request of Colombian paramilitary leader Carlos Costano? And if you would also answer, Colombia sent you a letter yesterday saying that there's no need to sign a bilateral agreement with the U.S. in terms of the ICC that you are seeking to sign with all other countries in the world. Do you think—do you still like a bilateral agreement with Colombia and those—

President Bush. Yes, we want an Article 98 with all countries, absolutely. I strongly reject the ICC. I'm not going to accept an ICC. I'm not going to put ourselves in a position where our soldiers and diplomats get hauled into a court over which we have got—the prosecutors whom we don't know, the judges—I mean, we're not going to allow ourselves to do that. And our friends shouldn't want us to be put in that position. Therefore, we're seeking Article 98s from our friends.

And we will hold people to account. If they're a terrorist, we're going to hold them to account. So the guy who got indicted yesterday made a decision to be a terrorist. We made a decision to hold him to account. And we will continue to do that. We believe that's

part of our responsibility as freedom-loving people.

And I look forward to working with President Uribe to hold others to account, if they continue to terrorize the world. And terrorism—terrorists attacked our country and hurt us. If they attack Colombia and hurt them, they're still equally as guilty, as far as we're concerned. It doesn't matter who the victim is. What matters is whether or not they're practicing terrorist activities.

And we will continue to fight terror. It's our obligation, our duty. History has called us into action.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Carlos Costano, leader of the United Self-Defense Forces, who was indicated on drug trafficking charges. The President also referred to the U.S. effort to seek a bilateral agreement with the Government of Colombia under Article 98 of the Rome Treaty, with the aim of preventing U.S. nationals from falling under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Remarks at the National Republican Senatorial Committee Dinner

September 25, 2002

Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for coming tonight. I appreciate so many of our fellow Americans being here. I'm here because I want to urge you to do everything you can to make sure that the United States Senate is a Republican Senate.

In order to make real progress for America, I believe we need to have a change of leadership in the United States Senate. And together—together—we can work together to make America a stronger place, a safer place, and a better place for everybody who is fortunate enough to live in this country.

I want to thank Bill Frist, who's the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. I want to thank you for your kind words. I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank Karyn Frist for being a patient woman, standing by this guy. Frist and I married above ourselves. We both married Texas women. Laura is not here. I wish she were. She's on her way down to do a

little diplomatic work in Mexico. She sends her best. She sends her love. And I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she's doing on behalf of America.

They tell me this is a successful dinner. And I'm not surprised. After all, the chairman of the dinner is from Texas, a fine United States Senator, a close friend, Kay Bailey Hutchison. Kay, I want to thank you for your dedication and for your hard work.

I also am honored to be in the presence of the next majority leader of the United States Senate, Trent Lott. I want to thank all the Senators who are here tonight. I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you.

One Senator not here tonight is Senator Strom Thurmond. Today he gave what is likely his farewell speech on the floor of a body he loves a lot. I join his colleagues and join you all in expressing our appreciation and deep admiration for Senator Strom Thurmond and his 48 years of service in the United States Senate.

I also want to thank my friend Michael W. Smith and Debbie Smith for being here. You're in for a real treat when you hear him sing. He is one of the great voices in America. I love his spirit. I love his soul. I'm proud to call him friend. I wish I could stay for the songs, Michael, but my dinner might get cold. *[Laughter]*

I want to work with all of us here in Washington to make America a stronger place. And that starts with making sure we do everything in our power to make our economy grow. See, if anybody who wants to work can't find a job, we've got a problem. And so we've got to continue to focus on economic growth and economic vitality. And we made great progress when we controlled the Senate by cutting the taxes on the American people.

Well, I know—I know some up here in Washington have read a different textbook from most of us. But here's a page we remember. It says, "If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody in America is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a

service, somebody is more likely to find work."

The tax cuts came as our economy was slowing down. The tax cuts came at the right time in American history, and we need a Senate who makes the tax cuts permanent.

Working together, we promoted a trade bill, which is good for American jobs. If you're a confident nation, like we must be, if you believe in the productivity of the American worker, if you believe in the strength of the American entrepreneur, you open up markets around the world. And thanks to the Senate, and thanks to many Senators here, I have now got trade promotion authority, which I will use for the good of the American worker.

We began to lose some confidence in our system because some of our fellow Americans thought it was okay to fudge the books, to hide numbers. And so we came together, thanks to many in this room, and passed the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. We believe that those who run corporations in America have a responsibility. They have a responsibility to the shareholder. They have a responsibility to the employee. And if we catch somebody fudging the numbers, there's not going to be any more easy money in America; there's just going to be hard time.

And there's more we can do, and these Senators here in this audience understand it. We need an energy bill. We need an energy bill for the sake of job security, and we need an energy bill for the sake of national security.

We need terrorism insurance. We want to put our hardhats back to work. We need a bill that helps get construction projects moving again. But we want a bill that rewards the hard-working hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

And as the Congress heads to home, it's very important to remember that to make sure job creation continues and to make sure our economy strengthens, we must not overspend in Washington, DC. It's very important that Members of the Congress understand whose money we're spending. See, it's not the Government's money. We're spending the people's money, and we've got to be

wise about how we spend the people's money.

Every idea up here sounds like a good idea. Except in Washington, when you start totaling up the bill, it runs into the billions. And so, for the sake of job creation, the Congress must not use a continuing resolution for pet projects. For the sake of fiscal sanity, we must fund our priorities and hold the line elsewhere in the budget. And I appreciate the Senators leading the charge in this audience, understanding the need for fiscal—that fiscal responsibility equals jobs for the American people.

And for a stronger America, we need good judges. We need people who will not write the law from the benches but people who strictly interpret the Constitution. I have been appalled at what has taken place in the United States Senate recently. I named two good judges, one from Mississippi and one from my home State of Texas, Charles Pickering, Priscilla Owen. Their records were distorted. I don't think they were given a fair hearing. Special interests got a hold of the committee. It is not right that these two fine, fine people were denied the bench.

Soon the Senate will take up the nomination of Miguel Estrada. Miguel Estrada is an excellent lawyer. He's a fine man. He's an American success story. The Senate should not play politics with this nomination, for he will be an outstanding judge. One of the reasons to change the United States Senate is to make sure the good judges I nominate get a fair hearing, a swift vote, and approval.

And as we work hard to make sure our economy grows so people can find work, we've also got to remember our number one priority, and that is to protect our homeland from further attack. There's an enemy which hates America lurking around. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate everything our country stands for. They can't stand the thought that in this great country, we worship an almighty God any way we see fit. They can't stand the thought that we have good, honest political discourse. They hate a free press. They hate everything we love.

And there's something else which distinguishes us from the enemy. We value life in America. We say everybody has worth. Everybody is precious. They take innocent life,

as they've hijacked a great religion. And because the enemy lurks and because we refuse to yield on our love for freedom, we must prepare the homeland for future attack.

I asked the Congress to join me in creating a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because we must better coordinate our defenses. If homeland security is the number one priority of the Government, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency in Washington, DC. If protecting the homeland is the number one priority, we ought to be in a position where we can move people to protect our homeland. This President and future Presidents must have the ability to put the right people in the right place at the right time in order to protect America.

Unfortunately, some Senators, not all Senators but some Senators, believe it is best to try to micromanage the process, believe the best way to secure the homeland is to have a thick book of regulations which will hamstring this administration and future administrations from dealing with an enemy that could care less about thick books of regulations. Unfortunately, some in the Senate, not all in the Senate, want to take away the power that all Presidents have had since Jimmy Carter. And I'm not going to stand for it. The Senate must hear this, because the American people understand it: They should not respond to special interests in Washington, DC. They ought to respond to this interest—protecting the American people from future attack.

I see Senator Gramm from Texas here. I want to thank Senator Gramm, Republican, Senator Zell Miller, Democrat from Georgia, for proposing a good piece of legislation. I urge the Senate to support this legislation. It is right for America. You see, we have a chance to leave a legacy behind. And that legacy could be found in the Gramm-Miller bill. I support it strongly. I urge all the Senate to support this good piece of legislation.

The best way to secure the homeland of America, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which America will do.

It's a different kind of war. It used to be you could count progress against an enemy by the number of tanks he had or the number of airplanes he had or the number of ships

he was able to float. We're fighting against people who hide in caves, people who kind of find dark corners and lurk around them, and at the same time, boldly send youngsters to their own suicidal death. Those are the kind of people we fight. They don't require much money. But if they're trying to get money, we're cutting it off.

What it requires is a United States that is firm in our resolve, determined in our efforts, a United States who is willing—which is willing to uphold doctrine. One doctrine is: Either you're with us, or the enemy. And that doctrine still stands today. The other doctrine is: If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists who murdered thousands of Americans.

And we're making progress. We're making progress in this first war of the 21st century. Just ask the Taliban. [*Laughter*] I want you all to remind your children about the great strength and heart of this country. Not only do we do what we say we're going to do, but we went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate a nation from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, young girls now go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And we're not leaving. There's more work to do. There are Al Qaida killers lurking around the neighborhood. But they must understand there is no cave deep enough, there is no corner dark enough for the long arm of justice of the United States and our friends and allies. We've arrested over a couple of thousand of them. Got one the other day, one of the ones kind of bragging about he thought he was going to be the 20th—20th killer on September the 11th. He poked his head up, and we found him. He's no longer a threat to freedom. And there's a lot of them like him. Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down.

And we've got a lot of work to do. There's a lot more effort that's going to go into securing America and our friends and defending our freedom. And that's why I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense appropriations since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I firmly

and strongly believe that any time we send one of our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to them, and we owe it to their loved ones.

It also will send a message—this defense appropriation increase will send a message to friend and foe alike that the United States is not going to quit when it comes to our freedom, that no matter how long it takes, no matter how tough the task, this Nation will defend our freedoms. History has put the spotlight on us. And the world must understand that we're not going to blink; we're not going to tire. We will do whatever it takes to make the homeland secure and to make freedom reign across the world.

And so my call to Congress is to get the defense appropriations bill to my desk before you go home. For the sake of the national security, for the sake of sending the right messages around the world, we need to get the defense bill complete.

Not only will we pursue Al Qaida one person at a time, not only will we resist terror wherever it lurks, we will also deal with madmen who harbor and develop and want to use weapons of mass destruction.

I made a decision to call upon the international community to join us in holding Saddam Hussein to account. I did so at the United Nations because I want the United Nations to be an effective body. I remember what happened with the League of Nations. For the sake of security, for the sake of peace, the United Nations must not become the League of Nations. The United Nations must have backbone. The United Nations must be willing to uphold resolution. The United Nations must be strong enough to hold Saddam Hussein to account.

After all, he's defied the United Nations for 11 years. He's thumbed his nose at the world. He must be laughing when he hears about the United Nations and its resolutions, and that's not good for the health of the world. He's a man who poisoned his own people. He's a man who invaded two countries twice—two countries, once each time. He's a man who has got weapons of mass destruction, yet lies to the world. He's a man who needs to be brought to justice.

And the choice is his to make, and the choice is the United Nations' to make. He must destroy his weapons of mass destruction. He must stop his deceit. He must stop his lying. He must stop torturing his own citizens. And the United Nations must uphold its resolutions. The choice is theirs. But if they choose not to, for the sake of our future, for the sake of our freedom, we will not let the world's worst leader threaten us, blackmail us, or hurt us with the world's worst weapons.

And I want to thank Members of Congress of both political parties for coming together to send a strong message to the world that this nation loves freedom—members of both parties coming together to send a clear word to friend and foe alike that the United States is united in our resolve to defend that which we hold dear, that when we see a problem, we will deal with it. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our children's children to defend freedom, to free people from the clutches of barbarism. We owe it to civilization, itself, to remain strong and focused and diligent.

And as we work to make America a stronger and safer place, we've also got to remember to make it a better place too, a better place, for all our citizens. Many Senators here joined me in working on an education bill. It was the most constructive piece of education reform in a long time. See, we believe every child in America can learn. We're willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We also trust the local people to chart the path to excellence in our public schools in America.

And for the first time, thanks to Senator Gregg and others, we're starting to ask the question in America, "Can our children read and write and add and subtract?" You see, if you believe every child can learn, it's a legitimate question to ask. And we find our children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change. We will demand—we will demand something else happens. No child in America should be left behind.

For a better America, Congress must remember that those on welfare want to work. Work ought to be the cornerstone of the welfare reauthorization. In work, people find dignity. In work, people find hope for the

future. As we debate a welfare reauthorization bill, let us not forget the successes of the past, and let's make sure work is the cornerstone of a responsible tomorrow for every citizen in our country.

A better tomorrow means a modern health care system for all, but particularly for our seniors. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. For the sake of a better tomorrow, we must have a prescription drug benefit and a modern Medicare system.

And finally, a better tomorrow understands that in our faith-based and charitable institutions, we find great compassion and hope and love. Washington, DC, should not fear faith-based programs. We ought to welcome them in the lives of citizens who hurt.

I say a better tomorrow depends upon programs that emanate from our churches and synagogues and mosques as well as charitable organizations, because I understand the true strength of the country. And the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

Right after September the 11th, after we shed our tears and mourned, I was absolutely convinced that out of the evil done to America can come great good. And I still believe it today. I believe that if our country is steadfast and strong, we can achieve peace.

You need to tell your youngsters that behind the rhetoric of war is a strong desire for a peaceful world; that I long for peace, not just for Americans, but because our country values each life, everybody has importance. I long for peace around the world. I believe by being tough and strong and determined, that we can achieve peace in places in the world where people have quit on peace. I firmly believe peace is possible in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia. No, out of the evil done to America can come incredible good if we stay the course and if we remain strong.

And here at home, the evil done to America can yield some great good as well. We must remember there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness in America. The Government can hand out money, and we do a pretty good job of it here in Washington. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

Government can't say to a lonely child, "I love you." That happens when a fellow American chooses to be more than just a citizen—a self-serving citizen. It happens when people understand that the definition of a patriot today in America is somebody who's willing to serve something greater than yourself in life.

That example came home most vividly on Flight 93. It's a story that I hope will remain etched in the minds of our fellow Americans and written in the history books of our country. I think it was a turning point of a culture which used to say, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." These citizens showed the strongest sense of personal responsibility you could possibly imagine. After all, they were on an airplane thinking they were flying across the country. They heard reports about what was taking place on the ground. They told their loved ones goodbye. They told them they loved them. History will record that they said a prayer. They asked for guidance. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than self in life.

It's a vivid example of what America must realize in order to fight evil. In order to fight evil, do some good. Love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Start a Boys or a Girls Club. Be involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Feed the hungry. Find shelter for the homeless.

And that's what's happening in this country. No, the enemy thought that we might file a lawsuit or two. But instead, they found a determined nation, a nation which longs for peace, and a nation which is willing to work to save America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

There is no question in my mind that we will succeed as a country. After all, we're the greatest nation, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most loving, hard-working, decent people.

Thank you all for coming tonight. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:59 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Karyn Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist; entertainer Michael W. Smith, and his wife,

Debbie; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 26, 2002

Good morning. We've just concluded a really good meeting with both Democrats and Republicans—Members of the United States Congress—to discuss our national security and discuss how best to keep the peace. The security of our country is the commitment of both political parties and the responsibility of both elected branches of Government.

We are engaged in a deliberate and civil and thorough discussion. We are moving toward a strong resolution. And all of us, and many others in Congress, are united in our determination to confront an urgent threat to America. And by passing this resolution, we'll send a clear message to the world and to the Iraqi regime: The demands of the U.N. Security Council must be followed; the Iraqi dictator must be disarmed. These requirements will be met, or they will be enforced.

The danger to our country is grave. The danger to our country is growing. The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons. The Iraqi regime is building the facilities necessary to make more biological and chemical weapons. And according to the British Government, the Iraqi regime could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the order were given.

The regime has longstanding and continuing ties to terrorist organizations, and there are Al Qaida terrorists inside Iraq. The regime is seeking a nuclear bomb and, with fissile material, could build one within a year. Iraq has already used weapons of mass death against—against other countries and against her own citizens. The Iraqi regime practices the rape of women as a method of intimidation and the torture of dissenters and their children.

For more than a decade, the regime has answered Security Council resolutions with

defiance, bad faith, and deception. We know that the Iraqi regime is led by a dangerous and brutal man. We know he's actively seeking the destructive technologies to match his hatred. We know he must be stopped. The dangers we face will only worsen from month to month and from year to year. To ignore these threats is to encourage them. And when they have fully materialized, it may be too late to protect ourselves and our friends and our allies. By then the Iraqi dictator would have the means to terrorize and dominate the region. Each passing day could be the one on which the Iraqi regime gives anthrax or VX—nerve gas—or, someday, a nuclear weapon to a terrorist ally. We refuse to live in this future of fear. Democrats and Republicans refuse to live in a future of fear. We're determined to build a future of security. All of us long for peace, peace for ourselves, peace for the world.

Members here this morning are committed to American leadership for the good of all nations. I appreciate their spirit. I appreciate their love for country. The resolution we are producing will be an instrument of that leadership. I appreciate the spirit in which Members of Congress are considering this vital issue. Congress will have an important debate, a meaningful debate, an historic debate. It will be conducted with all civility. It will be conducted in a manner that will make Americans proud and Americans to understand the threats to our future. We're making progress. We're near an agreement. And soon, we will speak with one voice.

Thank you all for being here. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at the Corporate Fraud Conference

September 26, 2002

Thanks for the warm welcome. Thank you for being here. This is an important meeting you're having. After all, over the past year, high-profile acts of deception in corporate America have shaken people's trust in corporations, the markets, and in the economy.

A few dishonest individuals have hurt the reputations of many good and honest companies and their executives. They've hurt workers who committed their lives to building a company that hired them. They've hurt investors and retirees who placed their faith in the promise of growth and integrity. For the sake of our free market, corporate criminals must pay a price.

Today I want to thank all of you, U.S. attorneys, senior prosecutors, FBI special agents, senior Treasury and IRS officials, and many others. I want to thank you for your efforts. And I want to thank you for the progress which is being made. Your mandate is to root out crime from corporate America's boardrooms and executive suites. Your mission is to protect the rights and interests of American workers and investors. And your work is essential to our Nation.

I particularly want to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft, who is doing an excellent job as our Attorney General. I also want to thank Elaine Chao, the Secretary of Labor, for her hard work.

I appreciate Harvey Pitt, who's the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. He's doing a fine job, as is Michael Powell, the Chairman of the FCC, Jim Newsome, the Chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Company—Commission.

Larry Thompson is in charge of the President's task force to root out corporate fraud as the Deputy Attorney General. Michael Chertoff, the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, Jim Comey, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, and Debra Yang, U.S. Attorney, Central District of California—I want to thank them for being up here on the stage with me. I want to thank them for their fabulous leadership and doing what's right for America.

Since the exposure of recent corporate scandals, we have taken a series of strong measures. The American people need to know we're acting. We're moving, and we're moving fast. The Securities and Exchange Commission has hired 50 new personnel to support their efforts to ensure that business in America is open and honest—and to confront it when it's not.

More help is on the way. I've signed the most far-reaching reform of American business practices since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt. With this law, we're making sure that the numbers are honest and the numbers are understandable. We're making sure the auditors are audited and the accountants are held to account.

And one of the most aggressive steps we've taken has been to create the new Corporate Fraud Task Force, headed by Larry, to investigate and prosecute financial crimes, to recover the proceeds of those crimes, and hold corporate criminals to account. This task force includes members of the Justice Department and the FBI, U.S. attorneys from around the country. It includes the SEC and the Treasury and Labor Departments, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This broad effort is sending a clear warning and a clear message to every dishonest corporate leader: You will be exposed, and you will be punished. No boardroom in America is above or beyond the law.

I set this mandate, and today I want to give a report to the American people on the progress, the great progress which you all are making. Our law enforcement agencies are after them—they're after them. Since the task force was formed just 2½ months ago, the Department of Justice has opened more than 100 investigations into suspected corporate fraud. In 2½ months, 100 cases have been opened. Charges have been filed against more than 150 defendants. In 2½ months, 150 people have been charged, and more than 45 defendants have been convicted or intend to plead guilty. In 2½ months, 45 people have been brought to justice.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also acting. In the past year, the SEC has filed a record 156 actions for financial fraud and disclosure violations, a 51-percent increase over fiscal year 2000. During the same period, the SEC has sought to throw 107 unfit officers and directors out of corporate boardrooms, almost 3 times the number that the SEC sought to bar in fiscal 2000.

The SEC is aggressively using its enforcement powers to make corporate wrongdoers financially accountable for their actions. This fiscal year, the SEC has sought to recover compensation, bonuses, stock options from 25 corporate officers who betrayed the public trust, an almost 40-percent increase over last year.

By all these actions, we are making broad and dramatic progress against corporate fraud in America. We're defending our free enterprise system against corruption and crime. And we're beginning a new era of corporate integrity. Corporate responsibility is essential to America. It's essential to shareholders. It is essential to investors.

It matters greatly to employees. In February, I proposed important pension reforms. We must give our workers better access to investment advice, so they can manage their money wisely. And right now, too many workers are locked into plans that force them to hold a large portion of their accounts in the company's stock. Workers ought to be able to diversify after 3 years in the company's plan.

The House quickly passed these reforms. They moved swiftly. The Senate hasn't, and they need to act as well. It's good for American workers. It's good for job creation. It would be good for our economy.

Underlying everything we have done so far and all the actions we will take in the future is a basic conviction: The American economy depends on fairness and honesty. It's not a jungle in which only the unscrupulous survive or a financial free-for-all guided only by greed. That's not the America we know.

The fundamentals of a free market, buying and selling, saving and investing, require clear rules and confidence and fairness. The vast majority of American business men and women obey the law and uphold the rules. The vast majority of our fellow citizens care deeply about employees and shareholders. They bring great credit to the system. And those who break the rules and betray the confidence of their employees and shareholders will be punished. Government cannot and should not try to remove risk from investment. But we will help ensure that the risks are honest and the risks are clearly understood.

We will hold corporate criminals accountable for their misdeeds, and we will deter corporate crimes by enforcing tough penalties. By doing this work so well, you are serving the American people. You are serving the American people with distinction. You are leaving a legacy of responsibility behind. You are making the country a better place. And for that I'm grateful, and so are the American people.

May God bless you all. May God bless your families. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. in the Jefferson and Lincoln Ballrooms at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John Cornyn in Houston, Texas

September 26, 2002

The President. Thank you for coming. Thanks for being here. Thank you all. I am here because there's no doubt in my mind that John Cornyn needs to be the next United States Senator from Texas. And I want to thank you all for—thank you all for coming to help him get there. It's important for Texas that he be elected. It's important for America that he be elected. He's the best man with whom I can work. He's a man who can help us get some things done to make America a safer and stronger and better place for all of us.

It's an honor to be back home.

Audience member. Welcome home.

The President. Thank you. I might have changed addresses, but I haven't changed homes. [Laughter] And I'm so grateful you all came out. Actually, as we get closer to the election, I'm not only working on ways to strengthen the economy, also working on ways to keep our country peaceful; I'm getting on the road. And it's nice to be in a State where I can actually vote for the candidate I'm campaigning for. [Laughter]

I appreciate John a lot. I appreciate his willingness to run for Federal office. I appreciate his willingness to serve in Washington, DC, to take his great family—to take Sandy and his two daughters to live in our Nation's Capital. It's a sacrifice to leave Texas.

[Laughter] But it's important that he win. And I'm so proud of John. I'm proud of his character, proud of his dignity.

I really appreciate Sandy. She's a fabulous wife and a great—will be a great Senator's wife. As she stands strong by John's side, I'd like to remind people that both he and I married above ourselves. [Laughter] Speaking about the First Lady, she is—she's in Mexico today representing our country. We will meet in Crawford tomorrow night—Crawford, Texas, that is. [Laughter] She is a remarkable person. She's—I know there's some Midlanders here—she was born and raised in Midland. She was a public school librarian when I met her. The truth of the matter was—is that she wasn't that interested in politics—[laughter]—or politicians. [Laughter] And now she's stuck with the President of the United States, and she's doing a fabulous job as the First Lady.

I want to appreciate all the grassroot activists who are here. Of course, I know many of you because I asked for your help in '94 and '98. And another guy named Bush has been asking for your help a lot longer before that, and many of you provided it. And I want to thank you all for what you're going to do on behalf of John and Rick Perry and the rest of the candidates running, and that is to turn out the vote.

It's essential that you continue to man the phones and put up the signs and energize the precincts like I know you can do, here in Harris County and in other counties. I know we've got some folks from Jefferson County here and Midland County. I know there's some folks from Travis County. I really urge you to continue to energize the people. This is an important election, and so when you go to your churches or your synagogues or your community centers, talk it up. Remind people they have a duty to go to the polls. And as you get them going to the polls, remind them that the best man running for the United States Senate is John Cornyn.

We will face some challenges together in Washington. Of course, one of the biggest challenges is to make sure that our people can find work. My attitude is, anytime somebody who wants to work can't find a job, is we've got a problem in America. And so, we've got to always think about how to grow

our economy. What can we do to create—to encourage the private sector to create more jobs?

See, John and I understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish or the small business can grow to be a big business. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. And we've got to always encourage the entrepreneurial spirit.

I started doing that when I first got up to Washington, by cutting the taxes on the people that work. We took a page out of this textbook: It says that if you've got an economic slowdown and you let people keep more of their own money, they're going to demand a good or a service. With more money in their pocket, they're more likely to demand something additional. And when they do, somebody is going to produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax cuts came at exactly the right time. They were important. But the problem is that because of Senate rules, they go away. Now, that's a tough one to explain when you get outside of Washington, I readily concede. On the one hand, we giveth; on the other hand, we taketh away. *[Laughter]* That's Washington.

I need somebody in the Senate who understands the importance of tax cuts. I need somebody in the Senate who understands we need to repeal the death tax for the sake of our farmers and ranchers and small-business owners. And that somebody is John Cornyn. Make no mistake about it, the candidate in this race who will support making the tax cuts permanent is John Cornyn. And that's important for economic vitality and economic growth.

I want somebody up there with whom I can work to get an energy bill. We need an energy plan for America. We need a plan that not only gets people back to work but a plan that lessens our dependence upon foreign sources of crude oil. We import over—we import easily over half of our energy, of our crude oil. And unfortunately, sometimes we get it from places that don't care for us. *[Laughter]* And so, for the sake of national

security and for the sake of job security, we need an energy bill. And I want a Senator with whom I can work to get a good energy bill, on behalf of Texas and on behalf of America. And that man is John Cornyn.

A stronger America is an America that constantly works to increase the job base. We need a terrorism insurance bill in Washington, DC. There's a lot of hardhats, good, hard-working people who aren't working because big projects can't get going because they can't get insurance.

The enemy hurt us when they hit us. They hurt our economy. And one of the ways they hurt us is, we can't insure big projects. And the Congress ought to step in. It's a useful role for the Congress. But we need an insurance bill—a terrorism insurance bill that rewards the hardhats and not the trial lawyers. We need a good terrorism insurance bill. And I can assure you—I can assure you, I know this man's record. I can assure you, John Cornyn cares more about hard-working people. He cares more about the hardhats than the trial lawyers in America.

We need people up there who understand that if Congress overspends, it will serve as an anchor to economic vitality and growth. It's dangerous up in Washington when it comes to your money. Every idea is a good idea. Every idea they float up there sounds like a good idea. The problem is, in Washington the price tags run into the billions. They don't have a budget out of the United States Senate. You can imagine what will happen without a budget if there's no fiscal discipline, if I don't enforce the fiscal discipline, and if others in the Senate aren't willing to stand up and enforce fiscal discipline.

They can't get a budget. The House has got a budget, but the Senate was unable to get a budget in the expenditure of your money, which creates a problem. I need to have United States Senators who are willing to work with us to fund priorities but to not overspend, Senators who understand the money we spend up there is not the Government's money. The money we spend in Washington is the people's money. And that Senator is John Cornyn.

A stronger America is one which constantly works to expand the job base so people can find work. And I will continue to do that.

A stronger America is also one that's got a good bench, a good Federal bench. There was an interesting moment in this campaign. I nominated a fabulous woman, first-rate woman, named Priscilla Owen—top law student out of Baylor; been elected statewide in Texas a couple of times, overwhelmingly once; had the highest ranking of the ABA, the best rating you could possibly get. I knew she'd be a great judge. Good, solid Texas woman, somebody—it would be good to have that attitude and her point of view on the bench. So I sent her nomination up there. It became political. They distorted her record. They didn't give her a fair chance. Shamefully, the Senate turned down her nomination. In so doing, that was not only bad for Texas; it was bad for America, as far as I'm concerned.

It's important for the voters of this State to listen to what was said by the two candidates running for the United States Senate about Priscilla Owen. There's only one candidate in this race that stood up strongly with me and strongly supported the ratification of her nomination, and that candidate was John Cornyn.

We also have got to work to make America a safer place. I say that because there is an enemy which still hates America, lurking. It is an enemy which is different from other kinds of enemies we have taken on. See, this enemy—you can't measure the enemy's strength based upon the number of tanks he has or the number of aircraft or the number of ship. This is an enemy that hides in dark corners of cities around the world. This is an enemy which hides in caves and sends youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of people we fight.

They hate us because we love things. We love freedom, for starters. We love the fact that we can worship freely in America. We love that, and we're never going to relinquish that freedom. We love the fact that we can have honest political discourse, there can be debate, that people can choose who they want to be the United States Senator. We love a free press in America. We love free-

dom. They hate freedom. So long as we love freedom, they hate us, and they want to hurt us. That's just the facts of life, as we head into the 21st century.

The other thing that distinguishes—there's a lot of things that distinguishes, but one of the things clearly that distinguishes us, in America we value each life. Life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody has got worth. That's not the way they think. They have hijacked a great religion, and they murder innocent lives in the name of a great religion.

And so we've got to be aware of the facts and reality. I certainly am. My number one job and the number one job of future Senators and future Congresses is to protect the American people, to guard the homeland, to do everything we can to make sure that you're safe.

And we're making progress. I mean, we're talking better now in Washington, DC. The FBI and the CIA share information. Anytime we get a lead, a hint, we're moving on it. We're awake to the realities of the 21st century. No longer are we protected by two vast oceans. And there's a lot of good people at the State level and the local level, great firefighters and policemen and EMS teams all prepared, and wonderful people at the Federal Government—at the level of the Federal Government that are working hard to fulfill our number one priority, which is to protect you.

So I went to Congress, and I asked them—I said, "Look, if the number one priority is the defense of our homeland, let's have an organization so that the number one priority becomes reality to the different—hundreds of agencies involved with the protection of America. Let's organize, in a way." Listen, I didn't run for office, I concede, and say, "Vote for George. I'm going to make the Government bigger." [Laughter] That's not my intention. I want it to work on your behalf.

And so I sent up a bill—or an idea, and the House passed a good bill. The Senate is struggling over it right now. The Senate is struggling over it because they want to try to micromanage the process. They want to tell the administrative—the executive branch, this President and future Presidents, who can hire, who can fire, where to move

them. See, that's what they want. They want there to be a lot of rules and regulations, and I'm not going to accept that.

Let me give you some examples. To get a emergency phone number from Customs employees—in other words, it makes sense, if you've got a problem, you want an emergency phone number—union leaders call that an invasion of privacy. See, that's not right. That's a work rule that doesn't make any sense in the new era. It might have made sense before we became subject to enemy attack, but that doesn't make any sense.

Port inspectors refuse to carry radiation detectors. If you're worried about trying to find a potential weapon of mass destruction, you ought to strap on one of those radiation detectors to figure out whether they've got one. This is not a harmful device. The leaders of that group say, "They've got to be voluntary. You can't make a person carry a—one of those detectors." That doesn't make any sense. This is true, what I'm telling you. [Laughter]

Customs inspectors cannot be assigned to sensitive jobs unless they're most senior—in other words, that you can only assign people based upon seniority, not based upon talent. That doesn't make any sense. You see, the enemy doesn't care about these rules. The Senate does, and it bothers me. [Laughter]

Don't get me wrong, there's fine Senators from both parties who care deeply about our country. Senators from both parties are struggling with this issue. But it is essential for the sake of protecting America that we not allow special interests to drive the process. It is essential to give this President and future Presidents the ability to move people to the right place at the right time to protect America.

I don't think I'd have any problem convincing John of the need to give the President flexibility. As a matter of fact, I know he'd be a strong ally. The best way to protect our homeland, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to protect the homeland.

It's important for you to know the doctrine I laid out still stands: You're either with us, or you're with the enemy. That's clear. I will continue to make that clear. Our coalition

is strong. We're still getting a lot of cooperation. Remember, this is a different kind of war. It requires sharing of intelligence and cutting off money and communicating closely and hunting these people down. I mean, they hide in Karachi. We got the other guy the other day who thought he was going to be—wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He popped his head up, and now he's in detention. [Laughter] He's no longer a threat to America and our friends and allies. He's no longer around.

It's not a very glamorous war from the sense that the cables and all the air time can cover, but it's happening. We've detained over a couple of thousand people—I want to say over 2,500 are no—are off the streets, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies. I mean, we are hunting them down. And about equal that number weren't as lucky. They're not around at all, because we've got a fabulous military, by the way. We've got some brave soldiers who are—[applause].

I submitted a significant increase in defense spending, the largest since Ronald Reagan was the President, because I wanted to send two messages. One, any time this Nation sends our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe it to the troops and we owe it to their loved ones, as well.

I also wanted to send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States of America is in this deal for the long haul; that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to making sure our children can live in a free and civilized society, when it comes to defending that which we hold true, we're not quitting. We're not quitting. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it takes to find the enemy. The United States will stay with it. We're a determined nation. We're a strong nation. We're a nation that loves freedom.

And that defense budget sent that signal. The problem is, it hasn't made it to my desk yet. [Laughter] See, the House passed it, and the Senate passed it. And it hasn't gotten resolved in the conference committee. It's very important, before the Senate and the House go home, that they give me a defense bill.

It's a defense bill that is necessary. It sends a important signal. It shows that we're resolved and serious. They ought to stop playing politics with the defense appropriations bill and get it to my desk.

No, we'll stay with it. I also want to remind you that—that doctrine that says, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed one of them, you're just as guilty as the killers." And I want you also to remind your youngsters about what this Nation did in Afghanistan. Not only did we do what we said we were going to do—which is, I think, important in life—but we sent our troops in not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. We freed a country from the clutches of barbaric tyrants. It's unbelievable how backward and brutal these were, particularly to women.

I had the honor of hosting, in the Roosevelt Room, I believe it was 16 Afghan women who had flown over. And one of the things we promised the Government we would do is we would host training sessions for women to give them a chance to get—be a part of the Government. That's what we want. That's how we—that's what we think is important in life. We believe everybody matters, everybody has got worth, in America. And it was a touching moment to listen to the women and talk to the women and to realize that—and it was a proud moment to realize that our country had a part of freeing them, of giving them a chance to realize their worth and their potential.

You see, we love peace, and we love freedom. We don't say to people in Afghanistan, "You must have our form of Government. You know, the way America does it, you've got to do it." But what we do say is, "We want to free you. We want to give you a chance." And so we're going to stay in Afghanistan. We're going to stay in Afghanistan to hunt down the killers; they still lurk around. They occasionally come in, and we'll find them. They kind of bunch up somewhere, and they're just—they think they're elusive, and they think they're clever, but they've got the mighty United States on them. And we're going to stay on them.

And we've also got some other tasks ahead of us as well. I went to the United Nations the other day to make a case about a true threat to freedom, a true threat to the United

States, a threat to Israel, a threat to peace in the region. And that is Iraq.

I made the decision to go to the United Nations because I want the United Nations to be effective. You see, in order to fight the new wars of the 21st century, we need to be able to have collaborative efforts to share intelligence, to share information, to arrest, to haul people in. And an effective United Nations will make it easier to keep the peace, in my judgment.

But the United Nations, in the face of Saddam Hussein, has not been effective. For 11 long years he's defied them. He's wheedled out of agreements. He's deceived. He's lied. The question before the United Nations is, "Will you be the League of Nations, or will you be an effective body to keep the peace." That's my challenge to them.

I also challenged—I also have made it clear that Saddam Hussein must disarm. There's no negotiations. Those ended a long time ago. There's no need for us to try to sit down at a table. There's no discussion to be had. He's got chemical weapons; he needs to get rid of them, all of them. He's got biological weapons; he needs to destroy all of them. There's no doubt in my mind he wants to have a nuclear weapon, and he's got some capacity. I'm not saying he's got one yet, but he's developing the capacity, as we learned right after Desert Storm. He needs to get rid of it. No discussion. No debate. No negotiation. The burden of proof is on Saddam Hussein.

And so now it's up to the United Nations and it's up to Saddam Hussein to determine whether or not there will be peace, to determine whether or not the world's worst leader—and remember, this is a guy who continues to torture his people if they dissent. This is a man who's gassed his own people. This is a man who attacked two countries in the neighborhood. This is a man who used gas on a neighbor. This is a man who continually lies. This is a man who does not know the truth. This is a man who is a threat to peace. It's up to the United Nations and it's up to him to decide their fate. If the United Nations won't act, if he doesn't disarm, the United States will lead a coalition to make sure he does.

I want to thank members of both parties, Republicans and Democrats, for joining to work with us to develop a strong statement of resolve. Today in the Rose Garden, right before I got on Air Force One, I had a public event with Democrats and Republicans, Members of the Congress who have joined with us to send a clear message to the world about America, our strength of purpose, our desire for peace, our unwillingness to accept 11 years of deceit.

This is not a partisan issue, folks. This is an issue that is important for America. This is an American issue, a uniquely American issue. And it's—as I reminded the Members, that—I say uniquely American issue because I truly believe that now that the war has changed, now that we're a battlefield, this man poses a much graver threat than anybody could have possibly imagined. Other countries, of course, bear the same risk, but there's no doubt his hatred is mainly directed at us. There's no doubt he can't stand us. After all, this is a guy that tried to kill my dad at one time.

I take my responsibility seriously as the Commander in Chief. I want you to know I understand the—how serious it is to commit our troops. But I truly believe that history has called us, and we're going to have to act if he doesn't do what he's expected to do. And when we do, we'll be swift and strong. If we have to, we'll win. And the world is more likely to be at peace after it happens.

I long for peace. Behind the rhetoric is a deep desire for peace, and I believe it's achievable. But we're going to have to remain strong and determined. We must continue to speak clearly about good and evil. We must be resolved in our determination to defend freedom and to free people around the world. And there's no doubt we can achieve the mission, no doubt in my mind.

As we work to make America a stronger and safer place, we have always got to remember to make it a better place, too. And that's really important. I know John shares my passion for education. We passed a good education bill in Washington. I want to share with you, right quick, what it says. It says, "Every child can learn."

I don't know if you remember, in the campaign I said, "I promise to challenge the soft

bigotry of low expectations." I know that when you lower standards, that people suffer, and generally when you lower standards, they're lowered for inner-city kids or kids whose parents don't speak English as a first language. We believe in high standards, and we raised the bar. We trust local folks to manage the path to excellence.

But for the first time, the Federal Government says, "When you receive Federal money, you show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. If you receive a dime of Federal money, we expect you to perform. Every child can learn, and no child will be left behind in America."

A better America is one that has got a health care system that is responsive to the people. John's got a strong record of holding HMOs accountable for bad decisions they make, and I appreciate that record, John.

We need a prescription drug plan for seniors. Listen, Medicare is an incredibly important program. It is old. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. And we need to change Medicare with medicine, so seniors get the kind of coverage they need and deserve. And I look forward to working with John on that.

And I'll tell you, one other thing we need to do in Washington; you see, health care needs to be accessible and affordable. Lawsuits are driving docs out of business. Lawsuits are driving up the cost of medicine. We need Federal medical liability insurance. There's no doubt in my mind of the two candidates in this race, John will work with us on these issues—no doubt. And as we work on these issues, I believe America will be a better place for it.

You know, the enemy hit us. I can't imagine what was going through their mind. They probably thought America was so selfish and materialistic and self-absorbed that after 9/11/2001, we might file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] They don't understand us, do they? This Nation is a strong nation. It's a fabulous nation. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. You mark my words. If we remain strong and tough in our war against terror, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for America; we can achieve peace in

the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia. If we remain strong and principled and determined, we can have a peaceful world, and I believe it's going to happen.

And at home, if we unleash the true strength of the country, we'll have a better America. You see, we've got to understand that in America there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness and addiction. There are people who hurt. There are people that when you say "the American Dream," they say, "I have no idea what you're talking about." But that can change, because the true strength of America is the people of America. The true strength of America is the fact that our country is full of loving and caring and decent people who have heard a new call.

See, I think there is a new culture evolving—one from, if—it says, "If it feels good, do it, and, you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture that says, "Each of us are responsible for decisions we make in life." That means if you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart. That's your most important responsibility. It means if you're living in a community in Texas, you're responsible for the quality of life, and you're responsible for loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It says, if you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible to tell the truth to your shareholders and employees.

As a result of this change of attitude, as a result of that, people now understand that patriot is more than somebody who just puts his hand over his heart; a patriot is somebody who cares for somebody who hurts. America is changing. The enemy hit us, but out of the evil will come some incredible good—a more compassionate society.

My call to our fellow Americans is to understand the limitations of Government. Listen, Government can hand out money. We can do that, and we do a pretty good job of it sometimes. But what we can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government is not capable of saying, "I love you," to a child who hurts, or "What can I do," to somebody who is shut in. That will happen when our fellow citizens recognize we can change America for the

better, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us, and it's been tough on America. But out of the evil is going to come a peaceful world and a more compassionate society, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:36 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency. In his remarks, he referred to Sandy Cornyn, wife of candidate John Cornyn; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Use of United States Military Forces in the Cote d'Ivoire

September 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 19, 2002, a mutiny and rebellion took place in the West African country of Cote d'Ivoire that threatened American citizens living there. Fighting erupted between the mutineers and government forces.

On September 24, 2002, a standby evacuation force of U.S. military personnel from the U.S. European Command was pre-positioned in Accra, Ghana, to assist with the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Cote d'Ivoire and with any other contingencies that might emerge. These forces initially included approximately 180 soldiers, fixed-wing aircraft, and equipment.

On September 25, 2002, U.S. forces moved into Cote d'Ivoire to assist French forces with the evacuation of American citizens and third country nationals from Bouake. This included children from the International Christian Academy as well as Peace Corps Volunteers, faculty, and missionaries. United States forces will also assist in the evacuation of other American citizens and third country nationals in Cote d'Ivoire, should their evacuation become necessary.

Although U.S. forces are equipped for combat, this movement was undertaken solely for the purpose of protecting American

citizens and property. United States forces will redeploy as soon as it is determined that this mission is completed.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action in Cote d'Ivoire.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 27.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 22

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. Later, he hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn of the White House.

September 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Trenton, NJ.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robin Jennison as U.S. Representative and Chairman of the Arkansas River Compact Administration (Colorado and Kansas).

The President announced his intention to appoint George Butvilas and Richard

Ochsner as members of the National Veteran Business Development Corporation.

September 24

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed H.R. 3917, the Flight 93 National Memorial Act.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a meeting with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and a group of women government officials from Afghanistan who were in Washington, DC, to attend a U.S.-Afghan Women's Council training program.

The President announced his intention to appoint Zoraida Fonalledas as a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

September 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss security issues between North and South Korea and the situation in Iraq. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson and Mark B. McClellan, nominee to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress to discuss energy legislation. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with members of the Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year finalists.

Later in the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Karim Tawfiq Kawar of Jordan, Franciskus van Daele of Belgium, Alpha Oumar Rafiou Barry of Guinea, Essa Bokarr Sey of Gambia, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi of Pakistan, Hugo Guiliani Cury of the Dominican Republic, Noel Fahey of Ireland, and Andras Simonyi of Hungary.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark B. McClellan to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on September 20.

September 26

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then met with the board of directors of the Newspaper Association of America. Later, he participated in a swearing-in ceremony for Lex Frieden as Chairman of the National Council on Disability.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, and in the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Fay on September 6 and continuing.

September 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Denver, CO. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to express appreciation for French assistance in rescuing American students in the Ivory Coast and to discuss the status of a United Nations resolution concerning Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Phoenix, AZ.

The President announced his intention to appoint Alec Poitevint as Federal Commissioner of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact Commission and Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Basin Compact Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Drayton Nabers as Federal Commissioner of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Basin Compact Commission and Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the

area struck by Tropical Storm Isidore beginning on September 21 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 24

Alan G. Lance, Sr., of Idaho, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of 13 years, vice Frank Quill Nebeker, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney at a lunch for congressional candidate Adam Taff

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut and U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia

Released September 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3287 and H.R. 5207

Released September 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Released September 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing an interagency delegation to North Korea

Fact sheet: Corporate Fraud Conference Sponsored by President's Corporate Fraud Task Force

Released September 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an addendum to the press gaggle by Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Announcement: White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 24

H.R. 3287 / Public Law 107-225

To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 900 Brentwood Road, NE, in Washington, D.C., as the "Joseph Curseen, Jr. and Thomas Morris, Jr. Processing and Distribution Center"

H.R. 3917 / Public Law 107-226

Flight 93 National Memorial Act

H.R. 5207 / Public Law 107-227

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 West Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington, Minnesota, as the "Thomas E. Burnett, Jr. Post Office Building"

Week Ending Friday, October 4, 2002

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Congressional Candidate Bob
Beauprez in Denver, Colorado**
September 27, 2002

Thank you all. Nice to be out West. *[Laughter]* Thank you all for coming today. And “Congressman,” thank you for that kind introduction. Bob Beauprez is the right man to represent the State of Colorado. There is no question in my mind. I am proud to stand with him, and I hope the good folks of Colorado are wise enough to send him to Washington, DC.

I’m honored to be up here with Claudia, mother of four. These two folks love their family; they love their country. And Claudia, I appreciate you’re willing to sacrifice. See, moving out of Colorado is a pretty good size sacrifice. *[Laughter]* But like Bob, I married above myself. *[Laughter]* And my good wife sends her love and her best to our friends who are here, and to the Beauprezes in their quest of this high office, the Governor and the first lady of the State of Colorado. She sends her best, as do I.

By the way, she’s doing a fabulous job. She was down in Mexico representing the United States. She’s winging her way back to Crawford. I’m going to see her tonight after my trip. Tomorrow we’re going to spend a little quality time on the ranch, helping to make sure we maintain perspective, understanding that there’s life outside of the Beltway, that the values of central Texas and the values of the West out here in Denver are important values to keep a part of our spirit.

And so I’m honored to be here to campaign. She sends her love. By the way, she is doing a fabulous job. She is a great First Lady for America, and I’m really proud of her. Not bad for a west Texas girl who, when I married her, was a public school librarian who, frankly, didn’t care for politics and wasn’t too keen on politicians. *[Laughter]* She’s a great lady. She sends her love.

I also am honored to be here with your Governor. He is one of the Nation’s best Governors. Unlike some of them, he can run on his record. *[Laughter]* And it’s a record that’s going to put him back in office. And that’s good for Colorado. I’m honored Frances is here with him as well, a great first lady for the State of Colorado.

I want to thank the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank Chairman Benson. I’ve known him for a long time. He’s a fine leader. I want to thank you for what you have done and what you’re going to do, and that is, you’re going to turn out the vote. You’re going to man the precincts. You’re going to do what you’re really good at, which is grassroots politics. And a lot of times you don’t get thanked enough. I’m here to thank you. I want to thank you for turning out the vote, not only to make sure the Governor wins and Bob wins but to make sure Wayne Allard goes back to the United States Senate.

I want to thank Senator Campbell for being here, and the rest of the congressional delegation. You’ve sent some fine folks to Washington, DC, and I’ve enjoyed working with all of them. And I want to thank the folks who have organized this dinner—or lunch, however you want to call it. *[Laughter]* It’s a big crowd. Bob, it’s a good sign. See, the folks here know what I know, that you’re a man of principle, a man of character.

I love the Beauprez story. It’s an American story, really, when you think about it. It’s a Colorado story. It embodies the values of the State of Colorado and the best of America. After all, his grandfather came here penniless in 1910, left a wife and child behind. He wasn’t sure if he could make it in America. He came and worked hard. Had the honor of meeting Bob’s mom and dad. One of them got out of the eighth grade, and the mom got a little farther in school. She got out of the ninth grade. But they’re truly the American story, that hard work and dreaming big dreams and loving one another and raising

your family means you can get ahead in America. Those are the values of Bob Beauprez, and they're important values for America to understand, and they're good values for the United States Congress.

I like to support a man who's made a living, who understands what it means to take risk, who's not only worked on a farm but has had a vision and saw that vision come to be. It's the kind of thinking we need in Washington, because we've got a problem with our economy. And here's the problem: Anytime somebody who wants to work can't find work, that's a problem. And even though there is economic growth, we don't have enough growth. And even though interest rates are low and inflation is low, the foundation for a growing economy—we need to do more.

But here's our attitude about the economy. The role of Government is not to create wealth, the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the producer can make a living, in which the small business can grow to be a big business.

You're backing the right man for Congress. He understands how the economy works. He will join me and others in making sure the tax cuts which we passed are a permanent part of American life. There's an interesting debate in Washington about taxes. There always is. There's some who want more of your taxes in Washington; there are some who want less. I believe that, when the economy slowed the way it was slowing when we came in, we needed to let people keep more of their own money. Here's the page of the textbook which we read. It says, "If you have more money in your pocket, it means you're more likely to demand a good or a service. And if you demand a good or a service, in the American system somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work." The tax cuts came at the right time in American history.

The tax cuts stimulate economic growth. The tax cuts are good for small business creation. Small businesses create 70 percent of the new jobs in America. Most small businesses are not incorporated. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited

partnerships and, therefore, pay income taxes at the individual rates. And so when you drop the rates, you're encouraging capital creation in the small-business sector of America. Those who oppose tax cuts do not understand job creation and what the small-business community does for job creation.

It's hard for me to explain why we need to make them permanent. It's kind of—some of the things that happen in Washington. On the one hand, they taketh away; on the other hand, they giveth. In this case, we had tax reductions, but because of a rule in the United States Senate, those tax reductions cease after 10 years from the date of enactment. Congress gives, and then it takes away. And that's not right. What I need—I need allies in Washington who will make those tax reductions permanent, so people can plan and save and the job will grow.

And we did a good thing in that tax reduction plan. We sent the death tax on its way to extinction. The death tax is bad for Colorado ranchers. The death tax is bad for Colorado farmers. If you're interested in curtailing urban sprawl, you ought to eliminate the death tax, so people aren't forced to sell their farms and ranches when they don't want to, because of a bad tax. The death tax is bad for small businesses. The death tax is just plain bad. And this State and this district better send somebody to Washington who will vote to permanently repeal the death tax.

Economic vitality and economic growth means that we've got manage our resources wisely, and we're not managing our forests resources wisely in America. We're allowing our forests to grow up like giant piles of kindling and just hoping that something doesn't happen. We're—backwards policy. We don't listen to the folks out West enough. We don't listen to the folks whose job it is to conserve our forests for future generations. The fires that have devastated the West should send a clear signal to not only the voters of this district but to the people in Washington, DC, that America, for the sake of our precious resources, and America, for the sake of future generations, must have forest policy based upon common sense. We must thin out our forests so that they're not giant piles of kindling for future national disasters.

Bob's commonsense approach makes sense for Colorado. He understands as well, when you're good at something, you ought to promote it. We're good at high-tech. We're good at growing crops. We're good at producing things, and we ought to be selling our products overseas. And so I appreciate that we're going to have a fellow free-trader elected to the United States Congress from this district. Trade is good for jobs. Trade is good for Colorado. And trade is good for America.

In order to create more jobs in America, Congress needs to act when it comes to terrorism insurance. There's some significant projects on hold because people can't get insurance because of what the terrorists did to us. It's estimated there's over 300,000 jobs that have been delayed, 300,000 hardhat, good, hard—good-paying jobs, because we can't get terrorism insurance. And Congress ought to act. And they need to move.

The problem is—well, here's the problem. Some of them are more interested in rewarding the trial lawyers than they are the hardhats. We need a bill that focuses—we need policy that focuses on the hard-working people, those people wearing the hardhats. We've got to get them back to work. I need somebody up there who will join me in putting good, commonsense policy in place—people can find work in America. We want them working.

And one other thing I want to share with you about how to make sure the economy grows. We must be fiscally sound with your money. We cannot allow Congress to overspend. And here's the danger. Every idea in Washington sounds like a good idea. Everybody's idea sounds brilliant. And the problem in Washington politics is, every one of those brilliant ideas has got a price tag on them in the billions. And it begins to add up.

And the other danger is, there's no budget. Senator Armstrong remembers the days when the Senate had a budget. They don't have one now. And if you don't have a budget, guess what's likely to happen? People overspend. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of jobs, we need to make sure the United States Congress understands whose money they're spending. They're not spend-

ing the Government's money. They're spending your money. And I need fiscal conservatives, people who will protect your pocketbook in Washington, DC.

No, we're going to work together to make America a stronger place by making sure people can find work. Oh, I know there's a lot of talk about national security, and there should be, during these days. But part of making sure America is a secure place is that our economy is strong, and we continue to focus on job creation, which I'll do.

But my most important job these days is to protect the homeland, is to protect America against nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers, protect our country against people who hate us because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate us because we love the idea that people can worship an almighty God any way they see fit. They hate us because we speak our mind; we allow public discourse and dissent. They hate us because we have a free press. And so long as we love freedom, they'll hate us. But we're never, ever going to relinquish our love of freedom in America.

Let me tell you something else about the enemy: They're resourceful; they're slippery; they're the ones who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal death. These are folks that have hijacked a great religion and then take innocent life. And that's a huge difference between America. See, in America we value life. Everybody matters. Every person counts, not only in America but around the world. Human life is precious to the American people, part of our culture. The enemy doesn't think that way. And therefore, we've got to do everything we can to defend against them, to make sure they never hurt us again.

And a lot of good people are working a lot of long hours to protect the American people—just are—you got to know it. You've got to know that we're doing a better job now of coordinating between agencies in Washington. I mean, once we've learned that oceans no longer protect us, there's a new mentality in your Nation's Capital, as well as your statehouse and at the local level as well. A lot of good people are sharing information, are running down leads. Anytime we get a hint something might be happening to

America, we're going to react to it. We owe that to the American people. We will do so and protect the United States Constitution at the same time.

We're making progress at home, but we need to make more progress. And one way to do so is to create a Department of Homeland Security. I remember when I first made the announcement, somebody said, "Well, all that's going to mean is bigger Government." I readily concede I didn't campaign on the slogan, "Vote for me. I want your Government to be bigger." But I do want it to work. I want it to perform. There's over 100 agencies involved in the homeland defense. And if the number one priority is to protect the homeland, it seems like, to me, it makes sense to have them under one umbrella so that we can have a new culture in those agencies. It's not to say they won't do other functions, but we want them focused on your job, on your security, and on their job. That's what we want in America.

And so I've asked Congress to respond. And the House acted quickly, and I appreciate the votes of the Members here from the House. The Senate is bogged down right now. They're bogged down over a dispute as to how best to run the agency. I want to thank Senator Campbell's strong support of my position, which I'm about to share with you. And it's this: I don't need a giant—and when I say "I," it's not only me, it's other Presidents—don't need a thick book of regulations trying to micromanage the Department of Homeland Security. That's not what we need. We need flexibility. We need to be able to move quickly. We need to be able—need to put the hard-working people in the right place at the right time, to protect us from an enemy. Let me give you some examples of what I'm talking about.

After September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to require inspectors at the Nation's 301 ports of entry to wear radiation detection devices. That makes sense. Put a radiation detection device on, that will help to determine whether or not somebody is trying to smuggle a weapons of mass destruction in the country—eminent sense, logic that folks should want to do that. The union that represents the Customs workers objected. They didn't think that was right. They sought

to invoke collective bargaining, which would have taken at least a year to resolve. We don't have a year to resolve issues like that. See, we need to be able to move quickly. We need to be able to respond. It's our job. In order to locate employees in cases of emergency, the Customs Service thought to have employees provide their home addresses or their telephone numbers to the Customs Service. In other words, if there needed to be a quick response, we needed to have their numbers available. The union objected. They said such a request would violate the privacy rights of workers.

We're in a different time here in America. In this case, a union filed a grievance and sought to negotiate something as sensible as this request. I'm for workers' rights. I believe people ought to be able to have collective bargaining if that's what they want. But in the name of national security, this administration, future administrations need this flexibility to put people—the right place at the right time, in order to protect America from an enemy which still wants to hurt us.

Hope we can get it right in the Senate—an opportunity for the Senate, House to leave behind a legacy that America is more fully protected as time goes on. But the best way to protect America, short-term and long-term, is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and to bring them to justice. And that's what we're doing. We're doing it in a variety of ways. First, you just need to know the doctrine that says, if you're—you're either with us, or you're with them—it still stands.

There's a lot of people still with us. This is a different kind of war, and we need people with us. As I mentioned, these are folks that like to hide in caves or the dark recesses of cities around the world. They don't have tanks. They don't have airplanes. They don't have ships. We don't measure success based upon our capacity to destroy their ability to fight war. We measure success based upon how many we have hauled in or how many weren't so lucky. We've gotten over a couple of thousand of them so far. "We" not only means the United States but others with whom we work. And a like number have not been as lucky. We're slowly but surely dismantling the Al Qaida terrorist network.

It's not a very glamorous war for some to cover. It's hard to get breathless over an arrest. Bin al-Shibh popped his head up. He was the guy that thought he was going to be the 20th hijacker, or wanted to be. He's no longer a threat. He's no longer a threat to America. He's no longer a threat to our friends. It doesn't matter how long it takes, folks, the enemy has got to understand, we're going to get them. It doesn't matter how long it takes; we're going to pursue them. You see, we're fighting for our freedom. We're fighting for that which we hold dear.

I sent up to Congress the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did it for two reasons. One, anytime we commit our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best equipment, and the best possible training. We owe that to our troops, and we owe it to their loved ones as well. And for those of you in the audience who have got a loved one in the military—one, proud of your son or daughter; two, I have got full confidence in your son or daughter; and three, thank you for your sacrifice. And secondly, the reason I asked for a increase the size of which I did is because I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we're not quitting. There's no calendar on my desk that says, well, we've reached this time; it's time to stop. That's not how I think. That's not how America thinks. We want our friends understanding that. We want the enemy to know it as well, that when it comes to the defense of our country, comes to defending the values we hold dear, it doesn't matter how much it costs, it doesn't matter how long it takes, the United States will be firm and resolved. We owe that to our children, and we owe it to our children's children.

I've got a problem, however. The defense budget I submitted hasn't made it to my desk yet. Here we are trying to defend the homeland, and it's stuck. The House passed it. The Senate passed it. Now it's time for the leadership in Washington, DC, to get the defense bill to my desk before they go home. It's important for—it's an important signal to send. And they ought to stop playing politics with defense appropriations at this time in American history.

There's not going to be an easy road to secure our freedom. There is going to be—there are some steep hills to climb. But we're ready to climb them as a nation, I think. There's a steep hill to climb in Iraq. I went to the United Nations the other day, and I want to share with you why I went. First, I wanted to make sure the world heard the case, this man is a dictator who tortures and rapes women—has women raped in order to make a point—who kills, stifles dissent through murder, the man who said he would get rid of weapons of mass destruction and still has them. And we need to fear the fact that he has weapons of mass destruction. He's used them before. He's used them on his own people before. He's invaded two countries. He's lied and deceived the world.

The United States is no longer secure because we've got oceans. We're vulnerable to attack, as we learned so vividly. My job is to not only deal with problems—people kind of run around and lurk—my job is also to anticipate problems. My job is to be realistic about our future. My job is to make sure that the world's worst leader is not able to blackmail or hurt America or our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. We've got to make sure that these dictators aren't able to team up with terrorist groups, use their weapons of mass destruction as a way to intimidate those of us who love freedom.

So I went to the United Nations. My message was, "We want you to succeed as an organization. We remember what it was like when the collective body was the League of Nations, unable to stop totalitarianism, that in order to secure the freedom in the 21st century, it's important to have an effective body. But you've been ineffective," I said. "For 11 long years you have said one thing to the dictator in Iraq, and he has thumbed his nose. For 11 years you've allowed this man to be—to lie and deceive about weapons of mass destruction, and you have not held him to account. And now is the time. For the sake of freedom, you have got a choice: You can hold him to account. And for the sake of freedom, he has got a choice: He can disarm."

There's no negotiations, by the way, for Mr. Saddam Hussein. There's nothing to discuss. He either gets rid of his weapons and

the United Nations gets rid of his weapons—he can either get rid of his weapons and the United Nations can act, or the United States will lead a coalition to disarm this man.

I'm willing to give peace a chance to work. I want the United Nations to work. I want him to do what he said he would do. But for the sake of our future, now's the time—now's the time. For the sake of your children's future, we must make sure this madman never has the capacity to hurt us with a nuclear weapon or to use the stockpiles of anthrax that we know he has, or VX, the biological weapons which he possesses.

I appreciate both Republicans and Democrats in our country understanding this issue. The other day I was at—greeted in the Cabinet Room members of both parties from the United States Congress, both parties, who understand the stakes—members of both parties who understand the stakes, people who are willing to work with us to send a clear message to the world, a unified message, a strong resolution which defines our vision for peace.

Soon I'll have a—soon you'll see a resolution come forth supported by members of both parties—not everybody, I can understand that. This is an important debate, a debate where people will speak their conscience. I'm absolutely convinced as we've laid out the facts, members from both parties understand the stakes, understand we're talking about freedom, and understand we cannot allow this madman to threaten us, to threaten others, to threaten our friends with the world's worst weapons.

I want you to know that behind the rhetoric of war is a deep desire for peace, that I believe that by remaining strong and diligent that we can achieve peace, that we can achieve peace not only for America but peace around the world. I believe that by speaking clearly about terror, delineating good from evil, remaining forceful in our desire for freedom, we can achieve peace in the Middle East.

I laid out a vision for peace. I'm going to stay on that vision. I believe so strongly it's possible. And I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia. I want you to tell your kids that when they hear the debate, listen to the rhetoric, this administration has got a deep

desire for a peaceful world. I also have a deep desire for a better world, too, a better country.

As we work to keep the peace we've also got to work to make America a better place for all of us. I mean every single citizen. That means we've got to have an education system that is next to none. I believe strongly in setting high standards and challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. I believe every child can learn.

I know Bob shares that vision, and I know the Governor does as well. I'm proud to sign an important piece of education reform—for the first time said that if you receive Federal money, why don't you show us whether or not your children are learning to read and write and add and subtract? See, if you believe every child can learn, if you're willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, then just show us. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers and praise the superintendents. But when we find our children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, we must demand something different. No child should be left behind in America.

A better America is one that has got a modern health care system. And I look forward to working with Bob to make sure that the Medicare system is modern. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. And it's time to keep the promise of Medicare with a modern system, starting with prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

And by the way, I appreciated what the House did. I call upon the Senate to do the same thing that the House did the other day. In order to make sure medicine is affordable and accessible, we need medical liability reform at the Federal level. Let me just put it to you this way: Too many lawsuits are driving docs out of business. Too many lawsuits are making health care hard to get for a lot of folks. Too many lawsuits, too many frivolous and junk lawsuits are driving up your cost for health care, and we need to do something about it, starting at the Federal level. The House acted. The Senate must show the same kind of courage, for the sake of the American people.

There's a lot of things we can do in Washington, but the best way to make America

a better place is to call upon our fellow citizens to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. See, Government can hand out money—sometimes we do a pretty good job of it—but what it cannot do is cause people to love one another. It can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when a fellow citizen puts his arm around somebody who hurts, and says, "I love you." That's how that happens. That's done when a church or a synagogue or mosque decides to feed the hungry or find shelter for those who have no housing. It's done when somebody mentors a child. It's done when somebody runs a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. That's what happens, see.

That's the true strength of the country, by the way. The true strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. You know, people have asked me, what can they do to help in the war against terror? My answer is, love a neighbor. If you want to fight evil, do some good. Try to make your community a better place in which somebody can live and realize their dreams.

No, the enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They probably thought after 9/11/2001 that maybe a couple lawsuits would be filed against them. They didn't understand America. They didn't understand our view of freedom. Nor did they understand that this great Nation would rise up; this Nation would take a step back and assess what was important and rise up. A lot of people now understand to be a patriot means more than just putting your hand over your heart. It means doing something to make your community a better place. A true patriot is somebody who helps eliminate those pockets of despair and hopelessness by loving somebody.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come great good—still mourn the loss of life, like we all do, but I know the culture is beginning to change from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it, and, if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a day in which each of us understand we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. We're responsible for loving our children, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad. You're responsible for the quality of life in

the community in which you live. You're responsible for loving your neighbor like you'd like to be—self. If you're running corporate America, you're responsible to tell the truth to your employees and your shareholders.

This great country is responding to the evil done. I'm an optimistic guy, because I believe America can achieve anything it sets its mind to, believe we can achieve peace, and I believe we can help eliminate the pockets of despair and make sure this country remains such a beacon of hope for everybody, for every citizen who is fortunate enough to live in this great land.

The reason I believe that way is I understand that America is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of our Earth. God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:26 a.m. in the Plaza Ballroom at the Adam's Mark Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to candidate Bob Beauprez's wife, Claudia, and his parents, Joe and Maria Beauprez; Bob Benson, chair, Republican Party of Colorado; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado, and his wife, Frances; former Senator William L. Armstrong of Colorado; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Bob Beauprez is a candidate for Colorado's Seventh Congressional District. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Rally for Congressional Candidate Rick Renzi in Flagstaff, Arizona

September 27, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's such an honor to be here. Well, we're working on the drought. [Laughter] I love the rain. Thanks for standing out here. It's such an honor to be here. I appreciate you all enduring the weather.

It is my honor to be here for the next Congressman from this district, Rick Renzi. He's a good fellow. He's a good man. He believes in family values. After all, he's got 12 kids. I want to thank Roberta for standing by him as he takes his message to the people, that he works hard to let the people know what's

in his heart. And he's a good-hearted man. He cares deeply about the people of this district. I'm here to endorse his candidacy because I think he'll be the right thing for Arizona, and I know he'll do the right thing for America.

I appreciate very much also being here with the next Governor of the State of Arizona, Matt Salmon. Matt is a commonsense fellow. One thing he understands, that when it comes to spending money at the State level, he's not spending the Government's money, see. He's spending the people's money. He's from the people. And I look forward to working with Matt when he becomes the Governor of this great State.

I'm also honored to be traveling with Senator Jon Kyl. He's a stand-up kind of guy. He is rock-solid. He's strong on the defense of our country. And I look forward to continuing to work with him to make sure the judicial nominees I send up to the United States Senate get a fair hearing.

I named the other day a great lady from Texas to the bench, named Priscilla Owen. But they played politics with her nomination. She got the highest ranking of the ABA. She was one of the top in her law school classes. But they didn't give her a fair hearing. They distorted her record. See, they want judges that use the bench from which to legislate. We want judges to strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States.

I appreciate so very much working with Senator John McCain from the State of Arizona. John's a true patriot, a true patriot who's standing strong as we try to keep the peace here in the world. I appreciate very much being with my friend Jane Dee Hull. I used to be a Governor, and I got to know her, as a Governor of Texas. I'm proud to call her friend. I'm proud of the job she's done for the State of Arizona. Thank you, Jane Dee, for being here.

I want to thank all of you all who care about your community and all of you all who are in what we call grassroots politics: the people who turn out the vote; the people who make the phone calls; the people who go to the coffee shops and tell people the truth about the candidates running for office. I want to thank you for your supporting this

good ticket. And I want to thank you for loving your country.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I look forward to working with Rick on some important issues that matter. One important issue that matters, we've got to make sure we keep our people working. As we work hard to secure the homeland, we've also got to remember, a secure America is an America where people can find work. So long as somebody who is looking for a job can't find a job, I think we have a problem. And so we've always got to keep working to expand the job base. We want people being able to put food on the table here in America. We want people being able to make a living. And that starts with fighting off this slowdown with letting people keep more of their own money.

See, here's the debate that takes place in Washington. The debate is, is that either you let people have more of their own money, or you don't. If the economy is slow and you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to spend it. And when they spend it, it means they're demanding something. They're demanding a good or a service. And when that demand is there, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or service, guess what's more likely to happen. Somebody is going to be able to find a job. The tax cuts were important for the American economy. They're important for small business. They're important for the entrepreneurs. They're important for job creation. We need to make the tax cuts permanent.

You've got to remember that money we're spending up there in Washington isn't the Government's money, like I said; it's the people's money. It's your money. We need to make sure we don't overspend. Listen, they don't have a budget in the United States Senate—no fault of Senator Kyl. They don't have a budget. If you don't have a budget, guess what's likely to happen. Every idea sounds like a good idea up there. *[Laughter]* Those ideas run into the billions. If you don't have a budget, it's hard to hold people to account. We need fiscally responsible people in Washington, like Rick. We need people who will

set priorities and make sure we don't overspend your money. A deficit will hurt economic vitality. I submitted a budget that shows how we can reduce the deficit, how we can get to surplus, but it's going to require fiscal sanity in Washington, DC.

We need a commonsense policy in Washington. And the forest policy of the United States is not commonsensical. It doesn't make any sense to allow—to not thin our forests. It doesn't make any sense to fight off the beetles. It doesn't make any sense not to thin them out. It doesn't make any sense to allow kindling to pile up underneath good wood. It doesn't make any sense. For the sake of a commonsense environmental policy, for the sake of making sure our forests remain healthy in the long term, let's get some people like Rick in Washington, DC, with whom I can work, to get good forest policy in America.

I also appreciate being here on behalf of Matt Salmon. Matt's a good, solid man. He's a guy who keeps his word. See, he's one of these fellows that said, "I'm going to run for Congress. I'm only going to serve three terms." And then when his term came up, he said, "I'm going home." That doesn't happen a lot in politics. It should happen more, by the way, where people do what they say they're going to do, that when they look at the people, they're going to do what they say. That's why you can trust him as your Governor. When he says he's not going to raise your taxes, he means he's not going to raise your taxes.

I also look forward to working with Matt to make sure that we help people who need help. We've got people on welfare in the State of Arizona who need help to learn how to work. See, we're getting ready to reauthorize the welfare law. And I urge Congress to make sure that as we do so, that we keep work as the cornerstone of good welfare policy. Helping a man learn to work, helping a lady find a job, helping people have the skills necessary to be able to provide for their family is a part of making sure somebody has got dignity in their life. And I look forward to working with Governor Matt Salmon to make sure that the welfare policy of Arizona is a compassionate yet conservative welfare policy.

I want you to know that I am constantly thinking about our economy and trying to work with Congress to improve the job base. But my most important job is to protect America from another attack. That's my most important job, because there's still an enemy out there which hates America. And they hate us because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the idea that people can worship an almighty God any way they choose in America. We good—we value the idea that people are free to express their opinions, that we have a free press. We love freedom in America. And so long as we love our freedoms, the enemy will hate us.

But guess what. We're never going to forget our freedoms. We're always going to hold those freedoms dear. And so long as we do, the enemy will be there. And so we've got to hunt them down, and we've got to protect the homeland. There's a lot of good people, a lot of good people working hard on your behalf to protect the homeland. Anytime we're getting a hint, anytime we get an idea, anytime we get a scintilla of evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. And I say we're moving on it; it's at the Federal level and the State level and the local level. Our biggest responsibility is to prevent the killers from coming to hurt America again.

And that's why I went to Congress and asked them to join me in setting up what they call the Department of Homeland Security. Listen, there's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have got something to do with protecting the homeland. That's 100 agencies full of good, hard-working people. But they're scattered everywhere. It seemed to make sense to me to put them under one umbrella, so that the—we could set priorities, so that we could change cultures, if necessary, within the agencies, to make the number one priority your protection.

And we're making progress up there. The House of Representatives voted a good bill out, but it seems to be stuck in the Senate, because the Senate wants to micromanage the executive branch of Government. The Senate wants a thick book of rules on how to defend the homeland.

And let me just give you some examples. The Customs Service, for example, wanted to require its inspectors at our Nation's 301 ports of entry to wear radiation detecting devices. See, that made sense. You wear a radiation detection device to make sure nobody is trying to bring a weapons of mass destruction into America. Yet, the union that represents the Customs workers objected. They sought to invoke collective bargaining, which would have taken at least a year to solve. See, we don't need those kind of rules that bind the executive branch from doing what you want us to do, which is to protect the homeland.

Let me give you another example. Let me give you another example of what we're trying to cut out of the new Department, this kind of stuff that doesn't make any sense. I know it doesn't make any sense to the people of Flagstaff. I can assure you it doesn't make any sense to the people of Crawford, Texas, either. *[Laughter]* In order to locate employees in cases of emergency, the Customs Service sought to have employees provide their home addresses and telephone numbers to the Customs Service. In other words, if we had an emergency, we want to know where to call. The union objected and said such a request would violate the privacy rights of the workers. Now, that doesn't make any sense.

Listen, I strongly believe workers ought to be able to join a union if that's what they want to do. They ought to be able to have collective bargaining rights, if that's what they choose. But for the sake of our national security, this President and future Presidents needs the flexibility necessary to put the right people at the right place at the right time, to protect the American people.

But the best way to defend the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to defend this homeland. It's a different kind of war we fight. It's important you know that it still goes on, though. It's a different kind of war. In the past, people would say, "Well, we're making progress. We destroyed the enemy's tanks," or, "We're making progress if he no longer has any ships." These people don't have tanks. They don't have ships. They've got hate. These leaders are the ones

that hide in caves or the dark recesses of some cities, and they send youngsters to their suicidal death. These are the folks who hijacked a great religion and take innocent life without any hesitation. See, they don't value life like we do. In America, everybody counts. Every life has worth. Every life is precious. That's not the way the enemy thinks. The enemy doesn't care. They've got these designs on America, because we love freedom.

And so we're going to look at every cave we can find. It don't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans. It doesn't matter how long it takes; we're going to hunt them down, one by one. We owe it to our children, and we owe it to our children's children.

And we're making progress. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. And there's a lot of good folks around the world who are working with us, working with us to hunt these killers down before they hit us again. We've hauled in over a couple thousand of them. As a matter of fact, one of them the other day who wanted to have been the 20th hijacker popped his head up, and he's no longer a threat to the United States of America or our friends and allies.

There's a lot of good folks in a lot of nations around the world working with us to find these and to bring them to justice. We don't seek revenge. We seek justice. About like number hadn't been quite as lucky as the ones who have been detained or arrested. So we're making progress, slowly but surely—slowly, surely, and methodically. This great Nation is doing everything we can to protect our people.

That's why I've asked Congress for the largest increase in defense spending since President Reagan was the President. I did so for two reasons: One, anytime we put our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment; and secondly, I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul, that when it comes to talking about something we hold dear, our freedom, we're not going to quit until we succeed.

When it comes to defending the homeland, this great Nation—the will of this Nation has been aroused by an enemy which inflicted serious, serious damage on our people. No, they—when they hit us, they thought we might file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] But they realized they hit a mighty nation and a good nation and a decent nation and a nation that loves the values that we hold dear. It's going to be some rough sledding ahead at times—it really is—in order to defend ourselves. We're fighting a resourceful group of people. We're fighting people who know no fear.

We've also got some other tasks, because there are some madmen in the world who have got weapons of mass destruction. We've got people who torture their own people. If there's dissent, they kill them. They've gassed their own people with weapons of mass destruction. The man in Iraq has attacked two countries. He lied to the world. He's deceived us.

I went to the United Nations, and I said as clearly as I could, "In order for you to be an effective organization, you must deal with him. If you don't, we will lead a coalition which will." We cannot allow the world's worst leaders—[applause]. There's no negotiation. There's no discussion. This man must disarm like he said he would do. After 11 years of deceit, this man must disarm.

For the sake of peace, for the sake of peace not only in our—in his neighborhood but in ours, he must disarm. And if he does not, it's his choice to make. It's his and the United Nations' choice to make. Our last choice is to commit our troops to harm's way, but if we have to, to defend our freedoms, if we have to, the United States will lead a coalition and do so.

And there are a lot of good people, a lot of good people on both sides of the political aisle who understand the task ahead, a lot of good people who are working with the administration to come up with a common resolution to send a strong message to the world that this great Nation, this great Nation will not stand by and allow the world's worst leaders to threaten us with the world's worst weapons.

I want you all to understand that as we work to peace—as we work for peace—and

that's my goal—we must also work to make America a better place, a better place for all of us, a better place for each person which lives in this country. That starts with making sure that every child is educated and not one child is left behind. I want you to know that it's important for all of us to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, to understand that when you set the bar low, when you have such low standards, you're going to get lousy results, and children will be left behind. That's no longer acceptable in America.

I'm told—Rick was telling me—Rick and the Governor-to-be were telling me you've got a great school district here in Flagstaff. That's because the citizens care about the schools. I want to thank the teachers who are here for being teachers. I want to thank the principals who are here. I want to thank the parents who are here who demand on high standards for every single child.

A better America means we've got to have a health care system that's modern. Listen, Medicare is an incredibly important program. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. [Laughter] Medicine has changed because of technology and innovation. Medicare is the same program it was a while ago. In order to make sure Medicare works, like we want it to for our seniors and for America to be a better place, our seniors need prescription drug coverage.

And you know what else we need to do? We need to end the frivolous and junk lawsuits which drive up the cost of medicine, which makes it harder for folks to find health care.

We've also got to make sure that we unleash the true strength of the country, and that is the hearts and souls of the American people. I believe strongly that we must have a Faith-Based Initiative in America, an initiative which recognizes that in our churches and synagogues and mosques we find universal love. See, people have asked me, "What can I do to help on the war against terror?" What you can do is, you can love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good in America.

No, the enemy hit us. The enemy hit us, but they didn't realize who they were hitting,

They hit a nation which will fight for our security and freedom. But they also aroused a new spirit in the country, a spirit which says, it's more than a patriot who puts his hand on a heart; it's a patriot who helps a neighbor in need. It's a patriot who understands that there are some pockets of despair and loneliness in America and that, while Government can hand out money, what Government cannot do is put hope in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's life. That's done when somebody puts their arm around a neighbor in need and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" It's done when somebody mentors a child. It's done when somebody goes and feeds the hungry, provides shelter for those who don't have shelter. That's what it means. And that's happening in America.

All across our country, people are understanding there is a new culture of responsibility emerging. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some really incredible good, in my judgment, because I believe so strongly in the purpose of this great country.

I'm reminded all the time, as I travel our country, about what happened on Flight 93. Flight 93 was a historic moment in our country. It's a sad, sad moment, but it was a time when average citizens were flying across the land. They knew the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They were on their phones, and they told their loved ones goodbye. They used the word "love." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they drove the plane into the ground to save somebody else's life.

It's a powerful—it is the most profound, profound example of the great American values—that we understand in order to be the country of promise and hope that we're meant to be, that we've got to live our lives beyond just ourselves, that we've got to serve something greater than ourselves in life.

There's no doubt in my mind, no doubt in my mind that we can achieve peace in the world if we remain strong and diligent and focused and tough when we need to. And there's no doubt in my mind we can be a more compassionate and decent and hopeful nation. And you know why? Because this, my fellow Americans, is the greatest nation on

the face of the Earth, full of the most decent and loving and kind people.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. at the Coconino County Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Roberta Renzi, wife of candidate Rick Renzi; Arizona gubernatorial candidate Matt Salmon; Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Rick Renzi is a candidate for Arizona's First Congressional District. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Matt Salmon in Phoenix, Arizona

September 27, 2002

Thanks for that kind introduction, "Governor." First, I want to thank the host of the dinner for organizing an early dinner. [Laughter] It's good for Colangelo's ballpark. [Laughter] I guess tonight's the night for the D-backs.

I know this for certain, that this will be the only candidate I ever campaigned for who rides a Harley, speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese, and fronts an Elvis cover band. [Laughter] He's the candidate I'm campaigning for who's going to win. Matt's a breath of fresh air. See, he told the voters of his congressional district he'd only serve three terms. And when the third term finished, he didn't run again. He's the kind of person who does in office what he says he is going to do, which is vital for the state-house and Arizona.

The State faces real challenges, but with him you're going to get a straightforward fellow, somebody who will tell you the truth, somebody who will give it his all to make Arizona the best State for everybody who lives here. It's my honor to be here. I'm proud to support him, and I thank you all for coming as well.

I had the privilege of meeting Nancy. Both of us married above ourselves. [Laughter] Nancy and Matt are the proud parents of

four kids, and they place their family above all else. And it gives me great comfort to know I'm working for somebody who has got his priorities straight.

And I appreciate you mentioning Laura, Matt. She sends her best. She sends her best to our friends who are here. She sends her best to you and Nancy. She's over there in Crawford, waiting for me. One of the good things about coming out West is, I get to spend the night in Crawford and remember there are values other than Washington values that count in the Nation. It's good to come out West where the spirit of individualism still remains strong, to come out West where you can see a long way, to come out West where people understand helping neighbors is an important part of building a good State. So thanks for having me. I'm sorry Laura's not here. She's doing great. And by the way, I'm really, really proud of the job she's doing as our First Lady.

We went up to Flagstaff where we were working on the drought relief program. It was raining. *[Laughter]* But I was up there to help a fellow named Rick Renzi, who is going to be the next Congressman from northern Arizona. I want to thank Rick for putting his hat in the ring, and I want to thank you all for helping him.

I'm also honored to be with two great United States Senators, a great patriot, a man who is speaking clearly about the need to defend America and defend our freedoms, and that's John McCain. And by the way, he married above himself too. *[Laughter]* And today I was traveling with Jon Kyl.

One of the jobs of the President is to pick good judges, is to put people of sound judgment and great talent on our Federal benches. And the United States Senate has been, in some cases, not treating my nominees fairly. I named a great lady named Priscilla Owen to the bench. She'd run statewide in our State, had overwhelming votes, one of the top graduates of her law school. The lawyer group rated her one of the best, the highest ratings they could give. And yet the Senate distorted her record because she wouldn't be willing to legislate from the bench. Jon Kyl has remained strong on the Judiciary Committee to make sure my nominees get a fair hearing. We need to change

the United States Senate so we can change the United States course.

I want to thank Congressman Hayworth—he's not here, but I'm going to thank him anyway—and Shadegg and Flake and Kolbe for their support. Arizona has got a fine congressional delegation, and I'm proud to be able to work with these Members. I want to thank your Governor for coming today, my friend Jane Dee Hull. I want to thank the mayor of Phoenix for being here, Mayor Rimsza. And I also want to appreciate those of you who helped organize this dinner. I want to thank Chairman Fannin.

But most of all, I want to thank the grassroot activists who are here, the people who put the signs in the yards, the people who do the phone calling, the people who do the mailers, those tireless souls who never get thanked. I want to thank you for what you have done, and as importantly, I thank you for what you're going to do, which is to turn out a big vote come November the 5th.

I appreciate your next Governor's agenda. It starts with making sure that the State doesn't raise the taxes on the working people. I appreciate that promise. He's a man who keeps his word. It's one of these issues that will distinguish him from his opponent. If he says he's not going to raise your taxes, he means he's not going to raise your taxes. And that will be good for the economy of Arizona.

He's focused on jobs. He briefed me on his WorkFair 2010 program. See, he and I understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. I appreciate his vision for job creation.

I also appreciate his brand of compassionate conservatism, which says, we're going to help people help themselves, that when it comes to welfare, that job training is essential to help people find work. We understand that in work you find dignity, in work you find the chance to put food on the table, in work you have a chance to realize your own self-worth. And so when it comes to helping people, your next Governor will make sure that work is an essential part of your welfare system here in the State of Arizona.

I also appreciate his commonsense views on our forests. You've got a lot of vital land here. We're mismanaging our forests. We're doing a lousy job of protecting an important treasure for the country. We ought to be thinning our forests. We ought to be taking the burnt timber and making use of it. We ought to be clearing the timber out from underneath our trees. We ought to be saving our forests with commonsense forest policy. And I want to work with a Governor who understands that.

No, I appreciate Matt. I appreciate him working hard to make this State a safer and stronger and better place. And that's what we've got to do for our country as well. A strong America is a country that works to make sure people can find work. I'm worried about the fact that some of our fellow Americans who want to work can't find a job. And we've got to do everything we can to increase our job base, to do everything we can to make sure our economy continues to grow.

That's why it's absolutely essential, in my judgment, that we make the tax cuts we passed permanent, that we don't let them be temporary, that we get rid of that Senate rule that says, we're going to give—on the one hand we giveth, on the other hand we taketh away. See, we give you tax cuts, but because of a—kind of a weird rule in the Senate, those go away after 10 years. For the sake of planning, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of growth, for the sake of small businesses, the tax cuts need to be permanent. And that includes getting rid of the death tax forever.

We need an energy bill out of Washington, DC. For the sake of job security and for the sake of national security, we need an energy bill. They've been talking too long up there. We need a bill which encourages conservation, promotes new technologies, promotes renewables, but a bill which will encourage increase of supply here in America. Listen, we're too dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. And unfortunately, some of those people don't like us. For the sake of job security and national security, I need an energy bill, and I need it soon.

There are some big projects that have been put on hold because construction folks can't get terrorism insurance. They estimate

over 300,000 of our fellow citizens aren't working, 300,000 hardhats aren't working because people can't get insured because of the terrorist attacks. Congress needs to act. They need to get a terrorism insurance bill to my desk. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of helping people find work, for the sake of the 300,000 hardhats who would be working, I need a terrorism insurance bill, a bill that does not reward the trial lawyers, but a bill that encourages construction workers to get back to work.

There's a lot of things Congress can do to help, and I look forward to working with them to create the jobs. And I know the two Senators here and the Members of Congress are anxious to help to expand our economy. But one thing Congress must not do is overspend. See, one thing Congress has got to do is hold the line on spending if we want our economy to grow. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Productivity is some of the best in the world. The foundation for growth is there.

But to make sure people can find work, it's important for Congress not to overspend. And there's a danger. See, every program in Washington sounds good. Everybody's idea is a brilliant idea. The problem is, is those brilliant ideas cost in the billions. Plus, the Senate doesn't have a budget. Senator McCain wants it to have a budget. Senator Kyl wants it to have a budget. It doesn't have a budget. The other side hasn't been able to get a budget. And when you don't have a budget, guess what the danger is—that there's no fiscal responsibility with your money. There's no fiscal restraint. For the sake of job creation, the Congress must fund our priorities and hold the line on additional spending.

And we'll work together, and we'll work hard together to make sure this country is a stronger country, to make sure people can find work. We've also got to make sure it's a safer country. I think our biggest job is to protect the homeland, and the reason we need to do so, there is still an enemy out there which hates America. They hate us because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God any way they see fit here in America. We love the fact that people can

have honest discourse and political debate. We love a free press. We love everything about freedom, and we refuse to relinquish that love. And so long as we love freedom, there are people that want to hurt us. See, that's the problem we face.

And the other difference is, we value life in America. Every life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious—not to the enemy. They have hijacked a great religion, and murdered—murdered innocent people and could care less. And that's who we're fighting, and they're out there. So we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland.

You've got to know, there's a lot of good people working hard to protect you: Conversations taking place that never took place before in Washington; a lot of information sharing; a lot of folks running down every hint, every lead, every idea that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America. We're moving on it, within the confines of the United States Constitution, I might add. We're pursuing leads. We're disrupting. We're making sure, as best as we possibly can, that the enemy doesn't hit us again.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked the Congress to join me in the creation of a Homeland Security Department. I did so because there's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have something to do with securing the homeland. They're everywhere, and it seems like to me that if the number one priority of the Government is to defend the homeland, they ought to be under one agency, so we can change the culture of these agencies, so we can insist on priority.

And the House moved, and the Senate is stuck. And the Senate is stuck because they want to micromanage the process, not all Senators but some Senators. They want to have a thick book of rules that will tell the executive branch and this administration and future administrations how to deal with the—securing our homeland. I appreciate these two Senators here, standing strong for doing what's right, for leaving a legacy behind so future Presidents can more likely deal with an enemy who could care less about rules

and regulations, an enemy which is willing to move fast.

Now, let me just tell you what I'm talking about, so you'll understand. After September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to require its inspectors at our Nation's 301 ports of entry to wear radiation detection devices so they could—these guys would have them on their belts, and if there was—somebody was trying to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction into our country, we'd know about it, somebody was trying to bring something in illegally, across the border, we would know about it, through the radiation detection device. The union that represents the Customs workers objected to this commonsense action. They didn't like it. They sought to invoke collective bargaining, which would have taken a year to resolve.

See, it's those kind of rules which bind the capacity of the executive branch to do the job you want us to do. In order to locate employees in cases of emergency, the Customs Service sought to have employees provide their home addresses and their telephone numbers to the Customs Service. That makes sense. If you've got somebody you think may be getting ready to hit us and you need to move one of your Custom employees into a spot of action, you need his phone number. The union objected to listing the phone numbers and said such a request would violate the privacy rights of workers. The union actually filed a grievance and sought to negotiate something as sensible as this request.

We do not need rules and bureaucracy to entangle us in the job you want us to do. Protection of the homeland of the United States is more important than special interests in Washington, DC.

In this State, you don't need to write your Senators. In this State, they've been strong in leaving a legacy behind, an important legacy, because this enemy isn't going away. And the best way, however, to secure the homeland, short term and long term, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what the United States of America is going to do.

And we're making progress. We're making progress against the killers. That's all they

are, by the way, nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers. And that's the way we're treating them. Sometimes it's hard to tell the progress; this is a different kind of war, as you all know. I mean, in the old days you'd count the number of tanks you destroyed or the number of airplanes you destroyed and say, "We're making progress." These folks don't have tanks. They don't have airplanes. They hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of people fighting. And they're resourceful, and they're determined, but they're not as resourceful and determined as the United States of America.

I put out a doctrine that said, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy." That doctrine still stands today. And a lot of nations have joined us in rounding up these killers. We've captured over a couple thousand of them. We got one the other day in Karachi. He popped his head up, and he's no longer a threat to the United States or our friends.

That's the kind of war we fight. It's not a glamorous war according to the old TV shows and stuff. It's just one person at a time, and we're relentless. And we're absolutely determined because we love freedom, and we owe it to our children to be relentless and determined.

And that's why I asked the Congress to pass a defense bill that's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. It sends two signals, as far as I'm concerned. One, anytime our youngsters are sent into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to them, and we owe it to their loved ones. For those of you in the audience who have got a loved one in the military, I'm proud of them; I've got great confidence in them; and I want to thank you for your sacrifice as well.

Secondly, the reason I requested the defense bill that I did is because I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're not quitting. There is no calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, we're leaving, that we're going to quit when—by an artificial time. That's not the way we think in America. No matter how

long it takes, we will defend our freedom. That's the message we sent.

Now, the House passed the bill, and the Senate passed the bill, and it hasn't gotten to my desk yet. We're at war, and the defense bill hasn't made it. I'm calling upon the leaders of the Senate and the leaders of the House to reconcile any differences they have quickly and get the defense bill to my desk before you go home. Quit playing politics with the defense bill.

In order to defend our freedoms, there's going to be some steep hills to climb, and we're going to have to climb them and climb them together. We've still got work to do against Al Qaida in Afghanistan. I want you to tell your children, if they ask you about all this war rhetoric, that your great country went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to free people. We went in and freed people from the clutches—[applause]. It's really important for you to tell them that we value each life, no matter where that life lives.

And we cried when we heard the stories about the Taliban not letting young girls go to school. It broke our heart, but it also made us joyous when we realized upholding the doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists" not only allowed the United States to keep its word, but we freed people. We freed people from the clutches of the barbaric Taliban regime.

We've got work to do in Afghanistan, and we will continue to do the work in Afghanistan. You know, they're kind of sliding around the border regions, and we've got people looking for them. Sometimes they try to get into Pakistan, and we're teamed up with the Pakistan Government to find them. Sometimes we get them on the run, and then they think they can light in other countries. And so we're pressuring them in other countries. It doesn't matter where they think they can light; we're after them.

We've also got a big chore to make sure the world's worst leaders never threaten, blackmail, or harm America with the world's worst weapons. I went to the United Nations the other day. I did so because I wanted to make the case against a madman, a case against a man who has lied to the world, the case in front of this august body that for 11

long years he has stood in defiance of resolution after resolution, and at the same time built up his cache of chemical and biological weapons.

This is a man who continues to murder his own people, a man who has gassed—used gas on his own citizens, a man who has used chemical weapons on his neighbors, a man who has invaded two countries, a man which hates—who hates America, a man who loves to link up with Al Qaida, a man who is a true threat to America, to Israel, to anybody in the neighborhood.

And so I went to the United Nations, and I said to the United Nations, “You need to deal with him. You, a collective body of freedom-loving countries, need to deal with him. For 11 years he’s made fun of you. You can either be the United Nations and be effective, or you can be the League of Nations. Your choice.” I hope they’re the United Nations. I hope they’re a robust United Nations. I hope they’re capable of helping to keep the peace. That’s their choice.

Saddam Hussein has got a choice, and that is, he can disarm. There’s no negotiations, by the way. There’s nothing to negotiate with him. He told the world he would disarm 11 years ago, and he’s lied to the world. It’s their choice to make. He must disarm, just like he said he would do. And the United Nations, in order to be effective, must disarm him. But for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of our future, if nothing happens, the United States will lead a coalition to hold him to account and to disarm Saddam Hussein. We owe it to the world to do so.

I want to thank members of both political parties in the Congress for working on a strong statement of resolve that the world will see. Members of both political parties have worked together with the—with members of my staff, to develop a statement that shows our determination and our desire to keep the peace, to make the world a more peaceful place. I think you’re going to see that our Government will be, shortly, speaking with one voice, and the world will take notice.

History has called us into action, my fellow Americans; it just has. We have a chance to blink, or we have a chance to lead. I intend to lead.

As we make sure that we’re a safer and stronger place, we’ve also got to work to make America a better place for all of us. I mean all of us. It starts with making sure the education systems work. I appreciate the idea of having a Governor who is willing to work to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, somebody who is willing to raise the standards, somebody who believes, like I believe, every child can learn, and somebody who is willing to measure to determine if every child is learning.

You see, it’s really important to measure. If you believe children can learn, then you want to know. And if you find children trapped in schools which won’t teach and won’t change, you’d better have you a Governor who won’t stand for the status quo. There’s no second-rate children in Arizona. There’s no second-rate children in America.

But a better America also understands that the true strength of our country is not our Government, but the true strength of the country is the people, the hearts and souls of the American people. See, that’s what I think the strength of the country is. And we can change this country. You’ve got to understand that amongst the plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this country. There just are. There are people who are addicted. There are people who are lonely. There are people who are lost. When you say “American Dream” to some of our fellow Americans, they go blank. And that’s not right, and we need to deal with that. We need to address that part of our—because when one of us hurts, all of us should hurt.

And we can change that part of the American scene. And we’ve got to understand, as we do, the limitations of Government. Listen, Government can hand out money, and we do a pretty good job of it sometimes. But what Government can never do is put love in somebody’s life, can’t put hope in a person’s heart. That’s going to happen because our fellow Americans decide to fight evil by doing some good. That will happen when our fellow Americans understand being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot is serving something greater than yourself. Being a patriot is somebody who mentors a child. Being a patriot is somebody who feeds the hungry. Being a

patriot is somebody who starts a Boy or—Boys or Girls Club. Being a patriot—who does everything he or she can do to make the quality of life in your neighborhood as good as it can be.

I don't know what's going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. Oh, they probably thought after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they learned differently. They learned that this great country is plenty tough, and we'll defend our freedoms. They also learned that we're plenty compassionate and that we'll respond to their evil with decency. One person can't do everything in America, but one person can do something. And as you do that something, I want you to remember that you can change this country, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I believe that we're in the midst of a cultural change in America; I believe it. I believe we're shifting our culture from one which had said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe that since the terrible attack on America took place, that we're ushering in a period of personal responsibility, where each of us must understand, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. The culture of responsibility says, "If you live in Phoenix, Arizona, you must do everything you can to support the quality of life in that community. Don't hope for some distant Government to do it." The culture of responsibility says, "If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible to be honest with the books and treat your employees and shareholders with respect."

I believe it's happening. And perhaps the most vivid example about what I'm talking about, about serving something greater than yourself, took place on Flight 93. America must remember that tragic story, because it speaks volumes about the great spirit of the country—people flying across the plane, 40 passengers and I think four crew members, I believe it was. They learned from their loved ones that something was taking place on the ground that no one could possibly imagine in America. They realized the plane

they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They talked to their loved ones. They said the word "love" a lot. They said a prayer. They prayed for strength. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground. They served something greater than themselves. That's a powerful story, because to me, it speaks to the soul of our country, our worth.

There is no question in my mind that if we remain strong and focused and tough, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for our country. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, peace in South Asia. There's no doubt we can do that, if we're tough and strong and determined to speak clearly and always defend freedom. And at home, we can eliminate those pockets of despair. We can help people with love.

And the reason I'm optimistic is because I know America. America is full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. America is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming. May God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:38 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. In his remarks, he referred to Jerry Colangelo, managing general partner, Arizona Diamondbacks; Nancy Salmon, wife of candidate Matt Salmon; Rick Renzi, candidate for Arizona's First Congressional District; Mayor Anton E. "Skip" Rimsza of Phoenix; P. Robert Fannin, chairman, Arizona Republican Party; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 28, 2002

Good morning. On Thursday, I met with Democratic and Republican Members of Congress to discuss the threat posed by the Iraqi regime. The security of our country is the commitment of both political parties and the responsibility of both the President and the Congress. We are united in our determination to confront this urgent threat to America.

We're moving toward a strong resolution authorizing the use of force, if necessary, to

defend our national security interests against the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. And by passing this resolution, we will send a clear message to the world community and to the Iraqi regime: The demands of the United Nations Security Council must be followed; the Iraqi dictator must be disarmed. These requirements will be met, or they will be enforced.

The danger to our country is grave, and it is growing. The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons, is rebuilding the facilities to make more and, according to the British Government, could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the order is given. The regime has longstanding and continuing ties to terrorist groups, and there are Al Qaida terrorists inside Iraq. This regime is seeking a nuclear bomb and with fissile material could build one within a year.

Iraq has already used weapons of mass death against another country and against its own citizens. The Iraqi regime practices the rape of women as a method of intimidation and the torture of dissenters and their children. And for more than a decade, that regime has answered Security Council resolutions with defiance and bad faith and deception.

We know that the Iraqi regime is led by a dangerous and brutal man. We know he is actively seeking the destructive technologies to match his hatred. And we know that he must be stopped. The dangers we face will only worsen from month to month and year to year. To ignore these threats is to encourage them, and when they have fully materialized, it may be too late to protect ourselves and our allies. By then, the Iraqi dictator will have had the means to terrorize and dominate the region, and each passing day could be the one on which the Iraqi regime gives anthrax or VX nerve gas or, someday, a nuclear weapon to a terrorist group.

We refuse to live in this future of fear. We are determined to build a future of security and peace for ourselves and for the world. The Members of Congress from both political parties with whom I met this week are committed to American leadership for the good of all nations. The resolution we

are producing will be an instrument of that leadership.

I appreciate the spirit in which Members of Congress are considering this vital issue. We're making progress. We are nearing agreement, and soon we will speak with one voice.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:07 p.m. on September 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7598—Gold Star Mother's Day, 2002

September 27, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our rich history, many of our Nation's dedicated military men and women have served and sacrificed their lives to secure our country, defend our freedoms, and preserve the values of our democracy. Many of these heroes fell in battle, leaving behind family, friends, and loved ones who grieve their loss to this day. Every year, we recognize and honor mothers who have lost sons and daughters in service to our country—our Gold Star Mothers—and we thank them for their strength and their contributions to our Nation.

Our Gold Star Mothers help us remember those who have been lost by upholding the ideals for which their children gave their lives. These brave women are devoted to improving and enhancing the lives of those in our Armed Forces, their families, and our veterans, and they encourage civic education, patriotism, and the teaching of American history. These efforts enrich the lives of countless young Americans, and they support my Administration's work to build a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in our country.

By advancing national pride and promoting international goodwill, Gold Star Mothers serve as models of grace and strength. As we honor their patriotism and dedication, we renew our commitment to upholding the honorable legacy of their fallen children by pursuing a future of security, liberty, and peace.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936, (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day,” and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2002, as Gold Star Mother’s Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suitable places as a public expression of the sympathy and respect that our Nation holds for our Gold Star Mothers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3.

Statement on the Death of Representative Patsy T. Mink *September 30, 2002*

Laura and I are saddened by the news of the passing of Congresswoman Patsy Mink. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. Patsy Mink fought tirelessly for the causes she supported, and our Nation is

grateful to her for her long record of public service.

Statement on Signing the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003

September 30, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 1646, the “Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003.” This Act authorizes appropriations, and provides important new authorities, for diplomatic and related activities of the U.S. Government. Many provisions in the Act will strengthen our ability to advance American interests around the globe, including nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to meet our international commitments, including those to the United Nations. Regrettably, the Act contains a number of provisions that impermissibly interfere with the constitutional functions of the presidency in foreign affairs, including provisions that purport to establish foreign policy that are of significant concern.

The executive branch shall construe as advisory the provisions of the Act, including sections 408, 616, 621, 633, and 1343(b), that purport to direct or burden the conduct of negotiations by the executive branch with foreign governments, international organizations, or other entities abroad or which purport to direct executive branch officials to use the U.S. voice and vote in international organizations to achieve specified foreign policy objectives. Such provisions, if construed as mandatory rather than advisory, would impermissibly interfere with the President’s constitutional authorities to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the unitary executive branch.

The executive branch shall also construe provisions in the Act that mandate submission of information to the Congress or the public, such as sections 204, 215, 603, 613(b), 615 and 1602, in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of

the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. The Secretary of State will, of course, continue as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the Nation's foreign affairs activities.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 650, 1205(d)(5), and 1501(7) call for executive branch officials to submit to the Congress recommendations for legislation. The executive branch shall implement these provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend to the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 214, concerning Jerusalem, impermissibly interferes with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs and to supervise the unitary executive branch. Moreover, the purported direction in section 214 would, if construed as mandatory rather than advisory, impermissibly interfere with the President's constitutional authority to formulate the position of the United States, speak for the Nation in international affairs, and determine the terms on which recognition is given to foreign states. U.S. policy regarding Jerusalem has not changed.

The executive branch shall implement sections 325 and 687 in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 505 of the Act excludes U.S. Government employees abroad assigned to duty as correspondents for the Voice of America (VOA) from the statutory responsibilities of the Secretary of State for security of certain U.S. Government personnel abroad and of chiefs of U.S. missions for direction of such personnel. Pursuant to the constitutional authority of the President to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs and to supervise the unitary executive branch, the Secretary of State may provide such direction as may be necessary with respect to the security and conduct of U.S. Government employees abroad assigned to duty as VOA correspondents.

Section 604 purports to require the imposition of certain sanctions on the Palestinian

Liberation Organization or Palestinian Authority based on the determinations that the President makes or fails to make in the report provided for in section 603. Although a waiver authority is also provided, I note that some of these sanctions, in particular with respect to visas and the status of representational offices, bear on the President's power with respect to the timing and nature of diplomatic communications. Accordingly, I shall construe these requirements in a manner consistent with my constitutional responsibilities for the conduct of foreign affairs.

Section 645 of the Act purports to require the President to implement a law through a particular subordinate officer in the Department of Commerce. The executive branch shall implement this provision in a manner consistent with the President's authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, including the authority to direct which officers in the executive branch shall assist the President in faithfully executing the law.

Section 686 makes seven additional plaintiffs with judgments against Iran eligible for payments under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. While U.S. victims of international terrorism are deserving of compensation in accordance with the law, the continued piecemeal legislative approach that addresses some victims and not others is neither equitable nor practicable. The Congress should develop a comprehensive proposal that provides compensation for all victims, following the principles my Administration outlined in June of this year. Such a proposal should not draw upon blocked assets to fund victim compensation, so as to preserve the prerogatives of the President in the area of foreign affairs.

Sections 321 and 322, which provide certain retirement benefits to discrete groups of Federal employees, undermine fundamental principles underlying Federal retirement systems. These sections introduce serious inequities in the operation of those systems, and set undesirable precedents. My Administration will submit to the Congress appropriate legislation to repeal section 321 and to adopt remedial legislation in lieu of section 322 that would not undermine the

integrity, equity, and sound funding principles of our Federal retirement systems.

Section 1206 could be misconstrued to imply a change in the “one China” policy of the United States when, in fact, that U.S. policy remains unchanged. To the extent that this section could be read to purport to change United States policy, it impermissibly interferes with the President’s constitutional authority to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs.

Section 1406 of the Act requires that actions to remove items from the munitions list be subject to reprogramming notifications to committees of Congress. By its plain terms, this provision does not subject such actions to any committee approval requirements, which would be impermissible under the constitutional separation of powers, and accordingly, the executive branch shall so implement it.

My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the various statements of policy in the Act as U.S. foreign policy. Given the Constitution’s commitment to the presidency of the authority to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe such policy statements as advisory, giving them the due weight that comity between the legislative and executive branches should require, to the extent consistent with U.S. foreign policy.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 30, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 1646, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 107–228.

Statement on Signing a Continuing Resolution *September 30, 2002*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 111, a short-term continuing resolution for FY 2003. The resolution provides appropriations for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government through October 4, 2002. It ensures that Government operations continue without interruption at their current operating level, creates no new programs, and contains no increases in spending.

Section 117 of the continuing resolution purports to prohibit all executive branch agencies from spending any funds made available under the continuing resolution “in violation of section 501 of title 44, United States Code.” That section would require executive branch agencies to procure printing from the Government Printing Office, a legislative branch entity. The longstanding position of the executive branch, memorialized in a May 1996 opinion by the Department of Justice, is that this language violates the constitutional principles of separation of powers and therefore is not binding on the executive branch. [See Memorandum from Walter Dellinger, Assistant Attorney General, to Emily C. Hewitt, General Counsel, General Services Administration, May 31, 1996.]

My Administration will continue to work with the Congress to ensure that sound fiscal principles are adhered to as we complete action on the FY 2003 appropriations bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 30, 2002.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 111, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 107–229.

Memorandum on the Transfer of Funds From International Organizations and Programs Funds to the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund *September 30, 2002*

Presidential Determination No. 2002–32

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on the Transfer of Funds from International Organizations and Programs Funds to the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), I hereby determine it is necessary for the purposes of the FAA that the \$34 million in FY 2002 International Organizations and

Programs funds that were allocated for the United Nations Population Fund be transferred to, and consolidated with, the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund, and such funds are hereby transferred and consolidated. The transferred funds will be administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development in support of reproductive health and maternal health and related programs.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 4, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on October 7.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

October 1, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. All of us here around the table are concerned about jobs, concerned about our economy. We want people to be able to find work. And we had a very good discussion about how Congress and the administration can work together to get a terrorism insurance bill done before Congress goes home. I asked the Members to get a—to work hard in the next couple of days and get an agreement by Friday. They're going to work hard to see if they can't come up with an agreement.

There's over \$15.5 billion worth of construction projects which aren't going forward because they can't get insurance on their projects, can't insure the buildings or the project. And therefore, there's 300,000 people who—jobs aren't going forward. And this is a way for us to work together to put people back to work here in America. It's a really important piece of legislation. And I appreciate the spirit of both Republicans and Democrats, Senators and Congressmen, to get this thing done before they go home.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Laidlaw—Lindlaw [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press], excuse me. Laidlaw—Lindlaw.

Alternative Resolution on Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. There's a resolution being circulated by Senators Biden and Lugar, an alternative resolution on authorizing force in Iraq. What's wrong with that alternative?

The President. Well, I—first of all, I appreciate all the Members of Congress working to come up with a resolution. It sends a clear signal to the world that this country is determined to disarm Iraq and thereby bring peace to the world. Members of both parties are working to get a consensus. Secondly—and we'll continue to work with the Members of Congress. But I don't want to get a resolution which ties my hands, a resolution which is weaker than that which was passed out of the Congress in 1998. The Congress in 1998 passed a very strong resolution. They wisely recognized that Saddam Hussein is a threat—was a threat in '98, and he's more of a threat 4 years later.

My question is, what's changed? Why would Congress want to weaken the resolution? This guy's had 4 years to lie, deceive, to arm up. He's had 4 years to thumb his nose at the world. He is stockpiling more weapons. So I'm not sure why Members would like to weaken the resolution.

But we'll work with the Members, and I'm confident we can get something done. And we'll be speaking with one voice here in the country, and that's going to be important for the United Nations to hear that voice. It's going to be important for the world to hear that voice. All of us recognize a military option is not the first choice, but disarming this man is, because he faces a true threat to the United States. And we've just got to work together to get something done.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters]. No, not Patsy. Holland—yes, sorry—Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Longshoremen Labor Dispute

Q. Sir, does the West Coast longshoremen dispute represent the kind of threat to the U.S. economy that might require a Taft-Hartley injunction?

The President. Steven, we're worried about it. We're closely monitoring it. This is a—any strike's a tough situation, but this one happens to come at a—or a lockout is a tough situation, or no work is a tough situation. This is coming at a bad time. And so we're watching it very closely.

There's a Federal mediator on the ground, and I urge both parties to utilize the mediator. But we'll continue to pay attention to it. It's a problem, and it's something that we're just going to have to get these parties to work through and get back to work, open these ports up. It's important for our economy we do so.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

National Economy/Prospect of War With Iraq

Q. Mr. President, increasingly, investment fund managers are saying that the prospect of war with Iraq has contributed to the third-quarter performance this year, the worst since the crash in 1987. Are you concerned, first of all, about the shrinking investment and retirement portfolios for Americans? And do you think the U.S. economy is strong enough to withstand a war with Iraq, should we end up in war in that region?

The President. Of course, I haven't made up my mind we're going to war with Iraq. I've made up my mind, we need to disarm the man.

Secondly, yes, I think the U.S. economy is strong. Obviously, there's some—some rough spots in our economy. But we'll deal with them. Interest rates are low. Inflation's low. Productivity's high. This great country is going to recover. And yes, we're strong enough to handle the challenges ahead.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

French Proposal to the U.N. Security Council

Q. Mr. President, the Permanent Five of the Security Council are meeting as you speak, and France is holding fast to its position of wanting a two-stage resolution. Are you willing to modify your position, sir, and come in line with France's position, in the spirit of cooperation, to achieve a tough U.N. resolution?

The President. What I won't accept is something that allows Saddam Hussein to

continue to lie, deceive the world. He's been doing that for 11 years. For 11 years, he's told the United Nations Security Council, "Don't worry. I accept your resolution." Then he doesn't follow through. And we're just not going to accept something that is weak. It is not worth it. It's—the United Nations must show its backbone. And we will work with members of the Security Council to put a little calcium there, put calcium in the backbone, so this organization is able to more likely keep the peace as we go down the road.

Q. Are you suggesting the French proposal is weak?

The President. I'm suggesting that the same old stuff isn't going to work, John. And we won't accept the status quo. There needs to be a strong new resolution in order for us to make it clear to the world—and to Saddam Hussein, more importantly—that you must disarm.

And I look forward to looking at all their proposals. Just like we're dealing with everybody concerned, we will listen to points of view. But the final bottom line has got to be a very strong resolution, so that we don't fall into the same trap we have done for the last 11 years, which is nothing happens.

Saddam Hussein has thumbed his nose at the world. He's a threat to the neighborhood. He's a threat to Israel. He's a threat to the United States of America. And we're just going to have to deal with him. And the best way to deal with him is for the world to rise up and say, "You disarm, and we'll disarm you." And if not—if at the very end of the day nothing happens, the United States, along with others, will act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the Death of Walter Annenberg

October 1, 2002

Walter Annenberg's life serves as a shining example of generosity, patriotism, and dedication to serving others. As Ambassador to

Great Britain, he was an outstanding representative of America to the world. As a business leader and an innovator, he understood the media's impact on American culture and encouraged television to be a positive influence on society.

Mr. Annenberg firmly believed that strong education was the key to a quality citizenry, and his commitment to education reform has benefited innumerable lives through research, support for scholarships, and greater accessibility to educational programming through public television. America is a better place because of his contributions and influence. He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on.

Proclamation 7599—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2002

October 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we recognize the progress being made towards a cure for this disease, which robs so many women of their health and, in too many cases, their lives. This year, an estimated 203,000 American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and almost 40,000 will die. Although we have made great medical strides in understanding breast cancer, much remains to be done to advance prevention, early detection, and effective treatment.

Regular screenings remain the most effective way to identify breast cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages. For women 40 and over, having mammograms every 1 to 2 years can reduce the risk of dying from breast cancer. To ensure mammography is available to all American women, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides screening and treatment services through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Now in its 12th year, this Program has offered free and low-cost mammograms to almost 1.5 million low-income and minority women across our country.

In addition, the Federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act allows States to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income, uninsured women who were screened through the CDC program and found to need treatment for breast or cervical cancer. To date, the Department of Health and Human Services has approved this Medicaid eligibility in 45 States.

To prevent breast cancer, we must increase awareness of its risk factors and causes. Age and genetic factors have been shown to increase the risk of breast cancer. And researchers are now exploring how diet and hormonal factors are linked to possible causes. This information will help women and their doctors make informed health care choices.

My Administration continues to support research efforts to discover a cure and advance our understanding of breast cancer. The National Cancer Institute invested more than \$475 million last year on breast cancer research, and we will devote an estimated \$535.8 million this year and approximately \$604.3 million next year. In addition to these important funding increases taken by my Administration, Americans have raised more than \$23 million over the past 4 years by purchasing the Breast Cancer Research stamp, which will be available until December 31, 2003, from the United States Postal Service. I also commend all of the private and non-profit groups, especially everyone who has worked on the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, for all their efforts and contributions in the fight against breast cancer.

Much of this funding is directed towards clinical trials dedicated to finding new and more effective ways of preventing, detecting, and treating breast cancer. America is grateful to the brave and generous women who help fight this disease by participating in clinical trials. Researchers rely on these courageous patients, who help us learn about the safety and effectiveness of new approaches of treatment and, in doing so, bring us closer to eliminating this terrible disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, healthcare professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to controlling and curing breast cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Proclamation 7600—National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2002

October 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

All of our citizens should have the opportunity to live and work with dignity and freedom. Every October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, to recognize the talents, skills, and dedication of disabled Americans who are a vital part of our workforce. During this month, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities who want to work can receive the training they need to achieve their goal.

This year marks the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA has allowed disabled persons to participate more fully in our society; and it has opened doors for countless Americans by removing barriers, improving employment opportunities, expanding government services, and regulating public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. Much work remains to be done; for many individuals with disabilities still find it difficult to pursue an education, obtain a job, or own a home.

My Administration remains committed to helping America's more than 50 million disabled persons to obtain meaningful work and to achieve the ADA's promise of equality of opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Last year, I announced my New Freedom Initiative to promote these goals. It is a comprehensive plan that fosters the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of American life. This initiative provides increased access to innovative assistive technologies, expands educational options, increases access to gainful employment, and promotes full access to community life.

My Administration continues to enforce the ADA and is working with employers to build partnerships that support creative job accommodations and provide all Americans with meaningful and successful careers. Breaking down barriers requires this kind of cooperative, sustained, and consistent effort. We must continue to work for an America where all individuals are respected for who they are, celebrated for their abilities, and encouraged to realize their full potential and achieve their dreams.

By joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), the Congress has, each year since 1945, called upon this Nation to recognize the contributions that workers with disabilities have made, and requested the President to issue a proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon all government leaders, labor leaders, and employers to collaborate to ensure the full inclusion of our Nation's persons with disabilities in the 21st century workforce.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

**Proclamation 7601—National
Domestic Violence Awareness
Month, 2002**

October 1, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Domestic violence in America is intolerable and must be stopped. According to the 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey, almost 700,000 incidents of violence between partners were documented in our Nation, and thousands more go unreported. And in the past quarter century, almost 57,000 Americans were murdered by a partner. Children who witness domestic violence often grow up believing that physical cruelty in relationships is acceptable behavior, and thus they may tend to perpetuate a cycle of violence in society.

Many Federal, State, and local programs addressing the domestic violence problem have achieved success, bringing greater safety to families. The success of coordinated community-based efforts is helping us win the battle against domestic violence. Community leaders, police, judges, advocates, healthcare workers, and concerned Americans are working together across America to develop solutions to this serious problem and to implement services that will improve our responses when it occurs. For example, many police departments and district attorneys offices have created specialized domestic violence units that cooperate with community advocates to enhance services for victims; and representatives from the faith community frequently provide essential support in areas where there may be no other services available. Programs designed to educate men and women about ways they can help prevent domestic violence are being developed across our Nation. Every citizen has the ability to aid and assist those suffering from domestic abuse and to let victims know that support is available through shelters, hotlines, and other services.

To better assist victims in need, my Administration recently implemented funding for new programs to improve outreach and services for people who are older or who have disabilities.

We have also intensified our efforts to provide meaningful access to Federally sponsored programs for individuals with limited English proficiency, making it easier for them to escape violence, report crime, and gain access to community services.

We must continue to hold domestic abusers accountable; we must punish them to the full extent of the law; and we must prevent them from inflicting more abuse. Protective orders are helpful and can be enforced in every jurisdiction in our country, which means their power extends across State lines and onto tribal lands. This legal authority makes it easier for police and prosecutors to keep aggressors away from their intended targets. Many abusers become more dangerous after court-enforced separation from their victims and often use visitation or exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict abuse. We are working to expand programs that improve the safety of family members in these situations.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge all Americans to join together in recommitting themselves to eliminating domestic violence and reaching out to its victims, letting them know that help is available. With dedication and vigilance, we can increase safety for thousands of our citizens and bring hope to countless Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to become a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence and to send the message that this crime will not be tolerated in our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

**Remarks at the White House
Conference on Missing, Exploited,
and Runaway Children**

October 2, 2002

Thanks for coming. One of the reasons I like this job so much is, you get to be introduced by your wife. [*Laughter*] And I appreciate Laura's love and compassion for all children, and I appreciate the job she's doing. I'm a lucky man to be able to call her my wife—call her my wife. And thanks for coming.

The kidnaping of a child is every parent's worst nightmare. Yet, too many moms and dads have experienced this nightmare across America. Too many have suffered. I've just met with parents—Laura and I met with parents—who have had the most precious person in their lives suddenly and brutally taken away from them. Some of these parents were eventually reunited with their children. Some are still hoping and waiting. Some know they will never see their loved ones again in this earthly life.

When a child's life or liberty or innocence is taken, it is a terrible, terrible loss. And those responsible have committed a terrible crime. Our society has a duty, has a solemn duty, to shield children from exploitation and danger. At this conference, we are discussing the steps that parents and community leaders and law enforcement can take to prevent such tragedies.

I want to thank the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for helping organize this important and vital meeting. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I appreciate the senior members of my administration who are leading the sessions at today's conference. I thank our Secretary of State Colin Powell, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary Tommy Thompson, Secretary Rod Paige. I appreciate the Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller, for coming. And

I want to thank the Commissioner, Robert Bonner, of the U.S. Customs.

I know there's a lot of Members of Congress who are here. I see the great Senator from Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, is here, as well as other Members of Congress. Thank you all for coming. Thank you for taking this issue seriously, and thanks for joining with a lot of concerned citizens.

I appreciate so very much the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. They do a really good job for America. I want to thank Ernie Allen—I want to thank Ernie, and I want to thank Carolyn Atwell-Davis, the legal consultant, for their hard work and for their care and concern. I also want to thank Margaret Spellings, who is Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, for moderating this conference.

And of course, I've got to say something about John Walsh, TV star. But he's a guy who cares deeply about our country, about the safety of our citizens. And John, thank you for the service you do on behalf of the American people.

Our first duty as adults is to create an environment in which children can grow and thrive without fearing for their security. That's what we've got to do. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the care of adults. Because they're so vulnerable, those who are cruel and predatory often target our children.

We see the dangers to our children in the cases of abduction, many of which are known to us all. Each year, tens of thousands of children are abducted by non-family members, often in connection with a crime. And while the overwhelming majority of these children are returned from abductions, too many are not. One is too many, particularly for the mom or dad who suffers deeply.

We see the dangers in the experience of runaway children who are often victims of hunger and sickness and sexual abuse. Every year, assaults and illness and suicide take the lives of about 5,000 runaways. One life is too many.

The threats to our children are found not just on the streets, but they're found on the technology which we use in our homes. The Internet is a wonderful tool for our children to broaden their knowledge, expand their

minds, but the evils of the world have crept into the Internet. In one year alone, one in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation over the Internet. With expanding use of the Internet and the heightened activity of predators searching for underage victims, more children are being lured into harmful and even tragic situations.

In every region in the world, children can be vulnerable, not just here at home but children everywhere. Each year, about a million girls and boys are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Such trafficking is nothing less than a modern form of slavery, an unspeakable and unforgivable crime against the most vulnerable members of the global society. All these dangers put children at risk. All these dangers demand action to protect our children from harm.

The Justice Department has made the prevention and investigation of child abductions a major priority. We're providing State and local authorities with access to fingerprint record and forensic experts and training on missing-children cases. We want the local authorities to have the best available technologies and skills in order to respond quickly. The Department sponsors a 24-hour hotline for reporting missing children, which is operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. We're waging an nationwide effort to prevent use of the Internet to sexually exploit children. We're seeking to almost double the funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which will help State and local authorities enforce laws against child pornography and exploitation.

We're vigorously prosecuting those who prey on our children. We need to send a clear message: If you prey on our children, there will be serious, severe consequences.

Earlier this year, in Operation Candyman, the FBI dismantled a major child pornography ring. They made more than 100 arrests. I'm pleased that the House of Representatives passed the "Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act" this year to revise and strengthen our pornography laws. The Senate needs to work with the House to get legislation done before they go home.

We need to do everything we can to protect our children from the evils of pornography.

We will not forget the suffering and struggles of America's runaway children. The Federal Government supports hundreds of emergency shelters and programs that reach out to young people living on the street, offering them food and comfort and counseling. These programs are mainly administered by community and faith-based groups. After all, it's in our faith-based community where we hear that universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's in our faith-based groups that we find deep compassion to help those in need and who are troubled. And many of the runaway kids are troubled and in deep need of love.

There are as many as 100,000 runaway children every year. And these children are vulnerable; they're vulnerable to exploitation. There are some great programs in America, people who are soldiers in the armies of compassion, one of which is the Covenant House. We're honored today to have Sister Mary Rose McGeady here. She runs the Covenant House. And if you don't know anything about the Covenant House and if you're interested in helping, support the Covenant House or programs like the Covenant House, because these people help those on the street, those young, vulnerable children on the street, to realize there is love in our society and there is hope for a better way.

On the international front, the United States is acting vigorously against the trafficking of young people. Last February, I established an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. The task force is working hard to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent future trafficking. The past year alone, the Department of Justice prosecuted 4 times as many traffickers as it did 2 years ago. We are making progress.

We've got to continue to work with our friends and allies to prevent this scourge from not only spreading but to stop it. It is, as I said earlier, slavery. And this Nation stands against slavery of any kind.

The responsibility to protect America's children is shared throughout our society by government at every level and by parents in

every home. Parents, of course, are the first line of defense against danger. To help our parents protect their children, the Department of Education has distributed a new guidebook providing practical steps that parents can take to make their children safer, practical steps that make it clear about how a parent needs to deal with their child about the dangers facing children. And this information, you'll be pleased to hear, is written in ways so that the children can actually understand what's on the page.

The book tells mothers and fathers how to rehearse with their children what to say or do if they ever feel threatened. It's a practical guide to explain to children how to deal with predators that are smooth and seductive, how to deal with somebody that's a stranger that sounds sweet-talking but may in their heart be dark and dangerous for our children. The book also lists Web sites that provide information about protecting children. Information is powerful, and it's important for our parents to know.

Parents need to pay as much attention to their children, by the way, when they're on the Internet as when they're on a playground. They've got to know what their children are doing on the Internet. They've got to know with whom they're conversing. This guidebook will help. We're passing it out to the Nation's schools, and the schools will then make it available to parents. And as well, parents can request a copy of the guidebook, a practical go-by as to how to train your children how to deal with potential danger. And you can find it on missingkids.com. If you're interested, if you want a practical go-by, call up missingkids.com on the Internet, and you'll get some practical steps as to how to help your children avoid danger.

Sometimes, in spite of a family's best effort, the unthinkable does happen, and that's really sad. It breaks my heart to know that that continues to happen in America. At that point, the parents need the support—when their child is abducted, the parent need immediate support of their communities, quick action to find their children. Time is of the essence.

One of the most successful programs to locate abducted children is what's called the AMBER Plan. It's a voluntary partnership

through which police and local broadcasters issue urgent bulletins to the public as soon as a child is missing. The program began in a local effort in Texas, I'm proud to report, in the Dallas area in 1996 after Amber Hagerman was abducted.

My friend State Senator Florence Shapiro is with us, I believe, one of the panelists. She helped launch the AMBER program. I know that it makes her feel really good to know that AMBER, when in place, can really help people, just like it helped Sharon Brooks and her 16-year-old daughter, Tamara. This summer, Tamara and Jacqueline were abducted at gunpoint in Lancaster, California. Tamara told us her story. The police issued an AMBER Alert within hours and soon received tips that led to their rescue. People all across America shared a great feeling of relief when she and her buddy were rescued. One of the reasons they were is because of the AMBER Plan.

There are gaps in AMBER, however. There are gaps in the AMBER Plan coverage which must be filled, and we can fill them. We will develop more AMBER Plans and better coordination among plans. We should not allow another day to go by without taking steps to expand the AMBER Plan's reach all across our country. And so the Attorney General today is appointing an AMBER Alert Coordinator to help State and local officials develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER Plans all across America.

The Department of Justice will establish standards for the issuance and dissemination of alerts. The Justice and Transportation Departments will take immediate action to provide a total of \$10 million to improve the growing network of AMBER Plans. We want AMBER Plan Alerts to be issued as quickly and as effectively as possible, including electronic billboards along the Nation's highways.

I support legislation passed by Senator Hutchison of Texas and Senator Feinstein of California to achieve the goals I just outlined and codify them in law. And I want to thank you both for your hard work. The House hasn't acted yet, so I am going to. And that's why I've just laid out the initiative. If possible, it would be very helpful if the House passed the Hutchison-Feinstein law before they go home.

I also am pleased that good corporate citizens are involved with helping our children. And I particularly want to point out Toys R Us or Wal-Mart, Home Depot, as well as Ford Motor dealerships, which are providing free child photo IDs, so that parents can provide law enforcement with sharply focused head-and-shoulder pictures along with relevant biological information in the event of emergency. By the end of this year, more than 2½ million children will have been photographed and identified to help recover them if they're ever abducted.

I hope a lot of other companies follow these good citizens' example. I hope you make available resources necessary to help us combat—to fight against abduction and to help save those lives—save the lives of those who have fallen prey to one of the worst crimes in our society.

This White House Conference on Missing and Exploited and Runaway Children is important for America. It just is. And I want to thank you all for coming. This is the beginning of a refocused effort at the Federal level to help save people's lives. This is an attempt—more than an attempt—this is the beginning of a successful strategy implemented at all levels of government and all parts of our society to recognize a real threat and to deal with it, to recognize there are some so evil in our society that they're willing to harm our most precious and most vulnerable citizens, and to be prepared to respond quickly when that happens, to help people prevent it from happening in the first place, to make it clear, if you do it and we catch you, there's going to be serious consequences for you.

We can deal with this problem, because this is America. This is a country full of people who love and care. It's a compassionate and decent nation. This is the beginning of a concerted effort to do our duty as responsible citizens of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Again, I want to thank you all for taking your citizenship seriously. I want to thank you for understanding that a patriot is somebody more than who just puts their hand on their heart; a patriot is somebody who is willing to do whatever you can to make this

country the best—continue to be the best on the face of our Earth.

May God bless your efforts. May God bless our children. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:09 p.m. in the Atrium Hall at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ernie Allen, president and chief executive officer, Carolyn Atwell-Davis, government relations liaison, and John Walsh, co-founder, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; Sister Mary Rose McGeady, president, Covenant House; Texas State Senator Florence Shapiro; and Jacqueline Marris, who was abducted with Tamara Brooks in Lancaster, CA, on August 1. The President also referred to H.R. 4623, the proposed "Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002," and S. 2986, the proposed "National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002."

Remarks Announcing Bipartisan Agreement on a Joint Resolution To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq

October 2, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. Today I'm joined by leaders of the House and the Senate from both political parties to show our unity of purpose in confronting a gathering threat to the security of America and to the future of peace.

I want to thank in particular Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt, Leader Lott, for the tremendous work in building bipartisan support on this vital issue. I also want to thank Senators Warner, Lieberman, McCain, and Bayh for introducing this resolution, which we've agreed to on the floor of the Senate this morning.

The text of our bipartisan resolution is clear, and it is strong. The statement of support from the Congress will show to friend and enemy alike the resolve of the United States. In Baghdad, the regime will know that full compliance with all U.N. security demands is the only choice and that time remaining for that choice is limited.

On its present course, the Iraqi regime is a threat of unique urgency. We know the treacherous history of the regime. It has waged a war against its neighbors. It has

sponsored and sheltered terrorists. It has developed weapons of mass death. It has used them against innocent men, women, and children. We know the designs of the Iraqi regime. In defiance of pledges to the U.N., it has stockpiled biological and chemical weapons. It is rebuilding the facilities used to make those weapons.

U.N. inspectors believe that Iraq could have produced enough biological and chemical agent to kill millions of people. The regime has the scientists and facilities to build nuclear weapons and is seeking the materials needed to do so.

We know the methods of this regime. They buy time with hollow promises. They move incriminating evidence to stay ahead of inspectors. They concede just enough to escape—to escape punishment and then violate every pledge when the attention of the world is turned away.

We also know the nature of Iraq's dictator. On his orders, opponents have been decapitated and their heads displayed outside their homes. Women have been systematically raped as a method of intimidation. Political prisoners are made to watch their own children being tortured. The dictator is a student of Stalin, using murder as a tool of terror and control within his own cabinet, within his own army, even within his own family. We will not leave the future of peace and the security of America in the hands of this cruel and dangerous man.

None of us here today desire to see military conflict, because we know the awful nature of war. Our country values life and never seeks war unless it is essential to security and to justice. America's leadership and willingness to use force, confirmed by the Congress, is the best way to ensure compliance and avoid conflict. Saddam must disarm, period. If, however, he chooses to do otherwise, if he persists in his defiance, the use of force may become unavoidable.

The course of action may bring many sacrifices. Yet delay, indecision, and inaction could lead to a massive and sudden horror. By timely and resolute action, we can defend ourselves and shape a peaceful future. Together with the Congress, I will do everything necessary to protect and defend our country.

In accepting this responsibility, we also serve the interests and the hopes of the Iraqi people. They are a great and gifted people, with an ancient and admirable culture, and they would not choose to be ruled by violence and terror. The people of Iraq are the daily victims of Saddam Hussein's oppression. They will be the first to benefit when the world's demands are met. Americans believe all men and women deserve to be free. And as we saw in the fall of the Taliban, men and women celebrate freedom's arrival.

The United States will work with other nations. We'll work with other nations to bring Saddam to account. We'll work with other nations to help the Iraqi people form a just government and a unified country. And should force be required, the United States will help rebuild a liberated Iraq.

Countering Iraq's threat is also a central commitment on the war on terror. We know Saddam Hussein has longstanding and ongoing ties to international terrorists. With the support and shelter of a regime, terror groups become far more lethal. Aided by a terrorist network, an outlaw regime can launch attacks while concealing its involvement. Even a dictator is not suicidal, but he can make use of men who are. We must confront both terror cells and terror states, because they are different faces of the same evil.

I brought this issue to the attention of the world, and many, many countries share our determination to confront this threat. We're not alone. The issue is now before the United States Congress. This debate will be closely watched by the American people, and this debate will be remembered in history. We didn't ask for this challenge as a country, but we will face it, and we will face it together.

As the vote nears, I urge all Members of Congress to consider this resolution with the greatest of care. The choice before them could not be more consequential. I'm confident that members of both parties will choose wisely.

I appreciate Members of Congress who are willing to address you all, starting with the Speaker of the House, Denny Hastert. [At this point, Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, Representative Richard A. Gephardt, Senator John W. Warner, Senator Joseph I.

Lieberman, and Senator John McCain made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Speaker Hastert, Representative Gephardt, Senator Warner, Senator Lieberman, and Senator McCain. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the text of the Joint Resolution To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Gubernatorial Candidate Robert L.
Ehrlich, Jr., in Baltimore, Maryland
October 2, 2002**

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks. The reason this is such a successful event is because people know that Bob Ehrlich will make a great Governor for Maryland. I believe it, and that's why I'm here. I believe that's the reason why Democrats and Republicans support this good man—because he's honest, he's hard-working, and he's got a positive vision for everybody who lives in the State of Maryland.

I'm here because this man is somebody who wants to unite this State, not divide it. And I'm here because he married well. I appreciate Kendel, and I know Bob does as well. And I want you to know, I appreciate Laura too. She's sorry she can't be here tonight. She is—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. She was living in Texas, and so was I. The truth of the matter is she didn't like politics then. *[Laughter]* And she wasn't too fond of politicians either. *[Laughter]* And here she is, married to me. *[Laughter]*

But people, as they've gotten to know Laura, now know the reason why I asked her to marry me. She's really a fine, fine lady. A lot of her buddies are wondering why she said yes. *[Laughter]* But she does send her best and sends all her support to the Ehrlichs and wishes them all the best and joins me

in urging the people of Maryland to give this good man a chance to be the Governor of this important State.

I have known the next Lieutenant Governor for a while. He's a good, solid citizen of the State of Maryland. He'll work well with Bob. It is an honor to be on the podium with the next Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland, Michael Steele. And I had the honor of meeting his good wife, Andrea, and I appreciate Andrea standing by her man during this tough campaign here. Campaigns are hard. They're not easy on a family. But I appreciate—I appreciate her joining Michael in this race.

I'm honored to be back with former Congressman, soon-to-be Congresswoman Helen Bentley. I figure that when she wins, she'll be telling me what to do. *[Laughter]* And those of you know, who know Helen, know that I'd better listen. *[Laughter]* It's great to see Helen. I love her spirit. I know she's going to win.

I'm also proud to be here with Ellen Sauerbrey, who's the national committee-woman. I want to thank Chairman Louis Pope of the Republican Party. I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank you for—

Audience member. *[Inaudible]* *[Laughter]*

The President. I didn't ask for any speeches; I just said—*[laughter]*. Okay, let me tell you what you're going to have to do then. *[Laughter]* I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is to turn out the vote.

Listen, a lot of you never get thanked enough. I'm thanking you. I'm thanking you for dialing the phones and putting up the signs and for mailing the letters. I'm thanking you for going to your community centers and your coffee shops. I'm thanking you for supporting this ticket ahead of time, because they need your help, and they want your work. You've got to talk it up between now and election day. And you've got to find those Ehrlich voters and make sure they go to the polls, and this man will be your next Governor.

And there's some reasons why. You need somebody who can manage your government, somebody who knows how to balance

the books without raising the taxes on the taxpayers. That's what you need. You need somebody who can make a tough decision who doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him how to think, somebody who stands on principle, somebody who will do in office what he says he will do. And when he says he won't raise your taxes, he won't raise your taxes.

I appreciate the fact that Governor Ehrlich will set education as the number one priority for this State. The way I used to put it when I was a Governor, I said, "Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government." Education has got to be the number one priority of your Governor, and it will be Bob's number one priority. We share the same philosophy. It says, "Every child can learn." That's what we believe. See, that's important to have in your Governor's office, somebody who's willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations.

You see, if you lower standards, if you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results. And that's not fair for the children. Governor Ehrlich will raise the standards. He'll trust the local people to manage their way to excellence. But he and I agree on this, and that is, we've got to know. See, as a society, we've got to measure to determine whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is essential that you have a Governor who is strong on accountability.

You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you're willing to measure. If you believe certain children can't learn, then you don't care, and you don't measure. But in order to make sure no child gets left behind in the State of Maryland, you must have a Governor who uses the accountability system to praise those teachers and principals who succeed on behalf of the children but also someone who is willing to challenge the schools which will not teach and will not change. Bob Ehrlich will be a Governor who will make sure that no child is left behind in the State of Maryland.

The job of a Governor is to create an environment in which people can find work and the economy grows. That's why he is insistent upon infrastructure, to be wise about the use of taxpayers' money, to expand the asset base

which will encourage private sector growth. I love his vision about the Port of Baltimore and the Baltimore/Washington International Airport. He understands job creation. See, that's what he knows. And it's important to have somebody in the Governor's office who understands how jobs are created.

The role of Government isn't to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can realize his or her dreams, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. That's the kind of Governor you need.

He'll be effective. He's smart. He's compassionate, and his record speaks to his compassion. He worked for tax credits for parents who adopt children. He worked hard to make sure there's equal health insurance benefits for the mentally ill. He works to have increased access to individuals in the workplace who may be disabled. See, that's the kind of Governor you want. You want somebody who's tough when it comes to the budget, making sure that it's balanced but compassionate when it comes to helping people who need help.

There's no question in my mind that this man, when elected, will make Maryland a safer and stronger and better place for every citizen who lives in this State. And my job as the President is to make sure America is a safer and stronger and better country. A strong country is one in which people can find work. Anytime somebody is looking for work and they can't find work in America, I think we have a problem. And we've got to do everything we can at the Federal level to make sure our economy grows.

I worry about people who have lost value in their 401(k)s. I worry about people looking for work who can't find work. I worry about uncertainty.

We're beginning to make progress because the foundations for growth are strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is down. The productivity of the American worker is the highest and best in the world. We've got a lot of strong things going for us.

For a while there was a kind of an overhang in our economy because we had some of our citizens who thought they could fudge the books, who forgot what it means to be a responsible citizen, who got caught up in

money, not in responsibility. I had the honor of signing, and Bob voted for, the most significant corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. Our message to corporate America, to those citizens who think they can cheat, is, "Those days are over with."

When I first came in, I was aware that the economy was dragging. And that's why I worked with Congressman Ehrlich and others to pass a significant tax cut, because I took a page out of this economic textbook. The page said if you let a person keep more of their own money—and notice I said more of their own money; it's not the Government's money, it's your money—if you keep more of your own money, if you have more money in your pocket, you're going to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, in this marketplace economy, somebody's going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. If you're interested in creating more jobs, you let people keep more of their own money. The tax cuts came at the exact right time in American economic history.

We slashed the marriage penalty. We believe that the Tax Code ought to encourage families and encourage marriage, not discourage families and marriage. And we did something else to help the entrepreneur and the farmer and the rancher, and that is we put the death tax on the way to extinction.

But here's the problem. Here's the problem—this is kind of hard to explain. The rules in the Senate are such that that tax relief plan that we all worked so hard to enact goes away after 10 years. So the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. [*Laughter*] For the sake of job creation, for the sake of economic expansion, for the sake of those who want to find work, the Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

I worry about hardhats trying to find work. I worry about that. And so—I met, I guess it was yesterday—time flies up there—[*laughter*]*—*but I met yesterday with Members of the House and Senate, both parties, to urge them to pass a terrorism insurance bill.

There's over \$15 billion worth of projects, construction projects, which are not going forward because people can't get terrorism insurance. And for the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of hardhats, they need to get together and get a bill—a bill, by the way, which does not reward trial lawyers and does reward working people in America. I want to assure you, we will not rest until people can find work. And I look forward to working with ways to create the environment for economic expansion. I want to work to make America more confident about our future.

One way to make sure that Americans are more confident about the future and availability of capital is to make sure Congress does not overspend. And we have a problem in Washington, right around the corner from here. Every idea sounds like a brilliant idea. [*Laughter*] The problem is, they've all got billions of dollars attached to them as price tags. There is no budget in the United States Senate. They couldn't pass a budget. You can imagine what that means. It means that there is the tendency to overspend.

For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of making sure people can find work, the Congress must fund our priorities and not overspend the people's money. We must be fiscally sound in Washington, DC, if we want our economy to grow.

A stronger America is one in which people can find work. And while I'm optimistic about our future, while I understand the spirit of the—the entrepreneurial spirit is strong, we've got work to do. We've got work to do on the economy. And we've also got work to do to make sure America is a safer place.

Economic vitality and growth are a really important part of my job and what's on my mind, but nothing more on my mind than protecting the American people. That's my most important job now, is to make sure that the enemy doesn't hit us again. And they're still out there. They're out there because of what we love and what they hate. They're out there because we love freedom. We love the fact that our fellow citizens can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. We love that, and we're never going to relinquish that freedom.

We love our diversity. We love the fact that people can realize their dreams in America, regardless of where their mom or dad was born. That's what we love. We love the fact that this great country—in this great country you can speak your mind freely. We love a free press. We love everything about our freedoms. And yet we face an enemy which hates freedom. They hate us because of what we love.

We also value life in America. Everybody's precious. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth in this country. And the enemy is nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who are willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion. And that's who we fight.

It's a new reality we face. It just is. This is the first war of the 21st century, but it's a different kind of war. And therefore, I've spent a lot of time explaining to the American people how best we can keep the peace and what we must do to win this new war. It starts with making sure we do everything here at home to organize the agencies involved with the defense of the homeland.

There's over 100 different agencies in Washington, DC, involved with your protection. Before September the 11th, none of them really had as their number one priority the protection of the homeland. Now they should. In order to make sure that we change culture and set priority, I've asked Congress to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. Listen, I readily concede my slogan wasn't, "Vote for George. He wants your Government to be bigger." That wasn't my slogan. My slogan—[laughter]—what I want to have happen is, I want the Government to work. I want to be able to better do the job you expect me to do. And therefore—and therefore, I call upon the Senate to join the House in creating a Department of Homeland Security which enables this President and future Presidents to be able to move people to the right place at the right time in order to protect America.

I need the ability to manage the process. I don't need rules and regulations. I don't need micromanagement by the legislative branch. The House passed a good bill, and now the Senate must do so. They must get after it before they go home. I need a good

bill, and I won't accept anything less. See, this is a chance to leave—for the Congress to leave a legacy for future people, future Presidents, future administrations, to deal with this real threat we face.

But I want you to know, and you need to know, there are a lot of good folks working hard here in America to protect you. There really are. And we're doing a better job. We've got great police and fire, lots of FBI agents and CIA agents working hard. Anytime we get any hint about something might happen, a scintilla of evidence, we're moving on it. We are. We're more responsive. We're more alert. We're disrupting. We're making progress, all within the confines of the United States Constitution.

But the best way to protect the homeland, short term and long term, is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. This is the kind of war—we don't face people who have got tanks and destroyers and bombers. That's a different kind of war. Those are wars of the past. This is a war in which we're fighting resourceful, determined people who hide in caves or the dark recesses of certain cities, and then send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the kind of people we fight.

They are—they are haters, is what they are. And therefore, we're on an international manhunt. And we're making progress. That's just what you've got to know. Sometimes it's hard to tell; it's hard to measure progress. If you're not destroying equipment, it's hard to tell. But we have captured over a couple of thousand of them. I say "we"—the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. That doctrine is still a part of American foreign policy. And so there's a lot of countries working with us. We're sharing intelligence. We're disrupting their finances, and we're hauling them in. The other day we got the fellow—I forgot the guy's name—bin al-Shibh, or whatever his name was. He thought he was going to be the 20th hijacker.

Audience member. Moussaoui.

The President. No, that wasn't Moussaoui. Bin al-Shibh is the guy's name. [Laughter] And he popped his head up, and now he's no longer a problem. [Laughter] We're making progress. We're making

progress. We're working with our friends. We've got a vast coalition of people who understand the stakes and understand the nature of the war. I said we hauled in a couple of thousand; a like number weren't as lucky. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling this particular terrorist network.

I want to thank those of you who have got loved ones in the United States military. I am proud of our military. They're making a huge difference. They're brave, brave troops. I sent the largest increase in defense spending to Capitol Hill since Ronald Reagan was the President up to Congress, because I wanted to send two messages: One, anytime our troops go into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment; and secondly, the defense spending should send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States of America is in this deal for the long haul, that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to defending this country, there's no timeline until we get it right, that we are—that we will stay the course, we will stay—we owe that to our children. We owe it to our children and our children's children to defend freedom and to protect the homeland.

It's a new era. We have new responsibilities in many ways—the same responsibilities, I guess, but new challenges to uphold those responsibilities, because we learned a tough lesson, and that is, oceans no longer protect us. It's a different war, with a different battlefield. And therefore, we must deal with threats as we see them, threats which may in the past have not been so frightening, but now in the new era we've got to deal with them, it seems like to me. In order to do our duty as Americans and leaders, we've got to defend our country and our friends and allies against the real threats that we face.

And there's a grave threat in Iraq. There just is. This is a man who has gassed his own people, used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizens. Imagine what his intentions will be about a country that loves freedom like we do. This is a man who has attacked—and by the way, he used weapons of mass destruction in his own neighborhood too, against countries on his border. This is a man

who has attacked two countries in 22 years. This is a man who kills political dissenters in cold blood. This is a man who, 11 years ago, told the world that he would get rid of weapons of mass destruction, and yet, for 11 long years, he has defied resolution after resolution after resolution out of the United Nations. This is a man who would like nothing more than to team up with a terrorist network, a man who could use a terrorist network perhaps to use the weapons of mass destruction he's developed—and lies about—to harm countries that he can't stand, America, Israel, countries in his own—immediately around him.

And therefore, I thought it was time for us to deal with him, for the sake of freedom. So I went to the United Nations. And my message to the United Nations was this: We want you to succeed as a international body. The world is different. The threats are real. We can do a better job if we work together through the United Nations, and here's your chance to succeed. You have a choice, and the choice is whether you'll be an effective peacekeeping organization or whether you'll be like the League of Nations—your choice.

I also said to Mr. Saddam Hussein, "You said you would disarm—your choice to disarm." Military option is my last choice. It's not my first choice. This man should disarm, like he said. He should do what he said he would do. The United Nations should insist that he does what he said he would do. But for the sake of freedom and for the sake of peace, for the sake of a world that doesn't fear the world's worst leaders with the first world's weapons—with the world's worst weapons, this country will be deliberate, we'll work with others, but we will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

And today I was joined on the steps of the Rose Garden with Members of the House and Members of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats alike, who have joined with us to pass—the desire to pass a strong statement to the world about the resolve and determination of the United States. We're going to have a very constructive debate in Congress, and there should be. I told them today, I thought the debate that was going on is going to be one of the most historic debates ever in the Hall of Congress.

That sentiment was echoed by not only the Speaker but Richard Gephardt, who was there, not only Trent Lott but Joe Lieberman was there, not only John McCain but Democrat Evan Bayh was there. Democrat and Republican alike joined hand-in-hand to send a clear message to the world: We love our peace; we want the world to be a better and more peaceful place. If the United States remains strong and tough and focused, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace here at home. If we speak clearly and renounce terrorism and fight terrorism, we can achieve peace in the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, the enemy hit us. The enemy hit us. But they didn't realize who they hit. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* But they hit a country which loves freedom, a country based upon solid values, a country which, when we need to be strong, is strong. And we need to be compassionate. We can be compassionate. I believe, sincerely believe that out of the evil done to America can come incredible good, starting with peace.

And I know we can be a better country. I know we can be a better country. We can work hard to make sure every child is educated. We can make sure to work—work hard to make sure our seniors get quality health care. Listen, medicine has changed; Medicare hasn't. Medicare is—medicine is modern; Medicare is ancient. For the sake of our seniors, let's modernize Medicare with prescription drugs.

But we must remember, here in America, in spite of our plenty, there are pockets of despair. There just are. And there's pockets of hopelessness. There's places people are addicted; they're lonely. They wonder whether or not the American Dream means anything to them. And my attitude is—and I know it's Bob's attitude—so long as one hurt, we all hurt. And as a society, we must do everything we can to eradicate those pockets of despair.

Now, listen—Government can hand out money. We're pretty good at it at times. *[Laughter]* But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government can't do that. That is done

when our fellow Americans have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to fight evil, if you want to join in the war against terror, if you want to show the world what we're made out of, help somebody in need. See, our society will change, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time, when a neighbor loves a neighbor in need.

I look forward to working with Governor Ehrlich to unleash the true compassion of each society. I'm a strong proponent of the Faith-Based Initiative. I want to unleash the power of love. I want people who go to church and synagogue and mosque, if they want to help a person in need, to be empowered by the Government to do so. Our Governments must not fear faith. We must welcome faith in our society.

No, the enemy hit us, but they—in doing so, they have awakened a great spirit, an American spirit. And I want you all to help move that spirit forward. I know many of you already do this, but mentor a child, or help somebody in need. Continue doing the charitable works you do to help the communities in which you live. It will be a better place for all of us.

One of the reasons I first ran for office is because I wanted to challenge the culture of our country, which has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." My dream was to usher in a period of personal responsibility, to be a part of a cultural shift in which each of understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are a mom or a dad, your most important responsibility is to love your child with all your heart. You're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. You're responsible for the quality of education in the community in which you live. If you're running corporate America, you're responsible to your employees and shareholders to tell the truth. And it's happening.

The responsibility era is happening in America, probably most vividly displayed on Flight 93, when average citizens were flying across the country. They learned their plane was going to be used as a weapon—imagine.

They got on the phone with their loved ones; they used the word “love” a lot. They said goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, “Let’s roll.” They took the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. I believe that is an important lesson for all of us to learn.

Patriotism is more than putting your hand over your heart. Patriotism is serving your Nation. Patriotism is helping people in need. Patriotism is loving somebody just like you’d like to be loved yourself.

No, the enemy hit us. But they didn’t know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, and out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America is going to continue to be a hopeful, compassionate, decent country.

I’m optimistic about our future, because I know America. We’re the finest nation on the face of the Earth, because we’re full of the finest people.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:39 p.m. in the Constellation Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore. In his remarks, he referred to Kendel Ehrlich, wife of Representative Ehrlich; Ellen R. Sauerbrey, national committeewoman, and Louis Pope, chairman, Maryland Republican Party; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and Zacarias Moussoui, an Al Qaida operative who is under indictment in Alexandria, VA, for helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the 1992 Partial Revision of the
Radio Regulations With
Documentation**
September 30, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the 1992 Partial Revision of the Radio Regulations (Geneva, 1979), with appendices, signed by the United States at Malaga-Torremolinos on March 3, 1992 (the “1992 Partial Revision”), together with dec-

larations and reservations of the United States as contained in the Final Acts of the World Administrative Radio Conference for Dealing with Frequency Allocations in Certain Parts of the Spectrum (WARC-92). I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning these revisions.

The 1992 Partial Revision, which was adopted at WARC-92, constitutes a revision of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations (Geneva, 1979), as revised, to which the United States is a party. It provides for additional spectrum for new or expanding telecommunication services, primarily terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, terrestrial and satellite mobile and space services and is consistent with the proposals and positions taken by the United States at the conference.

Subject to the U.S. declarations and reservations mentioned above, I believe that the United States should become a party to the 1992 Partial Revision, which provides additional spectrum for existing and new telecommunication services in which the United States plays a significant leadership role. It is my hope that the Senate will take early action on this matter and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 30, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 3.

**Memorandum on Notification to the
Congress of Trade Negotiations**
October 1, 2002

*Memorandum for the United States Trade
Representative*

Subject: Notification to the Congress of
Trade Negotiations

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress pursuant to section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(a)(1)), of my intention to enter into negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco and a Free Trade

Agreement with Central American Countries. You are also authorized and directed to notify the Congress, pursuant to section 2106(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3806(b)(2)), of the ongoing negotiations on Free Trade Agreements with the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of Chile, negotiations to establish a Free Trade Area for the Americas, and negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 2, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 3, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 3.

Remarks to Hispanic Leaders

October 3, 2002

Thank you all for coming, and welcome to the White House compound. It's my honor to represent—to welcome you all here, to thank you for serving your communities and thank you for serving your Nation. Some of you are seeking office for the first time, and I think you'll find this to be a fantastic experience. Some of you have sought and won, and I want to congratulate you for that, and thanks for serving.

My job is, of course, to promote the diversity of America, to herald the fact that one of the great strengths of America is the fact that we're diverse and that we welcome diversity in this country. And we welcome diversity and celebrate diversity all kinds of ways, and one of the ways is that we've got Hispanic Heritage Month. And we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month here at the White House, and we do so in a variety of ways. One way, of course, is to remind people that I've picked some fabulous Americans who happen to be Hispanic to serve our country.

Everybody has got to have a good lawyer. [Laughter] *Mi abogado es magnifico.* [Laughter] And I want to thank Al Gonzales for his friendship. There's no better advisor.

He's a steady hand who knows the law, and he's doing a great, great job for the country. Ruben Barrales, who runs a very key department here in the White House—I know you're going to hear from Ruben, if you haven't already. He's a good young star and a fine guy. Rosario Marin is the Treasurer of the United States. Rosario, thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here.

If you're interested in finding good examples of people who have won and who have served with distinction, you need to look no farther than two from Florida and one from Texas—[laughter]—Congressman Henry Bonilla, who is a fine, fine—[applause]—and of course, Lincoln Diaz-Balart *y tambien* Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. I appreciate you all for coming.

And I see you brought along Mario, *tu hermano*. [Laughter] Mario, it's good to see you again. Mario Diaz-Balart is a State rep out of the State of Florida, a fine member of the delegation. He's a popular—not only a popular candidate but a popular public servant. And he takes his instructions from his brother—[laughter]—actually, from his mother. [Laughter] Dora Irizarry is here. She is a candidate for the attorney general of the State of New York. Dora, good luck, *buena suerte*. Thanks for coming. We've got a lot of other great candidates—none other than the next Governor of the State of New Mexico, Juan Sanchez. Thank you for coming, John.

I would spend all my time heralding those of you in the legislative branch or in the executive branch, but I've got some other things on my mind. But before I do, I also want to make sure there is diversity in the judicial branch. I have named a really good man to the bench, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, named Miguel Estrada. And I expect the United States Senate to treat this man with respect. I don't want to see the same thing that happened to some of my other candidates, in that they distort his record. I don't want them to distort his record like they did Ms. Owen's or Mr. Pickering. For the sake of a good, strong Federal bench, for the sake of recognizing this man's intelligence and his capabilities, the Senate needs to confirm Miguel Estrada.

Let me share some things that are on my mind, things that I've spent a lot of time thinking about. First is jobs. I think a lot—I spend a lot of time thinking about jobs here in America. I want people to find work. I want people to be able to put bread on the table. I want this country to continue to promote policies that encourage job growth. That's what we ought to be asking here in Washington: What can we do to encourage there to be job growth?

The economy is not like it should be. There are some encouraging signs. Of course, interest rates are low; inflation is low; productivity amongst our workers and producers is the best in the world; and that's incredibly positive.

The foundation for growth is there. The foundation was somewhat troubled by the fact that we had some of our corporate citizens decide they weren't going to tell the truth. They fudged the numbers to deceive shareholder and employee alike. We're taking care of that. I've signed the most comprehensive corporate reform since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. You might have noticed yesterday, people are being brought to justice here in America. We expect there to be corporate responsibility in America, and we will enforce the law to make sure there is corporate responsibility in America.

We're also dealing with things here in Congress to help people have more money. We believe very strongly that when a person has more money in his or her pocket, it is more likely to increase the job base, because if you have more money, you demand a good or a service. When you demand a good or a service, somebody will produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

Tax relief was incredibly important at this moment in our American history. Tax relief will help stimulate job growth because it helps stimulate the growth of small businesses. There are a lot of Latino-owned small businesses in America. One of the great success stories about our economy and about our Nation is the fact that a lot of people realize their dreams through owning their own business. One of the fastest growing sectors of small business in the country is

Latino-owned businesses. And the tax relief plan was really good for small businesses here in America. And the Congress needs to make them permanent.

In order to make sure that we grow our economy, we've got to make sure Congress doesn't overspend. The Senate doesn't even have a budget. If you don't have a budget, it makes it hard to be fiscally sound with the people's money. Sometimes here in Washington, people forget whose money we spend. See, they think it's the Government's money. It's not. It's the people's money. And we've got to be sound when we spend the people's money. We ought to fund priorities, but as they head out of town, the Congress must not overspend. For the sake of job creation and job growth, they must be realistic with the people's money.

I submitted a budget that will get us to balance—a budget that if there's fiscal discipline, we can get back to balance. And Congress needs to not only remember whose money they spend, but Congress must not overspend on their—as they're trying to get out of town.

And finally, there are some things that we can do here to create jobs for working people. We need to have a terrorism insurance package. You see, there's a lot of folks that cannot get insurance, a lot of construction programs that aren't going forward because people can't get insurance, because of what the terrorists did. It's estimated there's over 300,000 hardhats that could be working, 300,000 hardhat jobs that are delayed. Those are our fellow Americans who aren't getting the chance to employ their skills. This afternoon, I'm going to be talking about this issue more. But if Congress truly is interested in joining with me to do everything we can to expand the job base, they need to get a terrorism insurance package before they go home. It's good for the hardhats of America.

The security of the country is on my mind, too. See, there's an enemy which still hates America, and they want to hit us. It's just reality. And therefore, we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. I spend a lot of time worrying about the job security of the American people. I spend a lot of time worrying about the homeland security of the American people as well. It's

my number one priority right now as the President, to protect our homeland.

We must do everything we can to protect innocent life here at home. I'm sure people have—have asked you, you know, why—why would the enemy hate America? Your kids are probably saying, “Why would they hate America?” And you've got to tell them it's because they hate us for what we love. We love freedom. We love the freedom to worship the way we see fit. We love the freedom to speak our mind. We love the freedom to campaign. We love the freedom of the press. We love all our freedoms. We love our diversity. We love the fact that God has created people equal. We love that. We value life in America. Everybody is precious. Everybody has worth. Everybody counts. And we're not changing our mind about those values and our freedom.

The enemy hates freedom. They hate innocent life. They are willing to take innocent life and, at the same time, hijack a great religion. And so long as they are out there, we must do everything we can to defend the homeland—which means I need the capacity here in Washington to assure the American people that the good folks at the Federal level are doing everything they can to protect you.

There's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security, and so I decided, in order to make the protection of the homeland the number one priority, that we ought to bundle all those up to the extent possible and put them under one agency, so that there is authority and responsibility, so that we can set the legacy for future Presidents to be able to better protect the homeland.

And we're having a pretty good debate here in Washington. The House of Representatives, thankfully, passed a bill that is a good bill. The Senate is still struggling with the bill. They need to get it done before they go home. The—let me just tell you what the problem is, so you can get a sense of why I have some frustrations with what is taking place in the Senate.

First of all, the frontline troops, the employees who are working on your behalf, are really good people, good, honorable, hard-working people. And they are people that the morale of which is going to be in the interest

of any President or any Secretary of Homeland Security. In other words, we've got to make sure that morale is high in order for us to better do our jobs. So there should be no question in any employee's mind about the intentions of a President or a future President, that we want people to have job satisfaction in order to be able to do the job.

But we also need to have the authority necessary to succeed in the critical mission. We've got to have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time in order to protect America.

Many of you come from border communities or border States. You know full well that on our borders, there's three different agencies involved with protecting the border, agencies of good, hard-working people, but sometimes agencies with different strategies and different approaches. And sometimes those different strategies and different approaches can promote gaps in security. And we've got to have the capacity to do everything we can to protect the American people from somebody who would want to bring a weapon into our country, for example.

In other words, we've got to be able to let the hard-working people in these agencies better do their job. We can't be constrained by work rules that prevent us from doing a better job, and that's the debate.

The Senate—and some Members of the Senate want to deny this President and future Presidents the authority of—the ability to protect our national security, the ability in some cases to suspend collective bargaining for the sake of national security. That ability has been granted from Jimmy Carter on. President Kennedy had the authority; Jimmy Carter was President when they codified it into law. It doesn't make any sense, in a time of war, to take away that part of the Presidential authority. It just doesn't make any sense to me. It's very important that the President have the capacity to determine that vital national security interests take priority over standard rules governing management and labor relations.

What's really interesting is that if this authority is not applied to the Department of Homeland Security, it still will be applied to Departments such as the Department of Education or the Department of Agriculture.

Those are vital Departments, but does it make sense to allow the authority to exist in the Department of Agriculture but not in the new Department of Homeland Security? Of course it doesn't make any sense. And that's why the Senate must be realistic and reasonable as it approaches this very important issue about how to leave a legacy of homeland security in place.

I will not accept a rollback in the authority that other Presidents have had, and the Senate must understand that. The Senate must understand that I have a duty not only to protect the American people but a duty to protect the prerogatives of the President. If it's good enough for the Department of Agriculture, if this authority is good enough for the employees of the Department of Education or HHS, it certainly should be good enough for the Department of Homeland Security.

We need flexibility to deal with emerging threats. The Customs Service, for example, decided to require inspectors at the Nation's 301 ports to wear radiation detection devices. The world changed. We are worried about weapons of mass destruction coming into our country, and so the Customs Service said, "Why don't we have our folks wear radiation detection devices to be able to pick up any possible signal." The devices work, and they're an important part of somebody being able to do their job.

Under the rules that some Senators support, the union that represents the Customs would be able to say, "You can't do that. That must be voluntary." For the—that doesn't make any sense to me, that we not—that we have to work through a process that would enable our hard-working Customs officials to be able to do that which they think is necessary to protect America. And we can't afford sitting around for a year debating whether or not wearing devices ought to be voluntary or not.

Collective bargaining is important. I support the idea of workers being able to have collective bargaining. But we need to be able to manage the new agency so that we can best protect the American people. And I call upon the Senate to understand the importance of what I just said.

The best way to protect America is to hunt the killers down, one at a time. And that's what we're going to do. This is a different kind of war. It is a war which is not going to be measured in terms of territories gained or tanks destroyed or flotilla destroyed. It's a war in which we're going through an international manhunt, one killer at a time, and bringing people to justice—which means it's essential we continue to uphold the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them." And that doctrine still stands, and there's a lot of really fine countries, with good leaders, working with us to find these killers and to bring them to justice.

And we're just doing just that. Sometimes you'll read about it; sometimes you won't read about it. That's the kind of war this is. Sometimes there's achievements that they'll be blasting out over the cables, and people will be talking about it forever, and sometimes you just won't know what's taking place. But you've got to know, we're making progress. We've hauled in over a couple of thousand of these—we got a guy the other day, who popped his head up and is now no longer a threat to America. He's the one that was going to be the 20th hijacker, and he's no longer available for action with the enemy.

It takes a lot of work—it takes a lot of work. It takes a strong military. And for those of you who have got loved ones in the military, you've got to know, I've got great confidence in our troops. And I want to thank you for your service, and I want to thank you for their service.

And the United States Congress must get a defense appropriations bill to my desk before they go home. I asked for the largest increase in defense spending since President Reagan was the President, because I want our troops to have the best pay, the best training, and best possible equipment. And I want to send a message to the world: When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there's no artificial timeline. When it comes to defending America, civilization, the ability for our children to grow up in a free society, it doesn't matter how long it takes. This great nation will stay the course.

So I expect there to be a defense bill on my desk. I know that Members of the House and Senate are working hard to reconcile

their differences, and I appreciate that. There needs to be a bill on my desk before they go home. There's going to be an important message to determine—important message we send to the world.

And so we're making progress on that front of the war against terror. But there are other fronts on the war against terror that we must deal with. We must deal with countries run by people who are some of the world's worst leaders, who harbor, develop, want to hurt us with the world's worst weapons. That's a form of terror.

The war on terror is more than just Al Qaida. The war on terror is to deal with nations who have terrorized their own people and have intention to terrorize us. See, oceans no longer protect us. There's a new era in America. There's a new threat that faces us. And we've got to deal with these threats. I made the decision to deal with these—the threat of Iraq in an international community. I've called upon other nations to join us, and there will be other nations joining us to help disarm Iraq.

We'll determine whether or not the U.N. Security Council wants to live up to its obligations. After all, for 11 long years the dictator in Iraq, the man who has gassed his own people, gassed people in his neighborhood, the man who's expressly—expressed his hatred for America and our friends and allies—we'll see whether or not the United Nations will be the United Nations or the League of Nations when it comes to dealing with this man who for 11 years has thumbed his nose at resolution after resolution after resolution after resolution.

My intent, of course, is for the United Nations to do its job. I think it'll make it easier for us to keep the peace. My intent is for the world to understand that the obligation is up to Saddam Hussein to disarm like he said he would do. My intent is to put together a vast coalition of countries who understand the threat of Saddam Hussein.

The military option is my last choice, not my first. It's my last choice. But Saddam has got to understand, the United Nations must know, that the will of this country is strong.

Yesterday I had the honor of standing on the steps of the White House, at the Rose Garden, with the Republican leader and

Democrat leader alike—Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt, Trent Lott and Joe Lieberman, John McCain and Evan Bayh—Member after Member who has committed to join with the administration to send a clear signal that when it comes to defending our freedom, the United States of America will stand united and stand strong.

The choice is up to the United Nations to show its resolve. The choice is up to Saddam Hussein to fulfill its word—his word. And if neither of them acts, the United States, in deliberate fashion, will lead a coalition to take away the world's worst weapons from one of the world's worst leaders.

I say that because I have a deep desire for peace, peace in America, peace in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible. I believe that out of the evil done to America can come some really—some good. And one of the good is international peace; I believe that. And therefore, I will continue to speak clearly about good and evil, continue to renounce terrorism in any form, continue to lead the world toward peace, peace not only for ourselves but, because we value all human life, peace in parts of the world that have given up on peace.

I know at home we can be a better country, too. The great country of ours must recognize there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. Amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. So long as any of us hurt, we all should hurt. But I believe that this country can solve any problem put in its path, and one of those is to help inspire all Americans to understand the greatness of this country.

One way to do so, to make a better country, is to make sure that everybody is educated. I passed a really good bill with the Congress and signed a really good bill. They passed it; I signed it. *[Laughter]* I worked with them. And it says this: Every child can learn, see. Every child can learn. And this country will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. This plan recognizes it's so easy to quit on children whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It's easy just to shuffle them through, say, "You know, these kids can't learn; move them through."

We insist upon strong accountability. If you receive Federal money, you've got to

measure, because we believe every child can learn. And therefore, we want to know—we want to know. We must have the courage as citizens of the country to blow the whistle on failure when we find our children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change.

A better America is one that takes care of our seniors, with a good health care system. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine has changed, and yet the old system hasn't changed with it. And we've got to change Medicare. For the good of our seniors, we need prescription drug benefits for our seniors. We need a modern Medicare system.

But the best way to change America is for America to really rely upon the true strength of the country, which is the people of the country. See, Government can hand out money, but it cannot put love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when one of our fellow citizens finds somebody who hurts and puts their arm around him or her, and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? What can I do to make sure you understand the American Dream is meant for you?" That could be mentoring a child, teaching a child to read. That could be running a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop, teaching a child values. That could be making sure somebody has got food if they're hungry.

See, the great strength of America is the heart and soul of the people of this country. And so what's happened is, and it seems like to me, is that the evil ones hit us; America took a step back and said, "In order to fight evil, we all must do some good." And my call to the fellow—my fellow Americans is: Love somebody just like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you're interested in fighting the evil done to us, it doesn't take much, just a small act of kindness and generosity on a daily basis. And it's that gathering momentum of the millions of acts of kindness and generosity and compassion which takes place in America that truly defines the character of this Nation.

I want to thank you all for serving this Nation. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:59 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen and Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., whose nominations to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit failed when the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to send them forward for a vote by the Senate.

Remarks Calling for Congressional Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

October 3, 2002

Thanks for coming today. We're talking about a serious subject, which is jobs, the ability for people to find work in America. I spend a lot of my time worrying about the job security of our fellow citizens. And after last year's terrorist attacks that destroyed life and destroyed building, you've got to recognize they hurt our economy as well.

We responded to those attacks with incredible unity, and I'm grateful. And the enemy is not. But we need to show the same unity and resolve to get our people back to work. Too many Americans are looking for work, and they can't find work. The economic signs are good—they are. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Our workers are the most productive in the world. Our entrepreneurs are the most productive in the world. And that's incredibly positive.

Yet, we can't be satisfied until anybody who is looking for work can find a job. That's what we've got to do here in America. And we can do more in Washington, DC. Before these folks go home, there is something they can do to help—help America's hardhats get back to work on big construction projects. If there is concern, like I know there is, about our fellow citizens, concern here in Washington about people being able to find work, the Congress can help by passing a terrorism insurance bill now.

We have been talking about this up here for a year. And our workers cannot wait any longer. And so my call on the Congress is to reach an agreement by tomorrow, so by the time they go home, I can sign a bill, a bill which will increase our job base by the thousands.

I want to thank the business leaders who are here who see the crying need for a terrorism insurance bill. I want to thank the carpenter union members who stand behind me who are here to represent the fellow members of their unions who, if they're not working, want to work, people that are putting bread on the table for their families.

I want to thank the members of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers for coming here as well. We've been working with their leaders to try to convince Congress to move this important piece of legislation. This is a jobs bill. It's important for our country.

After September the 11th, it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that many insurance companies stopped covering builders and real estate owners against the risk of terrorist attacks. One of the effects of the attack of September the 11th, 2001, was a lot of folks couldn't find insurance. Many of those who provide coverage provide only limited coverage at high rates, with too many restrictions to provide real security.

Congress's inaction on terrorism is threatening our jobs. They can move and need to, to help the economy, because, you see, one recent survey shows that more than \$15 billion in real estate transactions have been terminated or put on hold because the lack of terrorism insurance—\$15 billion of job-creating projects are not moving forward.

More than 300,000 jobs are on hold. That's a lot of folks. That's a lot of joiners and bricklayers and plumbers and other building professionals who can find good-paying work. Construction jobs are at a 3-year low, as non-residential construction is down more than 15 percent from a year ago. The fact that there is no terrorism insurance is affecting commerce and job creation.

Last week the bond raters at Moody's downgraded \$4.5 billion worth of commercial mortgage-backed securities because of the lack of available terrorism insurance. Congress has failed to act. Congress has got to act now, before they go home. They've got to get a bill to my desk tomorrow, for the sake of creditworthiness and jobs.

One of the buildings affected, believe it or not, is Rockefeller Center, right there in

Manhattan, which as of Tuesday has very little terrorism insurance. So Rockefeller Center will get a bad credit rating because we haven't acted here in Washington, DC. Lower security ratings affect people who have money in the bond market. That includes pension funds, including the funds of many public service employees, like teachers and police and firefighters. See, when the bond ratings go down, bond prices fall, and workers' retirement savings are threatened. That's one of the effects of the failure to have terrorism insurance here out of Washington, DC.

The problem of finding terrorism insurance is widespread; it's just not isolated to New York City. We're talking about \$15 billion worth of projects on hold; we're talking about \$15 billion worth of projects all across America, not just where the terrorists hit. The Building and Owners—Building Owners and Managers Association found that more than a quarter of the owners in their survey could not get terrorism insurance at any cost. Of the owners who could get insurance, 80 percent of them faced caps on their coverage, higher deductibles, quick cancellation clauses, exclusions for chemical and biological attacks, or premium increases that ranged from 20 to 200 percent.

These costs, which are in the billions, get eventually passed on. We pay for them. Right now, hospitals and office buildings and malls and museums and many transportation companies are all having difficulty finding terrorism coverage. Without coverage, the economic impact of another terrorist attack would be incredibly serious. We could face a string of bankruptcies and loan defaults and layoffs that would intensify the economic effects of an attack. Enacting terrorism insurance will cost us nothing if we experience no further attacks.

And you need to know your Federal Government is doing everything we possibly can do so that we experience no further attacks. We're tightening up the homeland security, and I want the Senate to give me a good bill on homeland security. And we're chasing these killers down, one person at a time, to protect the homeland.

Yet, if there is an attack, without insurance it will be even more devastating than the last

attack. It will mean tens of thousands of new jobs if we can get a terrorism insurance bill. It will mean billions in new investment. It will mean healthier pension and retirement systems. If we have terrorism insurance and, God forbid, we have another attack on America, we will be able to compensate our victims more quickly and limit the economic damage. That's a reality.

Congress must get it done. I want to remind them that the House passed a terrorism insurance bill last November, and the Senate got one done in June. Under the legislation, private insurance would pay for damages up to a certain amount. The Federal Government would guarantee against catastrophic losses. I support that concept, for the reasons I've just described.

Major construction programs will go forward if we can get a good piece of legislation. Their friends will be working. The country will be more confident if we can get a good bill. Our markets will be reassured. It's an incredibly important piece of legislation. I met with members of both parties in both Houses this week. I told them essentially what I've described to you—the need to get something done. I believe they are close to an agreement. I know that they can come together.

And they ought to resolve the issue of liability as well. My position, I think, reflects the position of most Americans, and it's this, that we should prevent the victims of a terrorist attack from being held liable for punitive damages, which are damages over and above the amount needed to compensate the injured person. When an American business has been targeted for a terrorist attack, we should not further punish it and the people it employs, subjecting it to predatory lawsuits and punitive damages. Congress needs to hear that message.

This provision was agreed to by a bipartisan group in the Senate last fall. They have come together on it before. It was prevented from going forward. That must not happen again, for the sake of our working people in America. The Members can decide at any moment to finalize the bill and send it to my desk. It's just not that far away. My call for getting it done tomorrow is realistic, if people could put their mind to it.

I know the Members involved. I know they care deeply about the future of our country. See, this isn't a political issue; this is a jobs issue. I know they care, and I know they can get it done. And for the sake of economic security, they must get it done. For the sake of good, hard-working Americans, they need to resolve their differences quickly and get me to the desk.

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to assure you that we are making progress on a lot of fronts, most notably on securing the homeland.

Now that I've got you stuck here—[laughter]—I want you to understand this is a different kind of war that we fight. See, in the old days you could measure progress by saying, "Well, we've destroyed X tanks or Y airplanes or sunk several ships." That's not the kind of war this Nation now fights. We fight a war against coldblooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal death. They do so because—and they hate us because we love freedom. See, they hate for what we love. We love our freedoms, and we're not going to relinquish our freedoms. And the stronger we hold on to our freedoms, the more they hate us.

And so we've got to button up our homeland. And I spoke to that earlier today. You'll hear the debate about homeland security. The Congress—some in the Congress want to take away some of the powers that every President has had to be able to more securely affect, in this case, homeland security. I'm not going to let them do that. It just doesn't make any sense not to have managerial—the managerial ability to move the right people to the right place at the right time to protect America. And I insist that that happen.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to find these killers. And that's exactly what our country is doing, one person at a time. It's like an international manhunt. And we're making progress.

The reason I want to talk to you real quick is because I want you to understand that we are making progress on making America more secure. We—that is, a coalition of like-minded nations—have hauled in over a thousand, couple of thousand of these people. One fellow popped his head up the other day, bin al-Shibh, and he's no longer a threat

because he has been detained. See, the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," still holds. It's an important doctrine. It's as important today as it was 13 months ago. And a like number of those folks aren't quite as lucky. They're not around to hurt us, either, but for different reasons. We're dismantling the terrorist network, which hates America, one person at a time.

And if you've got a relative in the military, you need to know I've got a lot of confidence in our folks who wear the uniform. And I want to thank you for their sacrifice.

I asked the Congress to pass a defense bill which says if our troops go into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. I have yet to see the defense bill. And not only do I want to see a terrorism insurance bill before they go home, I want to see a defense bill on my desk before they go home as well. We owe that to our soldiers. We owe it to the soldiers' families, and we owe it to the world for them to hear that no matter how long it takes, no matter how long it takes to defend our freedom and defend civilization, itself, the United States of America will stay the course.

See, we love freedom, and we're not going to relinquish that love. And the war on terror extends beyond just a terrorist network. The war on terror extends to the world's worst leaders, which have and want to develop and hurt us and our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. We must not allow these people—this guy, Saddam Hussein—to continue to defy the world. He has said he would disarm. I have called upon the United Nations to disarm him. I have given this body a chance to show the world whether they will be the United Nations, an effective body, or the League of Nations. And I don't believe we can afford to have a League of Nations again. And I want them to be effective. I want it to work.

There is a coalition of friends that are joining us to call upon accountability—accountability with Mr. Saddam Hussein, who lies,

kills his own people, poisons his own citizens with weapons of mass destruction, who hates America, hates Israel, hates our friends and allies. He must be held to account. The choice is his, and the choice is the United Nations' to deal with this man, to hold him to account. And if they won't, for the sake of our freedoms and our securities, we cannot allow the world's worst leader to hold us hostage and to harm America with the world's worst weapons. We owe it to our children.

The war on terror is more than just Al Qaida. And I believe we can achieve peace by speaking clearly, by delineating good and evil, by talking about terror and its effects and by leading people who understand the stakes.

And so out of the evil done to this country, I believe there's going to come some incredible good, and that's peace. I long for peace for America. I want to be able to say that history has called us to action, and we left the world more peaceful for our children.

But I believe by remaining strong, we can leave a legacy of peace in other parts of the world too. I believe peace is possible in the Middle East, if we're tough and determined and delineate good from evil and fight terror at all costs. And I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. They probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* But instead, they found a nation which is strong and determined, a nation which will stick to our values, a nation which is a compassionate nation as well.

Listen, thank you all for coming. I appreciate the chance to—God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Commerce To Act as Secretary of Commerce

October 3, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Commerce to Act as Secretary of Commerce

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 et seq., I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Commerce (Deputy Secretary), and the officers designated by Executive Order 13242 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the Director, Tropical Storm Prediction Center, an officer of the Department of Commerce, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if he is eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving as Director, Tropical Storm Prediction Center in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 3. Publication.

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 4. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks at a Reception for Gubernatorial Candidate Mitt Romney in Boston, Massachusetts

October 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Glad I came.

Audience member. We are, too.

The President. Thanks for coming. “Governor,” thanks for those kind, kind remarks. I’m proud to be—[*applause*]. I strongly stand with Mitt Romney because I believe he is the best person for the job of Governor of Massachusetts.

I say that I know that because I know his values. He’s got his priorities straight: his faith, his family, and his State. And he’s not going to waver from those priorities. They’re etched in his heart.

He’s got a record. He’s done things in life. He started his own businesses. He’s an entrepreneur. He knows how to create jobs at a time when you need somebody in Massachusetts who knows job creation.

He knows how to take a struggling organization and turn it around. He’s done that recently. He’s not one of these talkers that you find in the political arena. He’s a doer. Just ask the folks—just ask the folks who were wondering whether or not the Olympics were going to go bankrupt. Ask them what happened when Mitt Romney showed up and brought some managerial skills and some vision and the ability to set priorities and the know-how how to set budgets and turned that organization around and made sure the Olympics in Salt Lake City were not only successful but profitable. It’s the same kind of attitude you need here in your State budget in Massachusetts.

No, you’ve got the right man for the job here. You’ve got the right person for the job. And I want to thank you for backing him.

And I’m real proud of his wife, Ann. She’ll be a great first lady for Massachusetts. She’s a dedicated mom. She’s looking forward to working hard with Mitt to do everything they

can to help everybody in the State of Massachusetts, to help people get ahead in this State.

Mitt and I married above ourselves—[*laughter*]*—in my case, by a long shot. [Laughter]* Yes, I know. Laura sends her best to the Romneys, sends her love to our friends here. She is—I can't tell you how proud I am of her. You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian in Texas. The truth of the matter is, she didn't like politics—[*laughter*]*—nor did she like politicians. [Laughter]* Now she's stuck with me. [*Laughter*]

But the American people have gotten to see why I asked her to marry me. She is steady. She's calm. She's—in my judgment, and I must confess it's not very objective—she's a class act. A lot of her buddies in Texas are wondering why she said yes to my proposal. [*Laughter*] But she sends her best.

I'm also honored to be here with the next Lieutenant Governor, Kerry Healey. I'm impressed by Kerry's know-how, her knowledge. She's a smart, smart lady, and she's going to make a great Lieutenant Governor.

You all have got a great team here, a great team to represent you. And so I want to thank you for coming. I want to thank those of you who are involved with grassroots politics here in Massachusetts for what you have done and, more importantly, what you're going to do. See, you can't win a race unless you've got citizens willing to go to the coffee shops and the community centers, the churches and synagogues and mosques, and talk up good people when you find them. You've got two good ones here. And you owe it to them, in my judgment, for the sake of the future of your State, to do everything you can between now and election day to turn out the vote. The votes are there. They need your help in turning them out.

I appreciate the agenda of the next Governor and Lieutenant Governor. It starts with jobs. You've got to have you somebody in the Governor's office who can recruit, who knows the language of the entrepreneur, who understands how small businesses are created and function, in order to make sure that not only is the landscape here good for attracting jobs but he can recruit jobs.

See, you need somebody who knows what they're talking about when it comes to making sure the people of this important State can find work. And there's no question in my mind Mitt Romney knows what he's talking about. He knows—he knows capital. He knows entrepreneurship. He understands small-business creation.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. That's what other people might think. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be big business.

That's why he also is focusing on infrastructure, to make sure your transportation system is efficient, cost-effective, works well. [*Laughter*] It's an important part of making sure the environment for attracting jobs is competitive, and Mitt understands that.

But what I like best about him is, they understand—Mitt and Kerry understand—the number one priority of any State is the education of the children of the State. See, I used to say—I used to put it this way: Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's the most important priority. And this team has got education as a priority.

We share a philosophy. It's a philosophy incorporated in the No Child Left Behind bill that I had the honor of signing. It starts with the belief that every child can learn, a belief that there ought to be high standards and high expectations in our society. You've got to have a Governor who is willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, see, if you believe certain children can't learn—inner-city kids, kids whose parents may not speak English as a first language—if you believe that, the systems will reflect that. They'll just shuffle the kids through. That's unacceptable anywhere in the United States of America.

Part of what this next team, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, believe is, you've got to decentralize power; you've got to trust local people to manage the path to excellence. If you have high standards and local control of schools, you're more likely to achieve educational excellence. But finally, the cornerstone of the new bill and a cornerstone of any good education policy is this:

If you take money, taxpayers' money, you need to show society whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

You see, if you believe every child can learn, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning, and therefore you measure. If you have no accountability, how do you know? If you have no accountability, you're more likely just to shuffle the kids through and, at the end of the process, you say, "Oops, they forgot to learn to read," and that's unacceptable. You need to have a Governor and a Lieutenant Governor who are willing to hold people accountable and are willing to praise success but willing to blow the whistle on failure when you find kids trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change.

Now, they've got a good, positive agenda. They've got a good, positive agenda. When they get in there, they're going to represent everybody, not just those who voted for them, not just the 50-percent-plus that voted for them. *[Laughter]* They're going to represent all the people. They believe in uniting people, not dividing people. They believe in rejecting old-style politics. This team is going to be a breath of fresh air for the citizens of Massachusetts.

I'm confident they'll make this State a safer, stronger, and better place. And that's what I want to do for our country. A stronger country—a stronger country is one in which our citizens can find work—that's a stronger country—a country in which the job base is expanding, a country in which somebody who wants to put food on the table is able to do so. Too many of our citizens can't find work—although we got some good news today, an indication that the economy has got the foundation for growth. The unemployment rate dropped, which is good news.

But that's not good enough. It's not good enough. There are still too many people who wonder whether or not they're going to be able to find employment. My job is to continue to insist upon growth, urge Congress to pass the necessary legislation to create the environment for growth.

And we've got a good chance to do that before they go home to campaign, and that is to pass a terrorism insurance bill. Here's

the problem we face in America: Over \$15 billion worth of construction projects have been put on hold or canceled because of the lack of terrorism insurance. See, after the enemy hit us on September the 11th, it distorted market. You can't find insurance; you can't go forward with a project.

And therefore, I think it's a useful tool of the Federal Government to provide—to mitigate some of that risk. Congress has been talking about this, now, for a long time. The House of Representatives passed a bill. The Senate passed a bill. They're still talking about it. I'm convinced when they pass a good terrorism insurance bill that rewards hardhats and not trial lawyers, 300,000 additional Americans will find work. No, they get a bill to my desk—they get a bill to my desk before they go home and help this economy. There's a lot of plumbers and bricklayers, ironworkers, good solid Americans who are going to more likely find work, 300,000 of them, if they can get these projects back. If Congress is worried about the economy like I am, they need to join us.

They also need to make sure the tax cuts are permanent. Let me tell you my thoughts about tax relief. When your economy is kind of ooching along, it's important to let people have more of their own money. Here's the page out of the textbook—here's the page out of the textbook that I believe is important. I know Romney feels the same way. If you let somebody keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in this system, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of helping people put food on the table, the tax relief plan we passed came at the exact right time.

And in that tax relief plan, we cut rates, which is good for small-business creation. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. They pay their taxes at the income tax rate—the personal income tax level. And so when you cut taxes, really what you're doing is, you're stimulating small-business growth. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small

businesses. The tax cut was good for the small-business owners.

We slashed the marriage penalty. We want the Tax Code to encourage marriage and families, not discourage marriage.

We did something really important for the entrepreneurs and new startups and farmers and ranchers. We put the death tax on its way to extinction. The death tax is bad. It's a bad tax. It's an unfair tax.

But the reason I'm still having to talk about this issue is, because of a quirk in the law, how the rules in the Senate, that tax cut really doesn't go—it doesn't stay permanent. It's like the Senate giveth with one hand and taketh away with the other. *[Laughter]* See, in 10 years' time, we revert back to where we were when the tax relief plan was passed. I know it doesn't make any sense, but that's just the way they operate over there. *[Laughter]* For the sake of job creation, for the sake of encouraging the entrepreneur to be able to plan, for the sake of making sure that our economy is strong and the foundation of growth is solid, the United States Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

And they've got to do one other thing before they go out of town. They've got to remember whose money they're spending. Yes, it's not the Government's money. It's the people's money. And I'm sad to report—and I'm sad to report that the United States Senate could not pass a budget. That's a pretty scary thought. See, if you don't have a budget, if you don't have constraints in Washington, you're liable to get a little overspending, because, see, every idea sounds like a great idea there. *[Laughter]* Every idea is just fantastic. *[Laughter]* The problem is, they all come with billions of dollars worth of price tags.

If we overspend, it'll serve as a drag on economic growth and vitality. I submitted a budget that leads us toward getting back into balance. It sets priorities. For the sake of economic growth and jobs, the United States Congress must be fiscally responsible, must not overspend, must spend only on priorities and not that which they think will get them easily reelected. For the sake of job creation, we need fiscal sanity in Washington, DC.

I am optimistic about our economy, but we've got more work to do. And I want you

to know that I will spend a lot of time working to strengthen this economy in any way I can.

Having said that, my number one priority is to make America a safer place, because I understand there's still an enemy out there which hates America. And I want to tell you why they hate us, at least my opinion about why they hate us. They hate us for what we love. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate us because we love the idea that people can worship an Almighty God any way he or she sees fit. They hate us because we love political discourse in a free society. They hate us because of our free press. They hate everything about us because of our freedom.

And there's another—there are a lot of distinguishing features, but one of the most clear ones to me is this: We value life in America. We say everybody is precious. Everybody counts. Every life has worth. Every life has dignity. They don't value life. They're willing to hijack a great religion and take innocent life in the name of that religion.

And they're still out there. And so long as they're out there, the number one job of your Government is to protect innocent life, is to protect the enemy from hitting us again. You need to know there are a lot of good people working long hours to do everything in their power to disrupt, to find, to hunt down, to—anything we can do, within the United States Constitution, to protect the American people.

We're doing a better job of talking to each other. We're doing a better job of sharing information. We are on alert. We understand they're out there. There's a lot of fine folks at the Federal level, a lot of great police officers at the State and local level, a lot of people in the sheriff's department, a lot of emergency responders—a lot of people working hard.

But in order to make sure we do the job better, I have asked Congress to create what they call the Department of Homeland Security. And let me tell you why I asked them to do that. I asked them to do it because there's over a hundred agencies in Washington involved with homeland security. And they're scattered everywhere, and it seemed like to me, in order to make sure that we align authority and responsibility, they ought

to be under one boss—at least the functions for the homeland ought to be coordinated. If the number one priority of the Government is to protect you, we ought to have the ability to make sure that culture changes within agencies so it becomes the number one priority.

And I asked Congress to join me. And the House passed a bill, and they still can't get it out of the Senate. They're fixing to go home, and they're still arguing over homeland security. And I'll tell you why: There are some up there who believe that they ought to micromanage the process.

And I'll give you an example. They want these work rules to make it difficult for the Secretary and the President and future Secretaries and Presidents to be able to move people to the right place at the right time in order to respond to an enemy. For example, if you're working for Customs, we thought it was a wise idea to have people wear radiation detection devices in order to be able to determine whether somebody is trying to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into America. The union wanted to take that to collective bargaining. It would have taken over a year to determine whether or not people could carry detection devices. That doesn't make any sense for me.

We've got a border. We need to know who's coming in our country, what they're bringing in the country, why they're bringing what they're bringing into their country. We've got three different agencies on the border, fine people, really good people working hard. I'm proud that I'm a Federal—Federal employee with them. But we've got the Border Patrol and the INS and the Customs. They wear different uniforms. In some sectors, they may have different strategies. They need to be able to be knitted up. They need to be able to work in concert. They need to be able to do everything they can to make sure that we understand our borders are functioning properly.

See, and I need the flexibility. We cannot leave a legacy behind of micromanagement and unnecessary work rules and inflexible—inflexible rules on managers. I'm all for public employees being able to bargain collectively if that's what they choose to do. But I'm also for making sure the President, in

the name of national security, has the capacity to put people at the right place at the right time to protect America.

They need to get it done. They need to get something done up there. They need to get it to my desk before they go home.

But the best way to protect our homeland, in the short run and in the long run, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice.

This is a different kind of war. I spent a lot of time talking to our fellow citizens about this, and it's important for America to understand. I think they do. This is a different kind of war. You don't measure progress in this war based upon the number of ships sunk or the numbers of tanks dismantled or the number of aircraft grounded. You measure progress in this war by the number of killers brought to justice, and that's why I say "hunting them down one person at a time," which is precisely the strategy we're employing.

It starts with upholding doctrine. The doctrine which says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. We still got this coalition of freedom-loving nations we're working together with. And we're hunting them down.

The other day, one of them popped up—popped his head up—named bin al-Shibh. He's no longer a problem. He would have been a problem—he would have been a problem. This is the fellow that was bragging about the fact that, had he gotten a visa, he would have been one of the 20th—he would have been the 20th killer that would have come to America and killed innocent lives. That's what he bragged about.

Thanks to hard-working—the hard work of our intelligence folks and our United States military and our friends and allies, this guy is not a problem anymore, and neither are a couple of thousand of them just like him who have been detained. And about that many weren't as lucky. Slowly but surely, slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida network. Sometimes you'll see it on your TV screens; sometimes you won't.

Sometimes—I sent a significant increase in our defense spending, the largest since Ronald Reagan was the President, to the Congress for two reasons—two reasons: One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way,

they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment; and secondly, I sent a message to friend and foe alike that, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, it comes to our desire to make the world more peaceful, there's no artificial deadline for America. There's no time when, all of a sudden, it says, well, we—the calendar shows up, and it's time to quit. There's no quit in this country because we love freedom; we love our peace. We owe it to our children and our children's children.

I asked Congress to get the defense bill to my desk. The House passed it. The Senate passed it. But they haven't come to conclusion yet. They need to get it to my desk before they go home. I hope they will. I know there's a lot of good people from both parties working hard to get the bill done. But we're at war, and at the very minimum, they ought to get the defense bill passed in time of war and get it to my desk before they go home.

I want to remind you all about what I said earlier. We value each life. Everybody counts. That is not just for American life; that's every life, by the way. That's what America thinks.

I want to remind you as well that when we upheld the doctrine that says, "If you harbor a terrorist and feed one of them, you're just as guilty as the terrorist"—and when we upheld that doctrine in Afghanistan, we went in not to conquer anybody; we went in to liberate people from the clutches of a barbaric regime. You need to tell your children, you need to tell children who wonder about this war, about the nature of your country, that we love peace, that we're going to secure our homeland. And that, thanks to the United States of America in the first theater of the first war of the 21st century, many young girls now go to school for the first time. That this country loves freedom, and we value each and every life.

We also must recognize threats when we see them, and deal with them. See, September 11th taught us a new lesson about our vulnerabilities. Prior to that, it used to be that we could be protected by two oceans. And unrest or what was going on in a different part of the world—it might have been okay sometimes, because we were protected. No longer is that the case. We're now the

battlefield, because of what we believe in and what we hold dear. And since we're never going to relinquish those freedoms or love for freedom, since we're never going to back down from the things we hold dear, we'll continue to be a battlefield until the world is more secure.

We've got a true threat facing us, a threat that faces our very homeland. And that is Saddam Hussein. And I want to explain to you about Saddam Hussein, just quickly, if I might.

This is a man who has used weapons of mass destruction. He used them on his own people. He used them on his neighbors.

This is a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, yet he does. This is a man who, 11 years ago, said he wouldn't harbor terrorists; he wouldn't develop chemical or biological weapons. This is a man who said he would free prisoners. He has lied and deceived and denied for 11 long years.

This is a man who continues to torture people in his own country who disagree with him. He's a coldblooded killer. This is a man who I believe strongly thinks he can use terrorist networks to foster his own ambitions. This is a man who, when they went into Iraq the first time, it was discovered that he was a short period away from developing a nuclear weapon.

This is a man who has invaded two countries. This is a man who is a threat—he's a threat to the United States; he's a threat to Israel; he's a threat to neighbors of his. He is a threat.

My job is to protect the American people. My job is to anticipate. And so I went to the United Nations. I went to the United Nations because I want the United Nations to be effective. I went to the United Nations and—to remind them that for 11 years, this man has defied 16 resolutions. Time and time and time again, he has ignored the United Nations. I basically said, "You can be an effective body to help us keep the peace, or you can be the League of Nations."

It's up to them. It's up to them. We will continue to work with our friends in the United Nations for peace, to deal with threats, to not ignore reality. I want the

United Nations to be effective. I want them to do their job of disarming Saddam Hussein.

The choice is theirs, and the choice is also Mr. Saddam Hussein's choice. There are no negotiations. There's nothing to negotiate. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, and that's what those of us who love peace expect. We expect him not to have weapons of mass destruction.

But I want to tell you all, for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of peace, if the United Nations won't make the decision, if Saddam Hussein continues to lie and deceive, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm this man before he harms America and our friends.

The military's not my first choice, but peace is. Peace is my first choice. And we're not—what I just told you is a sentiment that's becoming more and more shared in Washington. I was honored this week to stand on the steps of the Rose Garden with Speaker Hastert, Minority Leader Gephardt, Leader Lott, Senator Lieberman, Senator McCain, Senator Bayh, just to name a few of both Republicans and Democrats who are coming together to speak with one voice, a voice out of concern for the future of our country and for the future of our friends.

This country next week will be having a big debate on a really important, historic resolution. I welcome the debate. This is not a political debate. It's a debate about peace and security. I also think it's about—a debate about responsibility for those of us who've been given high office. I believe we have a responsibility to speak clearly, to defend that which we hold dear, to be determined. And by doing so, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for America by speaking strongly against terror, by holding our line the values we hold free—of freedom.

We can achieve peace in the Middle East. We can achieve peace in South Asia. I know the enemy hit us, but out of the evil done to America that day has a chance to come a more peaceful world. They also hit us, and out of the evil done to America that day can come a better world for America, too.

You know, I don't know what was on their mind. They probably thought that, after Sep-

tember the 11th, 2001, somebody might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't know. They didn't know who they're dealing with. They're dealing with a great country, a country which can be tough but a country which also can be compassionate.

See, in our midst of plenty, there are people who hurt in America, people who are addicted, people who are lost. When you say "American Dream," they go, "What the heck are you talking about, American Dream?" They don't know.

And when one of us hurts, we all got to realize all of us hurt in this country. We must do everything we can to eradicate those pockets of despair. And the best way to do so, in my judgment, is to unleash the character of our country. See, Government can hand out money, and sometimes we do a pretty darn good job of it. [*Laughter*] But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a fellow American hears the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to fight evil here in America, do some good. You see, it's the millions of acts of kindness and compassion that really define the true character of our country and will enable us to defy the killers by making this country a more compassionate and decent place. Mentor a child. Help a shut-in. Start a Boys' Club or a Girls' Club. Tell somebody you love them. These acts of kindness don't have to be huge; they've just got to be significant enough to change America one person at a time. No, they hit us—they hit us—they didn't know what they were getting into. They had no idea what they were getting into.

I truly believe that this country is going to be a stronger and better place, because I understand the nature of America. See, a lot of us took a step back after what happened to us that day and realized there's something more important in life than self, something more important in life than materialism, that being a patriot is somebody more than just puts their hand over their

heart; being a patriot is somebody who does love a neighbor.

And that's going across all across this land. You know, I first got into politics because I believed that I could make a difference in helping change a culture, from one which said, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." See, I was hoping to help usher in a period of personal responsibility, when each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you're responsible—if you're a mother or dad, your most important responsibility is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living—if you're living in Boston, Massachusetts, you're responsible for helping people in need, not some faraway government. If you're running a corporation, you're responsible for telling the truth to your employees and your shareholders and the public.

It's happening. It's happening. Perhaps the most vivid example was Flight 93, people flying across the country. They heard from their loved ones that the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They said goodbye. They used the word "love" a lot. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, the enemy hit us. But see, they didn't know—they didn't know the character of this great country. They didn't realize that this country is a country which will fight for peace, lead the world for peace. And this is a country which will make sure that everybody who lives here understands that the great American experience, the great hope of this country, is available for everybody. There's no doubt in my mind we can accomplish these objectives, because America is the greatest country, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom at the Seaport Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ann Romney, wife of candidate Mitt Romney; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 30

In the afternoon, the President returned from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip Merrill to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to appoint Fidel Alfonso Vargas as a member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

October 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with a bipartisan group of House Members to discuss the proposed joint resolution to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Isidore on September 23 and continuing.

October 2

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal to express his condolences to families of the victims of the ferryboat sinking near Senegal on September 26, and to discuss the situation in the Ivory Coast.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, where they participated in a roundtable discussion as part of the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. In the afternoon, they returned to the White House.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and in the evening returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven B. Nesmith to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

October 3

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia to congratulate him on his electoral victory. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney and later met with the LULAC National Board of Directors.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room at the White House, the President welcomed Blair House Gala participants.

October 4

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Boston, MA, and later to the Bush family home on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, ME.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert J. Battista to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wilma B. Liebman to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his appointment of Timothy Alan Campen as Director of the Office of Administration.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas C. Dorr as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rural Telephone Bank.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Lili beginning October 1 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 30

Albert Casey,
of Texas, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2009, vice Tirso del Junco, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Jill L. Long, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Thomas C. Dorr,
of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, vice Jill L. Long, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Cheryl Feldman Halpern,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2008, vice Heidi H. Schulman, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Tony Hammond,
of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 14, 2004, vice Edward Jay Gleiman, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Susanne T. Marshall,
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, vice Beth Susan Slavet, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Philip Merrill, of Maryland, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the remainder of the term expiring January 20, 2005, vice John E. Robson.

W. Scott Railton, of Virginia, to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2007, vice Gary L. Visscher, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Submitted October 2

Mark B. McClellan, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Jane E. Henney, resigned.

Submitted October 4

Robert J. Battista, of Michigan, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2007, vice Wilma B. Liebman, term expiring.

Wilma B. Liebman, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring August 27, 2006, vice Peter J. Hurtgen.

Withdrawn October 4

Robert J. Battista, of Michigan, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring August 27, 2006, vice Peter J. Hurtgen, which was sent to the Senate on June 13, 2002.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released October 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Advance text: Remarks by Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, to the Manhattan Institute's Wriston Lecture

Released October 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

Released October 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Presidential National Security Authority and the Federal Workforce

Released October 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an addendum to the press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statement of U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao on the Work Stoppage at the West Coast Ports

Announcement by National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey on the appointment of Doug Badger as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

Announcement by White House Communications Director Dan Bartlett on the appointment of Suzy DeFrancis as Deputy Assistant to the President for Communications

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 30

H.R. 1646 / Public Law 107-228
Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
Year 2003

H.J. Res. 111 / Public Law 107-229
Making continuing appropriations for the fis-
cal year 2003, and for other purposes

Approved October 1

H.R. 3880 / Public Law 107-230
To provide a temporary waiver from certain
transportation conformity requirements and
metropolitan transportation planning re-
quirements under the Clean Air Act and
under other laws for certain areas in New
York where the planning offices and re-
sources have been destroyed by acts of ter-
rorism, and for other purposes

H.R. 4687 / Public Law 107-231
National Construction Safety Team Act

H.R. 5157 / Public Law 107-232
To amend section 5307 of title 49, United
States Code, to allow transit systems in ur-

banized areas that, for the first time, exceed-
ed 200,000 in population according to the
2000 census to retain flexibility in the use
of Federal transit formula grants in fiscal year
2003, and for other purposes

S. 2810 / Public Law 107-233
To amend the Communications Satellite Act
of 1962 to extend the deadline for the
INTELSAT initial public offering

S. 1834 / Private Law 107-2
For the relief of retired Sergeant First Class
James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit

Approved October 4

H.R. 4558 / Public Law 107-234
To extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural
and Training Program

H.J. Res. 112 / Public Law 107-235
Making further continuing appropriations for
the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes

H.R. 486 / Private Law 107-3
For the relief of Barbara Makuch

H.R. 487 / Private Law 107-4
For the relief of Eugene Makuch

Week Ending Friday, October 11, 2002

Proclamation 7602—Fire Prevention Week

October 4, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Every year, fires needlessly take lives and destroy homes, natural habitats, and livelihoods. This year, as we observe Fire Prevention Week, I ask all citizens to take responsible steps to prevent fires at home and outdoors and to ensure that safety and emergency plans are in place and in practice.

Approximately 3,500 Americans die each year in home fires; and 85 percent of all annual fire fatalities occur in residences. To prevent this tragic loss of life, the National Fire Protection Association, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States Fire Administration, and America's 26,354 fire departments, is sponsoring the 2002 Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Team Up for Fire Safety." I encourage all Americans to heed the recommendations of fire safety experts by ensuring that every home is equipped with the appropriate number of properly installed and maintained smoke alarms and that every family has fire safety and escape plans. These measures will help to prevent fires and protect our families, our communities, and our firefighters.

America has faced a devastating wildfire season this year, and much wildlife habitat has been destroyed by fires in our overgrown forests. To reduce the threat of these catastrophic wildfires and to restore the health of America's forests, we must continue to develop improved forest management plans. My Healthy Forests Initiative aims to ensure our environment's health by thinning dangerous overgrowth. Firefighters and forest experts agree that we could strengthen the health of our forests by targeted thinning of

dense forests and quickly restoring fire-damaged areas to prevent erosion. Through these improved forest policies, we can protect our citizens, prevent catastrophic fires, preserve healthy forests, and sustain wildlife habitat.

During Fire Prevention Week, our Nation also gives thanks for the invaluable service rendered by our firefighters, who risk their lives to preserve and protect our communities. These courageous public servants have inspired us with their dedication and professionalism. On September 11, 2001, we saw that our brave firefighters are among America's greatest heroes. As we remember the sacrifice of so many firefighters that day, let us draw great strength from their example of selfless service to others. These firefighters embodied the best of the American spirit.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6 through October 12, 2002, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 6, 2002, pursuant to Public Law 107-51, flags will be flown at half-staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I invite the people of the United States to participate in this observance by flying our Nation's flag over their homes at half-staff on this day, to mark this week with appropriate programs and activities, and to renew efforts throughout the year to prevent fires and their tragic consequences.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

Proclamation 7603—Child Health Day, 2002

October 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Child Health Day, we renew our commitment to the well-being and safety of our children. Parents, families, teachers, and neighbors all play important roles in preparing children to face life's physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional demands. For the future of our country, we must work together to provide our young people with the knowledge and skills they need to be safe, self-confident, and successful.

From maintaining a healthy environment and high safety standards to providing immunizations and quality health care, children rely on our vigilance and support. Each year, 30 million children require emergency care due to acute illness and injury. We can all take important steps to help prevent these accidents and to improve the health and safety of young Americans.

Parents and other caregivers should be aware of the latest safety precautions and pay careful attention to consumer safety warnings. They should always secure infants, toddlers, and small children in safety seats and booster seats. Children should be taught always to wear their seatbelts when riding in a vehicle and to use protective gear when riding a bicycle, roller blading, skate boarding, playing sports, and participating in other similar activities. Parents should set a good example by refraining from smoking and should teach their children about the health risks of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.

Child obesity has become a serious problem in this country. About 8 million young Americans—almost 15 percent of all children—are overweight. Obesity can cause medical complications that can lead to hospitalization for type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea,

and asthma. Ensuring regular participation in physical activity can help children manage weight, control blood pressure, and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints.

My Administration is strongly committed to advancing programs that help children discover and understand the benefits of healthy living. The recently introduced HealthierUS Initiative will help Americans improve their health and quality of life through modest improvements in physical activity, nutrition, getting preventive screenings, and making healthy choices. Families play a vital role and can help to promote and encourage these beneficial habits.

By committing ourselves to health and safety, we better enable young people to achieve their goals, live longer, fuller lives, and we strengthen our Nation. The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 105), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 7, 2002, as Child Health Day. On this day, and on every day throughout the year, I call upon families, schools, child health professionals, communities, and governments to help all of our children discover the rewards of good health and wellness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

Proclamation 7604—German-American Day, 2002

October 4, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As the oldest and longest-lived democracy in the world, our Nation is committed to promoting freedom, protecting liberty, and pursuing peace. For over 225 years, America has been a place where people have come to realize their dreams and enjoy the blessings of religious tolerance and individual rights.

In 1683, 13 immigrant families left Germany to escape religious persecution and establish the first German settlement in North America in Germantown, Pennsylvania. Since that time, more than 7 million German immigrants have come to America, and through hard work, innovation, and dedication, they have influenced our Nation and strengthened our country. Each year, we celebrate German-American Day, which offers us the chance to reflect on the proud and important contributions that German Americans have made to the United States.

Carl Schurz, who emigrated from the Rhineland, served as a United States Senator and Secretary of the Interior. He said that German immigrants “could render no greater honor to their former fatherland than by becoming conscientious and faithful citizens of their new country.” As farmers, businessmen, scientists, artists, teachers, and politicians, German Americans have contributed to the values that make our Nation strong. Through his artistic abilities as a cartoonist and caricaturist during and following the Civil War, Thomas Nast established himself as a political voice for the underprivileged and champion of equal rights for all citizens.

The important work of Joseph Pulitzer helped to create the American legacy of freedom of the press and to advance the field of journalism. Oscar Hammerstein is known as an integral figure in the history of the United States opera for building his second Manhattan Opera House in addition to several other theaters. This tradition of excellence continued with the musical talents of

his grandson, Oscar Hammerstein II, as he elevated the American musical comedy to musical theater that Americans enjoy today. The efforts of German-American entrepreneurs Levi Strauss, the creator of blue jeans, and Walter Percy Chrysler, the first president of Chrysler Corporation in 1925, reflect the entrepreneurial spirit of our country. Today, German Americans continue to serve this Nation with distinction in our Armed Forces, in our communities, and throughout all sectors of our society.

On this day, we recognize the important and continuing relationship between Germany and the United States. Our friendship was forged after World War II and is based on mutual support and respect. Germany showed meaningful support for the United States after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. On this day, I am pleased to call all Americans to celebrate the contributions that German Americans have made to our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2002, as German-American Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize the contributions of our citizens of German descent to the liberty and prosperity of the United States, and to celebrate our close ties to the people of Germany.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

The President's Radio Address

October 5, 2002

Good morning. This week leaders of the Congress agreed on a strong bipartisan resolution authorizing the use of force, if necessary, to disarm Saddam Hussein and to defend the peace. Now both the House and the Senate will have an important debate and an historic vote. Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt and Leader Lott did tremendous work in building bipartisan support on this vital issue.

The danger to America from the Iraqi regime is grave and growing. The regime is guilty of beginning two wars. It has a horrible history of striking without warning. In defiance of pledges to the United Nations, Iraq has stockpiled biological and chemical weapons and is rebuilding the facilities used to make more of those weapons. Saddam Hussein has used these weapons of death against innocent Iraqi people, and we have every reason to believe he will use them again.

Iraq has longstanding ties to terrorist groups, which are capable of and willing to deliver weapons of mass death. And Iraq is ruled by perhaps the world's most brutal dictator, who has already committed genocide with chemical weapons, ordered the torture of children, and instituted the systematic rape of the wives and daughters of his political opponents.

We cannot leave the future of peace and the security of America in the hands of this cruel and dangerous man. This dictator must be disarmed, and all the United Nations resolutions against his brutality and support for terrorism must be enforced.

The United States does not desire military conflict, because we know the awful nature of war. Our country values life, and we will never seek war unless it is essential to security and justice. We hope that Iraq complies with the world's demands. If, however, the Iraqi regime persists in its defiance, the use of force may become unavoidable. Delay, indecision, and inaction are not options for America, because they could lead to massive and sudden horror.

Should force be required to bring Saddam to account, the United States will work with other nations to help the Iraqi people rebuild

and form a just government. We have no quarrel with the Iraqi people. They are the daily victims of Saddam Hussein's oppression, and they will be the first to benefit when the world's demands are met.

American security, the safety of our friends, and the values of our country lead us to confront this gathering threat. By supporting the resolution now before them, Members of Congress will send a clear message to Saddam: His only choice is to fully comply with the demands of the world. And the time for that choice is limited. Supporting this resolution will also show the resolve of the United States and will help spur the United Nations to act.

I urge Americans to call their Members of Congress to make sure your voice is heard. The decision before Congress cannot be more consequential. I'm confident that members of both political parties will choose wisely.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on October 4 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 4 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Community in Manchester, New Hampshire

October 5, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated, except for those of you who don't have a chair. *[Laughter]*

I've been here before. This was the site of the great pancake flip-off. *[Laughter]* A lot of time has passed since I was flipping pancakes in this armory. *[Laughter]* And I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank my fellow citizens for taking time out of your day to give me a chance to come and talk about issues that confront our country, and my strong desire to work with all who live in America, to make America a safer, a stronger, and a better place.

My dream is for this country to be a strong country, as importantly, a safe country, and

a country in which each of us who live here realizes the great American potential belongs to everybody.

I want to thank you for bringing your families out to say hello. I want to thank you for sending some good people to Washington, DC. I'm proud to call Judd Gregg my friend. He's doing a great job as the United States Senator.

I'm honored that Governor Shaheen is here today. I appreciate her taking time out of her schedule to come and pay her respects to the Presidency. I appreciate the mayor of Manchester. I appreciate members of the congressional delegation, Congressman Charlie Bass and Congressman John Sununu, for joining us as well.

I'm glad—I am glad that your mayor, the mayor of Manchester, Mayor Baines, is with us today. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming as well. Ray Wicczorek is here, who is on the New Hampshire Executive Councilor. I appreciate Ray.

But most of all, I appreciate my fellow citizens. I appreciate those of you who are here to work hard to make your community and New Hampshire a strong place.

I want to tell you one of the things on my mind, and it's, I worry about people being able to find work in America. Anytime anybody who wants to work and can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem, and we must do everything we can to grow our economy—that all of us together must work to do that which we can to enable our environment, our economic environment, to prosper, so people can find work. I want Americans to be able to put food on the table.

And we've got an issue here in the country, and we've got to work together to solve it. Now, you've got to know something: I am optimistic about our economic future. First of all, I understand the American spirit. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the best entrepreneurs in the world. Our productivity is the best there is. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. The foundation for growth is solid. But it's not good—going good enough.

Yesterday we had a good report: The unemployment rate dropped across the country. It's still not good enough, and we ought to continue to do that which is necessary to

grow our economy. And I've got a couple of ideas, and Congress can help. I readily concede my vision of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneur can realize his or her dreams, in which our producers can find markets. The job of Government is to create an environment in which growth is possible.

That's why I am such a strong believer and strong advocate of letting people keep more of your own money. You see, it is when times are slow that you let people have money in their pocket. When somebody has more money in their pocket, they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely able to find work.

Tax relief came at the absolute right time. But the reason I'm still talking about it, the reason we have to talk about it is because there is a quirk in the Senate rules. On the one hand, they giveth; on the other hand, they taketh away, because after 10 years the tax relief package ends. All the relief that had happened resorts back to the way it was prior to last year. I know that's hard to understand. That's one of those Washington things.

But for the sake of economic vitality, Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent. People need to be able to plan. Part of an environment which will encourage economic growth means people—there's certainty. And there needs to be certainty in the Tax Code. You can't have a Tax Code that's one way for a while and reverts back. That's not certainty.

The tax relief plan is incredibly good for small businesses. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships. Most small businesses are limited partnerships, which means the small business pays taxes at the income tax rate—personal income tax rates. And so therefore, when you reduce all rates, you inject needed capital into the small-business sector. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of certainty, for the sake of the growth of our small-

business sector, Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

A stronger America—a stronger America is one in which people can find work. We have got a problem when it comes to construction projects in America. The terrorists hit us, and now—lot of folks who want to put steel in the ground can't get insurance. We need the Congress to act on terrorism insurance. We need to have Congress act as a stopgap for those who want to put construction projects forward. There's over \$15 billion of construction projects which are now on hold because we can't get terrorism insurance done. They've been talking about it, but we can't get it out of the—can't get it out of what they call the conference committee. Fifteen billion dollars' worth of projects are stalled, which means 300,000 jobs.

My call to Congress, before they go home, for the sake of jobs, for the sake of putting hardhats back to work, for the sake of letting people have a chance to put food on their table, we need a terrorism insurance package which does not reward trial lawyers but does reward the hardhats of America.

Like you, I'm concerned about the fact that 401(k)s are being affected, that people's savings have been eroded. I'm concerned about that. We need to create an environment in Washington which promotes growth and certainty.

One thing that will send a good message to markets and to our fellow Americans is if Washington can show some fiscal discipline. And that starts with understanding whose money we spend in Washington. We're not spending the Government's money. We're spending your money in Washington, DC.

See, we need to set priorities. We need to set clear priorities, winning this war on terror and protecting the homeland, making sure our kids get educated. We ought to set priorities, but we ought not to spend beyond those priorities. And here's the danger. There is no budget in the United States Senate. You see, if you don't have a budget, guess what can happen, particularly in an environment in which every idea sounds like a great idea? See, in Washington, every idea is—sounds wonderful. The problem in that town is, is that the price tag usually runs in the

billions. Without a budget, there is a danger that the Congress will overspend.

I submitted a budget that shows us getting back to balance in a reasonable period of time if there's fiscal sanity in Washington. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of improving the economic environment here in America, the United States Congress must fund our priorities, must not try to get re-elected with extraneous spending, and must remember whose money we spend in Washington, and it is the people's money.

I will continue to work to make America a stronger country by working hard to improve our economy, by working hard to help people find work, by working hard to bring confidence back into the American system.

And by the way, that started with me having the honor of signing the most significant corporate reforms since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. Here's the message: If you're running a corporation in America, we expect you to be open; we expect you to be honest; we expect you to treat your shareholders with respect; we expect you to treat your employees with respect. If you break the law, we're going to come and get you; you're going to spend hard time.

And we're going to work hard to make sure America is a stronger place, but my most important job is to make America a safer place. I'm reminded of that every time I come and give a speech and see the little ones here. I'm also reminded, since some of them are going to sleep, to keep my speeches shorter. *[Laughter]*

I want you to know that I say we have to work to make America a safer place because there is still an enemy out there who hates America. And they hate us because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom in America. We love freedom to the point we will never back down and relinquish our freedoms. We love the idea of anybody in America being able to worship an almighty God anyway he or she sees fit. We love the fact that in our society there is discourse about elections and politics. A free society has open debate. We love that. We love a free press. We love everything about our freedoms. And that's why the enemy hates us.

It's hard for some youngsters to understand that. But you've just got to know there are people that don't value life, either. See, that's one of the things that differentiates us. America says, "Everybody counts. Everybody matters. Every life has worth. Everybody is precious in the eyes of the Almighty." And our enemy is willing to hijack a great religion and murder innocent life without caring. And so long as they're out there, we must do everything we can as a nation, as governments at the Federal, State, and local level, to protect the American people. It is our most important and solemn job, and I take it seriously.

I want you to know there are a lot of good people working incredibly hard on your behalf. We're doing a much better job of sharing information than we had in the past. I mean, after all, we now know that America is a battlefield. Anytime we get a hint, anytime we get an idea that somebody might be trying to do something to some American somewhere, we are moving; we're acting on it. We take every threat seriously. We are on alert as a nation. Times have changed, and you just need to know we have changed with the times.

Now, I have asked Congress to join me on creating what I call a Department of Homeland Security, and I want to share right quickly why I did that. There's over 100 agencies in Washington involved with securing the homeland, or 100 agencies involved with some aspect of doing their job that I expect them to do.

But the problem is, is that with so many agencies scattered around, it's hard to align authority and responsibility. It's hard to have accountability. It's hard to make sure the cultures of the agency are aligned properly. It's hard to make sure their number one job is to protect you. And so therefore, I said, "Let's create this Department so that we can say to the American people, we're doing everything we can to protect you."

The House passed a good bill. The Senate is still debating it. And here's the issue. The issue is whether or not the Senate is going to micromanage the executive branch and future Presidents or whether or not this President and future Presidents and the Cabinet Secretaries will be able to move the right

people to the right place at the right time to protect the American people. The question is this: Are we going to have rules, civil servant rules, which will make the process so cumbersome that we can't respond?

I'll give you an example. The Customs Service thought it appropriate that our inspectors wear radiation detection devices on their belts. That makes sense. If you're worried about weapons of mass destruction coming into America, you want your inspectors to have the tools necessary to do their job. The union said that they needed to have a negotiating session; they needed to go to collective bargaining as to whether or not the inspectors ought to be told to wear this, whether or not it would be involuntary or voluntary. That would take a long time to settle.

Nothing wrong with collective bargaining rights, I'm all for them. But what I'm not for is work rules that prohibit us from doing the job of protecting the American people.

This is a chance for people of both parties to come together and leave behind a legacy, because this enemy isn't going away anytime soon. And protecting the homeland is going to be an important job of future Presidents. So for the sake of the security of our country, I ask the Senate to be reasonable, to be realistic, and to understand their job is to leave a legacy behind that will allow those of us who have gotten the position you've elected us to, to do the jobs you expect us to do.

But the best way to secure the homeland in the short term and in the long term is to chase the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that is what we're going to continue to do. This is a different kind of war. We're not used to this kind of war we fight. In the old days, it used to be you could destroy an enemy's tanks or airplanes or ships, and you're making progress. The people we fight don't have tanks or airplanes. These are coldblooded killers who hide in caves or the dark recesses of certain cities and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's why I say our job is to hunt them down, one at a time.

The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands.

And as a result, there's still a coalition of freedom-loving countries that are after the killers. And we're doing a good job. Sometimes you'll see the progress on your TVs, and sometimes you won't, in this new war.

The other day, you saw progress when this fellow named bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. *[Laughter]* He's no longer a threat to the United States and our friends and allies. He was the man who thought he was—wanted to be the 20th hijacker, bragged about the fact that he wanted to be one that was able to kill thousands of our citizens.

We're calling them in one at a time. I bet you we've captured over a couple of thousand of them. And a like number haven't been as lucky, and like number weren't as lucky because we have got a fantastic United States military. I want you to know I have great confidence in the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. I have great respect for the men and women who wear the uniform. For the loved ones of those who wear the uniform, I thank you as well for your sacrifice, along with theirs, on behalf of a grateful nation.

I submitted to the United States Congress the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so for two reasons: One, anytime we send our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment; and secondly, I wanted to send a clear message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms and values we hold dear, the United States is in for the long haul. There is no calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, we pretty well had it, time to quit. When it comes to the defense of that which we love, which is our country, when it comes to doing our duty, which is to protect the future for our children and our children's children, when it comes to the defense of the peace, the United States of America will stay the course.

I have sent that bill to the Congress. It hasn't made it to my desk yet. We are at war. I expect to get the defense bill, the defense appropriations bill, on my desk before the Congress goes home. For the sake of sending the right message, Congress should

not play politics with the defense appropriations bill.

Our job is to keep the peace. Our job is to make the world a more peaceful place. And sometimes it's a pretty steep hill to get there. Sometimes we're going to have to cross some hurdles. Sometimes we're going to have to anticipate problems before they become so acute that it will be difficult to keep the peace. One such area, where the Nation is now beginning an important national discourse, is with Iraq. This is a country which, 11 years ago, promised the world they would have no weapons of mass destruction. And yet, for 11 years they have lied and deceived the world community. This is a country run by one of the most brutal dictators in modern history. On Monday night, I will make the case to the country on TV yet again, but I want to share some of my thoughts with you here.

I want you to remember that this is a man who kills his opponents in cold blood. This is a person who suppressed people. This is a person who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizens. This is a person who has used weapons of mass destruction on people in his neighborhood. This is a person who hates America and yet still possesses weapons of mass destruction.

At one time, inspectors had a free hand in Iraq, like they should have, and they determined that had this man not been checked in the early nineties, he would have had possession of a nuclear weapon. He still wants to have a nuclear weapon. This is a man who has used weapons of mass destruction. This is a man who hates so much, he's willing to kill his own people, much less Americans. This is a man who would be a tremendous threat to world peace and security if he ever were to have and possess a weapon of mass destruction as devastating as a nuclear weapon.

I went to the United Nations the other day because I wanted to make it clear, a couple of things. One, I want the United Nations to be successful. We face a new threat for world peace. We're dealing with these treacherous terrorist organizations who have designs and desires to hook up with nations such as Iraq that have developed weapons of mass destruction. See, old Saddam might

not have to show up, but he might get a surrogate who could do it for him.

In order to deal with those new threats, in order to deal with the reality that America is no longer protected by two vast oceans, it seemed like sense to me that we should give the United Nations to be an effective peacekeeping body, somebody who would keep the peace, somebody who was strong enough. Well, I've told the United Nations, "Either you can be the United Nations, or you can be the League of Nations, your choice."

Sixteen different times the United Nations, an important world body, has said, "You must disarm." Sixteen times, and he's defied them all 16 times. He's lied, and he's deceived. And so now the choice is the United Nations' to make. The choice is also Mr. Saddam Hussein's to make. See, there's no negotiations. There's nothing to talk about. We don't want you to have weapons of mass destruction. You agreed to that; you said you would agree to that. Now you've got to show the world you don't have them. It's up to you, Mr. Hussein.

Nobody likes war in America. We're a peaceful nation. Nobody wants there to be war. On the other hand, a lot of folks—Republicans and Democrats, people who could care less about political parties—now are beginning to understand the true threat. In order to keep the peace, Mr. Hussein and the world community must work to disarm him. And if they won't, I will lead a coalition of nations, like-minded nations to send the world that we long for peace—send a message: We long for peace in this world, and we will not let the world's worst leaders threaten, blackmail, hurt America, our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons.

We owe this to our children. We owe it to peace. We owe it for a peaceful world to deal with the threats we see. We cannot ignore history. We must not ignore reality. We must do everything we can to disarm this man before he hurts one single American.

I am proud—I was proud the other day to stand in the Rose Garden with members of both political parties who agreed that this man is a threat—both political parties. We had the Speaker, and we had Dick Gephardt.

From the Senate we had Trent Lott and Joe Lieberman and John McCain and Evan Bayh, Republicans and Democrats alike. We're working on a resolution so this country can speak with one voice when it comes to the defense of our freedoms and our desire for peace.

This is not an issue of political parties. This is an issue of national concern. I look forward to hearing the debate. I welcome the voices on all sides. I understand the need for there to be a good and honest and open discourse on peace and security and freedom.

And as we work to secure the peace and to make the country a stronger and safer place, we've always got to remember to make America a better place, too, a better place for every single citizen who lives in this country. That starts with making sure that every child in America gets an education, not some but every child.

I was honored to work with Judd and Ted Kennedy. Believe it or not—[laughter]—it's amazing what can happen when people put their minds to do what's right for America and cast aside all the nonsense of the politics and focus on what's right. I signed a really good education bill. I want to share it with you because it's your responsibility, by the way, to make sure the citizens in this community get educated. See, I believe in local control of schools; that bill said that. But let me tell you two other things it said.

It said two other things that are really important. It said, in America, we believe each child can learn. And therefore, we must set high standards and high expectations. As a nation, if we want America to be a better place, we must challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations.

And you see, if you believe every child can learn, if you believe that—you've got to believe it; you just can't say it; you've got to believe it. You've got to believe our inner-city kids can learn. You've got to believe that a child whose parents may not speak English as a first language can learn. You have to believe it.

And if you do believe that, like I believe it, then you want to know. Then you want to know whether or not the children are learning. And therefore, in return for Federal

money, we have said, "Show us, New Hampshire. You show us. You show us whether our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. You chart the path to excellence, and you measure. In return for the biggest increase in education spending in a long, long time, we expect every child to be educated. And when you find children in schools which will not teach and will not change, in order to make sure no child is left behind, you've got to demand something different. You've got to demand excellence in your schools for every single child."

A better America is one that says, we're going to help people in need, but we want them to work. Any good welfare reauthorization must have work as its central component. We'll help you, fine. We'll train you. But work leads to dignity. Work gives people a hopeful future.

A better America is one that recognizes that medicine has changed, but Government programs like Medicare haven't. Medicine is modern. Medicare isn't. For the sake of a better America, our seniors need to be treated with a Medicare program that includes prescription drugs and is a modern program.

But see, one of the things that you've got to understand about Government: Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put love in a person's life. What Government cannot do is put hope in hearts. And that's why, in order to make sure that America is a better place, we've got to really unleash the great strength of America. And the great strength of this country is the people of this country. The great strength of America lay in the hearts and souls of our fellow Americans.

Today we are honored—and I was honored at the airport there—to greet Bonnie Monahan and Patrick Fraser. They are two of our fellow citizens. Bonnie is the vice president of the Timberland Company, and Patrick works for the City Youth—City Year Youth Service Corps. And the reason I bring them up is, there's two examples about what I'm talking about, about the great strength of the country. Timberland offers employees 40 hours of paid leave to volunteer in their communities. This good company, this company, which is doing their best to look at the bottom line, also understands the bottom line

is more than just dollars and cents. The bottom line is being a good citizen. They provide paid leave for people to be involved with helping our community be a better place. They've got City Year Youth Service Corps, where Freedom Corps volunteers—kids who understand we can save America, one heart and one soul at a time—working in Timberland. I want to thank the City Corps, and I want to thank Timberland for coming.

I want to thank you all for being here. See, it's an important signal that one person can't do everything, but one person can do something to be a part of changing America. People have often asked me, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" You can join the war against terror and fight evil by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

A better America is an America which understands that in the midst of our plenty, there are people who hurt. There are pockets of despair. There's loneliness. Some communities you say, "Hey, American Dream," and they go, "What does that mean? I don't know what you're talking about."

If one of us hurts, we all hurt. And therefore, we must do everything we can to make this country a better place, a more optimistic place. And it starts with each of us. If you want to be a part of a change of America, all you've got to do is put your arm around a neighbor in need and say, "I love you." Mentor a child. Start a Boy and Girls Club. Feed the hungry. Help house the homeless.

And it's happening in America. The amazing thing about September the 11th—a day in which we still grieve as a nation; we still send our prayers to those whose lives were completely disrupted—but this Nation is so strong and so confident and so good, instead of being cowed by the enemy, we rose up. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I don't know what was in the mind of the enemy. They must have thought we were so selfish and materialistic and self-absorbed that when they attacked us, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*]

Instead, what they're finding out about this country is, we love our freedom. And if we remain strong and focused and tough when we need to, if we continue to speak clearly

about right from wrong and defend the values, which are not American values but God-given values, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace in the world. We can achieve peace for our citizens.

And here at home, if we remember the definition a patriot is something more than just putting your hand over your heart—the definition of a patriot in the face of the evil done to America is to serve something greater than yourself in life, is to help somebody in need, is to love a person, one at a time, as we remember that—which I know we will.

The enemy will have hit us, but America will be a stronger, more compassionate, better place for all of us. There's no question in my mind that we can meet our goals, that we can meet this challenge, because, my fellow Americans, this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. at the National Guard Armory. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jean Shaheen of New Hampshire; Mayor Robert A. Baines of Manchester; Raymond J. Wieczorek, New Hampshire Executive Councilor for District Four; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John Sununu in Manchester

October 5, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Listen, it's good to be back. I had the honor of speaking in the Armory before, and it's the place where I cut my teeth in New Hampshire politics by flipping pancakes. [Laughter] But it was reminiscent of some really good times for Laura and me, and I recognize a lot of faces here, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I'm here because I want to make it as plain as I can, John Sununu will be a great United States Senator for New Hampshire. It's in my interests. It's in New Hampshire's interests. It's in the country's interests that John Sununu be elected.

I want to thank you all for working hard for his election. There's no doubt in my mind

that we will be able to work together to do what's right for the country.

I'm impressed by his record. First of all, I know something about what I'm about to speak. He and I share something in common: We've both got mothers still telling us what to do. [Laughter] He assures me he's still listening to her—[laughter]—and I'm listening to mine—[laughter]—most of the time.

We both married above ourselves. [Laughter] I want to thank Kitty Sununu, mother of three, for standing by John's side. It's tough to run for office. It's hard on a family. But if you've got a good marriage and if you prioritize your family, you can do anything. And I appreciate the Sununus' love for each other, and I appreciate their family values a lot.

Laura sends her best. She made a lot of friends here in New Hampshire. She sends her love to her friends. She sends her best, of course, to the Sununus. She wishes she could be here. She is opening up a museum in Portland, Maine. You all drew the short straw. [Laughter] But she's doing great. She's doing great. I have been incredibly proud of her.

The country has seen her grace and her strength and her calm when the pressure was on. People began to realize why I asked her to marry me, and some are a little confused as to say why she said yes, but nevertheless. [Laughter] I love her dearly. She is a fabulous First Lady for the country.

I appreciate Judd Gregg. He's been a friend. He's a solid citizen. He's a really, really good United States Senator. He too married well. It's great that Kathy's here. But the Greggs are close friends of Laura and mine. We value their friendship, and I know you value his service to the great State of New Hampshire.

I want to say a word about Bob Smith. Bob served well in the United States Senate. I was incredibly impressed by his graciousness on what had to have been a very difficult night for Bob and his family. He was gracious about John. He was strong in his support. New Hampshire has been well represented by Senator Bob Smith. I too am proud to call him friend. And I appreciate his service to the country.

I'm also proud to serve in Washington, DC, with a fine United States Congressman, a fellow I got to know pretty well as I traveled on John's Winnebago all over the State of New Hampshire, and that's Charlie Bass. I appreciate you, Charlie.

I also look forward to being joined in Washington by the Congressman Jeb Bradley. I appreciate the campaign Jeb is running, and I'm honored to be here with the next Governor of the State of New Hampshire, Craig Benson. I appreciate you, Craig.

I know something about being a Governor, and I know what it takes to get elected. And I am impressed by the campaign that Craig is running. He takes nothing for granted. He's out there in those coffee shops and knocking on those doors. He is traveling this State. He has got a burning desire to do what's right for all the people of New Hampshire. I'm confident he's going to win, and I'm equally as confident that he'll do a great job as your Governor.

But most of all, I want to thank the grassroots activists of the State of New Hampshire for coming. I want to thank you for what you have done and, more importantly now, what you're going to do.

And I know what you can do in this State. You can turn out the vote. You can put up the signs. You can mail the mailers. You can get on the phones. John Sununu will be elected the United States Senator, not only because he's got a good message and a good heart but because of your hard work and your dedication to turn out the vote.

I want to thank the chairman of the party, John Dowd, and Tom Rath, the national committeeman, and Nancy Merrill, the national committeewoman, for leading an active, strong grassroots organization. You need to go to your coffee shops. You need to go to your churches or your synagogues or your mosques or any other place of worship. You need to go to your community centers. And you need to tell everybody in the State of New Hampshire, Republican, Democrat, or Independent, that you've got some fine candidates, that John Sununu needs to be the United States Senator.

And we've got some tough tasks ahead of us. We must work together to make sure Americans can find work. The way I like to

put it is, anytime anybody who wants to work can't find a job, we must do everything we can to seek to expand the job base.

Now, the role of Government—John and I know this—is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneur, the spirit of America, can flourish, in which our producers have got a chance to make a living. And so therefore, I need somebody in the Senate who understands that, somebody who also understands the importance, when the economy is slow, of letting people keep more of their own money.

New Hampshire citizens of all political stripes must understand that when the economy is slow, that you don't increase taxes on the American people, but you let people keep more of their own money. Because when they do, they demand a good or a service, and when they demand a good or a service, somebody in the marketplace is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody makes that decision to produce a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

For the sake of jobs in New Hampshire, for the sake of economic vitality in this State, you need a United States Senator who will join me in making the tax cuts permanent.

John Sununu was with me from the beginning. There was no question in my mind where he stood. He didn't need to take a poll or a focus group to make his decision about tax relief. He knew it was the right thing for the national economy. The problem we have and the reason we have to continue to talking about this issue is because of a quirk in the Senate rules. And I'm going to let old Judd, after I leave back to go see my mother, tell you what—how this happened.

Let me just put it to you this way, in plain language. The Senate has got the kind of rule where you pass the tax cut, and then 10 years it goes back to where we were. The way I like to put it, if I can—in plain English is, on the one hand, they taketh away, on the other hand, they giveth. On the one hand they give tax relief; on the other hand, you don't get tax relief. It's hard to explain in Manchester, New Hampshire, and it's darn sure hard to explain in Crawford, Texas.

But this isn't hard to explain: That wouldn't happen if you had a United States Senate which would vote to make the tax cuts permanent, and that Senator would be John Sununu.

A couple of other things that we need to do in Washington to make sure our folks can find work. Listen, we've got a lot of construction projects which are on hold because people can't get terrorism insurance. The enemy hit us, and they affected our economy. And one way they did was a lot of construction projects—like \$15 billion worth—are not going forward because people can't get insurance, because of a potential terrorist attack.

I think it is a legitimate use for Congress to kind of underwrite terrorism insurance. There is 300,000 jobs going begging, 300,000 hardhats not finding work because we can't get terrorism insurance. It doesn't cost the American people anything if there's not another attack. But it'll help the economy grow. It'll help make people—it'll help people find work. John Sununu understands this. What we need to do is pass a terrorism insurance bill that does not reward trial lawyers but works to put our hardhats back to work in America.

And finally, there's a lot of things we can do to make the environment for economic growth strong. But one thing we need to do for certain is to elect people who understand whose money we spend in Washington. You need to listen carefully to the debates that goes on in our Nation's Capital. You see, some of them are—goes on with people trying to get to the Nation's Capital. Some of them, they talk about the Government's money. Folks, we don't spend the Government's money in Washington. We spend your money. And you better make sure you send somebody to Washington who is a fiscally responsible person.

I know firsthand that John is. After all, he's on the—he's vice chairman of the Budget Committee in the House. And by the way, the House Budget Committee passed my budget, so the House has a budget. It gets us back to balance quickly. It funds priorities. It gets us back to balance as quickly as possible. It says, "Let's be responsible with your money." We can't get a budget out of the United States Senate. And if you don't have

a budget and because every idea in Washington sounds like a brilliant idea, even though the price tag may run in the billions, we've got the danger of the Congress overspending. There's no question in mind that John Sununu will be responsible with the people's money when he becomes the United States Senator.

I think a lot about our economy. I'm going to do everything I can to increase the job base. I spend a lot of time on it. It's one way to make sure the country is stronger. Another way to make sure we've got a strong country is to make sure that our Federal bench is a bench full of judges that don't use their position from which to legislate. We've got plenty of legislators. We don't need our judges legislating, we need them strictly interpreting the Constitution.

That's an issue in this campaign—the bench is an issue in this campaign. I named a fabulous lady from Texas named Priscilla Owen. She'd been running statewide in our State several times, got elected overwhelmingly, had strong Republican support, strong Democrat support, number one in her law school class, or tops of her law school class. She's ranked the highest rating possible by the American Bar Association. She is a—you know, she'll interpret the Constitution; she's not going to try to rewrite it.

And I sent her name up there and they—they weren't fair with her record. They totally politicized the issue. They made this a huge political deal. For the sake of a solid judiciary, I need John Sununu in the United States Senate.

I named a new man named Michael Estrada to one of our higher benches. It's a great American success story. He couldn't speak English when he came here. He's now being nominated by the President to one of the highest benches because he's a brilliant lawyer. He's got fantastic support from Democrats and Republicans. John Sununu will cast his vote with Michael. Judd Gregg would. I wonder if the other candidate in this race would stand up and support the judicial nominees of a President George W. Bush. For the sake of a strong judiciary, we need John Sununu in the United States Senate.

I also appreciate his understanding that our most important priority is to protect the homeland. See, there's an enemy which stills hate America lurking around. And so long as they lurk, we must do everything we can to protect America. That's our most important job, is to protect you. There's a lot of good folks working hard to do this. Listen, we're running down every lead, every hint; every idea that somebody might hurt us, we're following up on.

But in order to make sure I can do a better job, I ask the Congress to join me in the creating of a Department of Homeland Security. Listen, when I was campaigning here I didn't say, "Vote for me. I want your Government to be bigger." I did say, "I want your Government to work where it needs to work." And it needs to work in protecting the homeland. There's over 100 agencies scattered around Washington that have got something to do with the homeland.

So for the sake of better managing the Department, for the sake of being able to get people to work together, I said, "Let's have it in one agency." The House heard it. Judd Gregg has heard it. Sununu supported it. But it's tied up in the Senate. And here's the issue. Some Senators want there to be a thick book of managerial regulations which will prevent a President from putting the right people at the right place at the right time in order to respond to an enemy. Some people want there to be more bureaucracy than managerial flexibility.

One example, just one of many: We believe, and the Customs Service believes, that people ought to be wearing radiation detection devices when they inspect cargo, to determine whether or not a weapon of mass destruction is coming into the country. The union representing the Customs agents said, "Wait a minute. You can't make people wear radiation detection devices. That's a matter for collective bargaining; we need a collective bargain over that," which could have taken a year to do that.

I need flexibility. I need a Senator who understands that this President and future Presidents—[applause].

The best way to protect America, however, is to chase these killers down, one at a time,

one person at a time. And that is precisely what we are going to do.

And they're out there. They just are. We're making progress. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. It's just as important today as it was the day after the attacks on September the 11th. And so there's a lot of folks working with us. We've got good intelligence. We're sharing it better than ever before. We're cutting off their money. We're denying safe haven. If we can find them lighting somewhere, we get them on the run. And we pulled in a couple of thousand of them.

And sometimes it makes news when we do it, and sometimes it doesn't. This is just a different kind of war. In the old days, you destroyed an enemy's tanks, and you say, "Well, we're making progress," sunk a couple of ships and we're making progress.

These folks don't have ships. They don't have tanks. They hide in caves, and they send youngsters to their suicidal death. That guy al-Shibh, bin al-Shibh popped up, and he's no longer a problem. [Laughter] We hauled him in.

Slowly but surely, we are dismantling an Al Qaida terrorist network, and we've got a lot more work to do. By the way, we probably captured a couple of thousand of them, and just that many weren't as lucky, thanks to the United States military.

By the way, that doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of those terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," it still stands, too. But I want you to remind you—I want you to remind your kids, in all the midst of this talk about military this and that, that this great Nation did what it said it was going to do. And at the same time it upheld doctrine, it liberated people.

We didn't go to Afghanistan, nor will we ever go anywhere, to conquer anybody. See, we believe in freedom. That's why the enemy hates us. We believe in freedom, and we went into Afghanistan—we freed people. Thanks to the United States, young girls now go to—many young girls now go to school for the first time because of our belief in freedom. Everybody counts. Everybody has got worth.

I sent a bill up there to increase defense spending, a big increase, for two reasons. I hope you appreciate the reasons why. One, anytime we put our troops in harm's way, we owe it to our troops; we owe it to their loved ones, to make sure they've got the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, it's a clear signal that we're in this deal for the long haul, that there's not a artificial timeline that says: Well, we've had enough; we're kind of tired; let's quit.

See, we need to send a signal—we know this here at home, but others need to know that when it comes to the defense of things which we hold dear, namely our freedoms—our freedom to worship the way we see fit, the freedom to debate political issues in an open forum, the freedom of the press—when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, there is no timeframe. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how difficult the task. The United States of America will defend our freedoms.

I haven't seen that defense bill yet. Judd voted for it, and John voted for it. I haven't seen it yet. It's stuck in committee. They don't need to be playing politics with the defense bill right now. They need to get the bill done before they go home. They need to get the defense bill on my desk.

I said we're in this deal for the long haul, and we are. We'll be chasing Al Qaida down. They think they can hide somewhere. They just cannot do that with America. The long arm of American and allied justice will seek them out.

We've got some other tasks ahead as well to keep the peace and to make our country secure. And that of course is Iraq. There's now a national debate, one which I encourage, one which I think is helpful, a national debate on how best to keep the peace, how best to secure the homeland, whether or not we ought to deal with threats before they become so severe that we may never be able to deal with them. It's an important debate.

Monday night I'll be giving a talk to the Nation about my take on the debate. I want to share some thought with you right quick, and it's this. The facts and the history of Iraq are pretty clear to me. This is a man who told the world he would not have weapons

of mass destruction, your chemical, your biological or nuclear weapons. For 11 years he has lied.

On the one hand, he said he wouldn't have them—he does. And remember, this is a guy who's used them. He not only has denied and deceived about possessing weapons; he's actually used the weapons of mass destruction. He's used the weapons of mass destruction against neighbors. He has used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. He hates America. He hates many of our friends. He hates Israel. He's a man who continues to kill his own people who might dissent. When the inspectors were able to go into the country and have unfettered access, it was discovered that he was a short period away from owning a nuclear weapon.

It's an important debate we're going to have here in America about how best to secure the homeland. I took the debate to the United Nations a while ago. One, I want the United Nations to be effective. I want there to be a body of freedom-loving nations that, when they speak, something actually can happen.

This is a man, as I reminded them, who has looked the United Nations in the eye for 11 long years and has defied them. Sixteen times the Security Council passed resolution after resolution after resolution after resolution, and 16 times he defied them.

My message was, "We want you to be effective. We've got a new kind of war we fight. You need to be effective. We want you to work. But it's your choice. You can either be an effective United Nations, or you can be the League of Nations. You get to pick."

I also have said as clearly as I can that this isn't an issue of inspectors. That's what the process-oriented people want. This is an issue of disarmament. This is a man who has said he would disarm. The United Nations said he must 16 times. He said he would, but he hasn't. The choice is his to make as well. And those choices will be made over time here.

But for the sake of our peace, for the sake of our children's future, if the United Nations will not act in strong fashion, if they continue to be ineffective, if Saddam Hussein makes the choice not to disarm, the United States and a lot of our friends will disarm him. For

the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, for the sake of our future and our children's future, we will disarm him.

The use of our military is my last choice, not my first. I take my responsibilities very seriously as the Commander in Chief. The use of force is not my first choice; it's my last. But my first choice as well is not to allow the world's worst leader to blackmail, to harm America with the world's worst weapons.

The United States Congress will speak to this issue next week. It's a very, very important debate. This is not a partisan discussion, it's a philosophical discussion. It's a discussion that's a weighty matter. I look forward to the debate. I actually encourage the debate.

I was proud the other day when both Republicans and Democrats stood with me in the Rose Garden to announce their support for a clear statement of purpose: You disarm, or we will. We owe it to our children to think about this issue. We owe it to the future. My belief is, is that the enemy hit us, and out of the evil can come some incredible good. And one of the good that can come is peace.

The United States can lead the world to peace if we're clear and forthright and determined. If we speak clearly about terror and its threats, if we hold our values, God-given values in the forefront, and that is freedom, we can achieve a peaceful world.

And you know what else we can do here in America? We can achieve a better world for all of us too, better world for each person who lives in this country. There are pockets of despair and loneliness in America. My attitude is, when our citizens hurt, we all hurt. I recognize the limitations of Government, I think John does as well. I mean, we can—Government should educate, see that people are educated—passed a good education bill. John talked about—he was a strong stalwart, as was Judd, who actually was an author, of holding people accountable. It says every child can learn in America. We are going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations in this country, and we're going to insist every child learns.

Government can make sure the health systems are modern. Medicare is old. Medicine

has changed, Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare—and a really incredibly important program—has not changed with medicine. For the sake of our seniors, we need a prescription drug plan and a modern Medicare system. That's an important part of Government being involved with making our society better.

But what Government cannot do is cause people to love one another. Government cannot put hope in people's hearts. That's up to us, our fellow citizens. My call to America has been and will continue to be to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to fight evil, do some good. Do some good. Help somebody in need. Mentor a child. Go to a Boy Scout—or run a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout troop. Feed the hungry. Find shelter for the homeless. There are many ways to fight the evil that has been done to our country.

You see, it's the millions of acts of kindness and decency by our fellow citizens that reflect the true nature and character of this country. No, the enemy hit us. They thought—they thought, they probably thought that after September the 11th, 2001, we would file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]*

What they didn't realize is, this country is plenty tough. And the world is beginning to see we're plenty—we're plenty compassionate too, that in our—that our strength is our will and our resolve and our dedication to values we hold dear, and our strength is our collective heart.

You know, one reason I got into politics was because I wanted to be a part of a cultural shift, just a small part of a change. I think the enemy accelerated that cultural shift from one in which it said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understand we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are a mom or a dad, your most important responsibility is to love your child. If you're living in Manchester, New Hampshire, you have the responsibility for the quality of life. You have the responsibility to

making sure the schools work. If you're running corporate America, you have a responsibility to tell the truth and to treat your shareholders and employees with dignity and respect.

Perhaps the most vivid example about what I'm talking about, about serving something greater than yourself as part of a culture of personal responsibility, came on Flight 93. It's an important moment, in my judgment, about what took place on America on that terrible day.

We had citizens flying across the country. They were told on the telephone that the airplane they were on was being used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer—history will show they said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane in the ground.

They sent a clear signal to America that serving something greater than yourself in life is an incredibly important part about being the ultimate American, about serving our country.

No, when the enemy hit us, they didn't know who they were hitting. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good. The world will be more peaceful. This country will be able to eliminate—work to eliminate the pockets of despair.

There's no question in my mind we face challenges as a nation. But there's no question in my mind we can overcome them. After all, this is the finest nation, the greatest nation, on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming to help John. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Expo Center of New Hampshire at the Holiday Inn Manchester. In his remarks, he referred to Kitty Sununu, wife of Representative Sununu; Kathleen MacLellan Gregg, wife of Representative Gregg; Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, whose nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit failed on September 5 when the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to send it forward for a vote by the Senate; Miguel A. Estrada, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the Sniper Attacks in the Greater Washington Area

October 7, 2002

In recent days we have witnessed a series of cowardly and senseless acts of violence in the greater Washington area. I have committed Federal resources to support the local law enforcement agencies that are in charge of the investigation, including FBI profiling experts and ballistics analysts from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

I have also directed the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to assist the students, teachers, and families affected by the violence by providing counseling and other community health services.

I applaud the State and local law enforcement officials who are working around the clock to help solve these heinous crimes and protect our citizens. Laura and I send our thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families.

Executive Order 13275—Creating a Board of Inquiry To Report on Certain Labor Disputes Affecting the Maritime Industry of the United States

October 7, 2002

Whereas, there exists a labor dispute between, on the one hand, employees represented by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and, on the other hand, employers and the bargaining association of employers who are (1) U.S. and foreign steamship companies operating ships or employed as agents for ships engaged in service to or from the Pacific Coast ports in California, Oregon, and Washington, and (2) stevedore and terminal companies operating at ports in California, Oregon, and Washington; and

Whereas, such dispute has resulted in a lock-out that affects a substantial part of the maritime industry, an industry engaged in trade, commerce, transportation (including the transportation of military supplies), transmission, and communication among the several States and with foreign nations; and

Whereas, a continuation of this lock-out, if permitted to continue, will imperil the national health and safety;

Now, Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 206 of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (61 Stat. 155; 29 U.S.C. 176) (the “Act”), I hereby create a Board of Inquiry consisting of such members as I shall appoint to inquire into the issues involved in such dispute.

The Board shall have powers and duties as set forth in title II of the Act. The Board shall report to me in accordance with the provisions of section 206 of the Act no later than October 8, 2002.

Upon the submission of its report, the Board shall continue in existence in order to perform any additional functions under the Act, including those functions set forth in section 209(b), but shall terminate no later than upon completion of such functions.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 7, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 8, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 9.

Address to the Nation on Iraq From Cincinnati, Ohio

October 7, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you for that very gracious and warm Cincinnati welcome. I’m honored to be here tonight. I appreciate you all coming.

Tonight I want to take a few minutes to discuss a grave threat to peace and America’s determination to lead the world in confronting that threat.

The threat comes from Iraq. It arises directly from the Iraqi regime’s own actions—its history of aggression and its drive toward an arsenal of terror. Eleven years ago, as a condition for ending the Persian Gulf war, the Iraqi regime was required to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, to cease all development of such weapons, and to stop all support for terrorist groups. The Iraqi regime

has violated all of those obligations. It possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons. It has given shelter and support to terrorism and practices terror against its own people. The entire world has witnessed Iraq’s 11-year history of defiance, deception, and bad faith.

We must also never forget the most vivid events of recent history. On September the 11th, 2001, America felt its vulnerability, even to threats that gather on the other side of the Earth. We resolved then and we are resolved today to confront every threat, from any source, that could bring sudden terror and suffering to America.

Members of Congress of both political parties and members of the United Nations Security Council agree that Saddam Hussein is a threat to peace and must disarm. We agree that the Iraqi dictator must not be permitted to threaten America and the world with horrible poisons and diseases and gases and atomic weapons. Since we all agree on this goal, the issue is: How can we best achieve it?

Many Americans have raised legitimate questions about the nature of the threat, about the urgency of action—why be concerned now—about the link between Iraq developing weapons of terror and the wider war on terror. These are all issues we’ve discussed broadly and fully within my administration. And tonight I want to share those discussions with you.

First, some ask why Iraq is different from other countries or regimes that also have terrible weapons. While there are many dangers in the world, the threat from Iraq stands alone because it gathers the most serious dangers of our age in one place. Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction are controlled by a murderous tyrant who has already used chemical weapons to kill thousands of people. This same tyrant has tried to dominate the Middle East, has invaded and brutally occupied a small neighbor, has struck other nations without warning, and holds an unrelenting hostility toward the United States.

By its past and present actions, by its technological capabilities, by the merciless nature of its regime, Iraq is unique. As a former chief weapons inspector of the U.N. has said,

“The fundamental problem with Iraq remains the nature of the regime, itself. Saddam Hussein is a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction.”

Some ask how urgent this danger is to America and the world. The danger is already significant, and it only grows worse with time. If we know Saddam Hussein has dangerous weapons today—and we do—does it make any sense for the world to wait to confront him as he grows even stronger and develops even more dangerous weapons?

In 1995, after several years of deceit by the Iraqi regime, the head of Iraq’s military industries defected. It was then that the regime was forced to admit that it had produced more than 30,000 liters of anthrax and other deadly biological agents. The inspectors, however, concluded that Iraq had likely produced 2 to 4 times that amount. This is a massive stockpile of biological weapons that has never been accounted for and is capable of killing millions.

We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents, including mustard gas, sarin nerve gas, VX nerve gas. Saddam Hussein also has experience in using chemical weapons. He has ordered chemical attacks on Iran and on more than 40 villages in his own country. These actions killed or injured at least 20,000 people, more than 6 times the number of people who died in the attacks of September the 11th.

And surveillance photos reveal that the regime is rebuilding facilities that it had used to produce chemical and biological weapons. Every chemical and biological weapon that Iraq has or makes is a direct violation of the truce that ended the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Yet, Saddam Hussein has chosen to build and keep these weapons despite international sanctions, U.N. demands, and isolation from the civilized world.

Iraq possesses ballistic missiles with a likely range of hundreds of miles—far enough to strike Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey, and other nations—in a region where more than 135,000 American civilians and service members live and work. We’ve also discovered through intelligence that Iraq has a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles that could be used to disperse chemical or biological weapons across broad areas.

We’re concerned that Iraq is exploring ways of using these UAVs for missions targeting the United States. And of course, sophisticated delivery systems aren’t required for a chemical or biological attack; all that might be required are a small container and one terrorist or Iraqi intelligence operative to deliver it.

And that is the source of our urgent concern about Saddam Hussein’s links to international terrorist groups. Over the years, Iraq has provided safe haven to terrorists such as Abu Nidal, whose terror organization carried out more than 90 terrorist attacks in 20 countries that killed or injured nearly 900 people, including 12 Americans. Iraq has also provided safe haven to Abu Abbas, who was responsible for seizing the Achille Lauro and killing an American passenger. And we know that Iraq is continuing to finance terror and gives assistance to groups that use terrorism to undermine Middle East peace.

We know that Iraq and the Al Qaida terrorist network share a common enemy—the United States of America. We know that Iraq and Al Qaida have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. Some Al Qaida leaders who fled Afghanistan went to Iraq. These include one very senior Al Qaida leader who received medical treatment in Baghdad this year, and who has been associated with planning for chemical and biological attacks. We’ve learned that Iraq has trained Al Qaida members in bombmaking and poisons and deadly gases. And we know that after September the 11th, Saddam Hussein’s regime gleefully celebrated the terrorist attacks on America.

Iraq could decide on any given day to provide a biological or chemical weapon to a terrorist group or individual terrorists. Alliance with terrorists could allow the Iraqi regime to attack America without leaving any fingerprints.

Some have argued that confronting the threat from Iraq could detract from the war against terror. To the contrary, confronting the threat posed by Iraq is crucial to winning the war on terror. When I spoke to Congress more than a year ago, I said that those who harbor terrorists are as guilty as the terrorists themselves. Saddam Hussein is harboring terrorists and the instruments of terror, the

instruments of mass death and destruction. And he cannot be trusted. The risk is simply too great that he will use them or provide them to a terror network.

Terror cells and outlaw regimes building weapons of mass destruction are different faces of the same evil. Our security requires that we confront both. And the United States military is capable of confronting both.

Many people have asked how close Saddam Hussein is to developing a nuclear weapon. Well, we don't know exactly, and that's the problem. Before the Gulf war, the best intelligence indicated that Iraq was 8 to 10 years away from developing a nuclear weapon. After the war, international inspectors learned that the regime had been much closer—the regime in Iraq would likely have possessed a nuclear weapon no later than 1993. The inspectors discovered that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a workable nuclear weapon, and was pursuing several different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb.

Before being barred from Iraq in 1998, the International Atomic Energy Agency dismantled extensive nuclear weapons-related facilities, including three uranium enrichment sites. That same year, information from a high-ranking Iraqi nuclear engineer who had defected revealed that despite his public promises, Saddam Hussein had ordered his nuclear program to continue.

The evidence indicates that Iraq is reconstituting its nuclear weapons program. Saddam Hussein has held numerous meetings with Iraqi nuclear scientists, a group he calls his “nuclear mujahideen,” his nuclear holy warriors. Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq is rebuilding facilities at sites that have been part of its nuclear program in the past. Iraq has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes and other equipment needed for gas centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

If the Iraqi regime is able to produce, buy, or steal an amount of highly enriched uranium a little larger than a single softball, it could have a nuclear weapon in less than a year. And if we allow that to happen, a terrible line would be crossed. Saddam Hussein would be in a position to blackmail anyone

who opposes his aggression. He would be in a position to dominate the Middle East. He would be in a position to threaten America. And Saddam Hussein would be in a position to pass nuclear technology to terrorists.

Some citizens wonder, after 11 years of living with this problem, why do we need to confront it now? And there's a reason. We've experienced the horror of September the 11th. We have seen that those who hate America are willing to crash airplanes into buildings full of innocent people. Our enemies would be no less willing—in fact, they would be eager—to use biological or chemical or a nuclear weapon.

Knowing these realities, America must not ignore the threat gathering against us. Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait for the final proof, the smoking gun, that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud. As President Kennedy said in October of 1962, “Neither the United States of America nor the world community of nations can tolerate deliberate deception and offensive threats on the part of any nation, large or small. We no longer live in a world,” he said, “where only the actual firing of weapons represents a sufficient challenge to a nation's security to constitute maximum peril.”

Understanding the threats of our time, knowing the designs and deceptions of the Iraqi regime, we have every reason to assume the worst, and we have an urgent duty to prevent the worst from occurring.

Some believe we can address this danger by simply resuming the old approach to inspections and applying diplomatic and economic pressure. Yet this is precisely what the world has tried to do since 1991. The U.N. inspections program was met with systematic deception. The Iraqi regime bugged hotel rooms and offices of inspectors to find where they were going next. They forged documents, destroyed evidence, and developed mobile weapons facilities to keep a step ahead of inspectors. Eight so-called Presidential palaces were declared off-limits to unfettered inspections. These sites actually encompass 12 square miles, with hundreds of structures, both above and below the ground, where sensitive materials could be hidden.

The world has also tried economic sanctions and watched Iraq use billions of dollars in illegal oil revenues to fund more weapons purchases, rather than providing for the needs of the Iraqi people.

The world has tried limited military strikes to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities, only to see them openly rebuilt, while the regime again denies they even exist.

The world has tried no-fly zones to keep Saddam from terrorizing his own people, and in the last year alone, the Iraqi military has fired upon American and British pilots more than 750 times.

After 11 years during which we have tried containment, sanctions, inspections, even selected military action, the end result is that Saddam Hussein still has chemical and biological weapons and is increasing his capabilities to make more. And he is moving ever closer to developing a nuclear weapon.

Clearly, to actually work, any new inspections, sanctions, or enforcement mechanisms will have to be very different. America wants the U.N. to be an effective organization that helps keep the peace. And that is why we are urging the Security Council to adopt a new resolution setting out tough, immediate requirements. Among those requirements, the Iraqi regime must reveal and destroy, under U.N. supervision, all existing weapons of mass destruction. To ensure that we learn the truth, the regime must allow witnesses to its illegal activities to be interviewed outside the country, and these witnesses must be free to bring their families with them so they are all beyond the reach of Saddam Hussein's terror and murder. And inspectors must have access to any site, at any time, without preclearance, without delay, without exceptions.

The time for denying, deceiving, and delaying has come to an end. Saddam Hussein must disarm himself, or for the sake of peace, we will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Many nations are joining us in insisting that Saddam Hussein's regime be held accountable. They are committed to defending the international security that protects the lives of both our citizens and theirs. And that's why America is challenging all nations

to take the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council seriously.

And these resolutions are very clear. In addition to declaring and destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq must end its support for terrorism. It must cease the persecution of its civilian population. It must stop all illicit trade outside the oil-for-food program. It must release or account for all Gulf war personnel, including an American pilot whose fate is still unknown.

By taking these steps and by only taking these steps, the Iraqi regime has an opportunity to avoid conflict. Taking these steps would also change the nature of the Iraqi regime, itself. America hopes the regime will make that choice. Unfortunately, at least so far, we have little reason to expect it. And that's why two administrations, mine and President Clinton's, have stated that regime change in Iraq is the only certain means of removing a great danger to our Nation.

I hope this will not require military action, but it may. And military conflict could be difficult. An Iraqi regime faced with its own demise may attempt cruel and desperate measures. If Saddam Hussein orders such measures, his generals would be well advised to refuse those orders. If they do not refuse, they must understand that all war criminals will be pursued and punished. If we have to act, we will take every precaution that is possible. We will plan carefully. We will act with the full power of the United States military. We will act with allies at our side, and we will prevail.

There is no easy or risk-free course of action. Some have argued we should wait, and that's an option. In my view, it's the riskiest of all options, because the longer we wait, the stronger and bolder Saddam Hussein will become. We could wait and hope that Saddam does not give weapons to terrorists or develop a nuclear weapon to blackmail the world. But I'm convinced that is a hope against all evidence. As Americans, we want peace; we work and sacrifice for peace. But there can be no peace if our security depends on the will and whims of a ruthless and aggressive dictator. I'm not willing to stake one American life on trusting Saddam Hussein.

Failure to act would embolden other tyrants, allow terrorists access to new weapons

and new resources, and make blackmail a permanent feature of world events. The United Nations would betray the purpose of its founding and prove irrelevant to the problems of our time. And through its inaction, the United States would resign itself to a future of fear.

That is not the America I know. That is not the America I serve. We refuse to live in fear. This Nation, in World War and in cold war, has never permitted the brutal and lawless to set history's course. Now as before, we will secure our Nation, protect our freedom, and help others to find freedom of their own.

Some worry that a change of leadership in Iraq could create instability and make the situation worse. The situation could hardly get worse, for world security and for the people of Iraq. The lives of Iraqi citizens would improve dramatically if Saddam Hussein were no longer in power, just as the lives of Afghanistan's citizens improved after the Taliban. The dictator of Iraq is a student of Stalin, using murder as a tool of terror and control, within his own cabinet, within his own army, and even within his own family. On Saddam Hussein's orders, opponents have been decapitated, wives and mothers of political opponents have been systematically raped as a method of intimidation, and political prisoners have been forced to watch their own children being tortured.

America believes that all people are entitled to hope and human rights, to the non-negotiable demands of human dignity. People everywhere prefer freedom to slavery, prosperity to squalor, self-government to the rule of terror and torture. America is a friend to the people of Iraq. Our demands are directed only at the regime that enslaves them and threatens us. When these demands are met, the first and greatest benefit will come to Iraqi men, women, and children. The oppression of Kurds, Assyrians, Turkomans, Shi'a, Sunnis, and others will be lifted. The long captivity of Iraq will end, and an era of new hope will begin.

Iraq is a land rich in culture and resources and talent. Freed from the weight of oppression, Iraq's people will be able to share in the progress and prosperity of our time. If military action is necessary, the United States

and our allies will help the Iraqi people rebuild their economy and create the institutions of liberty in a unified Iraq at peace with its neighbors.

Later this week, the United States Congress will vote on this matter. I have asked Congress to authorize the use of America's military, if it proves necessary, to enforce U.N. Security Council demands. Approving this resolution does not mean that military action is imminent or unavoidable. The resolution will tell the United Nations and all nations that America speaks with one voice and is determined to make the demands of the civilized world mean something. Congress will also be sending a message to the dictator in Iraq that his only chance—his only choice is full compliance, and the time remaining for that choice is limited. Members of Congress are nearing an historic vote. I'm confident they will fully consider the facts and their duties.

The attacks of September the 11th showed our country that vast oceans no longer protect us from danger. Before that tragic date, we had only hints of Al Qaida's plans and designs. Today in Iraq, we see a threat whose outlines are far more clearly defined and whose consequences could be far more deadly. Saddam Hussein's actions have put us on notice, and there is no refuge from our responsibilities.

We did not ask for this present challenge, but we accept it. Like other generations of Americans, we will meet the responsibility of defending human liberty against violence and aggression. By our resolve, we will give strength to others. By our courage, we will give hope to others. And by our actions, we will secure the peace and lead the world to a better day.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 p.m. in the Grand Rotunda at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; former chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler; and missing American pilot Lt. Comdr. Michael S. Speicher, USN. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Community in Alcoa, Tennessee

October 8, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for coming. It's an honor to be back in East Tennessee. If I was dragging coming on this day, this Tennessee band kind of livened my step. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to see you all again. I'm proud to be in your presence. You represent a great university and a great State, and I'm honored you're here. I want to thank you all for coming. I've got some things on my mind, and I want to share them with you.

The first thing on my mind is this. I know—I know what it takes to be a good Governor. I know the characteristics necessary for someone to be able to assume that high office. Van Hilleary has what it takes to be a great Governor for Tennessee. I've also learned a lot about the United States Senate—[*laughter*—and I know we need Lamar Alexander in the United States Senate.

I appreciate so much Bill Frist. He's a distinguished citizen. He's a good friend, a good, honorable man who cares deeply about the citizens of this State, brings a lot of expertise to the Senate. He's kind of one of those fellows who can get something done in the United States Senate, and that's the kind of attitude we need in the United States Senate. And I appreciate Bill. I want to tell you how proud I am to be on the stage with Janice Bowling, who's going to be the next Congresswoman.

I appreciate my friend the mayor, the honorable Victor Ashe, for being here. I've known Victor for a long, long time. We both proved that you don't have to graduate from—with honors from college in order to hold higher office. I'm really proud to be with Victor's mother. I've known Mrs. Ashe for a long, long time. I'm proud to see you, Martha. Thanks for coming to say hello. I'm proud you're here.

I want to talk about the future of your State and the future of our country. First, let me talk about your State. It's important you get a good soul to be your Governor, somebody who shares your values, the values of hard work and family, the values of service

to others. It's important you get somebody who when they speak, they speak your language, who knows the soul of the citizens of the State. It's important to get somebody in there who doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell them what to think, somebody who makes decisions based upon a philosophy, somebody who stands tall when sometimes the winds of public opinion may be drifting a different way, somebody you can count on, somebody, when they turn up the butane, the political butane, you know where they stand. That person, no doubt in my mind, is Van Hilleary.

One of the things I like about him is he—when the country called, he stepped up, and he served in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Then he decided that he wanted to serve in Congress. He went to one of those districts where they said, "This is a district where a Republican can't possibly win." He went out and said, "Listen, I want to represent everybody. I'm not here just to appeal to a small segment of the district. I'm here to represent a philosophy and a way of life in a State I care deeply about." And he won where people didn't think he could win. And for a while, they didn't think he could win here in Tennessee. You watch what happens on election day. Van Hilleary is going to be the next Governor.

He understands agriculture, and that's important for this State. He understands budgeting. That's important for this State. [*Laughter*] He's been dealing with the Washington budget. If you can figure out the Washington budget, I can assure you, you can figure out the Tennessee budget. But the thing I like most about Van is, he understands the most important priority of a State is to make sure that every single child gets educated.

I like—when I was the Governor of a State that started with the letter T and has a university that wears orange and called UT—[*laughter*]—I used to say that education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's "the" priority. And I want to tell you all something, and you need to tell your friends at the coffee shops and at your community centers, that when it came to writing one of the most comprehensive pieces of education reform ever in the

history of our country, Van Hilleary played a significant role.

And let me share with you right quick the philosophy, because it's important to understand the philosophy behind educational excellence, at least our philosophy. He mentioned challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations in order to make sure every child learns in America. We must do that. We can never assign any child to failure. Every child can learn. If you believe every child can learn, then you must have a Governor who's willing to set high standards and high expectations. If you lower the bar, you see, if you believe certain kids can't learn—"Let's just move them through to get them off our—get them off the agenda"—if you lower the bar, you're going to get bad results.

Secondly, you've got to trust the local folks. See, one in—one of the key parts of the bill says that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to education, that you've got to trust local people to chart the path to excellence. You've got to empower local people to make the decisions for the children in their district. The people that care more about the children in Tennessee aren't in Washington; they're in Tennessee. And therefore, local control of schools is a fundamental part of education reform.

But let me tell you one other part. And it's important for the citizens of Tennessee to pay attention to this part of the education debate. If you believe every child can learn, like we do—see, if you believe that every child can learn, then you're willing to measure to determine if every child is learning. Those who don't believe every child can learn will say, "We don't need to measure," because if you don't believe they can learn, then why should you care? In order to make sure every child learns, it's essential that the good people of this State have a Governor who's willing to insist upon accountability.

We need to know in society—we need to know whether or not the curriculum is working. We need to know whether our teachers have the tools necessary to teach. We need to know whether or not schools are on the right track. We need to know whether or not each child in Tennessee can read and write and add and subtract. If you can—if you can't find out, you'll never know. If you don't

measure, you'll never know. In order to make sure no child gets left behind—I don't mean any single child in this State—you better have a Governor who is willing to hold people accountable for results. And when you find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, you better have a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo, and that man is Van Hilleary.

And I'm proud to strongly endorse the candidacy of Lamar Alexander. There's no question in my mind, and there should be no doubt in the minds of your fellow citizens, Republican, Democrat, or independent alike, that this man has proven his worth in the public sector and will be another great United States Senator from the State of Tennessee.

He knows education. He knows fiscal responsibility. But let me tell you another reason why we need him up there. One of the most serious parts of my job is to make sure that the Federal bench has got good judges on it, good, honorable, decent people who are willing to serve their communities and their Nation on the Federal bench, people who won't use the bench to act like or serve like a legislator. See, we've got the legislative branch. We don't need our judges acting like legislators. We need our judges there to strictly interpret our United States Constitution.

And I've named good judges. I named a lady the other day from the State of Texas, who I know well. She got elected several times statewide in my State, overwhelmingly so; came out of the law school class—one of the tops in her law school class; was ranked by the American Bar Association with the highest of high ratings; was embraced by both Republicans and Democrats alike. I put her nomination up there. They played politics with her nomination. They distorted Priscilla Owen's record. I need Senators like Lamar Alexander who will join me in making sure our Federal judiciary is strong and sensible and will not rewrite the Constitution from the bench.

And I appreciate Janice Bowling, willing to run and serve in Washington, DC. It's very important that we make sure that Denny Hastert is the Speaker of the House, make sure that coming into the next session that

we've got a Speaker with whom I can work. Janice stands for a lot of good things, stands for a lot of good issues, but the thing that I'm most impressed with is, she'll vote for Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House in Washington, DC.

We've got a lot of work to do in Washington. We've got a lot of work to do to make America a stronger place and a safer place and a better place. Making sure America is a stronger place really means we've got to make sure people can find work if they can't find work—people are able to find a job. We've got to do everything we can to make sure that the policies in Washington stress economic growth, to do things that stimulate that part of the economy which will grow jobs.

See, I worry about it when people can't find work. If somebody is looking for a job and they can't find work, we've got a problem in America. We want our people to be able to put food on the table. Obviously, I'm concerned as well when the stock market is declining. But I want you to know, I'm optimistic about our future. Interest rates are low; that's a good sign. Inflation is low; that's a good sign. We've got the best workers in America. Our productivity is the highest in the world. Our entrepreneurial spirit is strong. The foundation for growth is good. But I'm going to work as hard as I possibly can to do everything we can do to make sure our economy grows.

It starts with a—the belief, the firm belief that when times are slow, we must let people keep more of their own money. When times are slow, the best way to encourage economic growth is not to increase the size of Government but to increase the size of money in our citizens' pockets.

Here's what we believe, and this is a fundamental difference between some of the voices in Washington and what I believe and what others on this stage believe. By letting people keep more of their own money, they will then more likely demand a good or a service. They'll demand something. And in a marketplace economy, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. If there's a demand for a good or a service, in our society somebody's going to produce it. And

when somebody produces it, it means somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax relief plan that Van supported and Senator Frist supported and many members of the Tennessee delegation supported came at the absolute right time. It was important that we cut the taxes on the people to provide wind to the economic growth and vitality. And there are some in Washington who want to get away with that—get rid of that tax relief plan. There are some who don't believe—it's a good, honest debate—they don't believe in our philosophy. But for the sake of economic vitality, we must not let them raise your taxes. And for the sake of economic vitality, we must make the tax relief permanent.

The House has got a budget, and I want to thank Van for working on the Budget Committee, and it's a good budget. It's a budget that says, we can get back to balance if we're realistic on how we spend your money. The Senate doesn't have a budget. And you can imagine what that could mean for your money. Without a budget, without kind of a go-by, without constraints in a society or in an environment in which every program sounds like a brilliant program, except they all cost billions of dollars, it's likely that we could have some runaway Federal spending. And we can't have that, for the sake of economic vitality. We can fund our priorities—listen, we've got plenty of money to fund the priorities. We can stay focused with your money on our priorities. But for the sake of job creation, the Congress must not overspend. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of the strength of the future of our economy, the Congress must remember whose money they're spending. It's not the Government's money. It's your money. They need to be responsible with your money, in order to make sure the foundation for economic growth is strong.

And before they go home, there's something else they can do. They can pass a terrorism insurance bill. See, there's \$15 billion worth of construction projects which are on hold around America because people can't get insurance for the project. The enemy hit us, and it made it very difficult for people to be able to insure those projects. And so, therefore, I think it's a useful role for the

Congress to serve as a backstop against a potential terrorist attack.

This is a jobs program. This is a way to get our people back to work the right way, to encourage private sector jobs. There's over 300,000 jobs, good hardhat jobs that have been delayed because we can't get a terrorism insurance package out of the United States Congress. There's a lot of voices up there talking about the economy, and I'm glad they're talking about it. But they ought to stop talking, and they ought to start doing, by getting a terrorism insurance bill to my desk so we can get people back to work. And that terrorism insurance bill must remember who we're trying to help. We're not trying to help the trial lawyers. We're trying to help the hardhats of America. Now, I—the economy is on my mind because I want our fellow countrymen working; I want them to be able to put bread on the table.

The safety of the country is on my mind, too. See, there's still an enemy which hates America, lurking around. And so long as that's the case, my most important job is to protect you. My most important job is to rally the assets of Government at all levels to do everything we can to deny the enemy, to prevent them from hitting America.

People say, "Well, why"—and I know a lot of kids are probably asking, "Well, why America?" And you've just got to understand that the enemy hates us because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the idea of people—[*applause*]. We love the fact that, in this great country, people can worship an almighty God any way they see fit. That's what we love. We love free political—we love the debates. We love free—we love the discourse of free people. We love a free press. We love everything about our freedom, and we're not going to change. We're going to stand tall and stand strong.

We also value life in America. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth. Everybody is a precious soul. And the enemy we—the enemy doesn't regard life the way we do. You see, they hijack a great religion and kill innocent people. They don't care, but we do. And so long as we hold those values dear, which we will, the enemy will try to strike us.

And so we've got a lot of good people, you just need to know, working hard to protect

you, a lot of good folks. We're sharing information. I mean, we're running down every hint, every idea. Every piece of evidence we get, we're chasing it down so that we can say to the American people, "We're doing everything we can do."

That's why I went to Congress and asked them to put together a Department of Homeland Security, to join me in creating a new Department, so we could better coordinate the over 100 agencies that are involved with protecting you. And we got a good bill out of the House, and it's stuck in the Senate.

And the reason it's stuck in the Senate is because there is a disagreement over how best to manage the agency. On the one hand, they want us to have a thick book of rules to micromanage the decisionmaking process. I'll give you one example. The Customs agents should be wearing radio detection devices—radiological detection devices on their belt so that, if when they're looking for weapons of mass destruction and they come close to one, it—this device will send a signal. It ought to be a part of their job. But the thick book of rules says, "Well, that's up for collective bargaining before you can make a person do that." See, we've got—that violates a rule, and therefore, we got to negotiate that out.

Folks, we don't have time to negotiate a lot of these issues. We've got time to negotiate some issues. We've got time to negotiate some issues, of course. But we don't have time to sit around and negotiate the work rules necessary to protect you. The enemy doesn't sit around worrying about a thick book of regulations. And so, for the sake of our national security interests, the Congress, the Senate ought to give this President and future Presidents the ability to put the right people at the right place with the right equipment at the right time to protect America.

But the best way to protect America for the short term and the long term is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, and that's what we're going to do. I say one at a time, because that's the kind of war we're in. See, we're facing an enemy which hides in caves and sends youngsters to their death, suicidal deaths. They don't have tanks. They don't have big

infantries. They don't have industrial complexes. They are coldblooded killers. And the only way to measure success against this part of the war against terror is to hunt them down one at a time. A man named bin al-Shibh popped his head up the other day; he's no longer a problem to America.

It's a different kind of war. You might think about it as an international manhunt, which means we've got to make sure that those of us—that those hunting with us are strong and buoyed in their—our mutual love for freedom. That's why the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands; it still holds. We've got a lot of people working with us to chase these people down. And I want you to know, the coalition that we put together is still strong, still viable, and still necessary.

I bet you we've—I say, I bet you—I don't have an exact count, but we've hauled in a couple of thousand or more. And like number haven't been so lucky, thanks to the United States military, in large part. We're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're making progress. And that's the kind of war we fight. Sometimes you'll see it on TV, and sometimes you're just not going to see it on your TVs, as we make progress.

I submitted a significant increase in defense spending to the Congress to—because I want to send two messages. One, anytime we put one of our youngsters into harm's way, any time we put our military into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment and the best possible pay. We owe that to those soldiers, and we owe it to their loved ones.

I also want to send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States is in this for the long haul, that there is not a calendar that says, it's time to quit. See, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our freedom. We love our freedoms, and we're not going to quit. We're not going to look at this kind of—group of international killers and say, "Well, it's time to go home." That's not the way we think in America, and that's not the way we want the world to see us.

See, we want the world to see us the way we are. We're determined, and we're after

them. And we're going to stay after them until we're able to more secure the peace. And that's why the United States Congress needs to get the defense bill to my desk before they go home. They've been talking about this defense bill for quite a while. Before they go home, they ought to stop playing politics with the defense bill and let me sign it. It's important for the future of the country.

Last night, I continued a dialog on the war on terror. I talked about a significant threat to our country, and that threat is Saddam Hussein and some of the folks in Iraq.

Audience member. Chase 'em out!

The President. I truly believe that, as you could tell from my discussion last night if you listened, that he is a threat. He is a threat to the United States. He's a threat to our friends in the region. He's a threat to anybody who holds freedom dear to his heart.

People are concerned about Saddam, and I understand that. But a lot of Americans have understood that the dynamics have shifted since 11 years ago, because of what happened on September the 11th. No longer are we secure. No longer can we feel free because we've got two oceans separating us from—from that part of the world, for example. And therefore, it's very important for us as a country to think about how best to protect us for the short run and the long run. We owe this to our children. This debate is an incredibly important debate for our country to have.

I want to thank members of both political parties for taking a—for realizing the seriousness of this issue. This week, you'll see the Congress debate this issue. As I said last night, this isn't an issue of committing our military one way or the other. It doesn't say this—the resolution—threat is imminent, nor does it say it's unavoidable. But it does send a clear signal to the world, and I mean not only the United Nations but the whole world, that we take this threat very seriously in America, that we'll be speaking with one voice, that we love our freedoms, and that if the United Nations is unable to deal with the problem—and I certainly hope they can—that the United States will lead—and if Saddam Hussein chooses not to deal with it. See, he's the guy who said he would have no weapons of mass destruction. He's the

person who told the world plainly, “I won’t have chemical weapons or biological weapons,” or, “I won’t seek a nuclear weapon.” He said that. He’s the man who said, “I promise you I won’t do this.” Yet for 11 years, he’s defied resolution after resolution after resolution. It’s his choice to make.

And the U.N. can show whether or not it’s the United Nations or the League of Nations. They get that choice to make, too. It’s their choice. But my message, and the message from the Congress, people of both political parties, will be, for the sake of peace—and I emphasize, for the sake of peace—if they won’t deal with this man, the United States of America will lead a coalition to disarm him—for the sake of peace.

I take my responsibilities as the Commander in Chief very seriously. A military option is my last choice, the last choice. But should we commit our military, we’ll be ready; we’ll be prepared; we’ll have a great plan. And make no mistake about it, we will prevail.

And finally, as we work to make America stronger and safer, we’ve got to make—work to make America a better place, too. Always got to remember that a better America is on the forefront of our agenda. That not only means a working America, but that means an educated America. That means making sure we’ve got a health care system that’s modern and make sure we understand that medicine has changed and Medicare hadn’t. We need prescription drugs for our seniors to make sure Medicare is a modern program that works.

But there’s something else we can do in this country. We can fight evil by doing acts of kindness and decency. We can fight evil by loving our neighbor like we’d like to be loved ourselves. In our society, in this great land, this great society and this wonderful country, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people who hurt in America, people who hurt because of addiction or loneliness, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream—what that means. It’s empty words for some. They just don’t see any future. There is no hope. And we can change that in this country. We can change it.

Listen, Government is limited in its scope. It can hand out money. But what Government cannot do is put a sense of purpose in people’s lives or hope in people’s lives. That happens when a neighbor says to a person in need, “I love you. What can I do to help you? What am I able to do to make your life more hopeful?”

See, our society can change and, in my judgment, will change, one heart, one soul at a time, because people are now understanding that after September the 11th, 2001, there is a new definition to patriotism. Patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Patriotism is serving your community by helping somebody in need.

And that can happen all kinds of ways. See, if you mentor a child like Linda Clark does—I met Linda, who’s a—she’s a soldier in the army of compassion. She came out to the Air Force One to say hello. She started a mentoring program. She’s involved with Project Grad. She understands one person can make a difference in somebody’s life. I don’t know where you are, Linda. Where are you? You’ve got a lousy seat. But anyway, Linda mentors a fifth grade child. She’s making a huge difference in that child’s life.

You can go to a shut-in’s home and say, “I love you.” That’s part of what I’m talking about. Run a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop or a Boys or Girls Club. There’s all kinds of ways that each of us can make a difference. We’ve got different talents; we’ve got different views; and each of us can use those talents and our views to make a difference in changing America for the better.

Listen, the enemy hit us. They didn’t know what they were thinking about. They probably thought we’d file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] They didn’t know America, did they? See, they didn’t know this. They didn’t know that this great Nation loves freedom and loves peace, and we will work hard to achieve and maintain both. They also didn’t realize that we’re also not only a tough nation, but a compassionate nation, a nation which is a nation full of people who are going to respond to this evil with helping a neighbor in need.

You know, there’s a period of personal responsibility, I think, coming into the country.

Really important for our youngsters to understand that the culture which has said, "If it feels good, do it, and you've got a problem, blame somebody else," is a culture that's moving on. It's being replaced. We're replacing it with a culture that says, "Each of us are responsible for our behavior and our decisions." If you're a mother or a dad—if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're lucky enough to live in Tennessee or Knoxville, Tennessee, you're responsible for the quality of education in a neighborhood. If you're running a corporation, you're responsible to tell the truth to your shareholders and employees.

I feel it happening. I feel it happen, which allows me to boldly predict that, because we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, we will not only face down evil, but we can achieve peace in a country which is more hopeful, more decent, more optimistic for everybody who's lucky enough to be called an American.

Listen, thanks for coming today. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. at McGhee Tyson Airport. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Van Hilleary; senatorial candidate Lamar Alexander; Janice Bowling, candidate for Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District; Mayor Victor Ashe of Alcoa, and his mother, Martha Ashe; Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, whose nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit failed on September 5 when the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to send it forward for a vote by the Senate; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Van
Hilleary in Knoxville, Tennessee
October 8, 2002**

Thanks for coming. Thank you all very much. Please go ahead and be seated. Well, thank you for that kind introduction, "Governor." There's no doubt in my mind that

Van Hilleary is the right man to be the Governor of Tennessee. And I want to thank you all for coming. I feel comfortable in a State where the university is UT, the colors are orange and white, and the political climate is friendly. *[Laughter]*

I made a lot of friends here, and I'm proud to be amongst you all. Thanks for your prayers, and thanks for your support. My only regret is that Laura didn't come with me today. She sends her very best to Meredith and Van and sends her best to our buddies here in Tennessee. I don't know if you know this or not, but when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics. She didn't like politicians. *[Laughter]* And now she's the First Lady of the United States, and she's doing a fabulous job. I'm really, really proud of her, and we're doing great. We really are.

And I want to thank, for those of you who came through the line here recently and said they pray for our family. That's the kindest thing you can do for a President and his family.

I believe strongly that the character of a person matters, and I believe Van Hilleary has the character necessary to be the kind of Governor that you can trust. He's a down-to-earth fellow that speaks his mind. He is the kind of person who does in office what he said he would do. He doesn't require focus groups or polls to tell him what to believe. And he can get the job done, and that's what you want in a Governor. See, I know what it takes to be a Governor, and he's got what it takes to be your Governor.

And I had the privilege of meeting Meredith, the next first lady. She's a schoolteacher. I think it makes a lot of sense to have a schoolteacher as the first lady for the State of Tennessee. I think it makes sense that—it's also good to meet Van's mom and dad. It kind of looks like he got saddled with the same kind of mom I've got, somebody who will tell you exactly what she thinks. *[Laughter]* But I love the fact that they've got a strong family, and they care for each other a lot.

There's no doubt in my mind that Lamar Alexander will be a great United States Senator from Tennessee. And I'm not saying that just because he married a Texan. *[Laughter]*

I'm saying that because he's got a great record and a great heart. And we need him, along with another great United States Senator, and that is Bill Frist.

Tennessee has had a great history of sending important Senators to the Senate. You've sent really fine people, and you will continue that tradition with Lamar. I look forward to working with him. I look forward to having somebody in the Senate who I can count on when it comes to making sure the judges I name not only get a fair hearing but get appointed to the bench. We need people who will not—we need people on our bench who won't legislate but will strictly interpret the Constitution. I've got to tell you, the way the Senate is now set up, they're playing politics with my good nominees. They're distorting their record. And for the sake of a good, sound Federal judiciary, I need Senators like Lamar Alexander in Washington, DC.

I want to thank Janice Bowling for running for Congress and soon to be elected to the United States Congress. I appreciate her service and her willingness to run.

I want to thank my old college classmate—you used to call him Bulldog; we call him Victor—the mayor of Knoxville, Mayor Victor Ashe. I'm honored to call him friend. I appreciate his public service. And I appreciate Mike Ragsdale, who is a Knox County executive; and Beth Harwell, who is the chairwoman of the Tennessee State Republican Party. I want to thank Jim Henry, who tossed his hat in the ring and has been so gracious about helping to unite behind the next Governor of your State.

I want to appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here. Listen, I understand how politics works. You can't ever get elected unless you've got people who are willing to put up the signs and dial the phones and stuff the mailers. And on behalf of a grateful President and a grateful soon-to-be Governor, thanks for the hard work you have done, and more importantly, thanks for the hard work you're going to do. You see, we're about to the sprint phase of the campaign. And in order for Van to win, he needs you going to the coffee shops and the community centers and talking it up. See, my attitude is, when you find a good one, you've got to support him, and you've got a good one in Van

Hilleary. And he's counting on you. And I want to thank you for the work you're going to do.

A couple of points I want to make about Van's agenda, his platform. One, he's a—he understands budgets. He's on the House Budget Committee. If he can figure out the Federal Government budget, you're darn sure he can figure out the Tennessee budget. *[Laughter]* But he understands you can't overspend. We share this common understanding of whose money we spend. You hear these people in Washington or probably in Nashville talk about, "Well, we're spending the Government's money." It's not the Government's money, you see; it's the people's money. In order to have fiscal sanity, you've got to start with that attitude.

He understands agriculture. He knows the importance of value-added agriculture. The thing I love about his agenda, though, is his focus on education. It's by far the most important thing a Governor will do in any State. You see, educating the children of a State is really the most important priority of a State. Teaching a child to read is the new civil right. Teaching children to read is the beginnings of a hopeful tomorrow. And you better have you a Governor who's got the right philosophy.

He talked about the No Child Left Behind legislation, which we passed in Washington. It is a significant piece of education reform. And I want to share the principles with you because, as this debate goes on here in Tennessee, about who best to handle the public school system of this State, you need to listen carefully to the words that these candidates are talking about.

First, you need to have a Governor who is willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, if you lower the bar, if you believe that certain kids can't learn, if you believe the inner-city children are too tough to educate and, therefore, we ought to have low standards, or you say a child whose parents does not speak English as a first language cannot be educated, you will have the soft bigotry of low expectations. You need to have a Governor who believes every child can learn and is willing to set the highest of high standards for every person in the State of Tennessee.

It is important to understand one size does not fit all when it comes to educational excellence. You've got to have local control of schools. It's important. You can't have your schools controlled from Washington, DC. The crux of the—one of the most important reforms in the bill is, we passed power out of Washington. We decentralized the process. We trust local people. The same thing goes for the State of Tennessee. You've got to trust the local folks. You've got to empower the local teachers and principals and parents to chart the path for excellence.

But the key to reform as well is the measurement. And that's a fundamental difference, I suspect, in this campaign. If you believe every child can learn, if that's what you believe, in your heart of hearts believe that's the case, then you want to know whether every child is learning. If you believe that every child can read, then the next logical step is, "Show me, please. Show me whether or not the children of this State are learning how to read and write and add and subtract."

The No Child Left Behind legislation had as its cornerstone, it said this: It said, if you receive Federal money, for the first time in our Nation's history, prove to us that you're succeeding. And if you are, there will be plenty of praise for the hard-working teachers. But if we find children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change, you better have yourself a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo. If you don't measure, you don't know. If you don't measure, you're not able to enforce high standards. If you don't measure, you can't truthfully say to the people of Tennessee, "I will make sure that no child is left behind."

And so Van Hilleary gets it, in my judgment. He understands. He understands there are no second-rate children in Tennessee. And when he finds schools that will not change, you will have a Governor who will, for the sake of the children of this State, challenge the status quo.

I look forward to working with Senator Frist and Senator Alexander and Governor Hilleary to make sure America is a safer, stronger, and better place. And I want you to know that I know we've got challenges. I live with them every day. One of the biggest challenges we face is to make sure our econ-

omy continues to grow. I'm an optimist about our economy because I know the foundations for growth are strong. Anytime that you've got interest rates that are low, inflation which is low, and productivity which is incredibly high, we've got the ingredients for growth.

We've had a few things we've had to overcome. We've had a recession we've had to overcome. We've had some people in our society who thought they could lie to the American people, to shareholders and employees. I had the honor of signing one of the most comprehensive corporate responsibility bills since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. I appreciate the support of the House Members and the Senate. And here's what it said. It said there's not going to be any more easy money in America. We expect you to be a responsible citizen. We expect you to fully tell the truth, and if not, we're going to let you serve some time.

The market is adjusting, and that's not good news for savers, which means we've got to do everything we can to make sure that people can find work. I took this page out of the economic textbook, and I think Van shares it with me: When times are slow, when the economy is bumping along, one way to help create jobs is to let people keep more of their own money. And there's a big difference of opinion in Washington, DC, about that. And the difference is, is that do you increase the size of Government, or do you let people have more money in their pocket?

In order to stimulate small business and the entrepreneurial spirit, it's important to let people keep more money so that they demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody will produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax cuts came at the exact right time in American economic history.

It's hard to explain this. Maybe Senator Frist can explain it better than me, but the Senate agreed to the tax cuts, but they go away after 10 years. On the one hand, we giveth; on the other hand, we taketh away. It sounds pretty typical of Washington. After 10 years the tax relief plan that we passed reverts back to where—the tax rates revert

back to where they were last year. The marriage penalty that we slashed goes back to where it was. The death tax, which is a terrible tax—it's a terrible tax on farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs and small-business people—is no longer repealed after 10 years. For the sake of economic growth, for the sake of job creation, and for the sake of giving our small businesses the chance to plan and for tax certainty, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

And we need to control spending in Washington, DC. There is a danger—it's an election year, and there is no budget in the Senate. There is no constraint. I submitted a budget to the House—to the Congress that the House passed, which shows us getting back to balance as quickly as possible if we're careful about spending the people's money, if we fund our priorities but not get excessive. Without a budget in the Senate, we have a potential problem.

The Congress must understand, if they're interested in job creation—and by the way, there's a lot of talk about that up there, and not much action yet. But if they're interested in job creation, if they're interested in making sure people can find work, they must not overspend the people's money. There needs to be fiscal sanity in Washington, DC.

And there are other things we can do to strengthen the economy. And I'll give you one practical idea. And that is, we need terrorism insurance. There's \$15 billion worth of projects that have been put on hold or canceled in America because the manager of the project can't get insurance. The terrorists struck, and they can't get the insurance necessary to cover for terror. And therefore, these projects are on hold. There's over 300,000 jobs which are going begging because these projects aren't going forward.

And so I thought it made sense for the Congress to come together and write a law that would provide a backstop. It's a good jobs program. It's a way to immediately affect the lives of the good, hard-working people who wear the hardhats in America. They've been talking about this issue now for a year. Before they go home, they need to get a good terrorism insurance bill. If they're interested in jobs, if they want people back to work, join me in getting a good terrorism insurance

bill, one by the way, that rewards the hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

Now, there's a lot we can do to work to keep this economy growing. And I just want you to know I'm not going to rest until people can find work. We're going to continue to build on the foundation of the—of economic growth. But my most important job is to protect America. That's what's on my mind a lot, is how best to secure this homeland.

I have to tell you that because there's still an enemy out there which would like to strike us. They hate us because of what we love. We love our freedoms, and we're not changing. So long as we love freedom, they will hate us, which means they're going to hate us for a while, because we're not changing our attitude. And they're out there, and they're lurking around.

It's a different kind of war. In the old days, you know, you'd measure infantries or air forces or flotillas, and you could tell how big the enemy was or where they were or whether or not you were making progress against them. This is a group of people, their leaders hide in a cave or the dark corners of a city somewhere, and they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. We value life. In this country, we say everybody's precious; everybody counts. They don't value life. They've hijacked a great religion and murder in the name of that religion.

And so we've got to do everything we can to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. The Government's working long hours—I say the Government—the people in the Government are working long hours to run down every bit of evidence we get, every piece of intelligence. And we're better coordinated than we ever have been to really secure the homeland, to disrupt any cells that we think might exist, that we're doing everything we can to let the enemy know that we know they're there. And when we think they're there, we obviously respect our Constitution, but we're moving. And we're moving pretty darn good.

But there's a way for me to better protect you and a way for future administrations to better protect you, and that is to take all the agencies involved with homeland defense

and put them under one Cabinet officer. And it sounds simple, except when you start stepping on some bureaucratic toes. And the House passed a good bill, and the Senate is wrestling with it now, because some Senators really want to micromanage the managerial process. They want to pass a book of thick regulations that gets to make the managerial decisions for the Homeland Security Department. And that's not right. It just doesn't make any sense to tie the hands of the President and future Presidents when it comes to a matter of deep national concern.

I'll give you a couple of examples, what I'm talking about. On our border, we need to know who's coming into the country, what they're bringing into the country, and whether or not they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave it. And yet we've got three fine agencies on the border. We've got your Border Patrol, your INS, and your Customs. They wear different uniforms. Sometimes they have conflicting strategies. We need to be able to move people inter-agency. We need to be able to button it up. We need to make it seamless. We need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time. But you can't do that under the—one of the versions coming out of the United States Senate. There's not the flexibility necessary to better enforce our borders.

I'll give you another example. Customs people wear radiation detection devices. They should. If you're interested in finding weapons of mass destruction, you've got to have the device on your belt necessary to do that. The union head said no, that in order to do that, it needs to go to collective bargaining. We don't have the time to argue about whether or not somebody ought to be wearing a device to better protect the homeland.

Listen, I believe these hard-working employees ought to be able to have collective bargaining. But I also know I need the capacity to manage the agency in a way so I can look the American people in the eye and say, "We're doing everything we can to protect you." The Senate must hear this. We will not accept a bill that does not give this administration and future administrations the capacity to protect the homeland.

The best way to protect the homeland, however, is to take the fight to the enemy, to chase them down, one killer at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States of America is going to do. And we are making progress. The doctrine that says, "If you're with us—either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. It's clear. It hasn't changed. And therefore, we still have this coalition of like-minded people or friends that are joining us in hunting these people down.

Now, this is a different kind of war, as I mentioned. Sometimes you will see progress on your TV screens or hear about it, and sometimes you're just not going to know. That's the nature of the war. Intelligence sharing is an integral part of being able to succeed against the enemy. Cutting off their money is an integral part of fighting the enemy. Arresting them or bringing them to justice is an integral part of fighting the enemy.

The other day this bin al-Shibh showed up or, as I like to say, popped his head up. He was the person that was going to be the 20th hijacker. And we got him in Pakistan, thanks to work with the Pakistan Government and our own Government. We ferreted him out, and he's no longer a problem. He's no longer a threat to the United States and any of our friends.

That's the kind of war we are waging in this part of the battle. And I bet you we've hauled in a couple of thousand of these killers. They're detained. They're no longer a problem. And like number weren't as lucky, thanks to the United States military.

And there's quite a few more to go; there's quite a few more out there. It's going to take a while. And that's why I've submitted the largest increase in defense spending—asked the Congress to increase defense spending—the largest amount since Ronald Reagan was the President, because I want to make it clear, a couple of things clear. One, when we put our kids into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to them, and we owe it to their parents.

And I also want to send a message to our friends and our foes: It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our freedom; we will

defend freedom. There's no quit in America, that we understand the stakes. The enemy made clear the stakes on September the 11th, 2001, and we're not going to forget. You can hide in any cave you want; we're coming after you. It doesn't matter where you think you can hide; the long arm of justice of the United States of America will find you.

And we've got some hills to climb. We've got some pretty tough stepping to do to get there, but the country is ready for it. And the Congress needs to get that bill—the defense bill to my desk. We've been talking about it now for a while. And they're getting ready to go home. The leadership has got to understand that the country expects, and I expect, the defense bill—in a time of war—the defense bill to get to my desk. They need to stop playing politics with the defense bill of the United States.

You need to tell your kids about America, and our not only desire to answer history's call and to defend our freedom but also that anytime our Nation goes anywhere, we go not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. I think one of the great lessons of this—of the first phase of this war was in Afghanistan. And we're still there, by the way, and there's still killers there. And we've still got troops there, and we're going to be there for a while. But we went there, not only to uphold the doctrine that says, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," but we also went because we believe life matters not only in America but everywhere. We believe every child has worth. We believe every person has worth. And we believe in freedom. We believe in freedom not only for ourselves, but we believe freedom is God-given. We believe freedom is a right that everybody should realize.

And you need to tell your kids that this country liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in history. And thanks to the United States and thanks to our friends and allies, young girls—many young girls go to school for the first time. It's an important lesson for our children that in the defense of our own freedoms, that this Nation will fight if we have to, to free others as well.

I've got a problem, obviously, with Mr. Saddam Hussein, and so do you. And that is, he poses a threat. He poses a threat to America. He poses a threat to our friends, our Israeli friends, our friends in his own neighborhood. He is a threat, and we've started a debate in this country about how to deal with that threat. And it's a really important debate. I don't view this as a political discourse or a political debate. I view this as a debate about our future, the role of the United States and the world, about security and freedom. And I welcome the debate, and I look forward to watching the Congress debate this issue this week. I believe we're going to get a strong resolution, backed by both Republicans and Democrats.

But it's their choice to make, just like it's Mr. Saddam Hussein's choice to make as to whether or not he will do what he told the world he would do, which is to stop lying, stop deceiving, and disarm. He told the world that he would not have weapons of mass destruction, and yet for 11 years he has deceived the world.

I went to the United Nations. I want to share with you why, because I really do want the United Nations to be effective. I don't want the United Nations to be the League of Nations. I want the United Nations to be an effective agent for peace. I want the United Nations to be able to help deal with the new issues we face. It's their choice to make as well. See, for 11 years they've passed resolution after resolution after resolution—16 resolutions, only to be defied by Saddam Hussein. And in the meantime, he has gotten stronger.

And so the fundamental question facing the world is, do we deal with this guy or not? It's the world's choice to make. We'll see whether or not the United Nations has the desire, has the backbone necessary to uphold its own resolutions and help keep the peace. But if they're unable to act, and if Saddam Hussein can't do what he said he would do, which is disarm, this country will lead a coalition and disarm him, for the sake of peace.

Committing our military into harm's way is my last choice. I say—I talk about military options as the last option, not the first option, because I understand the consequences. But I want you to know that if we have to commit

our military—and we may not have to, but if we have to—then we'll have the best plans. The full force and fury of the United States military will be unleashed, and make no mistake about it, we will prevail.

History has put the spotlight on this great Nation. And I'm confident this country will show the world and history our character, our strength, our determination, our absolute love for freedom and the values which we hold dear.

You know, the enemy hit us. I just can't imagine what was going through their mind. I suspect they thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed, so selfish that all we would do after September the 11th was maybe file a lawsuit or two. They didn't understand. They really didn't understand, and they're going to pay a severe price for not understanding. See, this country, instead of stepping back and said, "Oh, gosh, we're going to be terrorized and so fearful we won't act," made the absolute, decided effort to act in the name of peace and freedom.

Out of the evil done to the—to our country is going to come some good. And one of the good is going to be peace. You need to tell your children, amidst all of the discussion and the debate they hear, there is a strong desire by this President and my administration and our country to achieve peace. I believe by remaining strong and focused and determined and unrelenting in our desire to wipe out terror, we can achieve peace for ourselves, and we can achieve peace in the Middle East, peace in South Asia. I believe it's possible. I believe the enemy has handed us an unbelievable opportunity to make the world a more peaceful place, an opportunity which I intend to seize.

And at home, the enemy hit us. And instead of us falling down in self-pity, we took a step back and made an assessment of that which is important and decided as a nation to fight evil by millions of acts of kindness and decency, that a lot of people in our country stepped back and realized that serving something greater than yourself in life was an incredibly important part of being a patriotic American. You know, as we fight to make—work to make America a stronger place and safer place, we've also got to work

to make it a better place. It's happening across our country now.

People understand that to fight evil, all you've got to do is do some good. And it doesn't have to be majestic acts: Mentoring a child is part of doing good; going to a shut-in's home and telling them you love them; recognizing that, in our society, there are people who hurt, people who are addicted, people who wonder what the American Dream was all about; and also recognizing that you can be a part of changing a person's attitude and outlook by loving them.

See, Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when our fellow citizens take it upon themselves to be responsible for the society in which we live and love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They've awakened a spirit of America here. The American spirit is strong, evidenced most clearly on that fateful day when people were flying across the country on Flight 93. They heard the plane was being used as a weapon. They realized America—that vast oceans could no longer protect us, and we were a battleground. They told their loved ones goodbye. They used the word "love" a lot. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

The American spirit is alive and strong. It's not only an entrepreneurial spirit; it's a spirit of compassion and decency and kindness. There is no question in my mind that this country can overcome the obstacles in our way, and out of the evil done to America will come great good, peace around the world, and a hopeful, decent, compassionate America in which each of us who lives in this country understands the American Dream is meant for them.

I want to thank you all for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:23 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to candidate Van Hilleary's wife, Meredith, and his parents, Bill and Evelyn Hilleary; former Tennessee gubernatorial candidate Jim Henry; senatorial candidate Lamar Alexander, and

his wife, Honey; Janice Bowling, candidate for Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Announcing Action on the Labor Disputes Affecting Pacific Coast Ports

October 8, 2002

I appreciate my Cabinet Secretaries joining me here for this announcement.

For over a week our ports along the Pacific coast have been shut down. These ports handle more than \$300 billion a year in trade. The work stoppage is hurting our entire economy. It is hurting truckers and rail operators who carry goods to other parts of America. It's hurting farmers and ranchers and manufacturers, retailers and consumers who make, buy, and sell the products that pass through our ports.

The crisis in our western ports is hurting the economy. It is hurting the security of our country, and the Federal Government must act. Americans are working hard every day to bring our economy back from recession. This Nation simply cannot afford to have hundreds of billions of dollars a year in potential manufacturing and agricultural trade sitting idle. We can't afford it. Because of the situation at the west coast ports, our economy is already losing up to \$1 billion a day, economic losses that translate into lost jobs.

The farm economy alone is losing a thousand jobs a day. Automotive plants cannot get all the parts they need, and they're laying off workers. Stores cannot begin stocking up for the holiday season. All of this will only worsen as time goes on.

The work stoppage also threatens our national defense. These ports load the ships that carry supplies to our men and women in uniform. These ports also receive parts and materials used by our defense contractors to complete projects and maintain military equipment.

Federal mediators have been trying to get the workers and port operators to resume operations while they negotiate their dif-

ferences. The Secretary of Labor has been working hard to get people back to work. Unfortunately, the union and the management have been unable to reach an agreement. After a lot of work, particularly by our Labor Department and Secretary, after a lot of discussions, we have been unable to bring the two parties together, and therefore stronger action is required. Because the operation of western ports is vital to our economy and to our military, I have determined that the current situation imperils our national health and safety.

I have appointed a board of inquiry to investigate the issues at stake. Today the board submitted an official report stating each party's position. I am now directing Attorney General Ashcroft to seek an injunction under the Taft-Hartley Act, ending the lockout and requiring work at the ports to resume at a normal pace. This dispute between management and labor cannot be allowed to further harm the economy and force thousands of working Americans from their jobs.

This injunction will allow the parties more time to resolve their differences. It is not, however, a permanent solution to the problem, and the Federal Government will continue working with both sides to pursue a settlement. The ultimate responsibility for an agreement lies with the worker representatives and the port operators. I expect both sides to put the concerns of our national health and safety first and work in good faith to resolve their differences as quickly as possible.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:44 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Letter to the Attorney General Directing Action on the Labor Disputes Affecting Pacific Coast Ports

October 8, 2002

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On October 7, 2002, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 206 of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (61 Stat. 155; 29 U.S.C. 176) (the "Act"), I issued

Executive Order 13275. That Order created a Board of Inquiry to report on certain labor disputes affecting the maritime industry of the United States.

Today, I received the Board's written report in the matter. A copy of the report is attached. In my opinion, this unresolved labor dispute has resulted in a lock-out affecting a substantial part of the maritime industry of the United States, an industry that is engaged in trade, commerce, transportation (including the transportation of military supplies), transmission, and communication among the several States and with foreign nations. This lock-out, if permitted to continue, will imperil the national health and safety.

Therefore, in order to eliminate this peril and to secure the resumption of trade, commerce, transportation, transmission, and communication among the several States and with foreign nations, I direct you, pursuant to the provisions of section 208 of the Act, to petition in the name of the United States in any District Court of the United States having jurisdiction of the parties to enjoin the lock-out (or its continuance) and for such other relief as may in your judgment be appropriate.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Proclamation 7605—Leif Erikson Day, 2002

October 8, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

More than 1,000 years ago, Leif Erikson and his crew journeyed across the Atlantic seeking unknown lands. Their pioneering spirit of courage, determination, and discovery helped to open the world to new exploration and unprecedented development. Each October, we join our friends in Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland in honoring this historic voyage and in cele-

brating the strong transatlantic bonds that exist between those countries and the United States.

Our Nation is committed to promoting prosperity and stability throughout Northern Europe. Through the Northern Europe Initiative, we have partnered with other nations in the region to enhance security and economic growth in the Baltic region. This Initiative addresses concrete needs in six areas: the environment; public health; law enforcement and rule-of-law; civil society; energy; and trade. Our Nation also supports the European Union's "Northern Dimension" strategy, which aims to strengthen the integration of Northwest Russia and the accession countries to the European Union. These important efforts, along with the bilateral programs of all Nordic countries, are helping to build a brighter future for the entire region.

As we defend ourselves against terrorism, we are grateful for the support of our coalition partners around the world, including our Nordic friends and allies. The goodwill demonstrated by the people of this region has reinforced our close ties and strengthened our resolve to overcome the evil that is before us. As we celebrate Leif Erikson Day, we recommit ourselves to a world of innovation, prosperity, and opportunity.

To honor Leif Erikson, the brave son of Iceland and grandson of Norway, and to recognize our Nation's Nordic-American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2002, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 10, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 11.

Remarks at a Reception for Hispanic Heritage Month

October 9, 2002

Bienvenidos. It is such an honor to have you all here to the *Casa Blanca, la casa de todos que viven en esta pais*. As the Surgeon General mentioned, I'm just a temporary resident—[laughter]—but *es un gran honor para mi familia de vivir aqui*.

I want to thank you all for coming. Hispanic Heritage Month is an important month for our country, particularly now that we're at a time of war. You see, Hispanic Heritage Month talks to the great diversity of our country and the fact that our country is a strong country because of our diversity.

And this particular month we welcome the influence of the Hispano in our country. We welcome the great values that our Hispanic Americans bring to America, the values of faith *y familia*. Part of our entrepreneurial spirit is made stronger by the Hispanics who live in America. We're really proud of this heritage. We appreciate the hard work. We appreciate the determination.

I love the stories of our Surgeon General, the success stories of families who have sought a better day and have worked hard, and Americans have been able to reap the benefit of the greatest country in the face of the Earth. So welcome to the White House. It's an honor for me to welcome you here.

Obviously, we're celebrating—one of the things we celebrate in Hispanic Heritage Month is the great talent of many Hispanos, and we saw some great talent today. And I want to thank Carlos Ponce for being the emcee. Carlos, I'm going to be watching the eBay auctions very carefully. [Laughter] Times get tough. [Laughter]

I appreciate *las Tejanas*. I appreciate Jaci Velasquez *y tambien* Jennifer Pena. They're great talent. I'm proud to call them Texans. We've got some great talent in our State, and these are two of the best. And I really want

to thank you all for coming. And make sure you tell everybody at home I might have changed addresses, but I haven't changed homes. [Laughter]

And I also want to thank Gian Marco. Listen, if he's the first Peruvian here, we might as well have started with one of the best. [Laughter] And I'm honored you're here, Gian. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Johnny Delgado from the Baltimore Police Department for starting this, for reciting the Pledge. Johnny represents many of our Hispanic Americans who serve on the frontlines in the war against terror, our firefighters, our police officers, our EMS teams. And I'm so honored, Johnny, that you're here, and thanks for coming. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you and all the good folks who wear the uniform for the job you do.

I want to thank Senator Orrin Hatch for coming. He's a great friend of—he's a good buddy. I'm glad he's here. I'm glad he's in the Senate. [Laughter] One of my jobs is to put together an administration that is talented, an administration here to serve the country, not themselves, an administration that reflects the diversity of our country. And I'm doing just that. Obviously, you met our new Surgeon General, Rich Carmona. Rich is a—he's a piece of work. [Laughter] He'll do a fabulous job in that incredibly important position.

Gaddi Vasquez, who is Director of the Peace Corps, is here. Gaddi, thank you for coming. Hans Hertell is an *Embajador de*—to the Dominican Republic, is with us today. Hans is from Puerto Rico, a good friend of mine.

There's another Ambassador here who's not an American, but nevertheless he is the *Embajador de Mexico*, our close friends, Mexico. I appreciate Ambassador Bremer for coming. I'm honored you're here.

Mira, y tambien un otro amigo de mio. He is the *Gobernador*, the Governor of Tamulipas, Tomas Yarrington. I appreciate you coming, *Gobernador*. I don't know if this helps or hurts him, but he is a rising star in Mexican politics. [Laughter] I've known him, obviously when I was the Governor of Texas and now as the President. He's a good fellow, and I'm proud to call him friend.

Rosario Marin is here with us. Rosario is the Treasurer of the United States. Hector Barreto is the Small Business Administrator. I appreciate you coming, Hector. Eduardo Aguirre, who is the head of the—Vice Chairman of the Export-Import Bank. Eduardo, I'm glad you are here.

Jose Fourquet, who is the United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank—Jose, thank you for coming. Where are you, Jose? Oh, there he is. These are people I've appointed. These are part of the diversity of our administration. I'm glad they're here so I can herald their—their accomplishment and their service to the country.

Everybody has got to have a good lawyer—[laughter]—particularly me. *Mi abogado es un Tejano*, Al Gonzalez, my good friend.

Our military is—the Hispanic population in our country has served disproportionately in our military. The Hispanic population steps up when the country says, we need service. And they do. They have throughout our history. Today we've got with us Major General Chris Cortez of the United States Marine Corps. I've got great confidence in our military. I've got confidence in our troops. I'll talk a little bit about that in a second. But General, thanks for coming.

I appreciate my friend Emilio Estefan, who is the producer of this outfit. You want to talk about a cool guy. [Laughter]

We happen to have Miss Universe with us today, from Panama. Thank you for coming, Miss Universe. And I see my friend Raul from Texas is sitting next to you. [Laughter] He's probably claiming he should have that seat because he's from Panama and a Texan. [Laughter] I suspect it's for other reasons, but nevertheless. [Laughter]

As you probably know, as the Surgeon General mentioned, I'm a baseball fan. I love baseball. Some of the best years of my life were watching the mighty Rangers, and we've got a couple of mighty Rangers here with us. I saw one guy grow up from a 19-year-old kid, who's one of the greats of all time, and that's Pudge Rodriguez. I want to thank you for coming, Pudge.

And my daughters used to love to come to the game, and they fell in love early in life with Rafael Palmeiro. [Laughter] And I

want to thank you all for bringing your families. Yes, *mira*, thanks for coming, guys. I appreciate you. Hi, Lynn, how are you doing? Rosa.

I want to thank Nomar Garciaparra from the Red Sox for coming. Nomar, thanks for being here. Nomar, when we had the first tee-ball game at the White House, was there. And one of the things we're trying to do is use our backyard to promote baseball. And we had these kids come, and Nomar was here to help kick that off. I'm so honored you came.

I appreciate Octavio Dotel from the Houston Astros. Octavio, good to see you. Nelson Figueroa—*donde esta* Nelson? Nelson, thank you for coming.

These are the current players. These guys are stars and potential Hall of Famers. But we're also really fortunate to have some Hall of Famers with us, people who've actually done what these players are doing.

It is such an honor to have four Hall of Famers, starting with Rod Carew. Man, that guy could hit. I appreciate you coming, Rod. Tony Perez, Luis Aparicio, yes, *y por fin*, Juan Marichal—I'm really glad you all are here. You brighten my day. [Laughter] Thanks for coming.

One of my jobs as well is to make sure our bench is strong. I've named a fantastic Hispanic American to the bench, a young guy named Miguel Estrada. I named him to one of the highest courts possible, to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. It's an incredibly important appointment. He's well qualified. He is very smart. He came to our country from El Salvador, he couldn't speak English. He's now been picked, amongst all the candidates, to take on this highest of high positions in the bench. He's having trouble in the United States Senate.

There are some Senators—certainly not Senator Hatch, who is one of his strongest advocates—there are Senators who are playing politics with this good man's nomination. There are Senators who would rather not give him the benefit of the doubt, Senators looking for a reason to defeat him, as opposed to looking for a reason to herald his intelligence, his capabilities, his talent. I strongly object to the way this man is going

to be treated in the Senate. I urge the Senate to confirm the nomination of Miguel Estrada.

I talked about our military. The reason we're talking about our military these days is because we're at war, and we're at war for precisely the reason why we're here. We're at war because we love freedom. We love the fact that people are free in America, free to worship an Almighty any way you see fit, free to come to this country with a dream and realize the dream, free to express your opinion, free to—if you happen to be in the press, to write anything you want to write. That's freedom, and that's what we love. And it's hard to believe, but there's an enemy which hates freedom and hates us as a result of our embrace of freedom. And so therefore, we're at war. We're at war, and we're still at war. We're still at risk here in America. We're at risk because there's some enemies still lurking around out there.

This is a different kind of war, as the General would tell you. In the old days, you could destroy the person's tanks or airplanes or ships and be making progress. But these people don't have tanks. They don't have ships. They hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal death.

And see, so long as we embrace the diversity and freedom of our country, which we will always do, and so long as they're lurking out there, we're at war. But make no mistake, *sin duda venceremos*. There's no doubt about it.

We will win because of what we love. We will win because we're determined and strong. We will win because we're a nation which holds values dear to our heart. And we refuse to be intimidated by anybody, at any place, at any time. We will win because we want to uphold our duty and obligation to leave America intact and free, so future generations of people, Hispanic or otherwise, can realize dreams, can succeed, can realize their God-given talents. That's what this is all about.

And so I want to thank you for coming to honor this month, but I want to assure you that this great Nation will lead the world to be more free.

And we've got some difficult tasks at hand. Not only, we must chase down the Al Qaida, one by one, which we continue to do to this

very day, but we've also got to deal with threats that are real. And I gave a speech to the Nation the other day to discuss those threats in sober terms, to talk about the realities of the world in which we live.

It used to be in this great country we had two oceans protecting us, and if somebody had a problem across the sea, we might help them or we might not. Today, these oceans—the fact that the oceans no longer protect us mean that the battleground is here. So this great country will be deliberate. We will rally other nations. We will give other people a chance to deal with Iraq, for example.

The U.N., the United Nations now has a chance, Mr. Ambassador. As a member of the Security Council, I'm confident your nation will join us to—to send a clear message that this man must disarm before he hurts America or anybody else. And he has to make a choice. We're a patient nation. He's got a choice to make. His choice is, he must do what he said he was going to do. He said he wasn't going to have weapons of mass destruction. That's what we expect. We take a man for his word.

But if he doesn't disarm and if the United Nations won't act, for the sake of our freedom, we will lead other countries that love freedom as much as we do and disarm him. We owe it to our children. We love peace in this country, and when we see threats to peace, we will deal with them in a deliberate, calm, logical, and, if need be, forceful way.

And as we work to make America a more secure place and a safer place, we've got to make it a better place too. And that means making sure everybody gets a good education in our country—everybody.

We passed a really good education bill. I want to share the spirit of the bill, because I believe it speaks to the month we're celebrating. It says that every child can learn. That's the first thing. See, it starts with the attitude that if—if there are low expectations, if perhaps a school district or people think that because a parent doesn't speak English as a first language, therefore a certain child may not be able to learn, we're going to challenge that.

See, when you have low standards, you're liable to get bad results. That's what I have called the soft bigotry of low expectations.

We have challenged that soft bigotry. We say in this country, every child can learn—every child—not just some, not a select few, not those who may live in the nice suburban districts, but every child can learn.

And then it says that in return for receiving Federal money, we want to know. You see, in return for receiving Federal money, we expect local districts and States to show us whether or not each child is learning.

And when we find the fact that some children are not learning, we must correct problems early, before it's too late. Everybody counts in America. Each child matters in this country. To make sure we have a better America, no child—not one single child—needs be left behind.

I believe this Nation is strong in its diversity. We love our freedom. It's an incredibly great nation. And out of the evil done to our country on September the 11th, 2001, will come incredible good. That's what you must know about our Nation. Out of the evil done to America can come some great good.

If we stay tough and firm and strong, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for people here at home; we can achieve peace in the world. And by being—by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, we can achieve a better tomorrow. We can work together to eradicate the pockets of hopelessness, loneliness, and despair. People can fight evil by doing some good, by putting your arm around a lost soul and saying, "I love you. My fellow American, I love you."

There is no question in my mind, because of our strength, diversity, because of the values we hold, that we will be a stronger and more compassionate and better nation.

I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate this important month. It is an honor for me to welcome you to the White House. I appreciate so very much your contributions to our country.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Carlos Ponce, Jaci Velasquez, Jennifer Pena, and Gian Marco; Juan Jose Bremer Martino, Mexican Ambassador to the United States; entertainer Emilio Estefan; and Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek. The Office of

the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Extending the Period of Production of the Naval Petroleum Reserve

October 9, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 201(3) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)), I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves for a period of 3 years from April 5, 2003, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production.

Enclosed is a copy of the report investigating the necessity of continued production of the reserves as required by section 201(3)(c)(2)(B) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. In light of the findings contained in the report, I certify that continued production from the Naval Petroleum Reserves is in the national interest.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 9, 2002.

Proclamation 7606—Columbus Day, 2002

October 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In August 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Palos, Spain, embarking on a westward voyage and intending to establish a new trade route from Spain to the Far East. With three ships and a crew of approximately 100 men, he journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean. Instead of finding a new route to the Indies, Columbus discovered the Bahama Islands. Today, more than five centuries later, Americans continue to celebrate Columbus' bold expedition and recognize his pioneering achievements as an enduring symbol of imagination, courage, and perseverance.

Columbus brought European settlers to North America and helped establish a new era of world exploration during his four journeys to the "New World." In the years following his voyage of discovery, others such as John Cabot, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan followed Columbus' example to explore and discover new lands, peoples, and cultures.

Today, Columbus' spirit of innovation and discovery flourishes in America as we seek to advance knowledge and ensure prosperity and hope for all people. We challenge our young men and women particularly to reach for all their dreams as the great explorers of the past did.

In commemoration of Columbus' remarkable journey 510 years ago, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2002, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 10, and

it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

Remarks on House of Representatives Action on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force in Iraq

October 10, 2002

I would like to thank the Members of the House of Representatives, just as I thanked Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt a few minutes ago, for the very strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force in Iraq if it becomes necessary.

The House debate was conducted in the best traditions of the United States Congress. It was spirited; it was civil; and it was informed. This is a debate and a decision that all Americans can be proud of.

I'm also pleased with the progress being made in the Senate, and I look forward to a final vote soon.

The House of Representatives has spoken clearly to the world and to the United Nations Security Council: The gathering threat of Iraq must be confronted fully and finally. Today's vote also sends a clear message to the Iraqi regime: It must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions, or it will be forced to comply. There are no other options for the Iraqi regime. There can be no negotiations. The days of Iraq acting as an outlaw state are coming to an end.

The United States is committed to helping make the world more peaceful and more just. We are committed to freedom for all. We're also committed to protecting human dignity, and today's vote is an important step toward fulfilling those great American commitments.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7607—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2002

October 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans celebrate our friendship and common commitment to freedom with the people of Poland each year on October 11, when we honor Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolutionary War. As a brave Polish patriot, General Pulaski made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, giving his life in 1779 to help America gain its independence. His devotion to liberty continues to inspire us today as we join with our allies to secure peace and freedom around the globe.

Before joining the American Revolution in 1777, Casimir Pulaski struggled against oppression in his native Poland, fighting alongside his father and brothers to defend their homeland from Prussian and Imperial Russian invaders. Though his cause was ultimately overcome by those powerful forces, Pulaski was widely recognized for his courageous actions as a cavalry officer and leader of Polish forces. Benjamin Franklin lauded Pulaski as “famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country.”

When General Pulaski joined General George Washington’s staff, he immediately made important contributions to the war effort. He led a critical counterattack at the Battle of Brandywine that avoided a potential military disaster, earning him a commission as a Brigadier General. American leaders valued Pulaski’s experience in battle, his knowledge of military strategy, and his pioneering efforts that led to a recognition that he was the “Father of the American cavalry.” While leading cavalry forces in the Siege of Savannah, Pulaski was wounded, and died on October 11, 1779.

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, Casimir Pulaski joined forces with Americans to establish liberty and overcome despotism. That inspiration and solidarity is mirrored today as we engage in a war against terrorism. As part of a global coalition, which includes

the government and people of Poland, we are working to ensure that our two nations remain strong friends and allies in our effort to build a safer, more peaceful world for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 11, 2002, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 15, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 16.

Statement on Senate Action on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force in Iraq

October 11, 2002

With tonight’s vote in the United States Senate, America speaks with one voice. The Congress has spoken clearly to the international community and the United Nations Security Council. Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world, and the United States. Inaction is not an option; disarmament is a must.

I commend Members of the Senate for the strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force if necessary. The Senate, like the House, conducted this important debate and vote in the finest traditions of our democracy.

Our Nation seeks a more just and more peaceful world. Our nation seeks a safer and better world. America will never waver in its commitment to these ideals.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks on Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan

October 11, 2002

Welcome. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Laura and I appreciate you coming today, and it's a chance to talk about our vision for our friends in Afghanistan.

It was a year ago that American forces were just beginning the liberation of Afghanistan. And on this date last year, a year ago today, I asked the children of America to contribute one dollar to provide food and medical help to the children of Afghanistan. In a year's time after making that request, we've really accomplished a lot. We have. We have seen, of course, the tremendous skill and character of a United States military. We have seen the courage of our allies and our Afghan friends. We have seen the spirit of the Afghan people, who long for freedom. We've seen the great generosity of our fellow Americans extended to men, women, and children on the other side of the Earth.

And yet today I want you all to know and our fellow citizens to know there's still a lot left to do. There's still a lot of work to do in Afghanistan to achieve our dreams and, more importantly, the dreams of the Afghan people. Today America affirms its full commitment to a future of progress and stability for the Afghan people.

I appreciate so very much the Ambassador for being here. Mr. Ambassador, I want to thank you for your service. The Ambassador is a—was an American citizen until recently. He decided he wanted to serve his country, the land of his birth, renounced his citizenship so he could become the official Ambassador from Afghanistan to the United States. And Ambassador Shahryar is a—is a great man who serves a wonderful example of putting your country above yourself.

And so, Mr. Ambassador, we're honored you're here. I want to thank you—where is he? Oh, Ambassador, you'd think they'd have given you a better seat. [*Laughter*] I'm proud of you. I really am.

I'm also proud of Andrew Natsios, who is our Administrator of USAID. I want to thank him. I'll talk about some of Andy's fellow employees here in a minute and what they're doing on behalf of the American people to help Afghanistan children.

Sharif Faez is the Minister of Education—Higher Education. He too used to live in America. He's now serving his country. He shares our vision and understanding of the need to make sure the educational systems are strong and available, so that people can have hope in his country. Mr. Minister, thank you for your service, and I'm honored you're here with us.

I appreciate the Members of the Congress being here. Dana, thanks for coming. Members of my national security team who are working hard on Afghan policy, whether it be Condi Rice, who's the boss, or Zal—where are you, Zal? Thank you, Zal. He knows a lot about Afghanistan. After all, he was from there. Elliott Abrams, members of my team who care deeply about our policy to make sure that our policy is complete.

The—it's very important for our fellow Americans to remember that—keep in mind about the Taliban. They were the most brutal and oppressive Governments—one of the most brutal and oppressive Governments in modern times. It's hard for us to understand in America, but these are people who attempted to control every mind and every soul in the country. They obviously had a vast network of terrorist camps available to train extremists from around the world. Thanks to America and thanks to our friends, thanks to people who love freedom for everybody, the oppressive rule has been lifted. They're no longer in power. They're on the run along with a bunch of other ones over there, too. Afghanistan has entered a new era of hope. And we want to be a continued part of the new era of hope in Afghanistan.

One of our dear values, one of the values we hold close to our heart, is the respect and beliefs of all peaceloving people, no matter what their faith may be. Islam is a vibrant faith. Millions of our fellow citizens are Muslim. We respect the faith. We honor its traditions. Our enemy does not. Our enemy don't follow the great traditions of Islam. They've hijacked a great religion.

But it's important, as we lift that veil, to remember that they are nothing but a bunch of radical terrorists who distort history and the values of Islam. Islam is a faith that brings comfort to people. It inspires them to lead lives based on honesty and justice and compassion.

We've also got a great tradition not only of recognizing freedom of religion and respecting religion; we've got a great tradition of liberating people, not conquering them. It's very important for our citizens to remember that as we upheld that doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," that we went into Afghanistan to free people, because we believe in freedom. We believe every life counts; everybody has worth; everybody matters, whether they live in America or in Afghanistan.

And so we are helping the people to now recover from years of tyranny and oppression. We're helping Afghanistan to claim its democratic future, and we're helping that nation to establish public order and safety, even while the struggle against terror continues in some corners of that country. There's still Al Qaida killers roaming around Afghanistan. We're working closely with the Government to rout them out, not only to make sure that Afghanistan is more safe but also to make sure America is safe as well.

A year ago, it was really hard to find security and safety anywhere in Afghanistan. Just ask the citizens who were there. Now, America is helping to form a new Afghan national army. We are committed to an Afghan national army. The idea is to train 18 battalions of over 10,000 soldiers and finish the task by the end of next year.

I'm proud that Germany is helping as well to bring civil order by helping to build a police force. The International Security Assistance Force, what they call the ISAF, led by coalition countries, is helping to keep the streets safe in the city of Kabul. Security is a requirement for recovery and development—can't have recovery and development unless there is a secure society. America and other nations will continue working with the Afghan Government to build security, so the Afghan people can live their lives without violence and without fear.

A year ago, Afghans were living under history's first-ever terrorist-sponsored regime. These people had found a parasite. And in June of 2002, history will show that Afghanistan reversed its history by having a *loya jirga* and created the most broadly representative government in Afghanistan's history. There are two women serving in President Karzai's cabinet. The institutions of free debate and free press are taking hold. New commissions on human rights and the drafting of a new constitution will lay the groundwork for democracy and for the rule of law. The institutions necessary for the development of a peaceful, hopeful country are going to be put in place soon. We will stay the course to help that country develop—in their image, not in ours.

A year ago, millions of Afghans lived in fear of famine and disease. In the time since, America has delivered food and medicine to the Afghan people. We are committed to the health of the Afghan people. Over the last year, U.N. World Food Programme, with the support of the United States, has provided 575,000 metric tons of food to nearly 10 million Afghans. The United States has also provided seed and fertilizer in time for the spring planting season. The United States joined with other nations to support UNICEF's vaccination of more than 8 million children against measles. American health care officials are helping with other efforts to improve public health, including the fight against polio and malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis. These relief efforts have put hunger and disease on the retreat. We got the Taliban gone. We'd like to get disease and hunger gone as well.

More than 2 million Afghan refugees have returned back to the country since November. That is a positive sign. It's a good sign that people are sensing their country is a better place to live and more secure, a better place to raise a family.

One American bringing hope to Afghanistan is Sergeant First Class Victor Anderson. Victor is with us today. Sergeant Anderson spent 7 months traveling in Afghanistan. He visited hospitals and clinics, provided medical care from his car. He never turned down anybody who asked for help. He treated broken

bones. He treated gunshot wounds. He treated cuts and diseases. He treated a small child who was bitten by a donkey. [*Laughter*] Sergeant Anderson, your service brings great credit to the Army and to America, and the Nation is really grateful for your work.

A year ago, the children of Afghanistan were suffering greatly in a nation beset by war. It's not hard to imagine children suffering in a nation beset by war, and it's really sad. The children of America responded with great compassion. America's Fund for Afghan Children has collected more than \$10½ million. That's a dime at a time or a dollar at a time. That's a lot of kids working hard to collect money. It has allowed the Red Cross to deliver emergency medical supplies to help serve 60,000 people. This fund has helped provide winter clothes to 8,000 children, to help rehabilitate hospitals in Kabul.

Today we've got representatives of the fund, twins, Sarah and Alexander Ahmad. Together, they've raised \$12,000—\$12,000. That's a lot of money. Nearly 25 years ago, Sarah and Alexander's dad came to America from Afghanistan, from war-torn Afghanistan. Today, the family is helping to give peace a chance in their ancestral home and, as importantly, showing the world the generous heart, the great heart, of the American people. I really appreciate the example you're setting, and thank you for joining us today.

And by the way, the fund still exists. And I hope the American children understand there are still people in Afghanistan who hurt a lot. And if you've given once, it's okay to give again to make sure we continue to help the people in Afghanistan.

America will continue to provide that country with essential short-term relief. We also understand that Afghanistan needs long-term economic reconstruction help. And we will meet this commitment as well.

Starting with the Tokyo Conference last January, the United States and 60 other countries have pledged \$4.5 billion over 5 years to work on reconstruction projects. America is delivering on our pledge. We're writing our checks. We're currently implementing more than \$300 million worth of reconstruction and recovery projects. The nations who have made pledges, the other na-

tions, they need to be good on their pledges. If you say you're going to help the Afghan people, do it. If you've made a pledge, write your check. It's important.

America and our partners are helping rebuild roads and bridges and waterways and buildings. Last month, the United States and Japan and Saudi Arabia committed \$180 million to rebuild the highway connecting Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. It's an important project.

President Karzai spoke to me about it in the Oval Office. He said, "It's important that we show the people that we're—that we can work together to restore the historic link, to make sure that commerce and trade flow more freely and that people are able to find work." I want to thank the Saudi Arabians, the Japanese for joining us in this highly visible and highly important project.

We're also helping to rebuild schools and hospitals and clinics. Some of the first rebuilding is being done by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs soldiers, who are working with relief agencies to rebuild dozens of schools. With us today is Captain Britton London, who enlisted friends, family members, church groups to supply Afghan students with thousands of pens and pencils and notebooks. Captain London is a man after my own heart. He started a—he got the equipment necessary to start the first post-Taliban baseball league. [*Laughter*] He brought me a ball—two balls signed by the Eagles—the Eagles, the Eagles, the mighty Eagles of Afghan baseball. [*Laughter*] And they practice—they're practicing now, and the games are held once a week.

Our soldiers wear the uniforms of warriors, but they are also compassionate people. And the Afghan people are really beginning to see the true strength of our country. I mean, routing out the Taliban was important, but building a school is equally important.

Across Afghanistan, U.S. aid will help build and refurbish several hundred more schools over the next 2 years. We're also in the process of training hundreds of teachers. In March, many girls walked into a classroom for the first time. And our country has provided them as well as the boys with millions of new textbooks.

It's hard to believe—I know it's hard for some in America to believe that the Afghan people were living under a government that would not let girls go to school. It's just hard to imagine in America. But it's reality. And now we've got a lot of work to do to make up for lost time. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth. Everybody matters. Spearheading our back-to-school efforts are Lisa Hartenberger and Nitin Madhav. They work for USAID. They're a part of the—they're a part of the new army in Afghanistan. These are army of compassionate souls who are on the frontlines of making sure that the Afghan people understand our commitment is real, that when we talk about freedom, we understand that freedom is more than just a word. Freedom is a chance for people to get a good education. Freedom is chance for people to get good health care. Freedom is a chance for people to realize their dreams.

And I want to thank—I want to thank these two fine public servants that work for—with Andy, for your service to the country in service of Afghanistan. Thank you, Lisa. Thank you, buddy.

Last year, when the Taliban fell—I know I remember it, and I'm sure a lot of our fellow Americans remember—the images of celebration that took place in the streets. People came out to celebrate freedom. It reminded us that the whole world—in the whole world there is a huge appetite for freedom. People love to be free. And it's important—as we stay in Afghanistan, it will be important for other brave people, whether they live in Muslim countries or in the Middle East, people who stand for tolerance and the rule of law and equal rights and freedom of expression, to see our commitment to freedom; that our commitment for freedom is complete, and it's real, and it's sincere.

It's also important for people to know we never seek to impose our culture or our form of government. We just want to live under those universal values, God-given values. We believe in the demands of human dignity that apply in every culture, in every nation. Human beings should have the right to free speech. Women deserve respect and opportunity. All people deserve equal justice, religious tolerance. This is true in America. This

is true in Afghanistan. These rights are true everywhere.

We've seen in Afghanistan that the road to freedom can be hard; it's a hard struggle. We've also seen in Afghanistan that the road to freedom is the only one worth traveling. Any nation that sacrifices to build a future of liberty will have the respect, the support, and the friendship of the United States of America.

May God bless the people of Afghanistan and of America. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:34 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Dana Rohrabacher of California; Zalmay Khalilzad, Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan; Elliott Abrams, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Operations; Ishaq Shahryar, Afghan Ambassador to the United States; Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Sharif Faez and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and Lisa Hartenberger, education adviser for Afghanistan, and Nitin Madhav, program development adviser for Afghanistan, USAID.

Statement on Signing the Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act of 2002

October 11, 2002

I have today signed into law S. 1175, the “Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act of 2002.” In 1863, union forces under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant and confederate forces under the command of Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton fought for control of Vicksburg, Mississippi, a strategic location on the lower Mississippi River. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to add the confederate commander's headquarters to the Park, which has included the union commander's headquarters for many decades. The Act will enable the Department of the Interior to preserve property for the education of Americans today, and in generations to come.

The second sentence of section 3(b) of the Act reads: "Upon the acquisition of the property referenced in this subsection, the Secretary add it to Vicksburg National Military Park and shall modify the boundaries of the park to reflect its inclusion." It is plain in reading the sentence that a word is missing between the words "Secretary" and "add."

In accordance with section 106 of title 1 of the United States Code, enrolled bill S. 1175 was presented to me bearing the signatures of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, which attests that both Houses passed the bill. In accordance with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Marshall Field & Co. v. Clark* in 1892, I take the bill presented as being duly enrolled and shall not turn to the journals of either House, the reports of congressional committees, or other documents printed by the authority of Congress in an effort to determine whether an error in the enrollment of S. 1175 has occurred.

Recognizing that the second half of the sentence in issue provides that the Secretary "shall" modify park boundaries to reflect inclusion of the property in the Park, the most reasonable construction of the first half of the sentence is that, after the Secretary of the Interior acquires the property, addition of the property to the Park by the Secretary is mandatory. Accordingly, the executive branch shall implement the second sentence of section 3(b) of the Act in the same way it would implement the Act if the word "shall" appeared in that sentence between the words "Secretary" and "add." This construction is faithful to the legislative intent as evidenced by the content of the statute itself.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 11, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1175, approved October 11, was assigned Public Law No. 107-238. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 5

In the morning, the President traveled from the Bush family home on Walker's Point in Kennebunkport, ME, to Manchester, NH. In the afternoon, he returned to Kennebunkport.

October 6

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

October 7

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Cincinnati, OH. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his appointment of William Brock, Dennis Nolan, and Patrick Hardin as members of the Board of Inquiry to report on the labor disputes affecting Pacific coast ports.

October 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Alcoa, TN, and then to Knoxville, TN.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President attended the Republican National Committee's Eagles fall national meeting at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel. Later, he returned to the White House.

October 9

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President dropped by a lunch hosted by Mrs. Bush for Queen Sirikit of Thailand. Later, he met with Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss developments related to the nomination of Dennis W. Shedd to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 4th Circuit.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France.

The President announced his intention to nominate Adm. James M. Loy to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Cofer Black to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Jewel Spears Brooker, Dario Fernandez-Morera, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, David Hertz, Stephen McNight, Sidney McPhee, Lawrence Okamura, Marguerite Sullivan, and Stephan Thernstrom.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: Richard Halleck Brodhead, Rita DiMartino, Ronald Spogli, and Robert Leon Woodson, Sr.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Isidore beginning on September 23 and continuing through October 1.

October 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Clinton, MD, where he attended the funeral service for Harold Hancock, former White House doorman. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

October 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with former President Jimmy Carter to congratulate him on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings.

During the day, the President met with a group of State legislators. Later, he met with members of Americans for Tax Reform.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a National Book Festival

gala and dinner at the Library of Congress. Later, they returned to the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate Feliciano Foyo to be a member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 10

John R. Adams,
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, vice George Washington White, retired.

J. Cofer Black,
of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, vice Francis Xavier Taylor.

J. Daniel Breen,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, vice Julia Smith Gibbons, elevated.

Jewel Spears Brooker,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2008, vice Peggy Whitman Preshaw, term expired.

Cormac J. Carney,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Carlos R. Moreno, resigned.

Dario Fernandez-Morera,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2008, vice Susan E. Trees, term expired.

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2008, vice Lorraine Weiss
Frank, term expired.

David Hertz,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2006, vice Henry Glassie.

Stephen McNight,
of Florida, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2006, vice Isabel Carter
Stewart.

Sidney McPhee,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Na-
tional Council on the Humanities for a term
expiring January 26, 2008, vice Margaret P.
Duckett, term expired.

Lawrence Okamura,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2008, vice Doris B. Holleb,
term expired.

Marguerite Sullivan,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member
of the National Council on the Humanities
for a term expiring January 26, 2008, vice
Susan Ford Wiltshire, term expired.

Stephan Thernstrom,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Na-
tional Council on the Humanities for a term
expiring January 26, 2008, vice Arthur I.
Blaustein, term expired.

Thomas A. Varlan,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of Tennessee, vice Rob-
ert Leon Jordan, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released October 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Released October 7

Advance text of the President's address to
the Nation on Iraq

Excerpts From the President's Address to
the Nation on Iraq

Fact sheet: The President Takes Action To
Protect America's Economy and American
Jobs

Released October 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on Israeli
military action in Gaza

Released October 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 640

Released October 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on House
of Representatives action on the defense ap-
propriations conference report

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the Central District of Cali-
fornia, the Northern District of Ohio, the
Eastern District of Tennessee, and the West-
ern District of Tennessee

Released October 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed S. 238 and S. 1325

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.J. Res. 122

Fact sheet: American Assistance to the People of Afghanistan

tion in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved October 9

H.R. 640 / Public Law 107-236
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act

Approved October 11

S. 238 / Public Law 107-237
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies on water optimiza-

S. 1175 / Public Law 107-238
Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act of 2002

S. 1325 / Public Law 107-239
To ratify an agreement between The Aleut Corporation and the United States of America to exchange land rights received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for certain land interests on Adak Island, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 122 / Public Law 107-240
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes

Week Ending Friday, October 18, 2002

Proclamation 7608—National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week, 2002

October 11, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Cystic fibrosis is one of the most common fatal genetic diseases in the United States. During this week, we renew our commitment to fighting this deadly disease that affects an estimated 30,000 American men, women, and children.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder that can be passed on directly from parents to children. Millions of Americans are unknowing, symptom-free carriers of the defective gene that can cause this disease. When both parents are carriers of the abnormal gene, their children have a 1 in 4 chance of being born with the disorder. Individuals who suffer from cystic fibrosis experience frequent lung infections and digestive problems caused by cell disorders in the lining of the lungs, small intestines, sweat glands, and pancreas.

Though there is as yet no known cure for cystic fibrosis, scientists and researchers have made great progress in understanding and treating this disease. Thanks to these efforts, the average life expectancy for people with cystic fibrosis has increased significantly in recent decades, and it is now approximately 30 years. In addition, advances in antibiotic therapy and the management of lung and digestive problems have improved the quality of life for these individuals.

Recent genetic research may also accelerate the discovery of a cure. To help advance the work to end cystic fibrosis, my Administration is dedicated to increasing Federal funding for medical research at the National Institutes of Health. Until cystic fibrosis is eliminated, we are hopeful that our research efforts will continue to extend and im-

prove the quality of life of those stricken with this grave disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 13 through October 19, 2002, as National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7609—National School Lunch Week, 2002

October 11, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The future success of our Nation depends on our children's healthy development. Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has made important contributions to the well-being of our school children. As part of the NSLP, more than 96,000 schools and residential childcare institutions serve more than 27 million children each day. In addition to providing young people with nutritious meals, this program supports the academic mission of our schools and helps to ensure

that all our Nation's children reach their full potential.

To avoid the formation of poor eating habits, which are generally established during childhood, we must encourage positive choices that fulfill dietary recommendations. It is critical that our children eat sufficient amounts of fruits and vegetables, reduce fat in their diets, and consume essential nutrients in an overall diet with appropriate calories. By making modest improvements to their diets and increasing physical activities, children can dramatically improve their overall health.

To help meet this goal, the Department of Agriculture launched the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children. This plan empowers schools to serve "kid-friendly" meals that meet the recommendations defined in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid. Through Team Nutrition, a comprehensive, behavior-based plan, the USDA assists schools by supporting food service personnel with important training. New recipes are now created by teams of dietitians and chefs, and then taste-tested by children. As a result, more children are enjoying lunches that are lower in fat, saturated fat, and sodium.

To motivate children to make sound choices, Team Nutrition also educates them about the benefits of healthy eating. State and local governments are supplementing these programs through innovative partnerships with educators, school administrators, community organizations, the food industry, and others. Through these cooperative efforts we are addressing solutions to health problems, such as the increasing incidence of childhood obesity, and we are enhancing access to nutrition programs for needy children.

During National School Lunch Week, we recognize the hard work and dedication of the thousands of food service professionals who plan and prepare meals, and provide vital nutritional education to our young people.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780),

as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 13 through October 19, 2002, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program at the State and local levels in appropriate activities and celebrations that promote all programs that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7610—White Cane Safety Day, 2002

October 11, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The white cane is a powerful symbol of independence and opportunity for visually impaired persons. It is also an essential tool for increasing mobility and productivity for those who are blind as well as those who suffer from severe visual impairment. On White Cane Safety Day, our Nation renews its dedication to eliminating barriers for every disabled American, especially the blind and visually impaired.

My Administration seeks to ensure that all Americans enjoy full access to employment, education, and all the blessings of freedom.

Through my “New Freedom Initiative,” we are working to provide people with disabilities more employment opportunities and increased access to new technologies for independent living. My 2003 budget for this initiative proposes \$145 million for alternative transportation and innovative transportation grants that will improve accessibility to vital aspects of society including schools, jobs, and places of worship. By implementing these and other important reforms, we can make great progress towards an America where individuals are celebrated for their talents and abilities, not judged by their limitations and disabilities.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as “White Cane Safety Day.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2002, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to join with me in ensuring that all the benefits and privileges of life in our great Nation are available to blind and visually impaired individuals, and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address

October 12, 2002

Good morning. This week, both the House and Senate passed strong bipartisan measures authorizing the use of force in Iraq if it becomes necessary. Our country and our

Congress are now united in purpose. America is speaking with one voice: Iraq must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions, or it will be forced to comply.

Confronting Iraq is an urgent matter of national security. America’s economic security, especially the creation of good jobs, is also an urgent matter requiring Presidential and congressional action. For that reason, I acted on Tuesday to reopen our Pacific coast ports which had been shut down for more than a week due to a labor dispute. The crisis in the western ports was costing our economy up to a billion dollars a day in lost business and lost jobs, hurting truckers and rail operators who transport goods across America, workers on assembly lines, cashiers in retail stores, and manufacturers and farmers who sell across the world.

An auto plant in Fremont, California was forced to shut down its assembly line for 2 days, keeping about 5,100 employees off the job after it ran out of parts. A company that manufactures televisions and VCRs had to stop production and lay off 150 workers in Vancouver, Washington. Produce from America’s farms was stuck on docks, unable to be sold overseas. Retailers across the country were worried about having enough merchandise for the holiday season.

The American people have been working hard to bring our economy back from recession. We simply cannot afford to have hundreds of billions of dollars a year in potential manufacturing and agricultural trade sitting idle. The action I took this week will help keep our economy moving and allow labor and management more time to resolve their differences. I expect the port operators and worker representatives to bargain in good faith and reach a final agreement as quickly as possible. Reopening the ports got people back to work.

Another important step in putting America’s hardhats back on the job is passing a terrorism insurance bill. Congress is close to a final agreement. And I look forward to signing this good piece of legislation if and when it gets to my desk.

After September the 11th, many insurance companies stopped covering builders and real estate owners against the risk of terrorist attack. The lack of terrorism insurance has

hurt the growth of this economy and cost American jobs. The lack of terrorism insurance has delayed or canceled more than \$15 billion in real estate transactions. The \$15 billion worth of delay has cost 300,000 jobs—jobs to carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plumbers, and other hard-working Americans.

This terrorism insurance legislation will cost us nothing if we experience no further attacks. Yet it will mean thousands of new jobs for America's hardhats and billions in new investment. And if we do face another attack, we'll be able to compensate victims quickly and limit the economic damage to America.

This week, leaders of Congress put partisan differences aside to confront a grave danger to our country. Clearly, we're able to get things done in Washington when we focus on getting results, rather than scoring political points. For the good of the economy, for the good of workers who need jobs, Senators should again put politics aside and take one last step to reach a final agreement on terrorism insurance.

Congress is still in session next week. There's still time to reach an agreement. Our workers have waited a year. It's past time for Congress to finish the job.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:10 p.m. on October 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Indonesia

October 13, 2002

Terrorists have once again targeted innocents this time in Indonesia. At least 182 innocent men and women have been murdered and hundreds injured in a cowardly act designed to create terror and chaos.

On behalf of the people of the United States, I condemn this heinous act. I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of

all the murder victims from numerous countries and our wish for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in this attack.

I offer our sympathy to our friends, the people of Indonesia, for this terrible tragedy. Our prayers are also with our friends and allies, the people of Australia, who are suffering a grievous personal and national loss.

The world must confront this global menace terrorism. We must together challenge and defeat the idea that the wanton killing of innocents advances any cause or supports any aspirations. And we must call this despicable act by its rightful name murder.

The United States has offered its assistance to the government of Indonesia to help bring these murderers to justice.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Remarks on Departure for Waterford, Michigan, and an Exchange With Reporters

October 14, 2002

Terrorist Attack in Indonesia

The President. Last night I called Prime Minister Howard of Australia to express our country's deepest sympathies to the citizens of that good country who lost their lives, to the families who mourn and cry. I send the same sympathies and prayers to the family of the U.S. citizen—or citizens—as well as citizens from around the world. The murder which took place in Bali reminds us that this war against terror continues.

I've constantly told the American people that the struggle against terror is going to be a long and difficult struggle, that we're dealing with coldblooded killers, that the enemy does not value innocent life like we do, and that we must continue to pursue the enemy before they hurt us again.

I believe that the attacks on the French vessel in Yemen is connected with this type of terror, that they're related. I believe that the attack on our marines in Kuwait reflect the international nature of these cells, these killer cells. We've got to continue to work together. Those of us who love freedom must

work together to do everything we can to disrupt, deny, and bring to justice these people who have no soul, no conscience, people who hate freedom.

I told the Prime Minister and I told Prime Minister Blair—the Prime Minister of Australia—and I told Prime Minister Blair this morning that I'm absolutely determined to continue to lead the coalition. They recognize the need for us to continue to work together. And it's a sad day for a lot of people around the world, and—but it also is a day in which we've got to realize that we've got a long way to go to make the world more secure and more peaceful.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Sir, how does this emphasize the risk that we have in this country—

The President. Yes—

Q. —and does this improve your ability to put together a coalition and a resolution in the U.N.?

The President. Well, I think that the free world is—must recognize that no one is safe, that if you embrace freedom, you're not safe from terrorism. And clearly, the attacks in Bali—I think we have to assume it's Al Qaida. We're beginning to hear some reports that's more definitive than that, but I wait for our own analysis. But clearly it's a deliberate attack on citizens who love freedom, citizens from countries which embrace freedom. They're trying to intimidate us, and we won't be intimidated.

I'm concerned about our homeland. Obviously, if I knew of a specific piece of intelligence that would indicate a moment or a place in which the enemy would attack, we'd do a lot about it. But that's why we're still working with our authorities, the different—taking the intelligence as we know it and responding.

Here at home we're not immune from these kinds of attacks, and I'm concerned about it.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Al Qaida/Iraq

Q. Mr. President, does this mean now that Al Qaida has reconstituted itself, and do you think—how does this play on your policy on Iraq?

The President. Yes. Well, first, I—we're making great progress in the war against terror. But as I told our citizens, and have been repeatedly telling our citizens, this is a long war. And it's going to take a while to fully rout Al Qaida. We don't know whether bin Laden is alive or dead. You know, they keep floating supposed letters and—or radio broadcasts. We do know that Al Qaida is still dangerous. And while we've made good progress, there's a lot more work to do.

As I've repeatedly said, our thoughts about Iraq relate to the war on terror and that dealing with—or getting Saddam Hussein to disarm is all part of making the world more peaceful. And it's all part of the war against terror.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Usama bin Laden/Al Qaida

Q. Mr. President, do you—on that point, on Usama bin Laden, do you have a response to the letter that was put out today, allegedly under his name, praising the killing of the American marine in Kuwait? And do you share the concerns of Senator Richard Shelby, who believes that this is, in fact, a new Al Qaida offensive?

The President. Well, I—first, I don't know whether bin Laden is alive or dead. I—you know, I do know Al Qaida is extremely dangerous. I do know that there are still some of his top lieutenants roaming around and that we're doing everything we can to bring them to justice.

John, I also know that the enemy still wants to hit us and that the—as I mentioned earlier, that I believe the attack on the French vessel was a terrorist attack. Obviously, the attack on our marines in Kuwait was a terrorist attack. The attack in Bali appears to be an Al-Qaida-type terrorist—definitely a terrorist attack, whether it's Al-Qaida-related or not—I would assume it is. And therefore, it does look like a pattern of attacks that the enemy, albeit on the run, is trying to once again frighten and kill freedom-loving people. And we've just got to understand, we are in a long struggle.

And I am absolutely determined now, as I was a year ago, to continue to rout out these

people, to find them, to use the best intelligence we can, and to bring them to justice. And we will continue to pursue.

Travel by U.S. Citizens

Q. With the alert that the State Department put out last week and now the decision to bring home American family—Embassy families, and urging travelers to come home from Indonesia, does this appear to be a time in which Americans worldwide ought to stay closer to home, if this is part of a new wave of terrorism?

The President. I think that all depends where, and I think they ought to take guidance from the State Department. But clearly, the State Department is reacting to this attack and reacted to some intelligence before. As you know, we're constantly putting out alerts when we get some kind of data that indicates our people overseas are at risk.

Yes.

Washington Area Sniper

Q. What about concerns of the last—[inaudible]—sniper attack—

The President. The sniper attacks—first of all, I'm just sick, sick to my stomach to think that there is a coldblooded killer at home taking innocent life. I weep for those who've lost their loved ones. I am—the idea of moms taking their kids to school and sheltering them from a potential sniper attack is not the America I know. And therefore, we're lending all the resources of the Federal Government, all that have been required, to do everything we can to assist the local law authorities to find this—whoever it is.

Q. [Inaudible].

The President. First of all, it is a form of terrorism, but in terms of the terrorism that we think of, we have no evidence one way or the other, obviously. But anytime anybody is randomly shooting, randomly killing, randomly taking life, it's coldblooded murder, and it's—it's a sick mind who obviously loves terrorizing society. And we're doing everything we can to capture whoever that might be and bring them to justice. And the Federal Government—I've been—I get briefed on it every morning. Bob Mueller, the head of the FBI, was in this morning and gave me a full briefing on what the FBI

knew, how we're helping, what we're doing. But it's obviously a terrible, terrible situation.

And I pray for the—I pray for the families who grieve and suffer. And I worry about a society where moms can't take their kids to school. And obviously, we're going to do everything we can to help the local authorities bring these people to justice.

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, on the U.N. resolution—could I have a second one, sir?

The President. It's the new me. I'm answering all kinds of questions. [Laughter]

Q. Are you prepared to meet the French halfway on their concerns on the trigger of the use of force? Specifically, are you willing to drop the language that specifies the use of any and all means to—

The President. John, I think what's important is that, first of all, we are working with all parties to get a resolution done. I talked about it again—I talked to Tony Blair about that subject. What I'm interested in is making sure that Saddam Hussein is disarmed. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. It is in our national interest that he not have weapons of mass destruction. And anything we do must make it very clear that Saddam must disarm, or there will be consequences. And how that language is worked out is up to the diplomats.

But I am very firm in my desire to make sure that Saddam is disarmed. Hopefully, we can do this peacefully. The use of the military is my last choice, is my last desire. But doing nothing, allowing the status quo to go on, is unacceptable, particularly since we've got a new war on terror that we've—that was launched on September the 11th, 2001, particularly since oceans no longer protect America from people who hate us.

And so we'll see how it plays out. But I'm anxious to work with the international community. If I wasn't, I wouldn't have gone to the United Nations.

Q. Are you willing to be a little more oblique about that particular part of the language?

The President. Well, we'll just see how it comes. What I'm not—what I want is a firm resolution that says, "You disarm," and an inspection regime that is there not for the

sake of inspectors but is there to achieve the objective of disarming Mr. Saddam Hussein. It's his choice to make. And in order to make sure the resolution has got any kind of credence with Mr. Hussein, there has to be a consequence.

Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

Indonesian Cooperation on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the cooperation you've gotten from Indonesia up until now in fighting terrorism?

The President. I will speak to Ms. Megawati soon. She is in Bali right now, and she is obviously grieving for her citizens that lost their lives. And I'm going to make it clear to her that we need to work together to find those who murdered all those innocent people and bring them to justice. And I hope I hear the resolve of a leader that recognizes that anytime terrorists take hold in the country, it's going to weaken the country, itself. And there has to be a firm and deliberate desire to find out—find the killers before they kill somebody else.

See, these are the kinds of people that, if they go unchallenged and don't feel like there's going to be any consequences, they will continue to kill. These are nothing but coldblooded killers. They do not value life the way we value life in the civilized world. They take no care for innocent life. They just blow up in the name of a religion which does not preach this kind of hatred or violence.

And the war we fight is a different kind of war. There will be times in which people settle in and say, "Well, gosh, there's nothing going on in the war," and then something like this happens, and it's a reminder about how dangerous the world can be if these Al Qaida are free to roam.

And so we're chasing them, and we're denying them sanctuary. We've made great progress in the war against terror. We've hauled in and/or killed a bunch of their leaders. There are still more out there. There are—the training camps that they have been using have been disrupted. We're doing a better job of cutting off their money. We've got them on the run, and we intend to keep them on the run. They are still lethal, and they are still dangerous.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Congress is about to go out, sir. What's the bare minimum you expect—

The President. When Congress goes out? Well, they—there's a lot of talk about job creation, and there should be. So what they ought to do is pass some bills that will help with jobs, like the terrorism insurance bill. There has been a lot of talking here in Washington on issues such as terrorism insurance, which clearly will help create the job base, expand the job base. And yet, with a couple of days to go, it's hard to tell whether or not they're going to get a bill to my desk.

The energy bill will be good for jobs. There ought to be an energy bill on my desk. And so I think—I think before they go home, I hope they recognize they can make a difference in job creation. They've also got to make sure they don't overspend. They need to make sure we have fiscal discipline. On the way out of town, if they have to do a CR, it ought to be a clean CR, and then if they feel like they need to come back, they can come back and deal with the appropriations process.

I'd also like to get the defense appropriations bill—it passed the House; it looks like it's going to pass the Senate soon, which is a very good sign. But you know, in 4 days time, no telling what's going to happen up here. Let's hope they get some constructive things done in terms of jobs.

Listen, thank you all.

Al Qaida/President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Sir, could we ask you one more question, sir? Senator Graham last week said that the number one threat to this Nation still remains Al Qaida and questioned the wisdom about going after Saddam Hussein while Al Qaida remains the number one threat. Based on what's happened for the last week in terms of Yemen, Kuwait, and Bali, does it suggest that that argument does hold some water?

The President. I think they're both equally important, and they're both dangerous. And as I said in my speech in Cincinnati, we will fight, if need be, the war on terror on two fronts. We've got plenty of capacity to do so. And I also mentioned the fact that

there is a connection between Al Qaida and Saddam Hussein. The war on terror—Iraq is a part on the war on terror. And he must disarm.

And so I—I respect the opinion of a lot of people, and I respect his opinion. But if we don't deal with Saddam Hussein and disarm him—hopefully, it will be done peacefully—he becomes more and more dangerous. And someday we don't want to step back and say, "Where was the United States Government? How come we didn't act?" And we've got plenty of capacity to fight the war against Al Qaida, which is going to take a while. We just learned a lesson this weekend: It's going to take a while to succeed. And at the same time, the United Nations hopefully will pass—will show their strong desire to disarm Saddam, and we can get after it, get him disarmed before he hurts America. And I'm absolutely confident we can achieve both objectives, John.

Listen, thank you all.

Q. Does this constitute a press conference?

The President. Absolutely. The difference between this news conference and the one in the East Room is, you didn't get to put makeup on. *[Laughter]*

Q. You didn't—

The President. Of course I didn't. But—that was an unnecessary cheap shot. I apologize. It's a Columbus Day cheap shot. *[Laughter]* See you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia.

Remarks to the Community in Waterford, Michigan

October 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming today. I want to thank you all for—

Audience member. We love you! We love you! We love you!

The President. Glad I came. I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank you all for bringing—if you have children, thanks for bringing them. I appreciate the chance to remind our youngsters what a great country we have. I appreciate the chance—I appreciate the chance to remind them that although we've got some issues and we've got some challenges, there's no doubt in my mind this great Nation you call home can accomplish anything—I mean anything—we set our mind to.

So thanks for coming. I appreciate your interest in your State and in the political process of your State. I've come back to Michigan because I know that Dick Posthumus will make a great Governor of Michigan. And I'm here to ask you to help him get elected. I'm here to ask you to go to your coffee shops or your houses of worship or your neighborhood community centers and talk it up about this good man; to tell the people in your community, whether they be Republican, Democrat, independent—don't care—that when it comes to running the State of Michigan, he's got what it takes. He's got the character; he's got the leadership capacity.

And just like me, he married well. I know that Pam Posthumus will be a fine first lady. Speaking about fine First Ladies—yes, she's doing fine. She sends her best to the good folks of Michigan. I saw her waving from the balcony when I choppered out of the White House grounds. She's doing just great. I can't tell you how proud I am of Laura.

You might remember the story—when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. Truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics—*[laughter]*—didn't like politicians. *[Laughter]* Now, here she is—*[laughter]*—the First Lady. What a fabulous job she's done. She's brought great dignity and calm and class to the White House.

I love her a lot. I love her a lot, and she's doing just great. People now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of her friends are wondering why in the heck she said yes. *[Laughter]* But we're doing great.

I want to thank many of you for your prayers. I appreciate that a lot. It's a huge honor to be the President of a country that prays

for the President and the First Lady. We feel the prayers, and we appreciate them.

I also want to urge you all to make sure that the United States Congress stays in friendly hands, that Denny Hastert is the Speaker, a Congress with which I can work. And that means sending Thaddeus McCotter to the United States Congress. It means sending Candice Miller to the United States Congress. It means making sure a fine sitting Congressman, Joe Knollenberg, gets sent back to the United States Congress.

I appreciate Joe's leadership, and I know that Thaddeus and Candice will do a fine job on behalf of all the people of Michigan, not just a few but everybody. And that's what's important. When you're looking at these people running for office, you've got—you've got to understand that our jobs are not to represent a small segment of society. We're to lay out our principles and our values and represent everybody. And that's what I like about these candidates.

I'm also proud to be traveling with a former United States Senator, now a member of my Cabinet, and that would be Spence Abraham. Spence, thank you for coming. You know, it's a sad day when he lost for the Senate. It hurt Michigan—it gave me a chance to put somebody good in the Cabinet. *[Laughter]* And he's doing a fine job working on an incredibly important issue, about which I'll speak in a second, and that's energy.

But let me tell you one thing. If we had him in the Senate, if we had people like Spence in the Senate, there would be no question today about my judges getting confirmed.

The Senate is doing a lousy job on my judge nominations. They're treating this like it's politics, not what's good for the country. You see, we need judges who will serve, not to write legislation. We've got plenty of legislators. We need judges who will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States sitting on our benches.

No, I heard a lot of reasons why we need to change the Senate, but one of them is to make sure that the Federal bench represents the way you want them to serve their jobs. We need a Senate change, and that's why you've got to put Rocky in the United States

Senate. Hey, Rocky, good luck to you. You should never count out a guy named Rocky.

I also want to thank my friend Brooks Patterson. Brooksie is from—been in politics quite a while. I got to know him in the 1988 campaign. I liked him then; I still like him now. And I appreciate him coming to say hello.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists, the people who are manning the phone banks, the people who do the jobs that nobody thanks you for doing. Well, I'm here to thank you. I appreciate your hard work, and I appreciate your love for your country.

I want to thank those who are seeking office, like Loren Bennett and Terri Lynn Land and Mike Cox, all fine candidates, to make sure this Republican ticket—*[applause]*.

Let me tell you why it's important to have a Governor who knows what he's doing. I know something about being a Governor. The most important job for a Governor is to make sure every single child gets a good education. That's what Dick Posthumus understands.

But it takes a certain kind of attitude to make sure every child gets a good education. It starts with understanding that every child can learn, and to have leadership willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see, if you believe certain kids can't learn and you have low standards, then you're going to get lousy results. You've got to understand every child can learn. You better make sure your Governor understands every child can learn. And then you'd better make sure the Governor trusts the local people, all around Michigan, to chart the path for excellence. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to running the Michigan schools.

One of the things that's really important, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to ask the question, is every child learning? If you believe every child can learn to read and write and add and subtract, then you want to know that. And as a State, I hope you'll have a Governor who is willing to ask that question and holding the people accountable.

You see, the worst thing that can happen is for people to believe every child can't learn, and they just shuffle them through the system. "Let's just move them on. Certain

kids can't learn"—any city—"Inner-city kids," they say, "might be too tough to educate. We'll just move them along. Children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, they're tough to educate. We'll just move them along." We can't accept that in Michigan. We can't accept that anywhere in America. You must measure in this State. You must have strong accountability systems to test whether or not the curriculum is working, to test whether the teachers are teaching. You must understand that you've got to measure to make sure not one child gets left behind.

And when you find children in schools that won't teach and won't change, you better have you a Governor who is willing to challenge the status quo, for the sake of the children. And that Governor is Dick Posthumus.

Not only—listen, we're worried about people who can't find work. At least I am, and I know Dick is as well. Anytime we've got anybody in Michigan or anywhere in America looking for work and can't find work, it's a problem, and we have to deal with it. And that makes sure—that means you've got to make sure you've got a Governor who understands the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurs can find the entrepreneurial spirit.

And that's why it's so important to have a Governor who is willing to hold the taxes down in order to make sure businesses can grow, so people can find work.

No, you've got the right man in Dick Posthumus. He knows what he's doing. He's going to make a fine Governor for the State of Michigan.

I want to share with you some of my concerns about our country. The character of our country doesn't concern me. The ability for our country to solve problems doesn't concern me. But I am concerned about an economy not doing as good as we want it to do. I am concerned about an economy that was in recession, that got affected by the terrorist attack. I am concerned about a society in which some of the members of our society thought it was okay to fudge the numbers, thought it was okay not to tell the truth when it came to profits and losses, thought it was

okay to mistreat employee and shareholder alike. Those days are gone from America.

Corporate malfeasance has had an effect on our economy, and we need to do something about it. That's why I was honored to sign the most comprehensive corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. The message is clear now. The message is clear to people who should know better. If you think you're going to find easy money in this country, you're wrong. What you're going to find is hard time if you cheat the people.

But there are some things Congress can do before they go home to help the working people of this country. See, they're fixing to go home. But they need to act. One of the things you'll find about Washington—or at least I found about it—there's a lot of good talkers—[laughter]—and not enough good doers.

They're talking a good game up there. They're worried about the jobs, and so am I. So in order to make sure people can find work, there are some practical things Congress can do. And let me give you a couple of suggestions. One is, is that there's a lot of hardhats not working because the people can't find terrorism insurance. If you want to build a big project and you can't get insurance because of what the terrorists have done for America, you're going to put the project aside.

There's over \$15 billion of construction projects which are on hold, which aren't going forward, which means there's over 300,000 jobs that would be in place or soon to be in place that aren't in place. And so in my judgment, is—what Congress ought to do is, they ought to pass legislation to serve as a backdrop for terrorist insurance. They ought to serve as a backstop. If the terrorist don't attack, it hasn't cost anybody anything. If the terrorists attack, it'll help our economy recover quicker.

For the sake of jobs, however, they need to get moving. There's too much talk in Washington, DC.

And one of the stumbling blocks is whether or not they care more about the hardhat or the trial lawyer. We stand on the side of the hardhats in America, the hard-working people. And therefore, get me a terrorism

insurance bill that recognizes their hard work and the need to get these people back to work.

We need an energy bill in America. We need an energy bill. Spence has been working on one, a balanced, comprehensive approach that says we need to do a better job of conserving energy; we need to unleash new technologies to make sure that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude. But we need to explore in an environmentally friendly way here at home. Listen, the less energy we use from countries that may not like us, the more secure we are nationally. An energy bill will be good for jobs. An energy bill is important for our national security. They've been talking about that energy bill up there now for about a year. Before they go home, they need to get the energy bill to my desk.

Let me tell you what else the Congress needs to do. The Congress needs to understand that when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand a good or service. And when they demand a good or a service, in this society, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax relief plan which we passed through the United States Congress came at the right time in American economic history. When your economy is slow, you let people keep more of their own money. That's the opposite of what some of them think up there. You see, they have—when they want to have a summit—you know what the summit means to me? It means after the elections, they're going to figure out a way to raise your taxes; that's what a summit means to me. And so, therefore, if Congress really wants to make sure the job base continues to expand, what they'll do is make the tax cuts permanent. Now, that's already—you say, "Well, Mr. President, aren't they already permanent?" No. Here's what happened.

In the United States Senate, they have a rule that says on the one hand, we giveth, and on the other hand, we taketh away. [*Laughter*] It's hard to explain, but that's just what happened. Which means that the tax relief plan we passed—and it's phased in over 10 years—after 10 years goes back to the way

it was. It's hard to plan that way. If you're a small-business owner, you need to have certainty in the Tax Code. If you're somebody who is going to risk capital, you need to have certainty in the Tax Code. For the sake of economic growth, for the sake of job creation, the United States Congress must make the tax cuts permanent.

I made a decision the other day to help Michigan workers and help workers all across the country by invoking Taft-Hartley to open up the ports on our west coast. They couldn't get together; workers couldn't get together, and the shippers couldn't get together. And their ship—they were locking down the ports. And that hurt manufacturers here in Michigan, and it hurt Michigan farmers, and it's going to hurt Michigan's consumers if it went on too long. For the sake of jobs, for the sake of job creation, I put the—I said, "Get back to work for 80 days, and come together, for the sake of our country, during these tough economic times. We expect you to resolve your differences so people in other parts of the country won't suffer."

Until I'm satisfied that people can find work, I'm going to stay on the economy. I'm going to keep working with Congress, if need be, working with the American people, to do everything we can to keep our economy going. We've got good—we've got the foundation for growth, by the way. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the highest productivity in the world. The foundation for growth is strong. We've just got to keep working until we're satisfied that people can find work.

And my biggest preoccupation, my biggest worry is that there's still an enemy out there which hates America, an enemy which still wants to take innocent life. Recently we've seen what I'm talking about, in Bali. There was a coldblooded attack. Innocent people, from all around the world, by the way—an American, at least we know of one or two Americans, many Australians, English—innocent people, enjoying themselves at a resort. And a bunch of coldblooded killers decided to take life, to take innocent life, just like they did on September the 11th, 2001.

It's a stark reminder that there's an enemy which hates freedom-loving countries, an

enemy which does not value human life like we value human life here in America. See, in this country, every life is precious; everybody has got meaning; everybody has got worth.

No, the attack on the French boat, which was, I believe, a terrorist attack, the attack at the resort, the attack on our marines in Kuwait shows that there's still an enemy which is active out there. And therefore, my biggest worry is to make sure we do everything we can to continue to protect America, to save innocent life.

And so therefore, I've asked Congress to join me in developing a Department of Homeland Security, a Department which will take the agencies involved with protecting the homeland security, putting them under one umbrella so that the focus will be your protection, so that the number one priority will be the protection of the American people. We made progress in the House, but we're stuck in the Senate. We're stuck in the Senate because some Senators want there to be a big, thick book of bureaucratic regulations to tell this administration and future administrations how to run the Department.

I'll give you an example. On the border, we need to know who is coming in and what they're bringing when they come in and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. And yet we've got three different agencies on the border, full of fine people, by the way. You've got your Customs and INS and the Border Patrol. Yet in some sectors, they've got different strategies. They wear different uniforms. They've got different tasks. For the sake of homeland security, any administration ought to have the flexibility to put the agencies together or to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. The Senate version doesn't let me do that.

People ought to be able to organize if they want to organize. There ought to be collective bargaining, and that's fine with me. But for the sake of national security, I ought to have the capacity, on a limited basis, to say our national security is more important than some collective bargaining rights.

And I'll give you an example. Let me give you an example. Our Customs, they ought to be wearing radiation detection devices to

determine whether somebody is trying to sneak a weapon of mass destruction into America. The leadership of that particular group of people said, "No way. We need to have a collective bargaining session over whether or not our people should be made to wear these devices." And that could take a long period of time. We don't have time, when it comes to an enemy. We need to have the flexibility to run this Department so I can assure you.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's exactly what we're going to do. You know, they—I don't know what went through their minds when they hit us. They probably thought after September the 11th, 2001, we'd take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* See, they didn't understand about America. They don't understand that we love freedom. We don't embrace freedom; we love freedom, and nobody is going to take our freedoms away from us.

No, they probably thought that we were so selfish and self-absorbed and materialistic that after they hit us, we would try to understand them—*[laughter]*—take a step back, and maybe get them some therapy. *[Laughter]* As we've seen this weekend, as we've seen in the past, there's only one therapy, and that's to bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States is going to do.

This is a different kind of war; it's a different kind of war. In the old days, you could measure progress based upon the number of tanks destroyed or aircraft shot out of the sky or ships that were sunk. This is a different kind of war. We face a shadowy enemy. They're real. They're tough. They are determined. But their leaders will hide in caves and send their young warriors to their suicidal death. It's a different kind of enemy we face.

And sometimes you'll see progress on your TV screens, and sometimes you're just not going to see what's happening. A different kind of battle we face. But you've got to know we're making progress. We're making steady progress. I bet you we have hauled in—I say

“we,” by the way, the doctrine that says, “Either you’re with them, or you’re with us,” still stands. Either you’re with the United States of America, or you’re with the enemy.

And we’re making progress. A couple of thousand have been hauled in. Slowly but surely, we’re dismantling this terrorist network. Sure, they’re still out there, but they’re not nearly as strong as they were a year ago. Slowly but surely, we’re hauling them in. And a like number weren’t as lucky as those who were captured; like number met their justice a different way. And we’re still on them. We will continue to deny them training bases. We will continue to try to deny them sanctuary anywhere. We’re going to keep getting them on the run. Slowly but surely, no matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans, we will do what it takes to make the homeland secure and to free the American people from terror.

And that’s why I sent to Congress a significant increase in our defense spending, and I want to explain why. Any time we put one of our youngsters into harm’s way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

We owe that to our soldiers. We owe that to the loved ones of our soldiers. And if there are any loved ones out there, I can’t tell you how proud I am of our military, how confident I am of my military, and how good our military is. Thank you for coming.

I also asked for a big increase in defense spending because I wanted to send a message to our friend and to our foe that we ain’t quitting. We’re just not going to quit when it comes to defending America. It doesn’t matter how long it takes. We don’t have a calendar on my desk—there’s not a calendar on my desk in the great Oval Office that flips to, you know, flip it one day and it says, oh, it’s time to quit. That’s just not the way we think in America. We understand the task. We understand it’s a different kind of war. We understand it requires patience and to be steadfast in purpose, and that’s exactly the way this Nation is going to remain. We will pursue the enemy no matter where he tries to hide, no matter what cave he’s in, no matter what city he hides in, until justice is done.

And the war on terror is just not Al Qaida. There are other terrorists around. There are

other threats to our country with which we must deal. And that means—and one place is Iraq. I want to—let me share with you some thoughts, a serious, serious, subject. It’s one that’s got a lot of folks debating in the coffee shops or in the homes about Iraq. I want to remind you of a couple of things.

First of all, 11 years ago this leader of Iraq, the dictator of Iraq, made a pledge that he would not have weapons of mass destruction. He promised the world after he got whipped that he wouldn’t have weapons of mass destruction. And the Security Council of the United Nations passed a resolution which said, “You won’t have weapons of mass destruction.” Since that time, he has lied; he has deceived; he has not listened to the U.N. Security Council resolutions. Since that time, we now recognize as a country that oceans no longer protect us like they used to. A new reality set in, in America. It used to be we could kind of sit back and look at a threat from afar and say, “Well, that may affect somebody else, but it doesn’t affect us.”

Prior to September the 11th, we had the comfort of realizing or looking back in history and saying that we’re pretty safe here in America. Others may be threatened—after all, he attacked two in his neighborhood; he gassed his own people—but not us. September the 11th changed the equation, changed our thinking. It also changed our thinking when we began to realize that one of the most dangerous things that can happen in the modern era is for a deceiving dictator who has gassed his own people, who has weapons of mass destruction, to team up with an organization like Al Qaida.

As I said—I was a little more diplomatic in my speech, but we need to think about Saddam Hussein using Al Qaida to do his dirty work, to not leave fingerprints behind. I went to the United Nations. I did so because I wanted to challenge that body. Sixteen resolutions, sixteen defiances: They passed resolution after resolution after resolution, and 16 times Saddam Hussein has defied those resolutions. For the sake of keeping peace, it’s important that there be an international body that has backbone, that can work to keep the peace in this new era we’re in. And now is the time for choice. The United Nations can decide whether it’s

the League of Nations or whether or not it is a United Nations capable of keeping the peace.

There is universal agreement that Saddam Hussein poses a serious threat. He's a threat to the neighborhood. He's a threat to our allies. There is universal understanding that right after the Gulf war he was close to having a nuclear weapon. He still wants to have a nuclear weapon. For the sake of peace, for the sake of our security, now is the time to make sure that Saddam says what he said he would do. He must disarm. It's his choice to make. He said he would disarm. He must disarm. The U.N. said he must disarm. They can disarm him.

But for the sake of security of our country—their choice to make—I hope it's done peacefully. I hope we never use a military—one military troop in Iraq. But for the sake of the peace and security of the United States, Saddam Hussein must disarm, or the United States with friends and allies will disarm him.

I say that because I want there to be peace. I speak as a man who has a goal for the world, and that's peace. I believe out of the evil done to America can come a peaceful world. There'll be some tough times, no question about it. But if we remain strong and resolved, if we hold dear to the principles, the God-given principles and values that we hold dear to our hearts—the principle of freedom, that every life counts, that people should be free—if we hold that dear and remain strong, we can achieve peace, and I hope we do. That's my goal. The enemy thinks that they can cause America to retreat from our obligations. We're not. They believe we'll cower in the face of their coldblooded murder. We won't.

And out of the evil done to this great country and now out of the evil being done elsewhere, we can achieve peace. We've been given an opportunity to lead the world to peace.

And at home, we can have a better America, too. We can have a better America. There are people who hurt in America. There are pockets of despair and loneliness, people who are addicted, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. So long as some of us hurt,

we all hurt in this country. But I'm absolutely convinced that as a nation we can rise up, not only to keep the peace and make it secure but rise up to make America a better place, a more hopeful place, a place of love and compassion. If you want to help, if you want to help in the war against terror, if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

There are things Government can do to help people, to empower people. Government needs to trust citizens. It starts with making sure everybody has a good education. We need to also make sure our medical systems are modern. Listen, Medicare is an incredibly important program. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare isn't. For the sake of our seniors, for the sake of a better life in America, our seniors need to have a Medicare program that gives them choices and gives them prescription drug benefits.

We need to make sure, as we authorize welfare, to understand the whole—the reason welfare works, the reason welfare reform works is because we help people find work. Work is the backbone of the welfare system. It ought to remain the backbone of a good welfare system. People get dignity when they find work. They're less dependent on a Government that can sap their soul and drain their spirit.

There are things Government can do to make America a better place but not nearly as importantly as what our fellow Americans can do to make America a better place. Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's up to our fellow Americans.

Today we've got with us Lenny Compton. Lenny is in his second year—right here, Lenny—he's in his second year as AmeriCorps. Let me tell you about him. You know what he does? He mentors a child. He mentors kids in the first, second, and third grade. He understands one person can't do everything to change America, but one person can do something. One person can help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. I want to thank you, Lenny.

And that's what we need to do to show the enemy the true nature of America. Each of us can be that one person, helping somebody in need. It doesn't require a lot. Listen, walking across the street to a shut-in, saying "I love you" on a regular basis, is what I'm talking about. Running a Boy Scout troop is what I'm talking about. Being involved with a Girl—Girls Clubs and Boys Clubs, going to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and helping feed the hungry and find shelter for the homeless. It's all a part of the great fabric of America. In order to fight evil, do some good—do some good.

One of the things that's happening in America as a result of the attack by the enemy is that people are taking a good, hard look at what's important in life. We're beginning to have a cultural shift, it seems like to me. I want to be a part of that shift. It's a shift away from a culture that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a new era that says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life."

If you are a mom or a dad, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving that child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living in Oakland County, you're responsible for the quality of education. If you're dissatisfied with the quality of education, do something about it. If you're satisfied, go hug a teacher, and thank him or her for doing such an important job.

No, I think it's happening. I think people are beginning to understand that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot is working to make America a more compassionate and decent and hopeful place.

No, I think it's happening. I remember and will never forget what took place on Flight 93. We had average citizens flying across the country. All of a sudden they became aware of the new reality, that America was under attack. They were on the phones to their loved ones. The word "love" was used a lot. They said goodbye. They said a prayer. They asked for blessing from an Almighty. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save life. These

Americans understood that being a patriot was to serve something greater than yourself in life.

No, the American spirit is strong and alive. There's no doubt in my mind, my friends and fellow Americans, no doubt in my mind that we can achieve peace, no doubt in my mind that we can secure our homeland. There is no doubt in my mind that we can educate our children and provide a hopeful future for everybody who is living here in America. And the reason I say that is because I say with the utmost of confidence that this is the finest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. at Oakland County International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Dick Posthumus; Thaddeus McCotter, candidate for Michigan's 11th Congressional District; Candice Miller, candidate for Michigan's 10th Congressional District; senatorial candidate Andrew "Rocky" Raczowski; L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive; Loren Bennett and Terri Lynn Land, candidates for Michigan secretary of state; Mike Cox, candidate for Michigan attorney general; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Northern Ireland

October 14, 2002

I support the difficult but necessary decision today by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to suspend the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. I welcome the commitment of Prime Minister Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to restore confidence between the parties and peoples of Northern Ireland, hold elections, and reinstate powersharing as soon as is possible.

I join their condemnation of sectarianism and violence and echo their call for all parties to make unequivocal their commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic means for pursuing their interests. There is simply no place for paramilitaries in a democratic society. I also applaud the two Governments' recognition of the central importance of policing and the need for continued policing reform.

I welcome the continued close cooperation of the British and Irish Governments as they work toward the full implementation of the Good Friday agreement. The United States stands ready to assist their efforts. I appeal to everyone in Northern Ireland to recognize the great benefits that the agreement has already secured. The Good Friday agreement remains the best framework for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

**Remarks at a Dinner for
Congressional Candidate Thaddeus
McCotter in Dearborn, Michigan**

October 14, 2002

Thank you all. Congressman, thank you. I appreciate you all coming. I'm here to help the Republican Party. I'm here to help Dick Posthumus get elected. I'm here to make it clear that Thaddeus McCotter needs to be the next Congressman from this district.

Anybody who would name his son George—[laughter]—in this case, George T.—I appreciate the chance to meet the family. I want to thank the McCotters for coming. He's got a great wife and three wonderful children. I appreciate a man who has got his priorities straight, and that is his faith and his family and his country. And I appreciate you all coming to help him.

We had a big rally earlier today, and Thaddeus was there and so was the next Governor of the State of Michigan, Dick Posthumus. I told the folks in—I mean, there was a couple of thousand people there, and I told them that it's important to do what they are good at doing, which is put signs in the ground and dial the phones and put out the mailers. We're getting close to grassroots politics time.

For those of you who are involved in the grassroots of Michigan politics, I want to thank you for what you're going to do, not only what you have done but what's going to take place over the next couple of weeks, and that is to work hard to turn out a big vote. To turn out a vote for the next Governor, the next Congressman is really important. There's no doubt in my mind these two men are going to win, and they're only going to win with your help. So thanks for coming.

Thanks for your care about your State and your country.

I'm so grateful that my buddy the Governor of Michigan is here, John Engler. I appreciate his strong service to Michigan. We both did a very smart thing: We both married girls from Texas. [Laughter] We both married above ourselves. [Laughter] And speaking about girls from Texas, Laura sends her love to many of you here that we got to know during the course of our campaign. She's doing great. She's strong, and she's calm when she needs to be calm. She's a fabulous wife, a great mother, and she's doing a wonderful job as our First Lady. I'm really proud of her.

I want to thank the Members from the U.S. Congress who are here with us today. I particularly want to thank Mike Rogers for working hard to make sure this event was successful. Mike, thanks for your hard work, thanks for your support. I think Peter Hoekstra is here somewhere. I don't know if they let people in from the western part of the State or not? [Laughter] Where are you, Peter? Good to see you, Congressman. Thanks for coming—a fine U.S. Congressman. I know Vern Ehlers is here. Vern, I'm honored you're here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate—good to see you, sir. I think Joe Knollenberg is still here. I hope he is. Hey, Joe, thanks. I appreciate you, Congressman. Dave Camp, Congressman Camp is with us today, I think. Oh, hi, Dave. Thanks for coming.

I think that's all the members of the congressional team from Michigan that are here. I've got to tell you, they're fine Members of the Congress. I appreciate their friendship. I appreciate their strong support on key issues. We've had great success in the House of Representatives and a lot of it had to do with the leadership of the folks from Michigan. You're well represented. My call is to make sure they go back.

My call is to make sure we continue to hold the House. My call is to remind you it's important to have a Speaker like Denny Hastert, who will make a huge difference for the people of Michigan and the people of our country. And one way to do it is to not only reelect those who have already won but to make sure Thad McCotter gets elected

to the United States House as well—and Candice Miller.

I know the speaker of the house is here. I want to thank Rick Johnson for coming. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your coming. In the limousine on the way here, the next Governor and I were talking about how the house races look great here in Michigan and that he looks forward to working with you, Mr. Speaker, and a good, solid Republican majority to do what's right for the people of Michigan.

I'm also honored that Betsy DeVos is here. Betsy, I appreciate your tireless work on behalf of the Republican Party. I appreciate you coming. Michael Kojaian, he's a wonderful friend and a good man who has been a hard worker to make sure events such as these are successful. And Michael, I appreciate you coming.

We've got a lot of work to do in Washington, DC. And that's why I'm so—want to be involved with these House races. We've got to make sure the country is a stronger country and a safer country and a better country. And to make sure America is a stronger country, we've got to work to make sure that people can find a job. You know, anytime there's a place where somebody is looking for work and can't find work, it is a problem, and we've got to deal with it.

But the best way to deal with it is to elect people to Congress who understand the role of Government. The role of Government is not to try to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which people feel comfortable risking capital. The people in the U.S. Congress from Michigan understand that. Thaddeus understands that. It's important to get him elected.

You hear a lot of talk about tax relief. Here's the page of the textbook that we've been reading in Washington, at least those of us who agreed with the tax relief plan. It says this: "If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good

or service, somebody is more likely to find work"—if you're interested in jobs.

The tax relief plan we passed in Washington came at the—exactly the right time. The country was in recession. We needed to stimulate the economy. We needed to get the economics of the country on the right track. We needed people to be able to find work. Tax relief was vital. Not only was the tax relief plan good for the creation of small business and the enhancement of the entrepreneurial spirit, the tax relief plan also recognized that we want to encourage marriage in families through the Tax Code, not discourage it, and we slashed the marriage penalty in the tax relief.

We also did one other thing that was helpful to the farmers of Michigan, the ranchers all across the country, the small-business owners, the entrepreneurs, the first time capitalists, and that is, we put the death tax on the way to extinction.

But we're still having to talk about the issue because the rules of the United States Senate are such that the tax relief plan that—it lasts for 10 years. And after 10 years, it reverts to—back to the way it was. And yes, 2001, it's like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. That's a hard one to explain in Crawford, Texas, or anywhere else, for that matter.

And so the issue really is, and Thaddeus understands this, for the sake of job creation, we need certainty in the Tax Code. For the sake of an expanding economy, we need to make sure that our entrepreneurs understand what's happening. For the sake of families, we need permanency. For the sake of people being able to pass their assets on to whom they want, we need permanency. The Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent.

There are some other things that need to happen in Congress to make sure people can find work. We're debating a terrorism insurance bill. I'm not debating it. I'm watching the debate. I'm amazed that the debate is still going on. There are \$15 billion of construction projects which have been put on hold because people can't get terrorism insurance. The terrorists hit us; they raised the price of insurance. They made it basically extinct. And what the Congress needs to do

is serve as a backstop and serve as a guarantor for terrorism insurance to get these projects moving again.

If the enemy doesn't attack, it doesn't cost anything. If the enemy does attack, it'll help keep order in our economy. It makes sense. There are 300,000 hardhats' jobs waiting to go forward. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of getting good people to work, we need a terrorism insurance bill. We need a bill that rewards the hardhats and not the trial lawyers of America.

Traveling with me today is one of my finest Cabinet Secretaries—perhaps it's because he cut his teeth in Michigan politics—and that's Spence Abraham. I appreciate Spence coming. He's somewhere around. There he is, and Jane is with him, too, who's a fine, fine soul. Thanks for coming, Jane.

The reason I bring up Spence is because, one, I want to brag on him, what a good job he's doing. But also a job bill is an energy bill. A good energy bill will help with jobs. Spence has been working hard to get the Congress to come together to get an energy bill out that encourages conservation, encourages the use of renewables, that fires up new technologies necessary to achieve national objectives, which is less dependence on foreign sources of crude and cleaner air—things we believe can happen.

But he and I also agree we need to be—explore for more energy at home. And yet, there's talk—just like the terrorism insurance bill—all they're doing is talking. They need to get the bill to my desk for the sake of jobs and for the sake of national security. We need to have an energy bill in America. And Spence, I want to thank you for your hard work.

By the way, looking at Spence or just thinking about Spence—looking at him too—reminds me of why we need to take the Senate back. I've named really good people to the bench. One of my most awesome responsibilities and important responsibilities is to find good, honorable Americans who will serve as Federal judges, people who will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution, people who will not use the bench to rewrite law. We've got plenty of legislators in Washington.

And this Senate has done a lousy job with my nominees. The percentage of people confirmed is way below those confirmed under President Clinton or President Bush or President Reagan. They're playing politics. I named good, strong people up there, and they distort their records. The American people deserve better. The nominees for the bench I've named deserve better. For the sake of a good, sound judiciary, we need to change the United States Senate.

Congress is fixing to leave town, and the Senate doesn't have a budget. One of the things that can serve as an anchor to economic vitality is if the Congress overspends. They need to be mindful about whose money they spend in Washington. They're not spending the Government's money. They're spending your money. The Members of the House of Representatives who are with us tonight and Thaddeus understands that, that they spend the people's money, that we've got to set priorities, be wise about how we use the people's money.

Listen, without a budget, there's no telling what's going to happen in Washington, DC. Every idea up there sounds like a brilliant idea. The problem is, every brilliant idea costs billions of dollars. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of economic security in this country, the United States Congress must be wise with the people's money. They must fund the priorities, and they must not overspend.

I want you all to know, I look forward to working with the Congress to get some things done. I hope the Congress responds. They've got 4 days before they go home. They can help with the jobs. And I won't rest so long as people are looking for work. I'm an optimistic fellow because I know that the fundamentals are strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the highest productivity rates in a long time. We've got great workers. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong. But there are people who hurt. And so long as people hurt, I'm going to be—I'm going to be paying attention to the economy and doing anything I can to help people find work.

We did make a great stride, by the way, toward increasing confidence in our economy. You know, we had a recession, and then

we had the enemy attack. And then we had one other attack on the confidence of the American people. We had some citizens in our country who felt like they didn't need to tell the truth when it came to corporate numbers. We had some people who forgot the awesome responsibility of being a chief executive officer or a chief financial officer. I worked with Members of the House in both political parties. I had the honor of signing the most comprehensive corporate reform bill—corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President.

And the message is pretty simple and very profound. If you find yourself in a position of responsibility, we expect you to tell the truth. We expect you to treat your employees and your shareholders with respect. If you think you're going to find easy money in the American system, all you're going to end up doing is finding hard time.

The other thing I'm going to think about—I think about a lot, constantly about, and that Thaddeus and I and other Members will be working on, is how to secure the homeland of America. The enemy is active, and they hate. The attacks in Indonesia that needlessly killed hundreds of people serve as a stark reminder that there's still an enemy which kills with impunity, an enemy which does not value innocent life. The attacks on the French vessel in Yemen shows there's an enemy willing to use any kind of device to attack those of us who love freedom. They're active. They're resilient, and they continue to hate.

And they hate because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that in this great country people can worship an almighty God any way they see fit. We love that. We love the fact that people can have honest, open political discourse in a free society. We love free press. We love everything about freedom, and we're not changing.

And so long as we love freedom, as much as we love freedom, the enemy will try to hurt America and hurt our friends and hurt our allies. And so our biggest job is to secure the homeland. It's to do everything we can, to use every resource at our fingertips to protect the American people from potential harm.

You need to know, there's a lot of really good folks at the Federal level who are doing just that, and good folks at the State and local level as well. I mean, anytime we're getting a hint, we're moving on it. Anytime we're getting a suggestion that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding, within the U.S. Constitution. We hold that document sacred.

But we're responding. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're sharing intelligence better than ever before. The doctrine that says, "You're either with the United States, or you're against us," still stands. It's a doctrine which is even more important today, perhaps, than right after September the 11th, because the attacks go on. We cannot do this war alone. We constantly remind other nations that if they love freedom like we love freedom, they'll be under attack.

I went to the United States Congress to ask them to help me create a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I want to be in a position where I can assure the American people, we're doing everything in our power to protect America. The House responded quickly. After a good, solid debate, the House came with a really good piece of legislation.

The Senate is stuck. The Senate is stuck because some Members feel like it's the Senate duty to micromanage the process. They have passed a law that—or they think they're going to pass a law—they won't, but they're trying to pass the law—it's why the President has a veto pen—that will have a thick book of bureaucratic regulations and hamstringing the capacity of this administration and future administrations to respond to potential terrorist threats.

I'll give you two examples of what I'm talking about, so you'll understand the debate. One, customs agents ought to be wearing radiological detection devices. They ought to wear those, so that if somebody is trying to sneak a weapons of mass destruction into the country, somebody on duty will have a device indicating that a weapon of mass destruction is coming in. We proposed that. The union representing the workers said, "No, we're not going to have that. You can't have mandatory use of a radiological detection device. It must

be voluntary, otherwise we're going to take you to collective bargaining."

We don't have time to bargain collectively over an issue like that. I believe in collective bargaining for people. I believe they ought to be able to go to unions if they want to. But for the sake of national security, some of these rules need to be put aside. Some of the work rules that will make it difficult for us to be able to protect the American people.

Every President since Jimmy Carter has the capacity to suspend collective bargaining for national security purposes. And yet, here we are at war, and the Senate is debating a bill, and they now want to take that power away from this President. And that's not right. I need to be able to put the right people at the right place with the right equipment at the right time to protect America. And the Senate must understand that.

I hope we get a good bill. They're going home in 4 days. I expect there to be a bill. I look forward to continuing to work, but I want you to know that I'm not only speaking for this administration, I'm speaking for future administrations. It doesn't make any sense for the Department of Homeland Security not to have that—for me to have the capacity to deal with the home—the Department of Homeland Security in the same way that I can deal with the Department of Agriculture. And so I expect the Senate to finish the debate and get a bill. Hopefully we can get it out of conference before you go home. It's important.

The best way to protect the homeland is to find this enemy, wherever he hides, and bring him to justice, to hunt them down one by one. I say "hunt them down one by one" because that's the nature of the war we're in. In the old days you'd go after platoons or battalions or aircraft or fleets. They don't have fleets. They don't have battalions. They've got coldblooded killers who hide in caves. They hijack a wonderful religion, and they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. But you've got to know, there's not a cave deep enough for the justice of America. There's not a corner of the world in which we're not going to shine light, because we love our freedom, because we believe in the

values, and we hold those—of America, and hold them dear to our heart.

We're making progress. We are. We've done a heck of a lot of work, made good progress at dismantling the Al Qaida terrorist network. After all, they used to run a country. We liberated that country. We freed a country from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. And thanks to the United States and our friends and allies—and thanks to the United States and friends and allies, many young girls now go to school for the first time.

I remind you of that because our country never has the intention of conquering anybody. We believe in freedom for all people. We believe in freeing people, if possible. So we're liberators in this case, and we'll always be liberators. Because our coalition is strong, I would say we've hauled in—arrested or however you want to put it—a couple of thousand of Al Qaida. Some of them are former leaders. Abu Zubaydah was one of the top three leaders in the organization. Like number weren't as lucky; they met a different kind of fate. But they're no longer a problem.

We're slowly but surely rounding them up. The other day we got this guy, bin al-Shibh. He popped his head up. [*Laughter*] He's not a problem. Slowly but surely—and I'm not giving up. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, okay, on this day, you quit. That's just not the way I think. I understand the task. I know the threats. The threats should be vivid in everybody's mind when you see the pictures of the devastation, the size of the bomb crater, the absolute needless murder that took place in Indonesia.

I asked Congress for a significant increase in defense spending. I appreciate that. I appreciate the fact that the House voted on it. The Senate voted on it. They need to get that to my desk. The House voted on the conference. The Senate needs to get it to my desk before they go home.

And the reason I did is because I feel strongly about this. Any time we put our kids into harm's way, they've got to have the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. I also wanted to send a message to friend and foe that we're in this deal for

the long pull, that when it comes to defending our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes. When it comes to protecting America and innocent life, there is no timeline, friends, that there's just not a quitting date until I'm absolutely certain that America is secure.

I believe the enemy, they just didn't know what they were up to when they hit us. They probably—guys sitting there, saying, "They're so materialistic, so self-absorbed, so selfish that they might file a lawsuit or two." [Laughter] They didn't understand America. They just don't understand what we're made out of. They don't understand our fiber. They don't understand our courage. They don't understand what we love.

My job is not only to protect America today but to anticipate problems as well. And obviously I started a significant and important debate about Iraq. I did because I—because I understand the threat of Iraq. This is a country that said he would have no weapons of mass destruction, and he does. This is a country that has defied the United Nations 11 straight years, 16 different resolutions. He's completely ignored the international body. This is a country who has made it clear, he'd like to have a nuclear weapon. And when our inspectors—or the inspectors went into the country right after the Gulf war, it was estimated that they were months away from having a nuclear weapon. This is a country that hates America, hates the people in the neighborhood. This is a country which has invaded two countries, unprovoked. This is a country, the leadership of which has actually used weapons of mass destruction on its own people, on citizens who disagreed with him. This is a country who gassed its neighbors. This is a dangerous man.

Prior to September the 11th, 2001, we thought two oceans would protect us. We thought we could kind of step back, and say, "This may be somebody else's problem, in another part of the world, and we may or may not deal with it." After September the 11th, we've entered into a new era and a new war. This is a man that we know has had connections with Al Qaida. This is a man who, in my judgment, would like to use Al Qaida as a forward army. And this is a man

that we must deal with for the sake of peace, for the sake of our children's peace.

Military option is my last choice. It's not my—it's the last thing I want to do, is commit our military. My first choice is for Saddam Hussein to do what he said he would do, and after 11 years, disarm. I doubt he's going to do that, but it's his choice to make. See, he gets to make the choice. The United Nations needs to make a choice, whether it will be the League of Nations or the United Nations, whether it will be an empty debating society or a group of countries who have got the capacity and the will and the backbone to help keep the peace. Their choice to make. I hope this happens peacefully. I hope he disarms. But for the sake of our future, for the sake of peace itself, if need be, the United States will lead a strong coalition of freedom-loving nations and disarm Saddam Hussein.

At the same time that we work to make America stronger and safer, we've got to make sure we work to make America better. We have an opportunity to challenge some of the problems that we face in our society. First, it starts with making sure every child gets educated. I appreciate Thaddeus' and your next Governor's focus on education. I mean every child, not just a few, not just a handful, not just those in nice districts—every single child.

I believe every child can learn. I hope you believe every child can learn. And then together we can challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, when you lower the bar, when you think certain kids can't learn, you're going to get lousy results. I also strongly believe that in return for Federal money, you need to show us whether or not the children are learning. You need to show us whether a child can read and write and add and subtract. And if so, we'll praise the teachers and thank them. We need to thank our teachers. But when we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and schools which will not change, you better have you a President and a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in America.

I want to work with Thaddeus to make sure that some of our promises are kept, particularly those to our seniors. Medicine is

modern. Medicare is not modern. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't changed. And for the sake of our seniors, we need to change Medicare so it's modern and includes prescription drugs. And I look forward to working with the members of the Congress.

Oh, there's some things Congress can do to make America a better place, but the most powerful instrument for change, the best way to make America a better place is to unleash the great strength of our country. And the great strength of America is the hearts and souls of the American people. If you want to fight evil in America, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help change the country, if you want to be a part of eliminating the pockets of despair and loneliness, put your arm around somebody who hurts, and say, "I love you."

Today we welcomed a young kid, a 22-year-old boy there at the rally, who was a mentor. He is a part of the army of compassion in America. He is doing his part to change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time.

You see, one of the things I appreciate about our political party is, we understand the limitations of Government. Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts. Government cannot put a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when loving soul interfaces with loving soul.

The enemy hit us, but out of the evil done to America is coming a—is coming the revival of an American spirit, which understands—where we all understand serving something greater than ourself in life is a part of being an American, that being a patriot is more than just putting your hand over your heart, being a patriot is helping somebody in need. We can change America one soul at a time, we can, as our fellow Americans do their duty, to find the new patriotism.

Perhaps the greatest example of what I'm talking about and the most vivid example and an example which I think will last through the ages, is what happened on Flight 93. The guy was on a plane ride, flying across the country. Their loved ones tell them the plane is being used as a weapon. They recognize what must happen. They told their loved

ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the American spirit is alive, and it's strong. And as a result, we will overcome the evil done to America. No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. They hit a nation which is more committed to peace than ever before and a nation which is committed to making sure this country is hopeful and optimistic and bright for every citizen who is fortunate enough to live in this great land.

I want to thank you all for coming. You just need to know this about me: I believe there's any—we can accomplish anything set before us, because I know this is the finest country, full of the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:01 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rita McCotter, wife of candidate Thaddeus McCotter, and their children, George, Timothy, and Emilia; dinner chairs Betsy DeVos and Michael Kojaian; Jane Abraham, wife of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and volunteer Lenwood "Lenny" Compton, Jr. Candidate Thaddeus McCotter introduced the President.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership

October 15, 2002

Well, thanks for the warm welcome. Thank you for being here today. I appreciate your attendance to this very important conference. You see, we want everybody in America to own their own home. That's what we want. This is—an ownership society is a compassionate society.

More and more people own their homes in America today. Two-thirds of all Americans own their homes. Yet, we have a problem here in America because fewer than half

of the Hispanics and half the African Americans own the home. That's a homeownership gap. It's a gap that we've got to work together to close for the good of our country, for the sake of a more hopeful future. We've got to work to knock down the barriers that have created a homeownership gap.

I set an ambitious goal. It's one that I believe we can achieve. It's a clear goal, that by the end of this decade we'll increase the number of minority homeowners by at least 5½ million families. Some may think that's a stretch. I don't think it is. I think it is realistic. I know we're going to have to work together to achieve it. But when we do, our communities will be stronger and so will our economy.

Achieving the goal is going to require some good policies out of Washington. And it's going to require a strong commitment from those of you involved in the housing industry. Just by showing up at the conference, you show your commitment. And together—together we will work over the next decade to enable millions of our fellow Americans to own a piece of their own property, and that's their home.

I appreciate so very much the homeowners who are with us today. The Arias family, newly arrived from Peru, they live in Baltimore. Thanks to the Association of Real Estate Brokers, the help of some good folks in Baltimore, they figured out how to purchase their own home. Imagine to be coming to our country without a home, with a simple dream. And now they're on stage here at this conference, being one of the new homeowners in the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I appreciate the Arias family coming.

We've got the Horton family from Little Rock, Arkansas, here today. Actually, it's not Little Rock; it's North Little Rock, Arkansas. I was corrected. [Laughter] I appreciate so very much these good folks coming all the way up from the South. They were helped by HUD. They were helped by Freddie Mac. Obviously, they've got a young family. And when we start talking about owning a home, a smile spread right across the face of the dad that could have lit up the entire town of Washington, DC. I appreciate you all coming. Thanks for coming. He had to make sure

I knew that he was educated in Texas. [Laughter]

Finally, Kim Berry from New York is here. She's a single mom. You're not going to believe this, but her son is 18 years old. [Laughter] She barely looked like she was 18 to me. Being a single mom is the hardest job in America. And the idea of this fine American working hard to provide for her child, at the same time working hard to realize her dream, which is owning a home on Long Island, is really a special tribute to the character of this particular person and to the character of a lot of Americans. And so we're honored to have you here, Kim, and thanks for being such a good mom and a fine American.

I told Mel Martinez I was serious about this initiative. We started talking about it, and I said, "Well, you know, I'm the kind of fellow, I don't like to lay out a goal and don't mean it." I think it's not—I don't think it's fair for the American people to be—to have a President or anybody else, for that matter, lay out a goal and just kind of say it but don't mean it. I mean it. And the good news is, Mel Martinez believes it and means it as well. He's doing a fine job of running HUD, and I'm glad he has joined my Cabinet. And I picked a pretty spunky Deputy as well, Alphonso Jackson, my fellow Texan. I call him A.J.

I appreciate the Secretary of Agriculture being here. She's got a lot of money having to do with rural housing. I appreciate Ann's commitment to rural America. And I'm really proud of the job she's doing as well for the American people, serving in my Cabinet. Thanks for coming, Ann.

I've got some others in my administration, as I look around. I see Rosario Marin, who's the Treasurer of the United States. Rosario used to be a mayor. Thank you for coming, Madam Mayor. She understands how important housing is. I see other mayors around here, and I want to thank the mayors for coming. After all, it's in your interest that this project succeed.

I know we've got some folks from the faith-based community here. Luis Cortes from Philadelphia is here and my friend Kirbyjon Caldwell from Houston, Texas. Kirbyjon, I had breakfast with him this morning. He told me he was going to have to leave before my

speech. He's a wise man, that Kirbyjon Caldwell. [*Laughter*] But he has gone back home to Texas.

I appreciate Margaret Spellings and her staff. Margaret is the Domestic Policy Adviser to the President, and I want to thank you for putting on this conference, Margaret.

All of us here in America should believe, and I think we do, that we should be, as I mentioned, a nation of owners. Owning something is freedom, as far as I'm concerned. It's part of a free society, and ownership of a home helps bring stability to neighborhoods. You own your home in a neighborhood, you have more interest in how your neighborhood feels, looks, whether it's safe or not. It brings pride to people. It's a part of an asset-based society. It helps people build up their own individual portfolio, provides an opportunity, if need be, for a mom or a dad to leave something to their child. It's a part of—it's a part of being a—it's a part of—an important part of America.

Homeownership is also an important part of our economic vitality. If—when we meet this project, this goal, according to our Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, we will have added an additional \$256 billion to the economy by encouraging 5.5 million new homeowners in America. The activity—the economic activity stimulated with the additional purchasers, the additional buyers, the additional demand will be upwards of \$256 billion. And that's important because it will help people find work.

Low interest rates, low inflation are very important foundations for economic growth. The idea of encouraging new homeownership and the money that will be circulated as a result of people purchasing homes will mean people are more likely to find a job in America. This project not only is good for the soul of the country; it's good for the pocketbook of the country as well.

To open up the doors of homeownership there are some barriers, and I want to talk about four that need to be overcome.

First, downpayments—a lot of folks can't make a downpayment. They may be qualified. They may desire to buy a home, but they don't have the money to make a downpayment. I think if you were to talk to a lot of families that are—desire to have a home,

they would tell you that the downpayment is the hurdle that they can't cross. And one way to address that is to have the Federal Government participate.

And so we've called upon Congress to set up what's called the American Dream Down Payment Fund, which will provide financial grants to local governments to help first-time homebuyers who qualify to make the downpayment on their home. If a downpayment is a problem, there's a way we can address that. And when Congress funds the program, this should help 200,000 new families over the next 5 years become first-time homebuyers.

Secondly, affordable housing is a problem in many neighborhoods, particularly inner-city neighborhoods. You may—we may have qualified homebuyers, but if there's no home to buy, this initiative isn't going anywhere. And so one of the things that we're going to—that I'm doing is proposing a single-family affordable housing credit to encourage the construction of single-family homes in neighborhoods where affordable housing is scarce.

Over the next 5 years the initiative will provide homebuilders and therefore homebuyers with—homebuilders with \$2 billion in tax credits to bring affordable homes and therefore provide an additional supply for homebuyers. It's really important for us to understand that we can provide incentive for people to build homes where there's a lack of affordable housing. And we've got to set priorities, and one of the key priorities is going to be inner-city America. Good schools and affordable housing will help revitalize our inner cities.

Another obstacle to minority homeownership is the lack of information. You know, getting into your own home can be complicated. It can be a difficult process. I had that very same problem. [*Laughter*]

Every homebuyer has responsibilities and rights that need to be understood clearly. And yet when you look at some of the contracts, there's a lot of small print. And you can imagine somebody newly arrived from Peru looking at all that print and saying, "I'm not sure I can possibly understand that. Why do I want to buy a home?" There's an educational process that needs to go on, not only to explain the contract, explain obligation,

but also to explain financing options, to help people understand the complexities of a homeownership market, and also at the same time to protect people from unscrupulous lenders, people who would take advantage of a good-hearted soul who is trying to realize their dream.

Homeownership education is critical. And so today I'm pleased to announce that through Mel's office, we're going to distribute \$35 million in 2003 to more than 100 national, State, and local organizations that promote homeownership through buyer education.

And of course, one of the larger obstacles to minority homeownership is financing, is the ability to have their dream financed. Right now we have a program that all of you all are familiar with—maybe our fellow Americans aren't—and that's what they call a Section 8 housing program, that provides billions of dollars in vouchers to help low-income Americans with their rent. It encourages leasing. We think it's important that we use those vouchers, that Federal money, to help low-income Americans go from being somebody who leases to somebody who owns; that we use the Section 8 program to not only help with downpayment but to help with continuing monthly mortgage payments after they're into their new home. It is a way to help us meet this dream of 5½ million additional families owning their home.

I'm also going to encourage the lending industry to develop a mortgage market so that this script, these vouchers, can regularly be used as a source of payment to provide more capital to lenders, who can then help more families move from rental housing into houses of their own.

These are some of the barriers that homeowners face—potential homeowners face, and this is what we intend to do about it. But like in a lot of our life, Government can't do everything. It's impossible to provide every aspect of a national strategy, particularly in this case. And that's why we need the help of private and nonprofit sectors in our country to help play a vital role in helping to meet the goal. Many of you here represent the nonprofit as well as the private sectors of our economy and our country, and I want to thank you for your commitment.

Last June, I issued a challenge to everyone involved in the housing industry to help increase the number of minority families to be homeowners. And what I'm talking about, I'm talking about your bankers and your brokers and developers as well as members of faith-based community and community programs. And the response to the homeowners challenge has been very strong and very gratifying.

Twenty-two public and private partners have signed up to help meet our national goal. Partners in the mortgage finance industry are encouraging homeownership by purchasing more loans made by banks to African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities. Representatives of the real estate and homebuilding industries, through their nationwide networks or affiliates, are committed to broadening homeownership. They made the commitment to help meet the national goal we set.

Freddie Mae—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—I see the heads who are here; I want to thank you all for coming—[laughter]—have committed to provide more money for lenders. They've committed to help meet the shortage of capital available for minority homebuyers.

Fannie Mae recently announced a \$50 million program to develop 600 homes for the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. Franklin, I appreciate that commitment. They also announced \$12.7 million investment in the condominium project in Harlem. It's the beginnings of a series of initiatives to help meet the goal of 5½ million families. Franklin told me at the meeting where we kicked this off, he said, "I promise you, we will help," and he has, like many others in this room have done.

Freddie Mac recently began 25 initiatives around the country to dismantle barriers and create greater opportunities for homeownership. One of the programs is designed to help deserving families who have bad credit histories to qualify for homeownership loans. Freddie Mac is also working with the Department of Defense to promote construction and financing for housing for men and women in the military.

There's all kinds of ways that we can work together to meet the goal. Corporate America has a responsibility to work to make America a compassionate place. Corporate America has responded. As an example—only one of many examples—the good folks at Sears and Roebuck have responded by making a 5-year, \$100 million commitment to making homeownership and home maintenance possible for millions of Americans.

There have been other steps that are being taken to close the homeownership gap. And you've heard some of the stories here today, people much more eloquent than me to talk about what's taking place on the frontline of meeting this national goal.

The nonprofit groups are bringing homeownership to some of our most troubled communities. And as you know, I'm a strong advocate of what I call the Faith-Based Initiative. And the reason I am is because I understand the universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, and that includes helping somebody find a home.

One such example is the Enterprise Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that provides assistance to grassroots homeownership organizations. Because of their work, as one example, 185 affordable homes will be available in a Baltimore neighborhood that was once so crime-ridden that people had written it off. Revitalizing neighborhoods is a real possibility if people put their mind to it. And at the same time, you're helping people own a home in America.

And the faith-based community is doing some fantastic work when it comes to encouraging homeownership, whether it be financial counseling or job training or other outreach services to help people understand what it takes to buy a home.

And then there's my friend Kirbyjon Caldwell. He not only provides counseling and job training; he actually decided to encourage a development of homes in the Houston area. People—low-income people are going to be able to more afford a home in Texas because of Kirbyjon's vision and work. He's answered the call of faith to help people help themselves and to help them realize dreams.

The other thing Kirbyjon told me, which I really appreciate, is you don't have to have

a lousy home for first-time homebuyers. If you put your mind to it, the first-time homebuyer, the low-income homebuyer can have just as nice a house as anybody else. And I know Kirbyjon. He is what I call a social entrepreneur who is using his platform as a Methodist preacher to improve the neighborhood and the community in which he lives.

And so is Luis Cortes, who represents Nueva Esperanza in Philadelphia. I went to see Luis one time in the inner-city Philadelphia. Luis is—at least he was; he's probably still there—in what one would call a tough neighborhood. There's a lot of abandoned buildings, and I mean, beautiful old structures just empty. Luis had a dream to revitalize his neighborhood, starting with a good charter school, one that would work, one that would teach kids how to read and write and add and subtract. But he also understood that a homeownership program is incredibly important to revitalize this neighborhood that a lot of folks had already quit on. I suspect one day we'll all go back to Luis' neighborhood, and we'll find first-time homeowners there and a good education system. And this will be the beginning of a neighborhood revitalization in that part of Philadelphia, because there was vision and drive and hope for our fellow citizens.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for your determination to help close the minority homeownership gap. It's an incredibly important initiative for this country. See, America is a good and generous country. It's a great place. Part of it is to make sure that the dream, the American Dream, the ability to come from anywhere in our society and say, "I own this home," is a reality—can be achievable for anybody, regardless of their status, regardless of their—of whether or not they think the dream is meant for them. I mean, we can put light where there's darkness and hope where there's despondency in this country, and part of it is working together as a nation to encourage folks to own their own home.

Again, I want to tell you, this is an initiative—as Mel will tell you—it's an initiative that we take very seriously. We're going to stay on it until we're—until we achieve the goal. And as we all achieve the goal, we can look back and say, "America is a better place

for our hard work, our efforts, and our desires for our fellow Americans to realize the greatness of our country.”

Thank you for coming. May God bless your vision. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Jack Morton Auditorium in the Media and Public Affairs Building at George Washington University. In his remarks, he referred to Franklin D. Raines, chairman and chief executive officer, Fannie Mae. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

October 16, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Good morning. Welcome to the White House. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here on the stage. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here in the audience. I'm honored to have you here.

The resolution I'm about to sign symbolizes the united purpose of our Nation, expresses the considered judgment of the Congress, and marks an important event in the life of America. The 107th Congress is one of the few called by history to authorize military action to defend our country and the cause of peace.

This is among the most serious and difficult decisions a legislator can face. Members of both Houses, both political parties, have deliberated with care, and they have spoken with clarity on behalf of the American people. We will face our dangers squarely, and we will face them unafraid.

With this resolution, Congress has now authorized the use of force. I have not ordered the use of force. I hope the use of force will not become necessary. Yet, confronting the threat posed by Iraq is necessary, by whatever means that requires. Either the Iraqi regime will give up its weapons of mass destruction, or for the sake of peace, the United States will lead a global coalition to disarm that regime. If any doubt our Nation's re-

solve, our determination, they would be unwise to test it.

The Iraqi regime is a serious and growing threat to peace. On the commands of a dictator, the regime is armed with biological and chemical weapons, possesses ballistic missiles, promotes international terror, and seeks nuclear weapons. The same dictator has a history of mass murder, of striking other nations without warning, of intense hatred for America, and of contempt for the demands of the civilized world.

If Iraq gains even greater destructive power, nations in the Middle East would face blackmail, intimidation, or attack. Chaos in that region would be felt in Europe and beyond. And Iraq's combination of weapons of mass destruction and ties to terrorist groups and ballistic missiles would threaten the peace and security of many nations. Those who choose to live in denial may eventually be forced to live in fear.

Every nation that shares in the benefits of peace also shares in the duty of defending the peace. The time has arrived once again for the United Nations to live up to the purposes of its founding to protect our common security. The time has arrived once again for free nations to face up to our global responsibilities and confront a gathering danger.

In 1991, Iraq was given 15 days to fully disclose all weapons of mass destruction. The dictator has successfully defied that obligation for 4,199 days. The dictator has—and during this 11-year period of his dictatorship, the regime has become highly skilled in the techniques of deception. It has blocked effective inspections of so-called Presidential sites—actually 12 square miles with hundreds of structures where sensitive materials could be hidden. The regime has forged documents, disabled surveillance cameras, and developed mobile weapons facilities to keep ahead of any inspector.

The Iraqi regime has frustrated the work of international inspectors by firing warning shots, by tapping their telephones, confiscating their documents, blocking aerial inspection flights, and barring access to sites for hours while evidence is carried away. At one location, inspectors actually witnessed Iraqi guards moving files, burning documents, and then dumping the ashes in a river.

Aboard U.N. helicopters, Iraqi escorts have physically struggled with inspectors to keep them from approaching certain areas.

For Iraq, the old weapons inspection process was little more than a game in which cheating was never punished. And that game is over. The ploys and promises of the Iraqi regime no longer matter. The regime is free to continue saying whatever it chooses. Its fate depends entirely on what it actually does.

Our goal is not merely to limit Iraq's violations of Security Council resolutions or to slow down its weapons program. Our goal is to fully and finally remove a real threat to world peace and to America. Hopefully, this can be done peacefully. Hopefully, we can do this without any military action. Yet, if Iraq is to avoid military action by the international community, it has the obligation to prove compliance with all the world's demands. It's the obligation of Iraq.

Compliance will begin with a accurate and full and complete accounting for all chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons materials, as well as missiles and other means of delivery anywhere in Iraq. Failure to make such an accounting would be a further indication of the regime's bad faith and aggressive intent. Inspectors must have access to any site in Iraq at any time, without preclearance, without delay, without exceptions. Inspectors must be permitted to operate under new, effective rules. And the Iraqi regime must accept those rules without qualification or negotiation.

To ensure that we learn the truth, the regime must allow witnesses to its illegal activities to be interviewed outside of the country. These witnesses must be free to bring their entire families with them, so they're beyond the reach of Saddam Hussein's terror, Saddam Hussein's torture, Saddam Hussein's murder.

In addition to declaring and destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq, in accordance with U.N. Security Council demands, must end its support for terrorism. As the U.N. demands, Iraq must cease the persecution of its civilian population. As the U.N. demands, Iraq must stop all illicit trade outside the oil-for-food program. Iraq must also release or account for all Gulf war per-

sonnel, including an American pilot whose fate is still unknown.

The United States takes the resolutions of the Security Council seriously. We urge other nations to do the same. We're working to build the broadest possible coalition to enforce the demands of the world on the Iraqi regime. I've told all the members of the United Nations, America will play its historic role in defeating aggressive tyranny.

I hope the good people of Iraq will remember our history and not pay attention to the hateful propaganda of their Government. America has never sought to dominate, has never sought to conquer. We've always sought to liberate and to free. Our desire is to help Iraqi citizens find the blessings of liberty within their own culture and their own traditions. The Iraqi people cannot flourish under a dictator that oppresses them and threatens them. Gifted people of Iraq will flourish if and when oppression is lifted.

When Iraq has a government committed to the freedom and well-being of its people, America, along with many other nations, will share a responsibility to help Iraq reform and prosper. And we will meet our responsibilities. That's our pledge to the Iraqi people.

Like the Members of Congress here today, I've carefully weighed the human cost of every option before us. If we go into battle, as a last resort, we will confront an enemy capable of irrational miscalculations, capable of terrible deeds. As the Commander in Chief, I know the risks to our country. I'm fully responsible to the young men and women in uniform who may face these risks. Yet those risks only increase with time, and the costs could be immeasurably higher in years to come. To shrink from this threat would bring a false sense of temporary peace, leading to a future in which millions live or die at the discretion of a brutal dictator. That's not true peace, and we won't accept it.

The terrorist attacks of last year put our country on notice. We're not immune from the dangers and hatreds of the world. In the events of September the 11th, we resolved as a nation to oppose every threat from any source that could bring sudden tragedy to the American people. This Nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign power or

plot. Confronting grave dangers is the surest path to peace and security. This is the expectation of the American people and the decision of their elected representatives.

I thank the Congress for a thorough debate and an overwhelming statement of support. The broad resolve of our Government is now clear to all, clear to everyone to see: We will defend our Nation and lead others in defending the peace.

May God bless your work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and missing American pilot Lt. Comdr. Michael S. Speicher, USN. H.J. Res. 114, approved October 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-243.

Statement on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

October 16, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 114, a resolution "To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq." By passing H.J. Res. 114, the Congress has demonstrated that the United States speaks with one voice on the threat to international peace and security posed by Iraq. It has also clearly communicated to the international community, to the United Nations Security Council, and, above all, to Iraq's tyrannical regime a powerful and important message: the days of Iraq flouting the will of the world, brutalizing its own people, and terrorizing its neighbors must—and will—end. Iraq will either comply with all U.N. resolutions, rid itself of weapons of mass destruction, and in its support for terrorists, or it will be compelled to do so. I hope that Iraq will choose compliance and peace, and I believe passage of this resolution makes that choice more likely.

The debate over this resolution in the Congress was in the finest traditions of American democracy. There is no social or political force greater than a free people united in a common and compelling objective. It is for that reason that I sought an additional resolution of support from the Congress to use force against Iraq, should force become nec-

essary. While I appreciate receiving that support, my request for it did not, and my signing this resolution does not, constitute any change in the long-standing positions of the executive branch on either the President's constitutional authority to use force to deter, prevent, or respond to aggression or other threats to U.S. interests or on the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution. On the important question of the threat posed by Iraq, however, the views and goals of the Congress, as expressed in H.J. Res. 114 and previous congressional resolutions and enactments, and those of the President are the same.

Throughout the past months, I have had extensive consultations with the Congress, and I look forward to continuing close consultation in the months ahead. In addition, in accordance with section 4 of H.J. Res. 114, I intend to submit written reports to the Congress on matters relevant to this resolution every 60 days. To the extent possible, I intend to consolidate information in these reports with the information concerning Iraq submitted to the Congress pursuant to previous, related resolutions.

The United States is committed to a world in which the people of all nations can live in freedom, peace, and security. Enactment of H.J. Res. 114 is an important step on the road toward such a world.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 114, approved October 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-243.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

October 16, 2002

The President. So here's what's going to happen. I'm going to have an opening statement; the Prime Minister will make an opening statement. I will call on a person; he will call—the Press Secretary will call on a person. I will call another; he will. And that's it—two questions a side.

It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of our close friend to—back to the White House. We've just had a good discussion about peace and security, about prosperity. I first want to say that I understand that—what terror has done to economy. Terror has affected our economy. Terror has affected the Israeli economy, but we've got great confidence in the Israeli economy. We've got great confidence in the Israeli people. The greatest asset Israel has is the brainpower and ingenuity of her people. And I'm convinced that the economy will be strong.

I appreciate so very much the fact that the Prime Minister is committed to working with his Cabinet to move some of the Palestinian money to the Palestinian people, that he cares about the human condition of the Palestinians, and that under a monitoring system to make sure that the money being sent back to the Palestinian people will not be used for terrorist activities, that he is willing to work with his Cabinet to do just that. I believe that's important.

We talked about the framework for peace, the idea of working toward peace, the idea of two states living side by side in peace as a part of our vision. And to this end, Bill Burns, Ambassador from the State Department, is going back to the Middle East to continue to work on the process, continue to work toward achieving concrete, real, objective, and measurable reforms, so that there's a peaceful future for the region.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for coming. It's good to welcome you. I appreciate you being here.

Prime Minister Sharon. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having us again here. I would like to express our deep appreciation to your leadership facing the world terror. We regard terror as the most dangerous thing, and seeing the terror spread now, seeing that your leadership—under your leadership the world will be able to face the terror and contain terror and stop terror.

We have been facing terror for over 120 years, and we still face terror. But we believe the day will come, and I hope it will be soon, that we'll be able to start peace negotiations. I believe that Jews and Arabs will be able to live together. And we, on one hand, are taking all the necessary steps against terror.

And we will continue to defend our citizens. In the same time, we'll take all the necessary steps to move forward the political process. And I believe the day will come, and we'll have peace.

We discussed—we had interesting discussions here, very important. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the friendship and cooperation. And as far as I remember, as we look back towards many years now, I think that we never had such relations with any President of the United States as we have with you, and we never had such cooperation in everything as we have with the current administration. I would like to thank you for that, and we are looking forward for better future for all of us.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Barry [Barry Schweid] of AP.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, are you asking the Prime Minister, have you asked the Prime Minister not to respond if Iraq attacks? And Mr. Prime Minister, have you any concrete offers of help from the administration to reduce the risk of an Iraqi attack?

The President. Well, first of all, I have told the Prime Minister that my hope is, is that we could achieve a disarmament of the Iraqi regime peacefully. I haven't given up on the fact that we can achieve it peacefully. We have no plans to use our military until—unless we need to. I explained to the Prime Minister, just like I explain to every citizen who is interested in this, the military is my last choice, not my first choice.

So we talked about the desire to—for the U.N. Security Council to be strong and for the nations that care about peace to see that Saddam is disarmed. And he's got to disarm himself. That's what we talked about.

Q. If I could ask for the Prime Minister's response, please.

The President. He's trying to do the two question thing. [Laughter]

Q. Two leaders, two questions.

The President. Wait a minute, Barry. He's an old pro.

Possible Iraqi Attack on Israel

Q. Mr. President, I would like to complete my colleague's question. If an Iraqi missile lands in Tel Aviv, killing tens of people—

The President. You mean an unprovoked attack—if tomorrow an Iraqi missile lands?

Q. Theoretically, and it can be practically.

The President. If Iraq were to attack Israel tomorrow, I'm sure there would be an appropriate response.

Q. How should Israel respond? How should you respond—

The President. If Iraq attacks Israel tomorrow, I would assume the Prime Minister would respond. He's got—he's got a desire to defend himself.

Our hope is that the Iraqi regime will disarm peacefully. But I can't—maybe—maybe Saddam will attack tomorrow. He's certainly a dangerous man. And he's got to understand that the international community won't tolerate an unprovoked attack on Israel or anybody else, for that matter. Of course, he's done it in the past. That's what I've explained to the American people. He's attacked two nations. He's gassed his own people. He's a dangerous man. That's why he must be disarmed, and that's why the international community must work to disarm him.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. It's been more than a month since you said you expected the United Nations to act in days or weeks on a new Iraq resolution. How much longer are you prepared to wait, and why aren't you losing patience?

The President. Because I'm a patient man. [Laughter] My mother and wife think that's hysterical when I say that, of course. [Laughter]

Let's see, because it takes a while to get things done in the U.N., I guess is the answer. I mean, we will—I've made the commitment to go to the U.N.; I've asked the U.N. to act. We have got to deal with members of the Security Council. There are differing opinions on members of the Security Council. And we've got to work hard to reach a consensus, a resolution that will, on the one hand, do everything it can to disarm Saddam Hussein and also has got the capacity for

there to be consequences should he not disarm. And therefore, we're working closely with the Perm Five as well as others on the Security Council to reach this resolution.

I am a patient man. I think it's important. I made the decision to go to the U.N., and therefore, we're willing to work with the U.N. If the U.N. can't act, however, if they're unable to act, if once again after 11 years and 16 resolutions they cannot bring themselves together to disarm Saddam Hussein, then we will lead a coalition to do just that. But in the meantime, we're giving the U.N. time to listen to the arguments and to, hopefully, come together soon to get a resolution which will achieve the objectives.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Yes. The Prime Minister is looking for a question or two. [Laughter]

Q. If you will allow me, I will ask him about—

The President. No, I'm sorry, strict guidelines. We must be disciplined.

Possible Terrorist Attacks on Israel

Q. Mr. President, the Hezbollah is threatening to escalate the situation in the Israeli northern border, and Israel has intelligence information that Palestinian terror organizations are also planning to escalate and have more terror attacks because the United States might attack Iraq to disarm Saddam Hussein. Is there any limitations on Israel to defend itself? Did you ask the Prime Minister not to do certain—not to take certain measures if he's attacked by Hezbollah or by the terror organizations, the Palestinian terror organizations?

The President. We certainly want to work with Israel, and we'll make it clear to Hezbollah, nations housing Hezbollah, whether in the context of Iraq or not, we expect there to be no attacks. This is terrorist activity, and we will fight terror wherever terror exists.

I find it—the doctrine that says “if you harbor a terrorist” still exists. And we expect—again, apart from Iraq, we expect Hezbollah not to attack our friend. And so we will work with Israel and work with other nations, making it clear to them our position on harboring terrorist activities.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Israel

October 16, 2002

As part of the effort to further Palestinian reform, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel agreed that the Government of Israel would consider favorably the gradual return and scheduled transfer of all PA tax funds collected by Israel on the unequivocal condition that there would be full U.S.-led monitoring to ensure that these funds will only be used for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to prevent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Election Reform Legislation

October 16, 2002

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. I commend the House and Senate for passing legislation to improve our election process. The legislation is consistent with the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford-Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government. I look forward to signing these important election reforms into law.

Statement on Congressional Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

October 16, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for responding to my call to pass the defense appropriations bill. This defense budget will provide our troops with the best pay, the best

equipment, and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror. The Congress acted responsibly in passing the defense appropriations bill first, and I look forward to signing it.

Memorandum on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

October 16, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the “Act”) (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 70,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2003 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100–202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals

of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa	20,000
East Asia	4,000
Eastern Europe	2,500
Former Soviet Union	14,000
Latin America/Caribbean	2,500
Near East/South Asia	7,000
Unallocated Reserve	20,000

The 20,000 unallocated numbers shall be allocated as needed to regional ceilings where shortfalls develop. Unused admissions numbers allocated to a particular region may be transferred to one or more other regions if there is an overriding need for greater numbers for the region or regions to which the numbers are being transferred. You are hereby authorized and directed to consult with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress prior to any such use of the unallocated numbers or reallocation of numbers from one region to another.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

An additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers shall be made available during FY 2003 for the adjustment to permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(b)) of aliens who have been granted asylum in the United States under section 208 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as this is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

In accordance with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2003, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. Persons in Vietnam
- b. Persons in Cuba

c. Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Notification to the Congress of Trade Negotiation *October 16, 2002*

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Notification to the Congress of Trade Negotiation

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress, pursuant to section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(a)(1)), of my intention to enter into negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with the five member countries of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:01 a.m., October 17, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia *October 16, 2002*

On October 21, 1995, by Executive Order 12978, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm such actions cause in the United States and abroad.

The order blocks all property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons or foreign persons listed in an annex to the order, as well as of foreign persons determined to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia. The order similarly blocks all property and interests in property of foreign persons determined to materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support for or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the order, or persons determined to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the order. The order also prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in such property or interests in property.

Because the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad, the national emergency declared on October 21, 1995, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., October 17, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

October 16, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 3073).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property or interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the United States market and financial system.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

October 16, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 16, 2002.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Sonny
Perdue and Senatorial Candidate
Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta, Georgia**
October 17, 2002

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad you all are here. Thanks for coming, and thanks for such a generous Georgia welcome.

You know, coming down on the airplane today, we were visiting about the politics here in Georgia, and a couple of the citizens from this great State told me my picture seems to be on the TV screen a lot—[laughter]—that a lot of people are using my image during the campaign. Well, I'm here to clarify a few things. The voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia, for the sake of the United States, Saxby Chambliss needs to be the next United States Senator.

No, the voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia and for the sake of a great public school system, Sonny Perdue needs to be the next Governor of Georgia.

I appreciate you all coming. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. First, I want to thank you for what you have done, which is come today. [Laughter] And what you need to do is go to your coffee shops,

your places of worship, the community centers, and let good people of Georgia understand that when you find two good ones, two good candidates like these two, they've got to work and vote on their behalf. Grassroots politics is going to win this election.

And there's another secret weapon in the case of these two men's campaign, that's their wives. They both married well. Like me, they married above themselves. [Laughter] I'm so proud that Julianne Chambliss is with—standing by Saxby's side. She's a great mom. She's going to be a fabulous Senate wife. And I've got to tell you, I'm real proud of Mary as well. Mom and grandmother—she's going to be a great first lady for Georgia.

You drew the short straw; Laura's in Mobile, Alabama. [Laughter] But she sends her very best. She's doing great, by the way. You know, I like to remind people that when I married her, she was a public school librarian in Texas. She didn't like politics. She didn't care for politicians. [Laughter] Now she's the First Lady of the United States and doing a magnificent job.

I appreciate members of the congressional delegation. All but one decided they wanted to fly on Air Force One, so I had coffee with them this morning. [Laughter] But it's a fine group of individuals representing Georgia in the United States Congress: Congressman Jack Kingston, Matt Collins, Johnny Isakson, Bob Barr, Nathan Deal, Charlie Norwood and John Linder.

I'm proud of that delegation, and I hope and I feel like the good folks around Georgia will be wise to add to the delegation, starting with Phil Gingrey from the 11th congressional district. Clay Cox is running for Congress. We need to get Clay in there. I'm real proud of the chairman of the Georgia Republican Party, my longtime friend Ralph Reed. I want to thank Ralph for his leadership. Alec Poitevint is the national committeeman. He also is a longtime friend. My friend Fred Cooper and Eric Tanenblatt all work hard to make sure our party is vibrant and alive and well, make sure our party not only is organized at the grassroots level but make sure our party sends out a message that all are welcomed, all who believe in the philosophy of personal responsibility, local control

of your schools, limited Government, compassionate Government are welcome into our party. All are welcome to vote for these good candidates who are running. We don't care what party you have. We don't care whether you're a Republican, Democrat, or independent. What we care is you support these good candidates because they're the right people at the right time for the State of Georgia.

Sonny knows what I'm talking about. Sonny knows what I'm talking about. After all, he used to call himself a Democrat. *[Laughter]* And that's okay. I'm used to Texas politics. We had a lot of folks who called themselves one party label, but they—we all felt the same about things. Sonny represents Georgian values. He is a down-to-earth fellow. He's a plain speaker. When he says something, he means it. He might not be the prettiest fellow to look at—*[laughter]*—but he can get the job done for all the people in Georgia.

And that means having a school system that leaves no children behind. Sonny's got a good education plan. It's one that makes sense. It's one that's going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. It's going to set high standards. Sonny is going to support the teachers of Georgia. Sonny isn't going to try to micromanage the process from centralized government. He believes in local control of schools.

And Sonny is the kind of no-nonsense fellow who will hold people to account. You see, he'll be willing to measure to determine whether or not each child is learning in Georgia. And when he finds children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change, he won't be bound by special interests. The only interest he cares about is the children of the State of Georgia.

He knows what I know; the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur or small-business owner can flourish. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And it seems like if you're worried about your job base, that you want to have somebody who's been a small-business person running your government, somebody who's actually done what a lot of others talk about. I think the fact that Sonny started his

own business in the field of agriculture is one of the strongest reasons why the folks of Georgia ought to send him up to the capital.

He also understands how important it is to have good roads and an efficient infrastructure. He's a practical man. He's a down-to-earth fellow who has asked the questions, how do you get the job done? He doesn't wait for a focus group. *[Laughter]* That's not his style. That's not how they raised them in south Georgia. If you're worried about your infrastructure, it seems like to me you want somebody who's licensed to fly a plane, who can drive a bus, or knows how to operate a truck. And that man is Sonny Perdue. And I'm proud to be here. I'm proud to say as loud and clear as I can, I'm for Sonny Perdue because he'll make a great Governor.

And there's no doubt in my mind you've got to make sure that Saxby Chambliss is your United States Senator. Saxby is a leader. He's a leader. He can make things happen. I've watched him—I've watched him closely. I worked with him on the education bill, a fine piece of education reform. He brings a deep compassion for education. He and I understand the role of the Federal Government is limited, but the role of the Federal Government must be active. It says this: When we spend Federal money, we expect there to be good results. If you believe every child can learn like we do, if you want to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, that finally we've begun to ask the question, what's happening? With all that money we're spending, what's happening? Why don't you show us whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract? Why don't you show us whether or not our children have got a bright future?" And if so, I promise you, we'll praise the teachers. But if not, we expect a return on behalf of the taxpayers' dollars. This piece of reform was substantial reform. And Saxby Chambliss was one of the leaders in the House of Representatives to make sure this bill got passed.

He understands what I know. Medicine has changed, but Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern; Medicare is old and needs to be reformed. Saxby Chambliss is one of the leaders in the United States Congress to

make sure that Medicare changes with medicine and that seniors have got prescription drug benefits.

I'm for Saxby because he will help me make sure that the judges I nominate get a fair hearing and get confirmed. My job is to put good, honorable, hard-working, intelligent, capable people on the Federal bench, people who will not use the bench to serve as a legislator but people who will sit on the bench to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

And the record of this Senate is a lousy record. If you look at the record, the percentage of my nominees who have been approved, and look at the reason why they haven't, you'll find that they're playing too much politics in Washington, DC. They're slow playing the process. And when some of my really good nominees got a hearing, they distorted their records. They listened to the small groups of special interests in Washington, DC. For the sake of a good, sound Federal judiciary, I need a United States Senator who will stand strong for my nominees, and that is Saxby Chambliss.

We've got some challenges ahead of us. No question one of the challenges is to make sure people can find work in America, that we can build on the foundation of economic growth. I'm optimistic about our economy's future because I know when interest rates are low and inflation is low and the productivity of our great workforce is high, we can grow our economy. I believe strongly that the future is a bright future. But we've got a lot of work to do. Together, we've got a lot of work to do.

And there are some clear-cut things that the Congress can do. And one of them is to understand the significance of tax relief when it comes to economic vitality. Saxby and I read the page out of this economic textbook, that says if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

And so we passed tax relief. Some people were enthusiastic about it. Some weren't

quite so sure. And we got it passed. But the reason the issue is still alive is because there's a quirk in the Senate rules. This is a tough one for me to explain to you. It's like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. *[Laughter]* You see, after 10 years, the tax relief plan reverts back to where it was when we started relieving the taxes. So that creates uncertainty. It's hard if you're a small business person to plan, with uncertainty. It's hard for an economy to be steady if there's an uncertain Tax Code.

One of the big issues in this campaign is who understands what I've just described and who's willing to join the President in making sure the tax relief plan is permanent. And that person is Saxby Chambliss.

No, I will continue to work on our economy, helping to make sure our workers can find work. There's a lot of things we can do. We need an energy bill. We need a terrorism insurance bill. We need to make sure Congress doesn't overspend. Listen, every idea sounds like a genius idea in Washington. *[Laughter]* The problem is they all cost billions. I've got to make sure I've got Members of the House and Members of the Senate who understand we need to set priorities and make sure we don't overspend. For the sake of economic vitality, there needs to be fiscal restraint and fiscal sanity, which means you better have a United States Senator who understands that when we're spending money in Washington, we're not spending the Government's money, we're spending the people's money.

Economic issue is a big issue. There's no bigger issue, however, than protecting the homeland. I say that because there's an enemy that still lurks out there, a enemy which hates America. And they hate us because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom. They hate us because we hold dear and deeply love the idea that anybody can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. They hate the idea of a free press, free political discourse. That's what they hate. And so long as we love our freedoms, they will try to harm our country.

We've got a new task ahead for America, and that is to do everything we can to protect the American people. It used to be that oceans could protect us. We used to be able

to sit back here in America and feel safe and confident, because there's two vast oceans to protect us from potential enemies. But that has changed after September the 11th, 2001. And that's why it's essential for our country not only to deal with the threats we see today but to deal with threats we may see in the immediate tomorrow. That's why I called upon the United Nations and our United States Congress to deal with Iraq before it becomes a—before we get hurt. Oceans no longer protect us. The threat is real. The threat's alive.

I want to thank Saxby and other Members of the United States Congress for joining me in passing a strong resolution so that the United States speaks with one voice. It's now up for Mr. Saddam Hussein to do what he said he would do, to disarm. It's now up for the free nations of the world to show some courage and backbone and disarm him.

There are real threats that we face, and therefore, our most important job is to do everything we can to protect the homeland. A lot of people are working hard to do just that; they really are. We've got a lot of good agents at the CIA and FBI, and State police and local police, first responders, all of them working hard to do everything we can to protect the American people. When we get a hint, any bit of evidence, we're moving; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're aware of the threat. And so we're on—we're on full game all the time. That's our job. We take it seriously.

But I need the tools necessary to do the job better. And that's why I went to the United States Congress to work with me to develop a Office of Homeland Security, so that we could better coordinate amongst the many agencies involved with securing the homeland, so we could set clear priorities amongst the agencies involved with protecting the homeland, so if need be, we could change cultures, so that some point in time I'm more able to say and future Presidents are more able to say, "We're doing everything in our power at the Federal level to protect America." It's our most important and solemn duty.

I laid the initiative out, and thanks to the strong leadership of Saxby—he understands this issue really well—thanks to his leader-

ship amongst—with others in the House of Representatives, the House responded quickly and passed a significant piece of legislation, an historic piece of legislation.

The Senate hadn't acted yet, because in order to pass the Department of Homeland Security, there's got to be a price for it. And that price will be to roll back important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had to act in the interests of national security. For 40 years, Presidents have had the ability to suspend labor rules in every Department in the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. Now the Senate leadership wants to roll back that authority in a time of war for one Department, whose job it is—will be to protect the American people during that war.

If the Senate had its way, I would have the authority to suspend the work rules in the Department of Agriculture but not in the office of homeland security. The Senate Democrat leaders want to tie the hands of this Department as we determine who to hire, who to fire, and whether or not people can be moved. Any President must have the capacity to put the right people at the right time at the right place, in order to respond to threats to our homeland.

The Senate debate revolves around whether or not there ought to be a thick book of rules micromanaging the process. I'll give you an example. Right after September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to quickly assign its best, most qualified inspectors to the northern border. The union leaders objected. They said we had to bargain over these assignments; we had to take time to hash it out, rather than moving our best to where we thought we needed to move them immediately.

Now, I'm not going to accept a bill which will tie the hands of this President and future Presidents to be able to carry out one of our most solemn duties, which is to protect the homeland. There's no question in my mind, if Saxby Chambliss were in the Senate, I would not have to worry about his leadership or his vote on this important matter.

The best way to secure the homeland, however, is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, which is exactly what the United States of America is going to do. The

war on terror is a different kind of war. The old World War II vets who are here—and I want to thank you for your service—will remember the days when we could measure progress based upon tanks destroyed or battleships sunk or aircraft shot down. This is a different kind of war. We're fighting cold-blooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. And they're willing to kill innocent people anywhere.

See, there's a huge difference between us and them. We value life. We say everybody counts; everybody is precious. They've hijacked a great religion and are willing to murder in the name of that religion. And that's the way they are. And there's only one way to deal with it. Therapy isn't going to work. And that's to find them—that's to find them. That's why this coalition of freedom-loving nations is incredibly important. That's why it's absolutely essential that we continue to remind people, either you're with us or you're with the enemy. That's why it's essential that we continue to make sure that when we say something, we mean it, and the world knows we mean it.

Next week, I'm going to be signing a defense appropriations bill. I want to thank the Members of Congress. I want to thank Saxby and others for getting this bill to my desk before they go home. It's important for us to send a message that we're going to make sure our troops have got the best pay, the best equipment, the best possible training. Any time we put somebody in harm's way, we owe it to them, and we owe it to their loved ones to support them. And that's exactly what this defense bill does.

And the second message we're going to send when I sign that bill is to friend and foe alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes: we're staying the course. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there is no timetable, there is no calendar. When it comes to making sure our children can grow up in a free society, in a free country, this great land will do whatever it takes to secure our freedoms.

No, we're making progress. We're hauling them in one at a time. We've got over a couple thousand of them, and maybe that like number wasn't quite so lucky. Sometimes

you'll see us making progress, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes those people who chatter on the cables will be talking about it; sometimes you're just not going to hear. It's a manhunt, one at a time. And at the same time, we're going to deny them sanctuary. If we find them lighting somewhere, we're going to ask the host country to move them on. Either you're with us, or you're with them.

We're making good progress. I'm working hard to make sure America is a stronger place and a safer place, but we've all got to work together to make sure America is a better place too. And there's some things Government can do: Make sure every child is educated; make sure our health care systems work; make sure people are treated with respect and dignity; to make sure we change the tone in our National Capital and our State capital, get rid of all this needless politics, bring people together, achieve big objectives.

But a lot of what is going to make America continue to be the greatest country in the world depends upon you. If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested in doing some good, if you're interested in joining me and Sonny and Saxby in making sure that those pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness get eradicated, the surest way to do so is to put your arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you. I love you."

Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's why I'm such a strong believer in the Faith-Based Initiative, an initiative which will empower people of all faiths in America to do what they've been called to do, to help a neighbor in need, to love somebody.

See, it doesn't take much to help change America; it really doesn't. Helping somebody who's hungry, mentoring a child, going to a shut-in's house and saying, "What can I do to help," running a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop—it all adds up. It's those millions of acts of kindness and generosity that take place on a daily basis in America which truly defines the hopefulness of our country.

See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But instead, they hit a country which is strong and tough, a country, by remaining strong and tough and always remembers what we love, and that is freedom, that we can achieve peace.

I believe America will lead the world to peace. And at the same time, here at home we can make sure, by following our hearts, by being the compassionate country we are, to make sure this American experience shines brightly for every single citizen who lives in our country.

No, they hit us. But out of the evil is going to come some incredible good, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Julianne Chambliss, wife of Representative Chambliss; Mary Perdue, wife of candidate Sonny Perdue; Clay Cox, candidate for Georgia's 13th Congressional District; Alec Poitevint, national committeeman, and Fred Cooper, former chairman, Georgia Republican Party; Eric J. Tanenblatt, former Georgia State chairman for the George W. Bush Presidential campaign; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at Read-Pattillo Elementary School in New Smyrna Beach, Florida

October 17, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. I'm—okay, read more than you watch TV. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank everybody for being here. I've spent a lot of my time talking about how to make sure America is a secure and safe country. It's on my mind because so long as we embrace freedom, there are, unfortunately, some people that want to hurt us. As long as we continue to hold dear to our heart the notion that free people should be able to worship the Almighty God any way they see fit, free people should be able to speak their mind, free people ought to be—or free people should be able to have a free press—

all those aspects of freedom which we hold dear and will never relinquish are the reasons why we have to worry about the safety of the American people.

And since we're never going to relent when it comes to our freedom, and since we have a responsibility to defend that which we hold dear for not only ourselves but for our children, we'll be dealing with this for a while. But make no mistake about it, we will prevail.

And as we worry about our safety, though, it's very important for us to always remember that we've got to work to make America a better place, not only a safer place and a stronger place but a better place. And the perfect place to make America a better place is in our classrooms all across the country. And so today I'm here to talk about the importance of making sure that every single child in America gets a quality education, to remind our country that reading is the key to all learning, that we believe that every child can learn to read, not just a few, not just those who might be in the—kind of the super districts, but every single child. Children whose parents may not speak English as a first language can learn to read. People who may come from the toughest of all circumstances, they can read. Everybody can read.

It is the great passion of many in our country, starting right here at Read-Pattillo. And that's why I'm here at this school. I'm here to praise the determination of its principal and the teachers and the parents to make sure not one child who goes to this school is left behind, that every child can learn.

The passion and vision I just described is shared by your Governor. I know. I know him well. [*Laughter*] I know his heart. I know his strength of conviction. I know his vision, and it's clear. It's a clear vision to a better day. So I'm honored to be with Jeb.

I appreciate John Mica, the Congressman, for coming today. I just had a very interesting meeting with some of your community leaders and people involved with reading and how to make it work. One such person was Bill Hall, who is the superintendent of the Volusia County schools, and I want to thank Bill. [*Applause*] I know enough about schools

to know that when they clap for the superintendent, that's a good sign, Bill. *[Laughter]*

I also know from my days as Governor and as a parent that a school is really only as good as the principal. If you have a great principal, you'll have the beginnings of a great school. Obviously, it takes more than a single soul to make sure that excellence is available for every child. But a great school starts with a principal who is dedicated, clear of vision, who sets high expectations, and of course, that principal is Marilyn Travis, right here at this school.

Judy Andersen is the head of the Volusia County school board. She was here—they had a—they call it a roundtable. It was actually square—*[laughter]*—a square roundtable discussion. But I thank Judy for coming.

I told her, I thought being on the school board was one of the—if not the, one of the toughest jobs in America. I know the rest of the school board members are here as well. I want to thank you for understanding that your job is to set high standards, make sure you're wise with the taxpayers' money, and then hire the best and unleash them to achieve excellence for every child. So thank you very much, Judy and the school board, for coming.

I do want to thank the square-table participants—*[laughter]*—Joe Torgesen, who is a professor of education at Florida State. I wish he could talk to you about the fact that reading is not an art but a science, that we're learning what works, and it's the application of what works that's incredibly important to make sure that every single child learns to read.

Then we had professors that were teaching teachers to teach, and we had teachers that were teaching teachers to teach, and we had kindergarten teachers that were teaching kids to read, and it was a very exciting meeting for me and Jeb. So I want to thank you all for coming.

I know we've got some elected officials here. I see the speaker of the house, Speaker Feeney, is here. I appreciate you being here, Speaker. I know other members of the legislature, both Republican and Democrat, are here. I appreciate Jim Vandergriff, the mayor of New Smyrna Beach. *[Applause]* That's a good sign, too, Mr. Mayor. Members

of your city council are here, and thank you all for coming.

The challenges, obviously, vary from district to district, and each school district has got a different problem—different problems in Texas than you have in Florida. When you get in our State or a State like Florida, the problems vary from district to district. But there are some effective schools that adhere to the same principles, and I want to share some of those with you right quick.

First, there is a culture of excellence. A successful school has a culture of excellence. The way I like to phrase it is, a successful school is full of people who are willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, that people understand that if you set low standards, we're going to get lousy results, that if you believe that there are certain children who can't learn, then certain children won't learn.

And so an excellent school like this one where we are has got the highest of high standards, that people throughout the whole school believe that excellence is possible, because they believe every child can learn.

A good school has got a good principal, as I just mentioned. The principal is the person that sets the tone, sets the pace, clarifies the vision. A good school is a school that's got teachers who are not only committed to the noble profession of teaching—and it is a noble profession—but also committed with the knowledge that every child can learn; teachers who work hard and recognize that if there is needed instruction, they're more than willing to learn the latest, that they're not satisfied with the status quo, that they're constantly working hard to make sure that the vision of every child learning is achieved.

Obviously, a good school is a school where parents understand that good education begins at home, where parents have got a deep appreciation of the opportunity and are supportive of the schools. If they find failure, of course, they're willing to blow the whistle on failure, but they're also to work to achieve excellence. They're positive influences, not only at the home but also at the school.

I wasn't kidding when I said our kids ought to be reading more than they watch TV. To

me, that's a parental responsibility, to encourage their children to practice, to encourage their children to read. There's nothing wrong with watching a TV show occasionally. But practicing reading is incredibly important to become a skilled student. So listen to your mothers. [*Laughter*] Governor Bush has listened to his. [*Laughter*]

A good school has a curriculum that emphasizes the basics and is based upon sound science. In other words, a good school is a school that has adopted a curriculum which works. There's a lot of talk about curriculum, the reading curriculum. We've had a great debate about which curriculum to use when it comes to reading programs, and you know it as well as I do: There's a big, deep, ideological divide.

One of the things I tried to do as the Governor of Texas—I know your Governor has called upon those who have actually studied it, who know that the fact that reading is a science, that have been able to work with districts to develop a curriculum that is proven. It doesn't sound good or feel good; it works. And that's the crucial thing to make sure that every child learns to read.

A good school is willing to determine whether or not each child is, in fact, learning to read by measuring. A good school is one that says, "I want to know whether or not standards are being met."

See, if you believe every child can learn to read, then it's logical to ask the question, "You know, are the children succeeding?" It's logical, and you want to know that. You want to know that to determine whether or not your dreams are being met. You want to know that to determine whether or not the curriculum is working. You want to know that to determine which children need additional help.

One of the key components to successful schools is the willingness of people to use an accountability system to reinforce the positive and to address failure before it becomes acute, and that's essential. By all of these standards, this school we're standing in is a highly effective, successful school. It is a school which innovates. It uses computer programs to stimulate the students' imagination. It teaches phonics and grammar, the

basics. It starts with the basics. It gives students incentives.

There's an incentive program in this school. The more you read, the more points you earn. The more difficult the reading assignment, the more points you earn there as well. It recognizes and rewards personal achievement, based upon actual books read. It helps develop writing schools. It's caught my imagination. I told the Governor, I wish they had done this in Sam Houston Elementary School in Midland, Texas. They've got an innovative program called baseball writing. It encourages kids to learn how to write by using baseball as the go-by. And there's a base-by-base approach to writing essays and papers, all aimed at making sure by the fifth grade the student is becoming a more sophisticated writing—writer.

It's an incredibly important part. Writing and reading go hand in hand. Writing is sometimes a lost art, and this school focuses on writing by using an innovative way to encourage young writers to get to be better writers.

They use tests here to determine what students are in danger of falling behind. No child should be left behind. And they use a test to make sure.

And the important thing is—and other school districts can use this model, and other schools around the country should use this model—they use the accountability system as a way to determine who needs extra help after school. And that's incredibly important. It's intensive focus so that every child continues to move forward.

They encourage students to take their books home. They give parents tips on how to be teachers themselves. The instruction follows the child into the home. Some parents need a little help on how to be a better parent when it comes to what's taking place in the school. And so the results are clear.

The Read-Pattillo Elementary School is proving that scientifically based reading instruction works and gets results.

You know, there's kind of an attitude in some places that certain kids just can't get there, the so-called economically disadvantaged just can't achieve. This school flies right in the face of that stereotype. The kids

here are what they call economically disadvantaged, more than half are. And yet when you look at the third grade and the fourth grade and the fifth graders, they all score above district and State averages.

This school increased its rating from a C in 1998 on the Florida testing to an A. And that's important for parents to know. And that's an important fact for teachers to know and your principal to know. It's a fact—important fact for the school board members to know. It's an important fact for the community to know. It must make you feel proud to know you've got a school which has defied the so-called odds, and now you're A. It's important to know you've got an A in your midst.

It's also important to know whether your school is not an A. It gives you a chance to ask the question, "Wait a minute. There's one school in Volusia County I know is an A. How come ours isn't an A?" It's important to be in a position where you're able to say, "It matters how we rank, because no child should be left behind."

There's obviously—I'm a big advocate of local control of schools. I love the idea of a principal feeling confident in the structure to be able to try different things. I really like the idea of a superintendent—of giving them power to create change and innovation at the school level. I think that's really important. I think your—this charter district, for example, is a really interesting innovation that was started at the State level. Freedom was granted. So I'm a big believer in local control of schools.

But I want you to know that there is a role for the Federal Government. The Federal Government has a responsibility as well as the State Government to move forward with educational excellence. The No Child Left Behind Act was a combination—it's interesting—change of attitude in Washington, and that is, we substantially increased money available for States, particularly Title I children as well as this new reading program, which I'm going to describe.

The Federal Government is providing \$50 billion now. It's an increase of more than 18 percent between '01 and today. The Florida schools, for example, received \$2 billion from the Federal Government. We've increased—

we've asked for \$175 million increase for next year for the Florida schools alone.

But the reason—the change is, and it's one thing to focus on education funding, and that's important—but the change is, for the first time, we've asked, in return for money, why don't you show us whether or not you're succeeding. For the first time we said, "Here's an increase in funding now, and it's up to you to spend it, and we'll try to give you more flexibility. We want the Governors to have more flexibility. We want the school districts to have more flexibility. But in return we expect you to set high standards and produce measurable, positive results. In return for the increase of funding, we expect more return on the money." After all, it's your money to begin with.

And so part of that—part of that insistence is a—kind of the kernel of the reform is an accountability system. We expect each State to design accountability system to measure. And you've done that in Florida. And you've done a really good job of that. And frankly—I'm used to the testing debate. I've heard, "You test too much." They say, "You're teaching the test." If you teach a child to read, you're teaching a child a skill, not teaching the test. And the child will then be able to pass the test.

You should allow no excuse, and nobody should allow an excuse, in my judgment, across America, to undermine accountability. It does the children a disservice to undermine the accountability system. Otherwise, you just shuffle kids through, and that's unacceptable in America.

There must be an accountability system that has consequences. Otherwise, we're going to have the old system where we just say, "Well, maybe they'll learn to read." And then we find out when they get out of high school they can't read, and we realize we have failed in our obligations.

No, accountability is a crucial part of educational excellence and educational reform. And it's very important that all States take seriously what we insist upon, and that is, in return for money, we expect you to do what's right by each single child that lives in your State. We're committed to investing in scientific approaches on reading, because

we understand—all of us should understand that if a child can't read, it doesn't matter.

My friend Phyllis Hunter from Houston, Texas, she said when I was there, she said, "Governor, you've got to understand. Your reading initiative is basically saying that you understand reading is the new civil right. If you want every child to realize the American Dream and experience the greatness of this country, then we've got to teach every child to read, and it starts with reading."

And that's why one of the cornerstones of the—of this bill we passed, in Washington, DC—by the way, a bill supported by both Republicans and Democrats. I told them earlier, I said, "We're finally beginning to get some things right in Washington, where teaching every child to read is a heck of a lot more important than promoting any political parties."

And so we've got this focus on reading, because we understand that when each child learns to read, this is going to be a much more hopeful society. One of the things we've done is, we've granted—started granting money to States. Florida was one of the first States to qualify for the Reading First grant, \$46 million, because you've got a Governor who understands and a legislature who understands, you've got principals and teachers who understand.

The money is being used to train teachers. Teacher training is absolutely essential to making sure that a reading—national reading initiative works. Teachers need the skills necessary to implement what their heart tells them to do. Their heart says, "We want to teach every child to read." They need, if need be—now, many teachers don't need to be retrained, but the idea of teaching teachers on a curriculum which works is an incredibly important part of having a successful program.

There's nothing more frustrating, it seems like to me, to have a teacher anxious—so anxious to go into a classroom and impart knowledge, but yet not have the latest—the latest science on reading, the latest skills necessary. And so, one of the key components of a Reading First Initiative in any State is going to be to take the money and apply it to teacher training. And it's going to work; you mark my words.

With this national focus, with accountability standards in place, with the understanding of how to teach children how to read—a much better understanding today than we've really ever had before—and the desire at all levels of government to make sure the most important person involved in teaching a child—the teacher—has the skills necessary, we're going to achieve an objective that a lot of people didn't think we could achieve. Our kids are going to learn to read.

We're going to be the best readers in the world. And when our kids learn to read, you watch what happens. There are going to be great scientists coming out of our schools, great mathematicians. All things, all excellence in education starts with making sure every single child, no matter where he or she lives, can read. And that's what's going to happen in the United States of America.

I mentioned that one of the things we'll stay focused on, and should, is making sure America is a better place. And there's ways Government can help. But one of the ways to make sure America is a—constantly a better place, is to encourage, empower the true strength of the country, which are our citizens. The strengths of America are the citizens of America, the hearts and souls of our fellow countrymen.

The reason I bring that up is, we've got an extraordinary person that met me at the airport today, Fannie Cleland. She tried to convince me she was 91 years old. [*Laughter*] I didn't believe it.

See, Fannie understands what I know, that we can change America one heart, one person at a time, and that, while one person can't do everything to help people in need or to put a light where there's darkness, one person can do something. One person can help be—to change one child's life. In her case, she's changed many children's lives, because she is a tutor, a mentor. She knows that one way to fight some of the evil done to America is to do some good, to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, to have the willingness to put your arm around a child and say, "Hey, I want to help you. I want to help you learn to read."

My call to America and Americans is, use the example of this fine lady, that if you care

deeply about the future of your country, support your schools, support your teachers. But also, when you find somebody who hurts, somebody who is in need, somebody who needs food or shelter or just somebody who needs love, be that person who is willing to give that love.

There's nothing this country can't achieve. We're going to achieve peace and have a peaceful world. We can also make sure the great hope of America shines brightly in every corner of this country.

Listen, thanks for giving me a chance to come by. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Florida Speaker of the House Tom Feeney; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative.

Satellite Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

October 17, 2002

Thank you all. I appreciate those kind remarks, Rosario. You're a *gran amiga*. *Buenos dias*. I wish I could be with you in person today as the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce salutes Hispanic businesswomen.

The USHCC is one of this country's great business organizations. America's more than 1.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses are transforming our economy and transforming our country. I'm particularly glad that the USHCC is paying tribute to Hispanic businesswomen. After all, the Hispanic businesswomen are emerging leaders of the American economy. Their success is creating jobs, building communities, and making our Nation more open and more inclusive. I am grateful and America is grateful for the accomplishments of these Hispanic businesswomen.

I appreciate so very much the chair of the board of directors of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate so very much the president and CEO. I'm honored that you all would invite me. I want you to know that I'm a strong believer in small business because I know that small businesses are the pathway to advancement and success

for many Americans, especially women and new arrivals to our country and to minorities. I believe in small business because I know that two-thirds of all new jobs created in America every year come from small businesses. More than one million small businesses are owned by Hispanic Americans. And women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other United States firms. And this is good news for America.

Small businesses are a great equalizer. The only connections you really need to succeed are happy customers. The only credentials you really need are good products. The only values you need are a willingness to work hard and take risks.

Running a business also brings many personal rewards. You enjoy the freedom and pride that comes from being your own boss. You achieve success based upon your own abilities. You're helping others achieve success by providing them with jobs.

Workers and entrepreneurs create the wealth of America, not government. Yet, government does have a responsibility to create an environment where small businesses can grow and prosper. Small businesses grow when taxes are low, when taxes are low for workers and when taxes are low for entrepreneurs. Low taxes mean more money in the pockets of the people who are building America.

Small businesses grow when the Government considers the impact of its regulations, the impact those regulations will have particularly on small employers. We must avoid burdening our entrepreneurs with unnecessary rules and procedures. Small businesses grow when the Government's contracting policies encourage competition and don't unfairly favor large businesses at the expense of smaller firms.

And small businesses grow when entrepreneurs can build their businesses without the fear of falling prey to frivolous lawsuits, all designed to make trial lawyers even wealthier.

Our Nation has a responsibility to create an environment where the talents of men and women of every origin and background are recognized and rewarded.

Rosario mentioned my appointments to my Government. I am proud to serve many, many exceptional Hispanic Americans. One of my jobs is to put the best people in the right jobs in every branch of Government. I've done so in the executive branch, and I'll do so in the judiciary branch as well. Right now the Senate Judiciary Committee is now considering a friend of mine, a guy named Mike—Miguel Estrada. He's my nominee for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, he'll be the first Hispanic ever to serve on this important court.

No one can deny that he's well-qualified. No one can deny he's a great lawyer and that he's highly skilled. Yet unfortunately, there are Senators who play politics with Miguel Estrada's nomination. There are Senators searching for any reason to defeat him.

I call upon the Senate leadership to treat Miguel Estrada with dignity and respect and to bring his nomination up for the full Senate to confirm him before they adjourn. He's an American success story. He's an inspiration to many Americans, and he'll be an outstanding judge.

And so I appreciate all of you all who are there today. I appreciate so very much Elizabeth and George and the many of you there today to bear witness to the great opportunities found in this country, opportunities borne of freedom and equality. These values make us strong, and we will defend them, no matter how long it takes.

Gracias por su dedicacion a la excelencia. Gracias por demostrar que el sueno Americano es posible para todos los que lo desean en su corazon. Y aprecio su amor por esta gran nacion.

Y Dios los bendiga a todos, y que Dios los bendiga a Los Estados Unidos.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 4:19 p.m. from Read-Pattillo Elementary School, New Smyrna Beach, FL, to the meeting in Los Angeles, CA. In his remarks, he referred to Rosario Marin, U.S. Treasurer; and Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, chair of the board of directors, and George Herrera, chairman and chief executive officer, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Proclamation 7611—Year of Clean Water, 2002–2003

October 17, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 18, 2002, our Nation marks the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and begins the Observance of the Year of Clean Water. This landmark environmental legislation has been central to the important progress we have made as a Nation in improving the quality of our drinking water and the health of our waters, wetlands, and watersheds. During this time, we renew our commitment to building on these successes and to developing new approaches and partnerships to meet our environmental challenges.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 have helped our citizens enjoy one of the safest and cleanest water supplies in the world. Under the Clean Water Act, the Federal Government has provided more than \$80 billion in wastewater assistance to the States and localities. This fundamentally important investment has ensured that 165 million citizens now benefit from modern sewage treatment, up from 86 million in 1968. The important advances in waste water treatment since the Clean Water Act's passage constitute one of the major achievements in modern American public health.

In the last 30 years, the overall health of our marine waters, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands has also dramatically improved. The Federal Government has cooperated with States, tribes, local communities, businesses, and concerned individuals to reduce significantly all forms of water pollution, making our waters better suited for recreation and other pursuits and more hospitable to aquatic life. Recent studies show that we are close to achieving our goal of halting overall wetlands loss, and we are hopeful that in the near future we will begin increasing the overall function and value of our wetlands. As we look to the challenges ahead, the Clean

Water Act will be an important mainstay and tool for further progress.

As part of our Nation's long-term commitment to protecting our environment and natural resources, we must continue to focus on cleaner air, water, and land; healthier citizens, and vibrant ecosystems. We will continue to collaborate with private organizations, landowners, and all levels of government to encourage the development of new technologies and innovative approaches to protecting our environment. Through policies and programs that recognize regional differences, employ market forces, and empower individuals to be good stewards of the earth, we can and will meet the environmental challenges of the future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the year beginning October 18, 2002, as the Year of Clean Water in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. I call upon all Americans to observe this year with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to join in setting good examples of environmental stewardship in our daily lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 21, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 18, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 22.

Remarks at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri October 18, 2002

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. I'm honored to be here at the—on the campus of this fine university. I'm proud to be here in southwest Missouri. I

love the values of the heartland represented in this part of our country, the values of faith, the values of family, the love of our country. I appreciate you coming out to say hello. These are the values which make Missouri a great State and make our Nation a great nation.

I want to thank you for your friendship. I want to thank you for your prayers. I want to thank you for your concern about our political process. I appreciate your interest. I appreciate your willingness to take a stand. And I am here in the State of Missouri to take a stand: The best person running for the United States Senate is Jim Talent.

I need him in the Senate to work with him. We've got some big problems facing our country. But there's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve anything we put our mind to. There's no doubt in my mind that no matter how high the hurdle, the United States of America, when we put our mind to something, can cross that hurdle.

Jim Talent shares my optimism about the future of this country because he knows what I know: This country is blessed with the finest people on the face of the Earth, and that, by trusting the people and calling upon the best of America, we can achieve anything—I mean anything—we set our mind to.

I appreciate Jim Talent's values. He's a family man. He's got his priorities straight. He's a man who doesn't need a focus group or a poll to tell him what to think. He's more than happy to stand on principle. He's more than happy to say, "This is what I believe, and I'm not changing." And I appreciate a man who's willing to take those values, the Missouri values, and the sense of purpose to Washington, DC.

He's also got a record. See, he's already been up there once. He's shown us what he can do. And when he was up there, he wasn't afraid to take the lead. He is one of the key authors of one of the most important pieces of social legislation in the last decade, and that is the welfare reform bill that transformed millions of lives in America, because he knows what I know, that dignity is found when you find work, that work is the cornerstone of any life that has got dignity.

I appreciate his understanding of small business. See, he is an advocate for small

business in Washington, DC. We need that kind of attitude up there. See, after all, our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it's going to be. So long as we keep working on it, it's going to get better.

But one of the things we've got to understand is that most new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And therefore, we've got to have somebody in the United States Senate who understands that and is willing to work on an environment that encourages the growth of small businesses. Jim Talent's got a record, and he's got a good record.

He also will work to change the tone in Washington. Listen, we're proud Republicans, but we've got to serve something bigger than political party in these times of stress on our country. It's important to put all this aside and focus on what's right for the American people. And Jim Talent understands that. I'm proud to stand by his side.

And we share something else in common: We both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] He married Brenda. I married Laura. And by the way, the First Lady, she sends her love and her greetings. She's heading down to Texas today, so you drew the short straw. [*Laughter*] She's doing great, though. I want to remind you that when I married her, she was a public school librarian. [*Applause*] Public school librarians united for Laura. [*Laughter*] She didn't care for politics when I married her. She didn't particularly care for politicians when I married her. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes.

People have got to see why I asked her to marry me. She's calm. She's steady. She cares deeply about our children. She loves education. It's our top priority. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, she's doing great. I can't tell you how proud I am of her, and I love her dearly.

I want to thank the senior Senator from Missouri for being here. He's done a fabulous job on behalf of the citizens of Missouri. He is a man whose judgment I trust, whose vote I can count on. He's a strong ally. He's got the right instincts. He's got a great voting record. And that is Senator Kit Bond.

I appreciate so very much the fact that your Congressman has joined us today. Roy

Blunt is effective. He's smart. He can count votes. I appreciate his support, and I appreciate his friendship.

I appreciate the fact that former Congressman Mel Hancock is here. I want to thank Congressman Hancock for coming.

You've got yourself a hot Senate race—State senate race. This race matters. It matters a lot. You've got a good man running, a good, down-to-earth fellow who's going to tell you what he thinks. He's going to do in office what he said he's going to do. And that's Dan Clemens.

I've got a great Cabinet. I've asked people from all across our country to serve our Government in my Cabinet. You trained one of the best ones in my Cabinet. Yesterday morning I met with the Attorney General. He said, "You make sure you remind my folks at home that I haven't forgot where I came from." John Ashcroft is doing a great job for America.

And finally, I appreciate you letting some of my fellow Texans cross the State line. They must have not checked these boys' backgrounds before they came. [*Laughter*] I've known the Gatlin Brothers for a long time, and I really appreciate the three brothers coming. I'm—Larry is my good buddy. He is a fine, fine, fine American, and Steve and Rudy are as well. I hope you're enjoying them as much as I've enjoyed knowing them. And I'm real proud their here. I want to thank the Gatlin boys for coming today.

Now, I've got some things on my mind that I want to share with you. I've got some issues I want to discuss with you. I've got some reasons to be here besides just politics. I need somebody to help me deal with our economy. Now listen, the foundation for growth is strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. We've got the best workers in the world. Productivity is high in America. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in this country. The foundations for growth are strong. But so long as somebody is looking for work can't find work, I think we have a problem. And so therefore, we need to put people in the United States Senate who wants to think about—when it comes to the economy—how to create jobs.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create

an environment in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which anybody who's got a dream can work hard and realize that dream. Most jobs, as I mentioned, are created by small businesses. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, we've got to have people in the Senate who understand that when a person has more money in his or her pocket, it will serve as a stimulus to job growth.

You see, here's the page of the textbook which we've read. It says that when a person has more money, he or she is likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or service in our economy, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of making sure our people can find work, the tax relief came at the absolute right time in American history.

But here's why we're still talking about it. Because of a quirk in the rules in the United States Senate, after a 10-year period, the tax relief plan we passed goes away, unless the Congress makes it permanent. And that's the issue.

The tax relief plan over the next decade for the people of Missouri, if permanent, would mean there is \$27 billion in income tax relief and death tax relief in your pockets. That's more money for you to have to make decisions about. It's your money to begin with, by the way. There's \$4 billion additional money in your pocket because of the tax relief on the child credit. There's a \$1.5 billion money in the Missouri people's pockets because we're doing something about the marriage penalty. See, what we think is that the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage.

It's like the Senate giveth, and then the Senate taketh away. [*Laughter*] In this case, the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away over \$32 billion that would help economic expansion and growth. There's no question in my mind that Jim Talent understands what I'm talking about, that in order to make sure our economy is strong so people can plan, so the entrepreneurial spirit remains strong in America, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

One of the worst taxes that we have on the books that we're trying to get rid of and won't get rid of unless we have a Senator and Senators who vote to make it permanent, is the death tax. This death tax hurts Missouri farmers. This death tax, it hurts small-business owners. It's a bad tax. Don't take my word for it. Let me quote some of citizens in your neighborhood.

There's a guy named Jim Staley. He's a fourth generation family farmer in Willard, Missouri. He wants to pass his farm on some day to his children. That makes sense. The guy's working the land. He's got some kids. He says, "I want my kids to be able to work the land, too. I want the family farm to survive." He remembers when his daddy died, he had trouble trying to make sure the farm stayed in the family and didn't go to the Government. He remembers those times. So he's worried about it. Here's what he says: "It's a shame that Americans are taught that if you work hard all your life, you can pass it along to your family, and they can work to make it better. But when it comes down to it, the Government ends up taking it away." That's what the death tax does.

It's a bad tax. It's a bad tax. It's a bad tax because it taxes assets twice. It's a bad tax because it prevents somebody who owns something from passing the asset on to whoever he or she chooses.

Fellers Fixtures, right here in Springfield, Missouri, Carl Fellers, here's what he thinks. First of all, he says he thinks he pays enough taxes already. See, most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax level, because you're a sole proprietorship or a limited partnership. When you reduce rates on people, you're also reducing rates on small businesses. But he doesn't believe that he ought to pay more taxes than he has already when he dies. And neither do his children.

No, we need to make sure, for the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job creation, that you elect you a United States Senator who makes sure the tax relief plan is permanent.

Jim Talent will be a Senator who's committed to making sure we have an education system that we're proud of. I signed a great piece of education reform. It challenges the

soft bigotry of low expectations. It holds people to a high standard. It says, in return for receiving Federal money—and we cranked up the level of Federal money, by the way, for education spending—but in return for receiving Federal money, you've got to show us. Just like you say in your State motto, "Show Me" whether or not the money is being well spent. Show me whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. We ask that question because we want to make sure not one single child gets left behind in America.

Jim Talent knows what I know, that medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't, that medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck in the old ways. We need a Senator up there who can work with people in both parties to make sure that we modernize Medicare for the sake of our seniors. Modernizing Medicare means that we've got to have a prescription drug plan for our seniors.

One of my most important responsibilities is to put good people on the Federal bench. Our definition of good people obviously are people who are honest, who know the law, who are there to serve something other than themselves, who won't use the bench as a legislator might use the bench from which to write new law, but to strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States. And the Senate has got a lousy record when it comes to my judges.

Look at the percentage that they've approved. It's the worst record in modern history. It's worse than how the Senate treated President Clinton, President Bush 41, President Reagan. They're holding up the nominees. And when they put some of my good nominees forward, they're not telling the truth about their records. They're distorting their records. They're playing shameless politics with the judges I put forward. You need to have a United States Senator like Jim Talent who will not play shameless politics with the judges I've put forward. No, there's a lot of things we can do.

We're going to work together to make sure America is a strong country by having a good economy and making sure we fulfill our promises to our children and to our seniors. I know I can work with this man.

I also will be working with the next Congress to protect America. We learned a sad lesson on September the 11th, 2001, and that is that we're no longer immune from attacks from an enemy which hates us, that oceans no longer protect us like we used to think they could. It's changed the dynamics. The battlefield is here at home.

People must understand that there's still an enemy which lurks and desires to hurt. They do it because of what we love. They hate what we stand for. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God any way he or she chooses. We love every aspect about our freedoms. We love our free press, and we love the discourse and—a political discourse in a free society, and we hold those freedoms dearly. And we're not changing. No matter how they try to terrorize, how they try to threaten, we're not changing. And so long as we don't change, we have to do everything we can to protect America in the new realities we face. It's a dangerous world, but nobody's going to cause us to retreat from this world.

Obviously, my job is not only to deal with threats that we find in these dark caves but also to anticipate threats. I want to thank the United States Congress for speaking with one voice about a tyrant and a dictator who has constantly defied the world, who refuses to disarm, who, in the new reality, serves as a true and real threat not only to the United States but a threat to our friends in the Middle East, a threat to other freedom-loving countries.

The world has been put on notice, Mr. Saddam Hussein is now on notice. We expect him to disarm. We expect him to live up to the obligations that he has told the world that he would meet. We expect the United Nations to be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. We expect them to join us in keeping the peace, by holding this dictator to account. That's what we expect.

No, the threats are real. It's a different era. And this country will deal with these threats in an open way and a firm way and a resolved way, because we love our freedoms. We understand the biggest obligation we have, at least the biggest obligation I have, is to do everything I can to protect the homeland. There are a lot of good people working hard

to protect the homeland. Anytime we find a hint about something that might be done to America, we're moving on it. Anytime we find any evidence that somebody might be thinking about harming our country, there are a lot of folks on the case. We're disrupting; we're denying; we're doing everything we can in our power and within the United States Constitution to protect the homeland.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to create a Department of Homeland Security, so I can tell the American people and future Presidents can tell the American people that, "We're doing everything we can to protect you—everything we can." You see, there's over 100 agencies involved with the protection of our homeland. It means they're kind of scattered about. If the number one priority of America is to protect the homeland, it seems to make sense to me to put them under one agency, so we can make that the number one priority that everybody involved with homeland security must meet.

And we're having a big debate up there about it. Sometimes in our Nation's Capital, they talk to much—[*laughter*]*—and do too little. Sometimes they do too much when they should be talking. [Laughter]*

The House passed a good homeland security bill. The House heard my call to have a bipartisan approach to protecting the homeland. The House heard the call to put aside politics and not let interests—be interested in special interests but to focus on the American people, not only today but down the road. And the House passed a bill. They're stuck in the Senate. The Senate can't get it done right now. It's stuck.

And here's the issue. The Senate is saying, "Sure, Mr. President, you can have a homeland security bill, but there's going to be a price." And here's the price. They want to roll back an important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, and that authority is this: For 40 years, a President has had the capacity to suspend labor rules in every Department of Government when the national security is at stake. The President has had the capacity to be able to change rules in order to protect America.

One example of what I'm talking about, just so you'll know clearly, is that Customs agents, we thought, ought to be wearing radiological detection devices, just in case somebody tried to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction into America. We thought that made sense for them to wear these. The head of the union said, "Uh-uh, that must be voluntary. You can't make anybody do that, and therefore, let's have a collective bargaining session over it," which might have taken a year's time.

See, we don't have time for that kind of thing. The Senate wants to roll back my authority. The Senate wants to say, "You can have that authority, Mr. President, to suspend workers' rights or workers' rules in the case of a national emergency, in the Agriculture Department, but not for the Homeland Security." And that's not right.

Jim Talent understands what I'm talking about. You put him in the Senate; we'll get us a good homeland security bill, which will make it easier for Presidents to protect America.

I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time, and that's what the Senate must hear, loud and clear. And one way they can hear it is, they can hear it from the people. You can express yourselves, right in the ballot box. That's the way you can send a message loud and clear about the importance of having a Homeland Security Department that will work today, that will work tomorrow, and will work for decades to come, because this threat, folks, is real for a while.

And that's why the best way to protect the American homeland is not to hope these fellows change their mind, not to hope that they go get therapy to make them think different, but it's to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice—what America is going to do.

We are in a different kind of war, and we're still at war. We're in a war unlike the past. See, the past you used to say, "Well, we're making progress because we've blown up a couple of tanks or we sunk a ship or their Air Force isn't as strong anymore." These people hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. See, they don't appreciate the value of life like we do. In

America, we believe every life is precious; everybody has worth. These people don't value life, and they hijack a great religion and murder in the name of that religion.

They just did that recently in Indonesia, and we'll be joining our friends in Australia in a day of mourning for the terrible tragedy that took place. We lost lives. They lost a lot of lives. Listen, these are killers, nothing but coldblooded killers, and we're going to treat them that way, and we're going to hunt them down, one person at a time.

And we're making progress, thanks to a great United States military, and thanks to friends and allies. We're making progress. One reason we're making progress is because of the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them," still stands. It's still relevant. Our coalition is still rounding people up. It's a different kind of war. Sometimes you'll see progress, and sometimes you won't. The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. He's no longer a problem. He was significant because he was to have been the twentieth hijacker. And he was still plotting, and he was still planning. I bet you we've captured over a couple of thousand of them, maybe up to nearly 3,000 by now. Like number, they weren't as lucky. We're going to deny them sanctuary. We're going to find them. We're going to put them on the run.

It doesn't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans, when it comes to our freedom, it doesn't matter how many years it takes, the United States of America will stay the course, because we will defend America, no matter the cost.

I'm going to sign a defense bill next week. The Congress has gotten it to my desk, and I appreciate that. That is the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons. I want to—I asked for that request, one, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best possible pay, and the best equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe it to their loved ones. And the other message is, the other message to friend and foe alike is that we take our responsibilities seriously, that we love our freedoms. We love our country, and we're not quitting. There's not a calendar that says,

well, gosh, it must be time to haul in; it must be time to shut her down. That's just not the way I think, and that's not the way America thinks.

I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy. They must have thought that America was so selfish, so materialistic, so self-absorbed that after 9/11/2001, we might have filed a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's not us.

I want you to know that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, that that's what we believe as a nation. And one of the—what's going to happen, I believe, by being strong and firm and being clear in our resolve, is that we can achieve peace. It's my dream, is to achieve peace. I want there to be peace for the American people. Since we value every life, and everybody counts, no matter where they live, we want there to be peace in parts of the region that have quit on peace. I believe it can happen. I do. I believe by being strong and resolved and standing on principle and understanding freedom belongs to everybody, not just a few, that we can have a peaceful and more hopeful world.

And here at home, the evil done to America can help us deal with a serious problem. There are people in our country who hurt. There is loneliness and despair. Amidst our plenty, there are pockets of addiction; there are people who aren't loved; there are people who wonder whether the American experience is meant for them. So long as any of us hurt, we all hurt. We must step back from our materialism and ask the question, "What can I do to help America?" And the best way that you can help America is by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, the enemy hit us. Today—the enemy hit us, but today we're a stronger nation because we refuse to back down, but also because we've redefined patriotism as somebody who does more than put their hand over their heart. A patriot is somebody who is willing to put their arm around somebody who hurts, somebody in need—somebody who says, "I love you." I want you to be one of those people. One of us can't do everything in society, but one of us can do something to help somebody who needs a hand, somebody who needs love, somebody—somebody

who knows or somebody who cares about them.

Today we've got Erin Bryant, who goes right here—to school here. She's an active member of the Student Community Action Team at Southwest Missouri State. She spends time volunteering to make somebody's life better. She's involved with people who want to feed those who are hungry and house those who are homeless.

Be a Boy Scout leader. Be a Girl Scout leader. Do something. And it's the gathering momentum of the millions of acts of kindness and decency which will allow this great land to stand squarely in the face of evil. No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And we will show the world why.

There's no question in my mind that even though there's hurdles ahead of us, we can achieve a lot. We can achieve peace, and we can make sure the light shines brightly, the light of hope, in every corner on this great land. I say that with confidence because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. in the Hammons Student Center. In his remarks, he referred to Brenda Talent, wife of candidate Jim Talent; entertainers Larry, Steve, and Rudy Gatlin; Carl A. Fellers, president, Fellers Fixtures, Inc.; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks at the Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minnesota

October 18, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Yes, kind of sounds like the Metrodome in here. I appreciate so many good folks coming to say hello. You know, I'm aware of Rochester. After all, I still listen to my mother. [*Laughter*] She's a proud member of the board of Mayo Clinic.

I thank you for coming today. I'm here to talk about some of the challenges we meet as a nation. I want you to know that I'm incredibly optimistic about this Nation's future. And I'm here to support a man for the United States Senate who shares my optimism about America. There's no doubt in my mind that what is best for Minnesota and what is best for America is that Norm Coleman become the next United States Senator. I'm here to support the ticket, and there's no question in my mind that you need to have Tim Pawlenty as the next Governor for Minnesota.

I want to thank you all for your concern about our country. I want to thank you for your participation in the process. Thank you for taking your time to look the candidates over. Thank you for understanding that being a part of America is the obligation to participate in our process. I want to thank you for what you have done for America. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. And that is, man the phones; go to your coffee shops; go to your houses of worship; remind the people of our community, whether they be Republicans or Democrats or couldn't care less—[*laughter*—that when you find a good one, you ought to support him. And you found some good ones in these candidates here in Minnesota.

I'm also glad to be in the breadbasket of America. We eat because of you. [*Laughter*] I love the values of this part of the world—faith and family, love of country—I love the values of this part of the world. Hard-working, good, honest, decent people, people I'm proud to call friend, people neighbors are proud to call friend—no, you're the strength of our great country. And nothing we can't overcome, because we're the finest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank the good folks here at Rochester Community and Technical College for your hospitality. I particularly want to thank—it's kind of hard to welcome a President, I know, but you've done a heck of a good job, plus you've got a Texan running the deal. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Don Supalla, who's the president, for his hospitality.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us: Gil Gutknecht, who's a

friend of mine. Thank you for coming, Gil. I appreciate you coming. I want to thank Congressman Mark Kennedy for being here as well. Mark's a fine one. You lowered your standards; you let somebody from Missouri travel with me—[*laughter*—but he's a fine Congressman named Roy Blunt. I appreciate Congressman Blunt being here with us today.

I want to thank the people who are running for office. I want to thank Carol Molnau, who's running for the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Minnesota. I want to thank John Kline, who will make a fine United States Congressman. Clyde Billington is running for the Congress; we need to help Clyde. And Dan Stevens is running for Congress. I want to thank these candidates for running.

You drew the short straw today. You didn't get my mother, and you didn't get my wife. [*Laughter*] But Laura sends her best. She's doing great. She's doing really good. She's an amazing lady. You know, when I married her—we were both raised in Midland, Texas, which is really not a pretty place to look at, but it's full of fine people. [*Laughter*] She was a public school librarian. By the way, her heart is still with our children. She desires for every child to learn how to read in America. But anyway, when I married her, or asked her to marry me, at least, the truth of the matter was, she didn't like politics—[*laughter*—and didn't particularly care for politicians, either. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes. She's now a fabulous First Lady for our country.

I know something about what it takes to be a Governor, and you've got a good man running for Governor here in Minnesota. He's a person who can get results. He's proven that already in the statehouse. He has worked to make sure that government stays within a budget, and that's not easy. Generally, when governments meet, everybody has got a great idea. They all cost billions of dollars. [*Laughter*] That's why you've got to have somebody who understands the money we spend in government is not the government's money. Tim understands that.

He also understands the most important thing a State can do is to make sure you get it right when it comes to the schools. The most important issue for any Governor in any

State is to make sure every single child in your State receives a quality education. What you've got to have in the statehouse is somebody like Tim who is willing to insist upon high standards and high expectations, somebody who is willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see, if you get you—you've got to have a Governor who understands you must raise the bar and expect the best, who believes in his heart of hearts that every child can learn. You've got to believe that.

And then you've got to—and then you must have a Governor who trusts the local people, who trusts the local people to chart the path to excellence, who empowers the teachers and parents and principals to chart the path for excellence so every child can learn.

And then you've got to have a Governor who's willing to ask the fundamental question: Are we succeeding? You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child in your State is learning. If you believe every child can read, then it makes sense to measure to determine whether or not every child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. And when they are, there will be plenty of praise for the teachers. But you better have you a Governor who's willing to challenge the schools that won't teach and won't change. No child should be left behind in Minnesota or anywhere else in America.

No, I'm proud to support Tim, and I encourage you to go out and work on his behalf. He'll make you a good Governor. And I'm also proud to be here with Norm Coleman. I need him in the United States Senate, and let me tell you why.

First, I'm confident he can do the job. He has proven himself as a leader. He was the mayor of St. Paul. He kept taxes down. He helped revitalize that city. He's got his priorities straight. You lost your hockey team, and he got you another one. He's not one of these polarizer-type people, you know, pitting one group of people against another. Frankly, we've got too much of that in Washington, DC. There's too many voices up there that would rather call names than get things done, too many dividers.

Norm Coleman is a uniter. He starts in the center, and he works with people to bring them together to do what's right for America. No doubt in my mind he can do the job, and like me, he married well. *[Laughter]*

And I tell you, we've got some problems, and we do. The economy is not as good as we'd like it to be. There are too many people looking for work and can't find it. And anytime that's the case in this country, we need to do something about it. The foundation for growth is strong. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Listen, we've got the most productive people in the world. Our farmers are the most productive in the world. Our workers are the most productive in the world. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. Small-business sector is vibrant. There's a lot right with what—our country when it comes to our economy. But still, too many are looking for work.

And so the fundamental question is what to do about it. The role of Government is not to create wealth. That's how some of the other folks in Washington think. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can flourish, in which the producer can find markets, in which the entrepreneur can make a living. That's what the role of Government is.

And that's why I feel so strongly about tax relief. You see, when your economy is bumping along, when your economy is not doing as well as we want it to do, one way to increase jobs is to let people keep more of their own money. Some folks in Washington don't understand that. They think when the economy is bumping along, it's better to take more money.

Here's what we believe: We believe that when a person has more money, they're more than likely to demand a good or a service. And in our society, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is more likely to produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of the working people in America, the tax relief came at the right time.

If the tax relief were permanent, that would mean \$33 billion of more money in your pocket over the next 10 years—\$33 bil-

lion as the result of the rates going down. It would mean \$4 billion of tax relief over the next 10 years because of the child credit. It would mean \$1.4 billion because we significantly slashed the marriage penalty. See, one of the things we believe is, the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. That's a little bit over \$38 billion if the tax cuts were permanent. Let me explain the problem with the issue and why you need to be asking the questions here in Minnesota about this issue.

See, there's a quirk in the Senate rules that says, "Yes, you can have tax relief, but after 10 years it goes away." It's kind of like the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. *[Laughter]* I have trouble explaining that in Crawford, Texas, I'll be honest with you. *[Laughter]* It's hard to explain a system where we say, "You bet, we're going to let people keep more of their own money, but then after a while, it goes away," like a significant tax increase.

And so I've been asking the Congress to join me in making the tax relief permanent. It's essential for job creation. It's essential for job growth that you have a United States Senator who will join me in making tax relief a permanent part of the Tax Code.

One of the worst taxes of all is the death tax. You just ask your farming families what I'm talking about. You see, it's a tax that taxes a person's assets twice. Once is plenty, as far as we're concerned. You can tax them once, but don't tax them twice. You know, for the sake of the family farmer or the rancher or the small-business owner, we need to get rid of the death tax forever. You see, it ought to be right for somebody to be able to pass their assets on to whoever they want without the Federal Government getting in the way.

And I hope the farmers of this part of the State ask the question of the two candidates: Who's willing to make sure the death tax is forever gone from the Tax Code? That ought to be a question people all over Minnesota ought to be asking in this race. It's an important question. It's a question that shows whose philosophy and whose values are more in tune with the people who live in Minnesota.

We can do more to make sure our economy is strong. Listen, we need to have an

energy bill that includes ethanol. We need to have an energy bill that encourages conservation. If you're worried about jobs in America, we need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

I look forward to working with Norm to make sure our medicine is—the medical system is modern. Listen, Medicare is old, and medicine isn't. Medicine has changed. Medicine has evolved, and Medicare hasn't. A lot of talk in Washington, but they have yet to get it right when it comes to treating our elderly the right way. We need to modernize Medicare and include prescription drugs.

We want our medicine to be affordable and accessible. We want people to have access to the health care, and we need it to be affordable. But we've got a problem, and that is, there's too many lawsuits. There's too many junk lawsuits suing our docs. It's one thing to hold a person to account; it's another thing to fill our courts with frivolous lawsuits. It's running up the cost of medicine.

These junk lawsuits are running people out of work, and it's making it harder for people to get health care. I was down in Mississippi. I met with a doctor. He and his wife were good missionary-type folks, and they moved to the Delta. It's one of the poorest parts of our Nation. They wanted to practice medicine to help people. They were healers. They wanted to use their God-given talent so somebody else could be healthy. The junk lawsuits ran them out of the State. Made me want to cry; made me want to weep.

The cost of medicine affects the Federal budget. It affects our Medicare. It affects VA hospitals. It affects Medicaid. For the sake of making sure our health care system works, we need to have Federal medical malpractice reform, and Norm Coleman will support me on that issue.

There's a lot we can do to make sure we're wise about spending your money. There's a lot we can do together to make sure that people can find work. There's a lot we can sure do together to make sure that the promises made to certain of our citizens are kept.

But the biggest job I've got and the biggest job we will have is to protect the American people from an enemy which hates America because of what we love. They hate us because we love freedom, and we're not chang-

ing. We love the fact that in this great country, people from all different kinds of walks can worship an almighty God any way he or she sees fit. That's what we love. We love the fact that people can speak their mind in America, can freely say what they want. We love the idea that there's a free press. We love every aspect of the freedoms. And so long as we hold those dear to our heart, there's going to be an enemy out there. And since we're not changing, we're going to have to do something about that enemy out there.

We learned a terrible lesson on September the 11th, a lesson that we must adjust to as a nation. And that is, no longer can two oceans protect us. See, it used to be we could sit back and say, "Oh, there's an emerging threat, but two oceans can protect us, and we can take our time to decide whether or not we need to respond to that threat." We learned something else about us, and that is, we're a battlefield now. And therefore, as a nation, we've got to do everything we can to win the battle, protect the people here at home.

I recently have been talking about an issue that's a grave issue of national concern, and that's Iraq. It's an issue that—we've had a good debate in Congress; it was an important debate. Congress is now speaking with one voice, along with me, and here's what we're saying: Any man who murders his own people, any man who uses weapons of mass destruction on his own people, any man who invades two countries in his region, any man who has defied resolution after resolution after resolution, any man who said he would disarm and hasn't, is a man who is a threat. And therefore, we call upon Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm, just like he said he would do.

And we call upon the United Nations to show us whether or not this is a body that can effectively keep the peace, or it's like one its predecessors, the League of Nations. We call upon people to come together to disarm this man before he harms the United States or our friends and allies. In the name of peace—in the name of peace, we call upon Saddam to disarm.

So long as there's a threat out there, your Government will do everything we can to protect you. And we're making progress.

There's a lot of good folks—you've just got to know this—there's a lot of good folks working a lot of long hours to run down any hint, any idea, any whisper that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America. We're moving on it. We're doing everything we can to share intelligence.

And we're getting better at it, by the way. See, we're now on alert. We understand; we know the risks. We understand the enemy better and better. We're going to protect our United States Constitution, and at the same time, we're going to follow every lead. That's our most solemn duty.

And that's why I asked the United States Congress to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. This is an important issue. It's an important issue, and it's important we get it right. You see, this is an issue that is going to be—that is going to haunt us, if we get it wrong, long after I'm the President. Presidents will be dealing with the homeland security for a while. So Congress must make sure their Department works and functions well, so this President and future Presidents can stand up in Rochester, Minnesota, and say, "We're doing everything in our power to protect you. We're doing everything we can."

There's over 100 agencies in Washington that have something to do with the homeland, so I thought it made sense to put them all under one, so that if the number one priority is to protect the homeland, it becomes the priorities of all those scattered agencies. That way we're able to focus the attention and, if need be, change the culture of agencies and people who are—whose job it is to protect you.

And so the House of Representatives acted, and they passed a good bill, a bill I can live with. But it's stuck in the Senate. They can't get it out of the Senate, and let me tell you why. They said, "Well, you can have the homeland defense bill, but there is a price." They wanted to extract a price from me. And I say, "Well, what is that price?" Let me tell you what it is, and I think you'll share—you'll understand the reason I said no.

Every President since John F. Kennedy has the authority to act in the interests of national security. In other words, every Presi-

dent since John F. Kennedy has the capacity in the name of national security to suspend certain work rules, has the capacity to be able to move the right people to the right place at the right time, even though certain work rules would prevent that from happening. In the name of national security, the President has got to be able to respond quickly. The Senate wants to take away that authority. You see—let me tell you what—they want me to have that authority when it comes to the Agricultural Department but not that authority in the time of war when it comes to the Department of Homeland Security. This is a big issue in this campaign. There's no question where Norm Coleman will stand. He will stand with making sure that this President and future Presidents—[*applause*].

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about, so we can clarify this issue, so people understand why I'm being reasonable. The Customs Department wanted the Customs agents to be able to carry a radiological detection device on their belt. Just in case somebody was trying to bring some weapon of mass destruction in, it made sense to have these people wearing these devices. The union head said, "Uh-uh, that must be voluntary. It can't be mandatory, and therefore we must have a collective bargaining session which could take months to resolve whether or not our Customs agents should be wearing radiological detection devices." That doesn't make any sense. You cannot allow a President to have work rules bind him in a time of national concern. The enemy moves fast, and so should we. We need to have the flexibility to make this work.

But the best way to secure our homeland is to chase these killers down one person at a time and bring them to justice. I know the enemy, and therapy isn't going to work. [*Laughter*] I don't know what was going through their mind when they hit us. They probably thought America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so incredibly selfish that after September 11th, 2001, we'd kind of shudder and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They met a different America. They met America—an America that understands we have a duty. We have a duty to defend freedom. We have a duty to defend our fellow citizens. We have a duty to make

sure our children grow up in a free and peaceful society.

We're making progress on this different kind of war. In the old days, you could measure progress based upon the amount of tanks you destroyed or boats you sunk or airplanes that don't fly for the enemy. You could measure progress. You could see lines of infantry going across, you know, different countries and say, "Gosh, we're making progress. We're pushing the enemy back."

These people that we fight hide in caves, send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They're coldblooded killers. They don't value life like we do. See, we believe every life matters; every life is precious; everybody has worth. And they don't. And I must constantly remind our friends and allies of the stakes. And the stakes are high. That's why the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. That doctrine that says, "Either you're joining the United States in our quest for freedom and peace, or you're with the other team," it's still a viable doctrine.

A lot of people still hear the message, and we're after them. The other day a guy named Abu Sayyaf—I mean bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. He's no longer a threat to America and our friends. It is a significant, significant capture because he was the person that wanted to be the 20th hijacker. And he was still on the loose, and he was still plotting to hurt America. We've captured—or hauled in, however you want to put it—a couple of thousand. A like number weren't quite so lucky.

So we're making progress, slowly but surely making—and sometimes you'll see the progress on you TVs, and sometimes you won't. You've just got to know that we've got a fantastic United States military and a strong alliance, a fantastic military and a strong alliance that is on course. And when we find them lighting somewhere, we get them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run until we whip terror once and for all.

I asked the Congress for a significant increase in defense spending for two reasons. It's important for you to know this. I strongly believe that anytime we put one of our troops into harm's way, we owe it to the troops and

we owe it to their loved ones to make sure they've got the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the second reason is, it's an important message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, there is no calendar that says, you've got—we're quitting. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It just doesn't matter how long it takes. However long it takes, this country of ours will stay the course. We will stay the course to protect America, and we will stay the course to promote the peace.

You see, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They didn't understand that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, because we're a great nation. And one of the goods—and part of that good, part of that good is to achieve peace. If we're tough—and we'll be tough—if we speak plainly about terror—which we'll do—if we stay the course and remain strong, I believe that we can achieve peace. I truly believe it. I believe peace—we can achieve peace for ourselves. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace. I believe peace is possible in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia.

No, the United States can lead a coalition toward peace. I want you to know, that's my vision, and that's my hope, and that's what I believe is going to happen.

And as we work hard, as we work hard with Senator Coleman to make sure the country is stronger and safer, we must always remember that we've got to work to make the country better, a better place. We can do that through good education policy, good health policy.

But the truth of the matter is, the best way to make sure America addresses some of our deepest problems is to remember that if you want to do some good in the face of evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. In our country, it's important to remember, amongst the plenty, there are people who hurt, people who are addicted, people who need love, people who are hopeless. And we can solve that problem, too. We can solve that problem.

You can help solve that problem by putting your arm around somebody in need and saying, "I love you." You can solve that problem by mentoring a child. I saw the Scouts when I walked in. You can solve that problem by running a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. You can solve that problem by going to your church or synagogue or mosque and listen to the call of the Almighty and feed the hungry and house the homeless.

That's how we can solve the problems of America. Government can hand out money, but Government can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a fellow American understands there's a new patriotism in this country. It's more than just putting your hand over your heart. The new patriotism calls upon each of us to be that one person helping to change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Today when I landed here in Rochester, I met a young fellow at the airport named Nick Reichel. Nick, where are you? Stand up. Fifteen years old, right? He doesn't look it. [*Laughter*] I'll tell you about Nick. See, he's heard the call. It didn't require any law passed. This young fellow has already volunteered 400 hours of community service, 400 hours as a part of the army of compassion, to help make his community as good a place as it can be.

No, there's no question in my mind, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I hope you can sense my optimism for our future. I hope you can see I see a brighter day for all of us, a day of peace, and a day in which the great promise of America shines its light into every corner in this country, the day in which we can proudly say that the American Dream is vivid and bright for every person who lives in my country. I feel optimistic about it, because I know America. I know America to be the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the fieldhouse. In his remarks, he referred to Don Supalla, president, Rochester Community and Technical College; John Kline, Clyde Billington, and Dan Stevens, candidates for Minnesota's Sec-

ond, Fourth, and Seventh Congressional Districts, respectively; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 13

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to express his sympathy for the families of victims of the October 12 terrorist attack in Bali.

October 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Northern Ireland and cooperation against terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Waterford, MI, where, upon arrival at Oakland County International Airport, he met with volunteer Lenwood "Lenny" Compton, Jr. Later, he traveled to Dearborn, MI, where he attended a Michigan Victory 2002 reception at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

October 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Carlin Yates to be Ambassador to Ghana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Blanquita Walsh Cullum to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

October 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to express his condolences concerning the October 12 terrorist attack in Bali. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where, upon arrival at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, he met with volunteer Jill Sieder, founder and coordinator of the East Atlanta Kids Club.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Smyrna Beach, FL, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on education at Read-Pattillo Elementary School. Later, he traveled to Daytona Beach, FL, where he attended a Florida Victory 2002 reception at a private residence.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia to the White House on November 14.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation: Ray M. Bowen, Jo Anne Vasquez, Steven C. Beering, Barry C. Barish, Daniel E. Hastings, Kenneth M. Ford, Delores M. Etter, and Douglas D. Randall.

October 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Springfield, MO, and then to Rochester, MN. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 16

Blanquita Walsh Cullum,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2005, vice Cheryl F. Halpern, term expired.

Feliciano Foyo,
of Florida, to be a member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting for a term expiring August 12, 2004, vice Jorge L. Mas.

Mary Carlin Yates,
of Oregon, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Submitted October 17

Barry C. Barish,
of California, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Eamon M. Kelly, term expired.

Steven C. Beering,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for the remainder of the term expiring May 10, 2004, vice Chang-Lin Tien, resigned.

Ray M. Bowen,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Vera C. Rubin, term expired.

Delores M. Etter,
of Maryland, to be member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice John A. Armstrong, term expired.

Kenneth M. Ford,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice M.R.C. Greenwood, term expired.

Daniel E. Hastings,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science

Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Bob H. Suzuki, term expired.

Douglas D. Randall,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Richard A. Tapia, term expired.

Jo Anne Vasquez,
of Arizona, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Mary K. Gaillard, term expired.

Withdrawn October 17

Peter Marzio,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006, vice Ruth Y. Tamura, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 4, 2002.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released October 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge in a press availability

Fact sheet: White House Conference on Minority Homeownership

Text of a Letter From the President's Cabinet to Senate Leaders

Released October 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Israeli economy

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3214 and H.R. 3838

Released October 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia To Visit Washington

Released October 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 123

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved October 16

H.R. 3214 / Public Law 107-241
To amend the charter of the AMVETS organization

H.R. 3838 / Public Law 107-242
To amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States organization to make members of the armed forces who receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger eligible for membership in the organization, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 114 / Public Law 107-243
Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

Approved October 18

H.J. Res. 123 / Public Law 107-244
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes

Week Ending Friday, October 25, 2002

**Proclamation 7612—National
Character Counts Week, 2002**

October 18, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

President Theodore Roosevelt once said that, “Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.” During National Character Counts Week, Americans reaffirm our dedication to promoting good character and upholding the timeless virtues that make our Nation strong.

Our Founding Fathers understood that our country would survive and flourish if our Nation was committed to good character and an unyielding dedication to liberty and justice for all. Throughout our history, our most honorable heroes practiced the values of hard work and honesty, commitment to excellence and courage, and self-discipline and perseverance. Today, as we work to preserve peace and freedom throughout the world, we are guided by a national character that respects human dignity and values every life.

The future success of our Nation depends on our children’s ability to understand the difference between right and wrong and to have the strength of character to make the right choices. To help them reach their full potential and live with integrity and pride, we must teach our children to be kind, responsible, honest, and self-disciplined. These important values are first learned in the family, but all of our citizens have an obligation to support parents in the character education of our children.

Our schools play a crucial role in teaching the skills, knowledge, and moral values that will help our children succeed. As Martin Luther King, Jr., stated, “. . . intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” By guiding chil-

dren to understand universal values such as respect, tolerance, compassion, and commitment to family and community, our schools are working to achieve this goal.

My Administration is committed to promoting character by encouraging public service and civic awareness. The USA Freedom Corps is helping citizens discover volunteer opportunities in their communities and spreading the message that everyone can do something to care for their neighbors in need. This past June, we convened the White House Conference on Character and Community, which showcased programs from around the country that are proving that sound values can be effectively taught.

By affirming the importance of good character in our society and encouraging all people to lead lives of virtuous purpose, we can prepare our Nation, and especially our Nation’s children, for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Strengthening our national character will help secure greater opportunity, prosperity, and hope for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2002, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon all public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
9:07 a.m., October 22, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7613—National Forest Products Week, 2002

October 18, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's forests are one of our greatest natural resources. They offer majestic beauty and fabulous recreational opportunities for all Americans to enjoy. They also are an important source of materials that help our Nation's economy to grow and flourish. By observing National Forest Products Week, we recognize the countless ways in which forests enrich our lives, and we renew our commitment to preserving these natural assets for future generations.

Forests strengthen our economy by supplying us with renewable, energy-efficient, and environmentally friendly resources that are the source of good jobs and valuable products. The wood we get from forests is a prime construction and manufacturing product that is used to build our homes and many other essential structures. Wood is also recyclable, biodegradable, and serves as a raw material for many items we use and enjoy every day, including paper, tissue, furniture, packaging materials, musical instruments, and postage stamps. The use of wood for biomass energy generation derived from thinning projects conserves fossil fuels and strengthens rural economies.

In addition, our Nation's forests protect watersheds, preserve water quality, help keep our air clean, and provide habitat for our wildlife.

To protect these vital natural resources, we must take affirmative steps towards managing our forests better, and we must work together to safeguard the health of our forests. My Administration has developed the Healthy Forests Initiative, which seeks to restore the health of our woodlands and prevent forest fires through a combination of thinning overgrowth and restoring fire-dam-

aged areas. For the safety of our citizens, the good of our forests, and the prosperity of our economy, we must make forest health a national priority.

Recognizing the importance of our forests in ensuring our Nation's well-being, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2002, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., October 22, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 19, 2002

Good morning. I want to discuss with you steps we are taking to help strengthen the retirement security of America's workers. More than 40 million Americans save for retirement through 401(k) accounts, making regular contributions and building economic security over a lifetime. A 401(k) provides a chance to invest in the long-term growth of the American economy and an opportunity to build wealth and independence.

Today's workers own more than \$1.5 trillion in assets through their 401(k)s. Younger workers have an average of about \$10,000

in their accounts, while workers near retirement hold closer to \$100,000 in their 401(k)s. This is real money for real workers, and we must do all we can to help make sure it's there for them when they retire.

Turbulence in the financial markets reminds us that every investment carries some risk. Yet American workers also have rights which must be respected and enforced. I've made five commonsense proposals to help protect the retirement savings of American workers.

First, every worker should get 30 days advance notice before any blackout period, the time when they cannot sell, buy, or borrow from their 401(k)s.

Second, corporate executives should have to follow the same rules that every other employee must follow during blackout periods. If you can't sell on the shop floor, you should not be able to sell on the top floor.

Third, workers should be able to sell their company stock after holding it for 3 years so that no one's nest egg is tied up in the stock of a single company.

Fourth, investors should receive better information, including quarterly, not just yearly, reports on how their 401(k)s are performing.

And fifth, workers should have access to professional investment advice so they can make more informed decisions about their savings.

The United States Congress has passed only two of these proposals, giving workers advance notice of blackout periods and holding executives to the same rules as their employees. I signed these reforms into law.

On Monday, my administration is implementing that law with tough new rules to require that companies give their workers 30 days' notice before any blackout period. Under the new rule, employees will have time to buy or sell stock or borrow from their accounts before the accounts are temporarily frozen. This important protection will help ensure that workers don't get stuck in a bad investment simply because their employers block them from accessing their own accounts.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also working on a new rule to prevent corporate executives from selling off their own

holdings of company stock when employees are kept from doing so. Corporate executives will no longer be able to sell off their company's declining stock while employees are left holding the bag. Both of these rules will take effect early next year and give workers greater protections against corporate fraud or abuse.

These rules are a step forward in protecting the rights of investors. More steps are needed. My three additional proposals—allowing more diversity in 401(k) accounts, and more frequent account updates, and advice for workers—have already passed in the House. But after 6 months, the Senate has not acted. For the sake of American workers who are concerned about their retirement security, I urge the Senate to pass the rest of my proposals into law. People who work hard and save for the future deserve every protection we can give them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:01 a.m. on October 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Australia

October 19, 2002

This Sunday is a day of national mourning in Australia, a day in which our friends mourn the needless loss of life. You come together as a nation to grieve for the victims of those who were killed by the murderers in Indonesia. And our country grieves with you, and we suffer with you. And we send our prayers to the families who cry, and we send our prayers for a speedy recovery for the injured.

Together we face an enemy which does not value innocent life, an enemy which tries to terrorize the free world into inaction. They will fail. Together we will hunt down the killers so that there's justice in the world. Together we will fight terror so as to keep the peace and to make the world more free.

America and Australia are close friends. We value our friendship. We remember so well after September the 11th, 2001, your prayers, your sympathies, your strong support. And we will never forget it.

On this sad day, on this day of mourning, America is with you in spirit. May God bless the victims and their families. May God heal the injured. And may God continue to bless Australia.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 1 p.m. on October 18 in Rochester, MN, for later broadcast, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19.

Remarks on Prescription Drugs

October 21, 2002

The President. Good morning. For more than a year, the Federal Trade Commission has investigated delays and abuses in the process of bringing generic drugs to the market. I have reviewed the FTC findings, and I am taking immediate action to ensure that lower cost, effective generic drugs become available to Americans without any improper delays. By this action, we will reduce the cost of prescription drugs in America by billions of dollars and ease a financial burden for many citizens, especially our seniors.

I appreciate so very much the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, for his good, steady, and hard work on this issue.

Secretary Thompson. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I want to thank Les Crawford, who is the Deputy Commissioner of the FDA, who so ably led this agency for the last year. I appreciate your hard work, Les. And I'm proud, also, that Mark McClellan is with us, who is the newly confirmed FDA Commissioner. Mark has been on my staff with the Council of Economic Advisers, and he will soon take over the FDA to work with Les to make sure the policy I'm announcing is fully implemented.

We live in an age of miracle drugs. Millions of Americans and citizens from many other lands, for that matter, have found healing and hope from medicines discovered and

created in this country. New drugs allow children with rheumatoid arthritis to walk and to go to school. New drugs shrink cancerous tumors, and they control the advance of HIV, slow the progression of multiple sclerosis. In the treatment of many diseases, major surgery has been replaced by a single pill. And this has been a special blessing to many Americans, particularly our seniors, who are living longer and better lives.

As a nation, we are committed to encouraging the promise of new miracle drugs in two different ways. First, we recognize innovators must be able to be financially rewarded for their creativity and hard work so they will continue investing and researching, putting new resources and talents in the creation of new drugs. Every time we hope for a cure or a breakthrough, we're counting on the success of a researcher and the success of a drug company. Second, we want these breakthroughs to become affordable and widely available. Both of these goals, innovation and accessibility, are essential; both are possible.

In America, one of the ways we reward innovation is by granting a patent. If you take a risk and you make an investment and succeed, you have the exclusive right to sell what you invent, and you have the right to profit if you can. A new drug can cost as much as \$800 million to develop and bring to the market. Without patent protection, few would take such a risk, few would be willing to invest. With patent protection, America's brand-name drug companies have become the greatest in the world, and health care systems around the world depend on American innovations they could not possibly duplicate.

Patents, of course, expire after a number of years, and this is one of the ways we are able to make drugs more accessible. After the patent expires, other companies are free to offer the drug in generic form at far lower prices. Last year, the average brand-name drug cost more than \$72 per prescription. The average price for generic drugs, which are just as safe and effective as the brand-name drugs, was less than \$17 per prescription. Generic drugs make America health care far more affordable.

Current Federal law and regulations attempt to carefully balance the goals of innovation and accessibility. New drugs, on average, are sold for 11 years under patent protection, then generic versions become available. Unfortunately, the careful balance of the law is being undermined.

The FTC investigation discovered that some brand-name drug manufacturers may have manipulated the law to delay the approval of competing generic drugs. When a drug patent is about to expire, one method some companies use is to file a brand new patent based on a minor feature, such as the color of the pill bottle or a specific combination of ingredients unrelated to the drug's effectiveness. In this way, the brand-name company buys time through repeated delays called automatic stays that freeze the status quo as the legal complexities are sorted out.

In the meantime, the lower cost generic drug is shut out of the market. These delays have gone on, in some cases, for 37 months or 53 months or 65 months. This is not how Congress intended the law to work. Today I'm taking action to close the loopholes, to promote fair competition, and to reduce the cost of prescription drugs in America.

The Food and Drug Administration is issuing a proposed rule that will permit only one automatic stay per generic drug application, a move that in many cases will reduce the public's wait for generic drugs by years. Some patents will no longer be entitled to protections like the 30-month stay, including patents on packaging and others that have little or nothing to do with valuable innovation and drug therapy.

These steps we take today will not undermine patent protection. Instead, we are enforcing the original intent of a good law. Our message to brand-name manufacturers is clear: You deserve the fair rewards of your research and development; you do not have the right to keep generic drugs off the market for frivolous reasons.

Over the next 3 years, about 200 drug patents are set to expire. By cutting out delays and maneuvering, our reforms will yield cost savings of more than \$3 billion a year. Those savings will come to employer health plans, to State Medicaid programs, and to seniors when they buy medicines on their own.

This is another important advance in the cause of bringing affordable prescription drugs to our seniors. Already, we have cleared the way for States to provide prescription drug coverage to more seniors with modest means through our Medicaid Pharmacy Plus Program. We're working to provide seniors on Medicare with drug cards that provide discounts from drug manufacturers on brand-name drugs, like the ones available in private health plans. And we will not rest until we've reformed and strengthened the Medicare program, itself, so that a prescription drug benefit is available to every senior in America.

The House of Representatives took strong action in passing legislation to improve Medicare. The Senate failed to act. The challenge of health care reform is to increase access to quality care, while we preserve the finest health care system in the world.

I thank the good people at the FTC and the FDA for helping in this effort and for working to make these critical drugs more affordable for every American.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:33 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and an Exchange With Reporters

October 21, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome Lord Robertson back to the Oval Office. I think we've met, gosh, five—four or five times since I've been the President. I've enjoyed every meeting. He does a great job at NATO. NATO is an incredibly important part of U.S. foreign policy. I appreciate the alliance.

We are mainly discussing issues that we will confront and/or deal with in Prague, including NATO expansion. He's soliciting the views of the administration. I told him that we would give him a definite answer about our views on expansion in a couple of weeks,

and that timetable seemed satisfactory with him.

But Lord Robertson, welcome back. I appreciate you being here. Thanks for your strong leadership.

Lord Robertson. I'm delighted to be again in the Oval Office, Mr. President.

And the President has shown, not just by meetings with me but in every other way possible, his and his administration's commitment to NATO and to the strength of this trans-Atlantic alliance that has bound together these democratic and freedom-loving states over all of the years.

We're now a month to the day away from the Prague summit, probably the most important summit meeting in NATO's history, a transformation summit where NATO has to transform itself to deal with the threats and the challenges of the 21st century. And I believe we will have a good package on new members, a robust enlargement, new capabilities to deal with terrorism and to deal with the other challenges and nightmares that we may face ahead in the future, and new relationships with Russia, with Ukraine, with our partner countries, building the world's largest permanent alliance and one which the world can rely on.

President Bush. Three questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

North Korea

Q. Sir, is North Korea an imminent threat to the United States, and what consequences, if any, will it face for hiding its nuclear program from you?

President Bush. One, we had a bit of troubling news when we discovered the fact that, contrary to what we had been led to believe, that they were enriching uranium with the idea of developing a nuclear weapon. I say "troubling news," obviously, because we felt like they had given their word they weren't going to do this.

I view this as an opportunity to work with our friends in the region and work with other countries in the region to ally against proliferation of serious weapons and to convince Kim Chong-il that he must disarm. To this end, I'm going to be talking to Jiang Zemin at Crawford. I look forward to a good discussion with the President of China about how

we can work together to take our relationship to a new level in dealing with the true threats of the 21st century.

I will see the leaders of Japan and South Korea and Russia the next day, in Mexico. I intend to make this an important topic of our discussions. This is a chance for people who love freedom and peace to work together to deal with a—to deal with an emerging threat. I believe we can deal with this threat peacefully, particularly if we work together. So this is an opportunity to work together.

Q. They're not an imminent threat, though?

President Bush. You know, that's an operative word. We view this very seriously. It is a troubling discovery, and it's a discovery that we intend to work with our friends to deal with. I believe we can do it peacefully. I look forward to working with people to encourage them that we must convince Kim Chong-il to disarm for the sake of peace. And the people who have got the most at stake, of course, in this posture are the people who are his neighbors.

Arshad [Arshad Mohammed, Reuters].

Nature of Iraqi Threat

Q. Mr. President, can you explain so the boys in Lubbock can understand—

President Bush. Crawford or Lubbock?

Q. Lubbock or Crawford, both—

President Bush. Lubbock is a little more sophisticated than Crawford, Arshad. [Laughter]

Q. Crawford, then.

President Bush. Or Scotland, for that matter.

Q. Why—

President Bush. Yes, Arshad.

Q. Why you threaten military action against Iraq, but you believe that Korea's nuclear weapons program only merits diplomatic efforts?

President Bush. Saddam Hussein is unique, in this sense: He has thumbed his nose at the world for 11 years. The United Nations has passed 16 resolutions to deal with this man, and the resolutions are all aimed at disarmament, amongst other things. And for 11 years, he said, "No, I refuse to disarm."

Now, what makes him even more unique is the fact he's actually gassed his own people. He has used weapons of mass destruction on neighboring countries, and he's used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizenry. He wants to have a nuclear weapon. He has made it very clear, he hates the United States, and as importantly, he hates friends of ours.

We've tried diplomacy. We're trying it one more time. I believe the free world, if we make up our mind to, can disarm this man peacefully.

But, if not, there's—we have the will and the desire, as do other nations, to disarm Saddam. It's up to him to make that decision, and it's up to the United Nations. And we'll determine here soon whether the United Nations has got the will, and then it's up to Saddam to make the decision.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, again, for the good people of Crawford—

President Bush. Yes. It's been a big day for Crawford.

Q. If you can explain this in a way that they and the rest of us will understand, there is some hints over the weekend, the possibility that taking weapons of mass destruction out of Iraq is our goal, raising the possibility or the implication that he could somehow remain in power.

Can you say authoritatively and declaratively whether we can achieve—you can achieve—if you can achieve your aims there in a way that leaves him still in office?

President Bush. The stated policy of the United States is regime change because for 11 years, Saddam Hussein has ignored the United Nations and the free world. For 11 years, he has—he said, “Look, you passed all these resolutions. I could care less what you passed.” And that's why the stated policy of our Government, the previous administration and this administration, is regime change—because we don't believe he is going to change.

However, if he were to meet all the conditions of the United Nations, the conditions that I've described very clearly in terms that

everybody can understand, that in itself will signal the regime has changed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; President Jiang Zemin of China; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Signing the Sudan Peace Act

October 21, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 5531, the “Sudan Peace Act.” This Act demonstrates the clear resolve of the United States to promote a lasting, just peace; human rights; and freedom from persecution for the people of Sudan. The Act is designed to help address the evils inflicted on the people of Sudan by their government—including senseless suffering, use of emergency food relief as a weapon of war, and the practice of slavery—and to press the parties, and in particular the Sudanese Government, to complete in good faith the negotiations to end the war.

Section 6(b) of the Act purports to direct or burden the conduct of negotiations by the executive branch with foreign governments, international financial institutions, and the United Nations Security Council and purports to establish U.S. foreign policy objectives. The executive branch shall construe these provisions as advisory because such provisions, if construed as mandatory, would impermissibly interfere with the President's exercise of his constitutional authorities to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the unitary executive branch.

Several provisions of the Act purport to require executive branch reports to congressional committees concerning the contents of U.S. diplomatic advocacy, plans for U.S. diplomatic activities to achieve particular foreign policy objectives, and information on particular activities abroad. The executive branch shall construe these provisions in a

manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information, the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. The Secretary of State will, of course, continue as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the Nation's foreign affairs activities.

A provision of the Act defines a particular entity as the "Government of Sudan" for purposes of implementing the Act. The executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority for the United States to recognize foreign states and to determine what constitutes the governments of such foreign states.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 21, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5531, approved October 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107-245.

Statement on the Sudan Peace Act

October 21, 2002

I commend the Congress for passing the Sudan Peace Act. This Act, passed with bipartisan support, demonstrates that the Congress shares my commitment to help end suffering and promote a just peace in Sudan. For too long, the people of Sudan have endured slavery, violence, disease, and forced starvation. Last year, I appointed former Senator John Danforth as my envoy to help bring peace and stability to Sudan. Senator Danforth and others, working with regional governments, especially the Government of Kenya, have established an unprecedented opportunity to end the war in Sudan and to lay the foundations for a just and lasting peace.

The Sudan Peace Act presses the parties in Sudan to seize this historic opportunity and to end the war and suffering. The Government of Sudan must choose between the path to peace and the path to continued war and destruction. If it makes the right choice, that course will mean improvement in the

lives of all Sudanese, better bilateral relations with the United States, and the beginning of its reacceptance into the community of peace-loving nations.

Remarks in Downingtown, Pennsylvania

October 22, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Listen, thanks for coming out this morning. It's such an honor to be here. I appreciate—I appreciate your interest in our country. I appreciate your interest in our democracy. I want to thank you for caring about—

Audience member. *Viva Bush!*

The President. *Gracias.* [Laughter]

As I was saying, I want to thank you for caring about the elections—the upcoming elections. It's vitally important that citizens all across our country take their responsibilities seriously and to show up to the polls. Of course, I've got a few suggestions on who those citizens might support, starting with right here in Pennsylvania.

It is in Pennsylvania's interests that Jim Gerlach become the next United States Congressman. I say that with confidence, because he is a good, honorable man who's got a good, strong record. People know he's the kind of fellow who does in office that which he says he's going to do. He's got a track record that inspires confidence from people of both political parties, people who don't care about political parties. No, he's the right man for this job, and I want to thank you for supporting him.

I say supporting him—thanks for showing up. But just showing up isn't good enough. See, I understand how you win elections, and that's when people such as yourself not only go to the polls, but you convince your neighbors to go to the polls. You go to your community centers, your houses of worship, your—wherever you go to hang out—[laughter]—your coffee shops, and you tell your neighbors about their responsibility. And while you're doing that, you tell your neighbors about Jim and others running for office.

And while you're telling them about Jim, you might as well tell them about your next Governor. When you're out rounding up the

vote, make sure you round up the vote for Mike Fisher and Jane Earll. I know something about his track record in getting votes. In the year 2000, I was a pretty heavy lift for the ticket, I must confess, here in Pennsylvania. He out-pollled me by not 1,000 votes, not tens of thousands of votes, but hundreds of thousands of votes. This is a man who can appeal to people of both parties, because people in Pennsylvania know he can get the job done.

No, we're here to thank you for your care about America. I'm here to thank you for your participation in the political process. I'm here to ask you to turn out the vote. I'm here to ask you to do whatever it takes to make sure you crank up a good, healthy vote. It's important for our country. I'm also here to talk about how we can work together to make America a safer and stronger and better place.

Before I do, I want to recognize a fine United States Senator, and that is Arlen Specter. I'm proud that Arlen is here with us today. And I'm sorry that old Rick Santorum isn't going to be here, but he's a good fellow. He's a good fellow too. I appreciate these two Senators a lot.

I'll tell you one reason I appreciate them—because they understand what it takes to have a good Federal judiciary. I've appointed good people to the bench, good, solid citizens who are not only fine lawyers but people who understand their job is not to serve as a legislator but as a judge. We've got plenty of legislators. What we need are good, solid, sound judges. And the record of the United States Senate is abysmal when it comes to confirming my judges. It is a lousy record.

If we had more Senators like Specter and Santorum, we would get the judges through. We would have a record for which the Senate could be proud. We need to change the Senate for a lot of reasons, and one of them is to make sure we've got a good, sound Federal judiciary.

I appreciate Governor Schweiker for being here. I appreciate his service to the State of Pennsylvania. He has done a really fine job. He has done a good job, and I'm proud of his service, and I know he is as well. I appreciate Mark. He's a friend. I'm honored you're

here today, Mark, and thanks for doing what you did for the good folks of Pennsylvania.

I want to thank the members—I want to thank the members here from the mighty Pennsylvania congressional delegation. That would be Greenwood, Platts, Pitts, and Sherwood. These fine Members of the United States Congress have been steady friends and strong allies, and they represent your State with class and distinction. Thank you all for coming.

We've got another candidate on stage who—we certainly hope she wins. That would be Melissa Brown, running for the United States Congress. Melissa is running on a lot of issues. One issue she holds dear to her heart, as do I, is medical liability reform. It is a key issue. And one of the things we've got to worry about is the affordability of health care and the accessibility of health care. We want to make sure our citizens have got access to health care at reasonable prices. One of the reasons why prices is rising is because of frivolous and junk lawsuits against our medical community.

Everybody ought to have access to the courts, and that's vital. People ought to be able to take their claims to the court of law. But the problem is, the scales of justice have tipped way too far one direction. There are too many lawsuits which prevent good people from getting their cases heard. There are too many lawsuits which are driving up the cost of medicine. There are too many lawsuits which are driving good doctors out of the practice of medicine. We need medical liability reform.

I appreciate you running, Melissa, and I wish you all the best. I want to thank Alan Novak and Bob Asher and all the good folks who are the grassroots activists here in Pennsylvania. I appreciate your care and your concern for our country.

Today, unfortunately, you draw—you drew the short straw. Laura is somewhere else. [Laughter] She sends her best. She's doing great, by the way. She is—I'm really proud of her.

Audience member. We love Laura!

The President. Yes, so do I. [Laughter] Thanks for saying that. People now have figured out why I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes.

[*Laughter*] But she's a great First Lady. I love her dearly. I'm proud of her. And I want to thank you for your concern for her too.

I'm concerned about making America a stronger and safer and better place; that's what I'm concerned about. I'm concerned about making sure that we meet some important goals. One of the most important goals of all is to make sure every child in America gets a good education. It's an incredibly important goal. That's one of the priorities of Jim Gerlach. He understands that's an important goal and priority if we want our country to be hopeful and strong.

We passed good legislation. The legislation challenges what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, Jim understands this philosophy. These Members of Congress do as well, as does Arlen Specter. He knows that in order for us to have a hopeful society, we must as a society set high standards. We've got to believe every child can learn. It doesn't matter where they go to school. It doesn't matter if their parents speak English as a first language. It matters that we believe every child can learn.

We believe in local control of schools. See, we trust the people in Pennsylvania more than we trust the folks in Washington, DC, to chart the path to excellence. We believe you ought to work with your Governors and your school boards to make sure that children get the right curriculum and the right basic education in order to succeed. That's why we believe you've got to trust parents and teachers. We believe in promoting the basics when it comes to subjects such as reading. That's what we believe.

But we also believe this: If every child can learn, therefore we want to know whether every child is learning, all across our country. So therefore, in return for the largest increase in Federal expenditures for education—that was last year—Pennsylvania receives \$1.7 billion from the Federal Government—the largest amount of dollars spent, we're now, for the first time, asking the question, is the money being wisely spent? For the first time, we're beginning to—we're saying, "Show us whether or not the children of any State, children who are in the districts that receive this money, whether or not they can read and write and add and subtract."

We want to know, because we believe every child can learn. We believe that every child in America has the potential, and we want to see whether or not they're learning.

And if—and if they are, if standards are being met, if our vision that every child can learn is successful, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who teach, thanks for taking on such a noble cause and working in a noble profession. But as a society, to make sure no child gets left behind, we must be willing to challenge failure, to challenge the status quo. When we find children in schools which won't teach and won't change, we must have the courage as a society to demand something different for our children. No child should be left behind in America.

I look forward to welcoming yet another ally in this vision from the State of Pennsylvania, and that ally will be Jim Gerlach.

I also know I will have an ally when it comes to dealing with your money. You know, one of the interesting things sometimes you hear in the debate in Washington, they're talking about the Government's money. "Well, the Government spent this money; the Government spent that money." No, no, it's not the Government's money. It's the people's money.

Anytime somebody is looking for a job and can't find work means we've got a problem. So long as there are people trying to put bread on the table for their families and they can't find work, we've got to do everything we can to increase the job base.

Therefore, it's important to send people to Congress who understand jobs, understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial flourish—entrepreneurial spirit can flourish in America.

When times are slow or when the economy is bumping along, one of the ways to make sure that the job base is invigorated is to let people keep more of their own money. See, when you keep more of your own money, you're likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service in this marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The

tax relief plan came at exactly the right time for our country's economy.

Over the next 10 years, the tax relief plan means there will be \$58 billion more in Pennsylvania citizen's pockets over 10 years. That's your money. You get to decide what to do with the money. You get to decide how to spend it. There will be \$7 billion in child tax credit savings. There will be \$3 billion as the marriage penalty begins to get reduced.

By the way, the marriage penalty is a bad tax. The code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. That's a savings of \$68 billion more money in your pockets if the tax cuts were permanent. But they're not permanent. Senate rules have it that the tax cuts won't be permanent. That's why this is an issue in this campaign. In order for small businesses to plan, in order to make sure a horrible tax, the death tax—I say horrible; it's bad on small businesses; it's bad on farmers; it's bad on ranchers. If you're worried about urban sprawl, you ought to be for the permanent repeal of the death tax, so people aren't forced to sell their properties because the Federal Government—[*applause*]. For the good of our economy, for the good of job creation, for the good of a stimulative package, we need to make sure the tax cuts are permanent.

I mean, there's a lot of things we can work on together. We need an energy bill which encourages conservation and renewables but also makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We need a terrorism insurance package that will get our hardhats back to work. No, there's a lot Congress can do to make sure that the jobs picture improves for everybody, all across America. I look forward to working with Jim in the United States Congress to make sure that people who want to find work are able to do so, all across the country.

And as we work to make America a stronger place economically, we've also got to work to make it a safer place. And I say that because so long as we love freedom—and we love freedom—there's going to be an enemy which hates America. It's hard to explain to your youngsters why somebody would hate us. But you've just got to tell them there are some who have hijacked a great religion.

These people don't value life like we do in America. See, we say every life matters. Everybody's precious. Everybody counts.

That's not how our enemy thinks. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They hate freedom. They hate countries which embrace freedom. And therefore, they hate us since we're the beacon for freedom. We love our freedoms, and we will not change.

Times have changed in America. Times have changed after September the 11th. It used to be we thought oceans would protect us. A lot of us growing up said, "We don't have to really worry about some of the conflicts overseas. We may be involved, we may not be involved, because we're protected, we're isolated from the harsh realities of some of the killings that were taking place on different continents, so we could pick and choose." We don't have any choice in this new war, see. We learned that the enemy has taken the battlefield to our very own country. My most important job is to protect America. My most important job is to do everything we possibly can to protect innocent life from a group of killers.

That's why I've started and stimulated a discussion on Iraq. I wanted the American people to know that there's a new reality which we face, a reality that oceans no longer protect us, the reality that this person in Iraq has killed his own people with weapons of mass destruction, a reality that he has invaded countries, the reality that he has stiffed the United Nations for 11 years. Sixteen different resolutions have been passed calling on this man to disarm. Sixteen times he's ignored world mandates. These are the realities we face, and we must deal with it.

I appreciate the Members of the Senate; I appreciate the Members of the House of Representatives for voting overwhelmingly to send with one voice this message, that Saddam Hussein must disarm, that the world—for the sake of peace, for the sake of peace here at home, for the sake of peace in the Middle East, for the sake of world peace, Saddam Hussein must do what he promised.

For the sake of having an international body which is effective, the United Nations must make the resolve, must be resolved to deal with this person, must resolve itself to

be something more than the League of Nations, must resolve itself to be more than just a debating society, must resolve itself to help keep international peace.

It's an important time in our history to determine whether or not we're going to be a nation which is willing to work with others to keep the peace. The answer is, you bet. But if they won't, the United Nations can't make its mind up, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him for the sake of peace.

These are the new realities we face in America, the serious realities that we must deal with for the sake of our children, for the sake of our children's children. The new reality here at home is to do everything we can to protect the American people from a possible attack.

I want to thank you for training a good man named Tom Ridge to be the first Adviser on Homeland Security. He's doing a very good job. I know you're proud of him, and so am I. Our friend has not let us down. One of the things he advised me, along with others in my administration, was that the best way to protect the American people in the long run is to set up a Department of Homeland Security.

Let me explain to you why. First of all, you've got to know that there's a lot of good people working a lot of long hours to do everything we can to disrupt, deny any enemy. If we get a hint that somebody's thinking about doing something to us, moving, trying to do something to us, we are moving. We're absolutely on alert. We're doing everything we can to protect the American people.

I appreciate that the House of Representatives moved incredibly quickly on a Department of Homeland Security. They passed a really good measure. It gives us a chance with the homeland security to take over 100 agencies involved with defending the homeland and putting many of their functions under one Department, so that the number one priority of these agencies and/or the good people working in these agencies is your protection.

One way to make sure we focus the attention of a scattered group of agencies is to have one agency, so that if need be, cultures can change; if need be, there can be a direct

focus. The Senate can't get the job done. They've yet to get the job done. I want to thank Senator Specter's leadership on this issue. He's deeply concerned about the protection of the homeland. He and I have had some quality discussions on this issue.

But let me tell you what the problem is in the Senate, from my perspective—that the Senate has said, “We will give you a Department of Homeland Security, but you've got to pay a price. And the price is, is that we'll roll back an important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had.” And that authority says that I have the ability to suspend certain labor rules for the sake of national security. For the sake of security—securing the country, we won't have labor rules get in the way of the President being able to do whatever it takes to protect America.

We've got a border which we must enforce. We need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave America. It's an important function of the Federal Government. Except there's three different agencies down there—three agencies full of really fine people. You've got your Customs, your INS, and your Border Patrol. Sometimes they have different strategies per sector along the border. They're wearing different uniforms. They've got different cultures. They all share in the responsibility of protecting our border. For the sake of homeland security, this administration and future administrations must have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America.

We asked Customs agents to wear a radiological detection device to determine whether or not weapons of mass destruction were coming into America. It made sense to us. If you're worried about weapons of mass destruction, wear one of these devices. The head of the working group there said, “No, we're not going to have this on a mandatory basis.” For the sake of national security, that work rule ought to be suspended.

Now, they got it finally resolved. It took 4 months of discussions to determine whether or not Customs agents ought to be wearing a radiological detection device. Look, work rules are important. The right to people to

organize is very important. But for the sake of national security, the Senate will not take away one of the most precious authorities Presidents since John F. Kennedy has had.

I know this: I wouldn't have to worry about Jim Gerlach's vote on this issue. I know where he would stand. The best way to secure America, however, is to hunt the enemy down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. The best way to protect America is to find these killers where they try to hide and bring them to justice, which exactly is what the United States of America is going to do.

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. Sometimes it's hard to tell it, because this is not the kind of war that we're used to. You used to—could count territories seized or tanks destroyed or airplanes knocked out of the sky and say, "Gosh, we're making progress. The fleet has been damaged. Therefore, we're making progress." These are killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's who we're trying to find. They kind of ooch around the dark corners of the world and look out, peep out around the corner. In the meantime, send these suicide squads. It doesn't require a lot of equipment. It doesn't require a lot of money, although we're doing everything we can to cut off their money. But we're making progress.

One reason we're making progress is the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy"—it still stands. That doctrine is firm. Our coalition partners understand the stakes. This bombing in Indonesia reminded everybody how dangerous these people can be. They don't care about innocent life. They could care less. It doesn't bother them in the least that innocent citizens lose their life. What bothers them, though, is that the United States and our friends and allies are on the hunt. And we're going to stay on the hunt. We're going to get them running, and we're going to keep them running until we bring them to justice.

Slowly but surely, we're finding them. Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down, one person at a time. We've probably hauled in or arrested, whatever you want to call it, a couple of thousand. Like number weren't as lucky. The point is, is that when you com-

bine it all, we've made a fairly good size dent into the Al Qaida terrorist network. The other day a guy named bin al-Shibh popped his head up. He's no longer a problem for the United States of America.

It takes awhile. It's going to take awhile. It's just the realities of the 21st century. The new kind of war is going to require a patience and determination by this great Nation. See, we remember. We not only remember what took place; we also understand the stakes. We understand our responsibilities. We understand our duty to not only people who live in this country, but because every life matters, we understand our duty elsewhere. And that is to defend freedom. Slowly but surely, we're going to defend, and we're going to defeat this enemy.

And it doesn't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans. It just doesn't matter, as far as I'm concerned. There is not a calendar on my desk that says, well, such and such a date, it's time to haul them home; it's time to quit. That's not how we think in America. Tomorrow I'm going to sign a defense appropriations bill, one of the largest increase—the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons—two reasons. I want to share with you why I asked for this increase.

I want to thank the Senate; I want to thank the House for passing that bill. We're going to send two messages. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. That's the very least we owe them and their loved ones. And for those of you who have got loved ones in the military, our military has my complete confidence. There's no finer group of men and women who wear the uniform than the uniform of the United States of America.

And the second message we send, it doesn't matter how long it takes, this country is in for the long haul, that we believe in freedom, that we understand obligations, that we understand that some in the world may blink, but we're not blinking. We know that history has called us into action, and we're going to do everything we can to defend America and to defend the freedoms which we hold dear.

There's no question in my mind we're going to succeed. I want you to know how I feel. I'm an optimist about the future. I'm an optimist because I know this, that if we remain tough and if we're strong and we continue to speak clearly about that which matters in life, if we hold dear the values of freedom, if we fight terror, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for America; we can achieve peace in parts of the world where some have quit on peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, the United States has got an opportunity to lead the world toward peace. The enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand America. They don't understand our people. They don't understand our courage. They don't understand our drive. They don't understand that we long for peace, but we're tough enough to achieve the peace if we have to be. That's what they don't know.

And what they didn't also understand is that here at home, the evil done to us is going to lead to a better America—is going to lead to a better America. Now, Government can help—Government can help have a better America. We have a good education system. We're working hard to achieve that. We need to make sure our medical systems are modern. Listen, medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine has evolved. Medicare is essentially stuck in the past. For the sake of our seniors, for the sake of a better life, we need to modernize Medicare and make sure there's a prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

We need to make sure, as we rewrite the welfare laws, as Jim can tell you, it's important to make sure that work is the cornerstone of welfare policy. People find dignity in work, and therefore we can make America a better life by helping people find work and be trained for work and be qualified for work.

But Government is limited in its capacity to make America a better place. We can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. This is done when a fellow American puts their arm around

somebody in need and says, "I love you." That's how that is done.

America is going to be a better country after the evil done to us, because we understand that in order to change America, we can do so, one person, one soul, one conscience at a time, by loving somebody just like we'd like to be loved ourselves. Out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this Nation's strength lies not in the halls of our Government but in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

A lot of good folks took a step back after that fateful day and said, "What is my life all about?" Moms and dads say, "We're lucky enough to be a mother or a dad. I'm going to remind my child every single day I love them." A lot of good folks said, "I want to help the community in which I live be a better place."

No, the enemy hit us, but in so doing, they aroused an American spirit that understands that being a patriot is somebody more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot is serving a cause greater than yourself. Being a patriot is helping those who hurt find solace, those who are hungry find food, those who yearn for love find love.

No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. There's no question in my mind that we can achieve peace. There's no question in my mind that we will be a better country, because this is the finest country, full of the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the United Sports Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Gerlach, candidate for Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District; gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher; Jane M. Earll, candidate for Lieutenant Governor; Melissa Brown, candidate for Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; Alan P. Novak, State chairman, and Robert Asher, national committeeman, Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks in Bangor, Maine*October 22, 2002*

The President. Thanks a lot for coming. Thank you all.

Audience member. We love you, George!

The President. I'm glad I came. Thank you.

Congressman, thank you for that kind introduction.

I'm here for a couple of reasons. One, I always like to come to Maine. Sometimes I come to get instructions from my mother. *[Laughter]* Every time I come, I've enjoyed being here. It's a beautiful place. I thank you for your hospitality. I thank you all for coming out. I thank you for your deep concern for our country, and thanks for your participation in the political process.

I'm here because there's no question in my mind, Kevin Raye will make a great United States Congressman. I'm here because I have learned a lot about Susan Collins. There is no doubt in my mind, she is a great United States Senator. And for the sake of Maine and for the sake of the United States, you need to send her back to the Senate. I'm here because I firmly believe that Peter Cianchette will make a great Governor for Maine.

I am here because I want to talk about how we can work together to make America a safer, a stronger, and a better country. I mean a safer and stronger and better country for Republicans, for Democrats, for people who don't give a hoot about politics.

First, I want to apologize and tell you, you drew the short straw. Laura was tied up—*[laughter]*—so you got stuck with me. I want to tell you, she's doing great. Many of you have—some of you have told me, I bet many of you feel this way, that you say prayers for Laura and me and the family. I want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for that. It means a lot. And we're doing well.

You know, when I married Laura she was a public school librarian.

Audience member. Oh, yeah!

The President. There's always one in every crowd—*[laughter]*—a special breed, I might add. She didn't like politics, wasn't too keen on politicians either. *[Laughter]* Now here she is, the First Lady of the United

States and a fabulous one at that. She's calm. She's steady. She's got a great smile. She cares deeply about our children. The people of the country now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of them are wondering why she said yes. *[Laughter]*

But she sends her best, as do I, as do I to not only Susan Collins but to a really fine lady who represents Maine, a United States Senator who's got a lot of class, a lot of wisdom, a lot of power, somebody with whom I enjoy working, somebody who is making a difference for America, and that is Olympia Snowe.

We've got a man up here who wants to be one of my mother and dad's Congressmen. He's got him one in Houston, and he's got one in Maine, and he hopes to have a new one. And the guy's name is Steven Joyce, running for the U.S. Congress. My only advice, Steven, is that when you win, you make sure you answer their mail.

I'm so proud to be here with Kathy Watson, who is the chairman of the Republican Party for Maine. Jan Staples, who is the national committeewoman for Maine. I want to thank our high school choir and high school band who are here today.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank the people who take time, who work hard to make sure that the democracy is strong. I want to thank you very much for your efforts on behalf of all candidates. I want to thank you for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're going to do, and that is to turn out the votes for these candidates on November the 5th.

When I say that I understand Susan Collins, I do. I've worked closely with her. I've worked with her on key issues that face the country. There was no stronger supporter for the No Child Left Behind Act than Susan Collins. You see, we passed a meaningful piece of education reform. I want to describe to you right quick the key ingredients on this piece of legislation, and you'll understand why I'm so proud of the work that she did, along with Olympia.

First of all, the bill challenges what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see,

what we understand is, if you have low standards and low expectations, you're going to get lousy results in our schools. We must have a system that sets the highest of high standards. You must believe every child can learn. But also we believe you've got to trust the local people. See, we understand the people of Maine are more competent in charting the path for excellence than the people in Washington, DC, are for the Maine children.

One of the key components of the No Child Left Behind legislation is what we call the Reading First Initiative. Susan Collins was instrumental in helping to write that part of the law. It tripled the amount of money available for reading programs. But as importantly, it said we must base our reading programs on what works, not what sounds good, that there is a science to teaching children how to read, and that all across the country we must dedicate ourselves to making sure that we challenge that soft bigotry of low expectations by insisting that every single child in America becomes a good reader.

I thank Susan Collins for her leadership on that issue. Not only—not only did we insist upon high standards and local control of schools, we increased the amount of money available for education, the largest expenditure of Federal dollars and education ever. There's \$200 million of Federal monies coming to Maine this year.

But we also said, "In return for receiving this new money, we expect you to deliver results. In return for money, we want to know whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract." And when we find out they are, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who are teachers out there, thank you, on behalf of our collective hearts. It's a noble profession.

But the reason we have demanded accountability is because we want no child left behind. When we find our children trapped in schools which will not teach and schools which will not change, we better have the courage to challenge the status quo. Every child counts in America, and no child should be left behind.

Now, I appreciate Susan a lot. She has delivered on behalf of Maine, and she has delivered on behalf of the country. I also appreciate her working on Medicare. You see,

medicine has changed, and Medicare hadn't. Medicare is modern—medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck in the past. It needs to be changed. We need to make sure there is a prescription drug program for our seniors. Susan Collins can get the job done on behalf of Maine, people in Maine.

I like to say when you find a good one, you've got to send them back to office, and you've found a good one in Susan Collins. I'm proud to call her friend, and I hope you're proud to call her United States Senator.

I'm also proud to be here for Kevin Raye. He's going to make a fine Congressman if for no other reason than he worked for Olympia Snowe for all these years. I appreciate his strong principles. I appreciate his good judgment. I appreciate his independent spirit. I appreciate his common sense. I look forward to working with him on doing what's right for Maine and doing what's right for America.

He knows what I know: There's too much name calling in Washington, DC; there's too much finger-pointing; there's too much zero-sum politics. This is a man who's going to bring dignity to the office. He'll work with both Republicans and Democrats to get the job done. He's no-nonsense. He's also clear-eyed. He understands the threat the United States faces. He's not going to be one of these folks that is naive about the threats we face. I need somebody in Congress with whom I can work to make sure that we do the job of keeping America safe and strong, and that person is Congressman Kevin Raye.

And finally, you'd better get you a Governor with whom we can work on this education reform, somebody who's got one special interest in mind, and that's the children—somebody who cares deeply about the children of the State, and that Governor is going to be Peter Cianchette.

He knows what I know: Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. The number one priority of any Governor must be the education of every single child. I know he will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. I know he'll work with the teachers. I know he believes in local control of schools. I know he'll work with parents. And most importantly, I

know he'll challenge failure when he finds it. Every child matters to Peter, and no child will be left behind.

No, I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to tout these candidates. Again, I urge you to make sure you work hard to turn out the vote. They're counting on you. They're counting on you to go to the coffee shops. They're counting on you to go to the community centers. They're counting on you to talk it up, and make sure when you talk it up, just don't talk it up to Republicans. There's a lot of Democrats who are wise enough to vote for these candidates. And make sure you talk it up with independents and people who don't care. Turn them out to the polls. It's an important election, and we need these candidates to win.

We've got some big challenges ahead of this country. That's why I've taken a keen interest in these elections. I look forward to having a Congress with which I can work to meet the challenges facing America. And we've got some big challenges. It doesn't matter how big they are, as far as I'm concerned, though. See, there's nothing we can't accomplish in this country. This is the greatest country on the—finest country on the face of the Earth, no doubt in my mind.

One of the challenges we have is to make sure people can find work. Any time somebody is looking for a job and can't find work means we've got a problem. The foundations for growth are strong: interest rates low; inflation is low. We've got the highest productivity in the world amongst our workers and our farmers and our ranchers. No, we're strong in America. But still too many people can't find a job. So I look forward to working with Congress to expand jobs opportunities.

And there's some things we can do, starting with making sure people have got more money in their pocket. See, here's the textbook I've read from. It says, if you let a man or woman have more of her own money or his own money, they're going to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is going to produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

That tax relief plan we passed was good for the American economy.

As a matter of fact, over the next 10 years, that tax relief plan will mean over \$5 billion for Maine residents. That's 5 billion additional dollars of your own money that you will be able to choose how to spend, \$5 billion that you can use to invigorate the economy.

But the problem is, some in Washington don't see it that way. Some in Washington want this tax relief plan not to be permanent. Some in Washington want this tax relief plan to go away. It doesn't make any sense. Either you trust the Government, or you trust the people. We trust the people.

I look forward to working with Congress to make sure we get a terrorism insurance package that rewards hardhats and not trial lawyers, that gets our construction people back to work. I look forward to having an energy bill which encourages alternative uses, renewables, increased conservation, but at the same time makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

I look forward to working with people like Susan and Olympia and Kevin, who understand that when they talk it up in Washington, they say, "The Government's spending the Government's money here, and the Government's spending the Government's money there," that we recognize we're not spending the Government's money. We're spending the people's money, and therefore we need to be fiscally sound with the people's money.

Now, there's a lot of things we can do to work together to make this economy grow. And I look forward to working with Congress and won't rest until people who are looking for work can find work.

We've got a big job as well to make sure we protect America. I was amazed when Kevin told me that in the course of a debate, he said one of the two in the race didn't believe we were still under a threat. That's just not the case. I wish it were true, but it's not true. There's still an enemy out there that's acting. There's still an enemy which hates America. They hate America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God any

way they see fit in America. We love the freedom for people to speak their mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change. And therefore, there's an enemy out there which hates what we love. And so we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland.

My most important job is to protect American life, to protect innocent life. I mention that because you've got to know something about these people we fight. Unlike us, they don't value life. See, we think every life is precious. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. We face an enemy which has hijacked a great religion and are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and therapy won't work. [*Laughter*]

We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th. See, it used to be oceans could protect us, and if there was a war on another continent, we'd make the choice as to whether or not we would join that war, that we were safe and secure as a nation because oceans could keep us safe and secure. But the harsh reality of the 21st century came home. Oceans no longer protect us. Threats overseas are threats that we must recognize here at home and deal with them.

That's why I asked the United States Congress to have a dialog on Iraq. That's why I asked the Congress to seriously consider, along with the administration, as to whether or not we should deal with a true threat to our country.

I want to remind you that we're dealing with a man who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own people, on people in his neighborhood. This is a man who has defied the United Nations 16 times over an 11-year period. The world has said, "You must do what you said you would do, Saddam Hussein, and that is disarm." And 16 times the United Nations, over and over and over again, has written resolution after resolution, saying, "Mr. Saddam Hussein, you must disarm." And he has defied an international body.

So I gave a speech, and I said to the world, "For the sake of peace, for the sake of peace at home, for the sake of peace in the Middle East, for the sake of determining whether or not that international body is going to be the League of Nations or the United Nations,

Saddam Hussein must disarm, and we expect you, the world, to disarm him." For the sake of peace, for the sake of security for our country. It's his choice to make. "You said you would disarm, disarm. The United Nations has asked you to disarm." They need to work together to disarm. But my fellow Americans, if they won't act, and if Saddam Hussein won't act, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our security, we will lead a coalition to disarm that man.

And so we face true threats at home. And I went to Congress to ask them to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I wanted to take the agencies involved with securing our homeland and put them under one Cabinet Secretary, so we can set clear priorities, the priorities to protect you, the priorities to do everything we can to protect you. And therefore, I thought it would be wise for us to have a Department of Homeland Security so we could better coordinate, better facilitate, better prioritize, if need be, change cultures within agencies, so this becomes the primary focus of a lot of good people who are working on your behalf.

And by the way, there are a lot of good people working on your behalf. We understand the stakes now. We see the reality clearly. We know there's an enemy lurking around. We're aware of Bali, Indonesia, where people just—innocent lives were just destroyed as a result of these coldblooded killers. We know the stakes. People are working hard on your behalf. Any time we're getting a hint, any time we're getting a scintilla of evidence, any time we think somebody is fixing to do something to the American people, we're moving; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But we can be more effective, and that's why I asked Congress to join me in the creation of a homeland defense, department of homeland defense. The House acted, and the United States Senate is stuck. And it's not because of the two U.S. Senators on this stage, I might add. They're struggling in the Senate because of special interests. They're struggling because they're trying to get me to pay a price for a homeland security bill. And I want to describe the price that they want me to pay.

Every President since John Kennedy has had the ability to act in the interests of the country for national security purposes. Every President has had the capacity to suspend some labor rules if those rules get in the way of national security concerns. Listen, I strongly support the right for people to bargain collectively, if they choose to do so. But I also am going to hold dear to that right Presidents have had to be able to suspend some work rules for the sake of national security.

I'll give you an example of what I'm talking about. After September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to quickly assign its best, most qualified inspectors to the northern border. See, we were worried about our borders. We're still worried about our borders. We need to know who's coming into the country, what they're bringing into the country, and if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. That's what we want to know. So we wanted to move the best inspectors up there. But the leaders representing this part of the workforce said, "No way. See, we're not going to let you do that. You have to bargain over these assignments."

Now, that's not right. We asked inspectors to wear radiological detection devices so that they may be able to sniff out a weapon of mass destruction. They said, "No. No, we've got to have collective bargaining over that." It took us 4 months of negotiations with the head of the union to be able to get that done.

Now, see, I need the right to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America. And I'm not changing, because I understand what's at stake. What's at stake—we've got to make sure we do it right, to make sure that this President and future Presidents can protect the homeland. And I say "future Presidents" because in my judgment, this deal isn't ending any time soon, that even though we're making progress, we still have got a long way to go.

And I want to remind you all that the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what this country is going to do. And we're making progress. In the old days, you know, you could measure

progress based upon the number of tanks you destroyed, or whether or not somebody's navy had fewer ships, or whether or not the air force wasn't able to fly. But this is a different kind of war, see. We're facing these kind of people that hide in caves or move around in the dark corners of some of these cities in the world; they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a different kind of war.

But we're making progress. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us or the enemy," it still stands. There's a lot of good people around the world working hard too. We've hauled in a couple of thousand; like number weren't as lucky. None of them are a threat anymore. The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh popped his head up. You don't have to worry about him. He was the man who wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He was lurking around Pakistan, figuring out a way how to hurt America again. And we found him, and he's now in custody.

Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida terrorist network—slowly but surely. And as we do so, we're spreading freedom. I want you to remind your kids and any other child you come in contact with that amongst all this war talk, that this great country never has conquered anybody. We're liberators. Thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan. We will never be conquerors. We believe in freedom. See, when I say, "Every life counts; everybody has worth; every individual matters," I don't mean just Americans. I believe that way for everybody. I believe freedom is universal. It's just not an American ideal. It's a God-given ideal. It's a universal ideal, and we love freedom in America.

Tomorrow I'm going to sign a defense appropriations bill. I want to thank Senator Snowe and Senator Collins for working on that bill and getting it to my desk. It's the largest increase in defense spending since President Reagan was the President. I'm going to tell you the two reasons why. Any time the United States of America sends our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe that to the loved one of our

troops—you loved ones out there of your troops. I've got great confidence in the United States military. I have great confidence in the ability of our United States military. I'm incredibly proud of those who wear our uniforms.

And the second reason the defense bill had the size it did, it sends a message to friend and foe alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend freedom; we'll do it. There's no calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date, we're going to have to haul the troops home, such and such a date, we're going to quit. That's not the way America thinks. That's certainly not the way I think. We love peace, and we love freedom, and it doesn't matter how long it takes to secure both.

History has called us into action. History has called us to action. We have a duty to future generations of Americans to make this land secure. That's an obligation we have. It's an obligation we won't—from which we will not shirk.

I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they hit America. Oh, they must have thought we were so materialistic and selfish, so self-absorbed that after September the 11th, we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand. They just didn't get it. They don't understand that this great nation will defend that which we love. They don't understand that as a nation we see opportunity out of the midst of the terrible evil.

See, I do believe this: I believe the stronger we are, the more resolved we are, the more clear-sighted we are, the more likely it is we'll not only achieve peace for ourselves, but we can achieve peace in the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, out of the evil done to this great country can come incredible good. I truly believe that staying the course, speaking clearly, fighting terror where it exists, spreading freedom in a humble way, we can achieve peace. And I also know here at home that we can achieve a better America.

And Government can help. We talked about education initiatives and health initiatives. There's a lot of ways Government can help. But we've got to remember that Government can hand out money, but what it

can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. In order to eradicate the pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness which exist in this great land, which has got to be a national cause, we want everybody in this country to recognize and realize the great promise of America. See, when one of us hurts, we all hurt. In order to eradicate those pockets of despair, we must love a neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves. Each of us can make a difference in making sure the American experience is available to all. Each of us can love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

America can and will change, one conscience, one heart, one soul at a time. Not one person can do everything, but each of you can be somebody doing that something to make America a better place. Mentor a child. Feed the hungry. Find shelter for the homeless. No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. The enemy hit us, and out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good.

There's no doubt in my mind we will be a better society, a more decent society, a society in which we understand that being a patriot means more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot means helping somebody in need. Being a patriot means serving a cause greater than yourself.

No, they hit us, and out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world, a more—better America, no doubt in my mind, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:26 p.m. in Hangar 12 at Bangor International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Kevin Raye, candidate for Maine's Second Congressional District, who introduced the President; Steven Joyce, candidate for Maine's First Congressional District; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction Appropriation Act

October 23, 2002

Good morning. Please be seated.

The security of the American people is the first commitment of the American Government. Our Nation faces grave new dangers, and our Nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf.

The Department of Defense and the Military Construction Appropriations bills I sign today will make our country more secure, make our military forces more prepared, and reward military families for their sacrifice in service.

These bills, passed with bipartisan support, send a message: America is united; America is strong; and America will remain strong.

I appreciate so very much Vice President Cheney joining me today. He is a great Vice President. I appreciate Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld joining me today. He's a great Secretary of Defense. I appreciate Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz coming. I want to thank Tom White, the Secretary of the Army. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who have joined us today, both Democrat and Republican: Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Bill Young of Florida, Dave Hobson of Ohio, and Jim Moran of Virginia.

I want to thank the service chiefs who are here. They've done such a good job for our country. I want to thank their senior enlisted advisers. I want to thank the friends of the United States military who are here in the Rose Garden today. I want to thank those who wear the uniform who are here. And I welcome my fellow Americans.

Since September the 11th, Americans have been reminded that the safety of many depends on the courage and skill of a few. We've asked our military to bring justice to agents of terror. We've asked our military to liberate a captive people on the other side of the Earth. We've asked our military to prepare for conflict in Iraq, if it proves necessary. We're asking young Americans to serve in many places far from home and at

great risk. We owe them every resource, every weapon, and every tool they need to fulfill their missions.

The best military in the world must have every advantage required to defend the peace of the world. And the best military in the world is making good progress on this, the first war of the 21st century.

It's a different kind of war. Our military knows it. After all, we're on an international manhunt. We're chasing coldblooded killers down, one killer at a time. And we're making good progress. We've hauled in or arrested, thanks to our military and our friends and allies, over a couple of thousand killers, and like number weren't as lucky. In either case, they're no longer a threat to the American people.

Sometimes the American people will see the progress we're making, and sometimes they won't. They just need to know that the United States military is after them, one person at a time.

The bill I sign today also sends a clear signal to friend and foe alike that it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our freedom; the United States of America will stay the course. There is no timetable in the Oval Office here behind me that says at a certain period of time, we no longer care deeply about our freedoms, and therefore, we're going to quit. There's no such timetable. The bill today says America is determined and resolute to not only defend our freedom but defend freedom around the world, that we're determined and resolute to answer the call to history, and that we will defeat terror.

This year's defense bill provides nearly \$355 billion to protect our country, more than \$37 billion increase from fiscal year 2002—for fiscal year 2002. We're matching increased funding with clear priorities.

First, this legislation takes care of our men and women in uniform and their families. We provide the money for a pay increase of 4.1 percent for service members, provide for additional full-time support personnel for the National Guard and Reserves, continue to reduce the out-of-pocket cost for housing for our service members and their families.

The Military Construction Appropriations bill adds \$10.5 billion for building and upgrading military installations and for military

family housing. We're taking care of our people. We want the people who wear the uniform to know America appreciates their service.

Secondly, this year's defense bill will ensure that our military is ready and well-equipped. We increased funds for operations and maintenance by more than \$5 billion, provide nearly \$72 billion for weapon procurement, an \$11 billion increase. Today's American forces are ready and able to deploy to any point in the globe to defeat any foe, and we're going to keep it that way.

Third, this legislation begins developing the next generations of weaponry that will win battles in the future. We invest almost \$58 billion in research and development. At the same time, the bill ends some weapons systems that aren't going to meet the needs of the future, and that's an important contribution to our military. To have the willingness to say, "This program works, and this one doesn't," is important. So we ended the Crusader artillery program, a program that was designed for a different era.

Instead, we will fund new systems, systems that will enable our military to do a more effective job at defending America and our freedoms, systems such as the unmanned aerial vehicles like the Predator and the Global Hawk that we've used so effectively in Afghanistan.

We fund efforts to adopt cold war systems like the Trident submarine to meet the new 21st century missions. We fund over \$7 billion to protect America and our friends from the threat of ballistic missiles.

I'm grateful that Congress completed its important work on defense and military construction appropriations bills. I want to thank them for working hard on these two important pieces of legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit.

There's still important work to complete. For example, Congress has yet to act on my proposal to nearly double overall funding for homeland defense, including my request for unprecedented funding levels for police and firefighters and emergency medical personnel who are on the frontlines of defending our citizens.

In addition, our new homeland—Department of Homeland Security is stalled in the

Senate. The defense bill I will sign today funds our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, all of which exist in a single Department. That Department was created by President Harry Truman when he reorganized our Nation's defense structure to meet the security threats of a new era.

Today we are once again in a new era. Yet our homeland security activities are spread among more than 100 different Government agencies. America needs a single Department of government dedicated to protecting our people and to protecting our homeland. We can't wait any longer. The threats to America are simply too great. Providing for the security of our country is a broader task than just keeping our military strong. I look forward to working with Congress on all the measures needed to build the strength and security of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

It is now my honor to sign the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction Appropriations Act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 5010, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, and H.R. 5011, the Military Construction Appropriation Act, approved October 23, were assigned Public Law No. 107-248 and Public Law No. 107-249, respectively. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003

October 23, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5010, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003," which provides \$354.8 billion for national security programs administered by the Department of Defense.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by an aggregate FY 2003 funding level that I support of \$759 billion, which is consistent with the House-passed Budget Resolution. My Administration appreciates that the Congress has completed the FY 2003 Defense

and Military Construction appropriations bills.

I am disappointed that the Act does not fund the \$10 billion I requested to support the war on terrorism. I am also concerned that the Act cuts \$2.7 billion from my request for operations and maintenance activities at the very time our Armed Forces are engaged in a battle against global terrorism. Without these funds, we may be forced to reduce other important programs to finance the war on terrorism.

Sections 8007 and 8111 of the Act prohibit the use of funds to initiate a special access program or to initiate a new start program, unless the congressional defense committees receive advance notice of such initiation. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the President's authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although the advance notice contemplated by sections 8007 and 8111 can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must act promptly under his constitutional grants of executive power and authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces while protecting certain extraordinarily sensitive national security information. The executive branch shall construe sections 8007 and 8111 in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

Section 8066 of the Act provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2003 may be used to transfer defense articles or services, other than intelligence services, to another nation or an international organization for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations, until 15 days after the executive branch notifies six committees of Congress of the planned transfer. The provision does not affect transfers using funds available to the Department of Defense if the recipient is other than a nation or an international organization or if the transfer is of intelligence services, such as provision of or accommodation procurements for imagery intelligence, geospatial in-

formation, or cryptological support. The provision also does not affect transfers of defense articles or defense services using funds contained in the Act that are available to the Central Intelligence Agency rather than the Department of Defense. To the extent that protection of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations might require action of a kind covered by section 8066 sooner than 15 days after notification, the executive branch shall construe section 8066 in a manner consistent with my constitutional duty as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

A proviso in the Act's appropriation for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" prohibits implementation of, and purports to prohibit planning for, consolidation of certain offices within the Department of Defense. Similarly, section 8121 of the Act purports to specify the content of future Department of Defense budgetary and programming plans. The executive branch shall construe these provisions relating to planning in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to require the opinions of the heads of departments and to recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

Section 8094 of the Act provides that, in implementing a health care interagency partnership under that section, Native Hawaiians shall have the status of Native Americans who are eligible for the healthcare services provided by the Indian Health Service. The executive branch shall implement section 8094 in a manner consistent with the requirement to afford equal protection of the laws under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 8116 of the Act makes certain appropriated funds available for transportation, food, lodging, supplies, fees, and training materials for members of the Armed Forces and their immediate family members while participating in chaplain-led programs, such as retreats and conferences, that assist them in building and maintaining a strong family structure. In implementing this provision, the executive branch shall accord the fullest respect to the fundamental constitutional

right of free exercise of religion, subject to the constitutional limitation on establishment of religion and any other applicable law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5010, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107–248.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriation Act, 2003

October 23, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5011, the “Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2003,” which provides \$10.5 billion for Department of Defense military construction and family housing programs. The Act ensures the Nation’s military construction priorities are met and provides the resources and infrastructure for our fighting forces at home and abroad. My Administration is committed to improving military housing and the quality of life of our uniformed defenders and their families, and this bill clearly reflects that commitment.

Sections 107, 110, and 113 of the Act provide for notice to the Congress of relocation of activities between military installations, initiation of a new installation abroad, or U.S. military exercises involving \$100,000 in construction costs. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the President’s authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although the notice can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must act promptly under his constitutional grants of executive power and authority as Commander in Chief while protecting sensitive national security information. The executive branch shall construe these sections in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority.

Section 119 provides for the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Congress with details of proposed actions to encourage

certain cooperating nations to assume a greater share of the common defense burden. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to withhold information, the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties. The Secretary of Defense will, of course, continue as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the matters addressed by section 119.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5011, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107–249.

Remarks on Children’s Online Safety *October 23, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. And thanks for the work that most of you do on behalf of protecting this country’s children. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the constant protection of adults. And because children are so vulnerable, they’re often the targets of cruel and ruthless criminals.

I am deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that we’ve seen here in Washington. There is a ruthless person on the loose. I’ve ordered the full resources of the Federal Government to help local law enforcement officials in their efforts to capture this person. Laura and I join our fellow Americans in prayer as we pray for the families and friends who have lost loved ones, as we pray for the safety of our fellow citizens, as we pray for the quick end to this period of violence and fear.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation is also a priority. It needs to be a priority and is a priority of this country. Earlier this month, I convened the first ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. And those efforts continue today.

I've just met with law enforcement representatives from the Federal, State, and local level from several States who spend their time tracking down and prosecuting online predators. These officials are impressive people. They're the best of America. They're doing difficult and disturbing and essential work. And I thank them for coming here today.

Our Nation has made this commitment: Anyone who targets a child for harm will be a primary target of law enforcement. That's our commitment. Anyone who takes the life or innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law.

Today I want to discuss with you several aggressive steps we are taking to protect our children from exploitation and from danger on the Internet.

I appreciate so very much Robert Mueller, the Director of the FBI, is here with us today. I thank you for your service, for your good work. I want to thank the Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice, Larry Thompson, for being here. Mr. Deputy, thanks for coming. Bob Bonners, the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, is with us today. They play an integral role in helping to catch these predators overseas.

Federal, State, and law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are here with us today, ranging from California to Alabama to Maryland—from all around the country. I want to thank you all for being here to hear this progress and commitment that we share for our country.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has become real. And you all here are on the frontlines of this great struggle to see to it that no parent has to live through the nightmare. That's what you're doing.

The Internet is a remarkable technology. We've all learned that. It's revolutionized education, vastly increased the flow of information, increases our knowledge. We're now in closer touch with our family and friends. People are now connected across the globe. It's an exciting tool. But more than half of our Nation children now online—let me start over—more than half of the Nation is now

online, and 75 percent of the children are online.

The flow of information is freer and broader. Yet the new freedom presents us with an unprecedented challenge, a technology that brings knowledge also brings obscenity and danger. Until recently, the worst kind of pornography was mainly limited to red-light districts or restricted to adults or confined by geography, isolated by shame. With the Internet, pornography is now instantly available to any child who has a computer. And in the hands of the wrong people, in the hands of incredibly wicked people, the Internet is a tool that lures children into real danger.

Sexual predators use the Internet to distribute child pornography and obscenity. They use the Internet to engage in sexually explicit conversations. They use the Internet to lure children out of the safety of their homes into harm's way. Every day, millions of children log on to the Internet, and every day we learn more about the evil of the world that has crept into it. In a single year, one in four children between the ages of 10 and 17 is voluntarily—involuntarily exposed to pornography. That's one in four children. One in five children receives a sexual solicitation over the Internet. One in 17 children is threatened or harassed. We've got a widespread problem, and we're going to deal with it.

We don't accept this kind of degrading. It's unacceptable to America. We don't accept offensive conduct like this in our schools, in the commercial establishments, and we can't accept it in our homes. We cannot allow this to happen to our children. The chief responsibility to protect America's children lies with their parents. You are responsible for the welfare of your child. It's your responsibility.

There are several practical things parents can do to protect their children from the dangers of online predators. First of all, pay attention to your children. If you love your children, pay attention to them. Know what they're doing. Share your experience with your children. Make it clear to your children about the potential online dangers they face. Make it clear to them the kinds of Web sites they need to avoid.

Children need to be told to never provide personal information to anyone online. It seems like a simple parental responsibility. Mothers and dads all across America need to do their job and make it clear to their children there can be danger by providing personal information. Don't share any passwords—that's a logical thing for a mom or a dad to do, tell their children not to share a password with a total stranger. Don't agree to meet with somebody they've never met. Don't agree to meet with somebody that chats them up on the Internet, unless the mom or dad is with them.

Parents should keep computers in a central location and check up on what their kids are doing. They ought to not ignore what their children are doing. They ought to pay attention to their children. They have a responsibility. A mother or dad ought to pay just as much attention to their child when they're on the Internet as if they're in the playground or walking in the mall.

Parents have the first and foremost responsibility. Yet we as a society share this duty as well, and that's what we were talking about today. Parents need allies in the upbringing of their children. Our Nation should make the essential work of mothers and fathers easier, not harder. Our Government, at every level, must take the side of responsible parents, and we will.

We're waging an aggressive nationwide effort to prevent the use of the Internet to sexually exploit and endanger children. That's what we're doing. I want to share some of that with you today. Through an FBI program called Innocent Images, we identify, we investigate, and we prosecute sexual predators across the country.

FBI agents are obtaining evidence of criminal Internet activity by conducting undercover operations, using fictitious screen names and entering into online chat rooms. I had the honor of listening to one such FBI agent today. She was telling us what it's like to deal with these sick minds. Interesting, afterwards I said, "It must be tough to do the job you do." She says, "I've got two children. I don't want it to ever happen to any child." I appreciate your dedication.

Innocent Images prosecutions increased by more than 50 percent over the last 2 years.

We're making progress. Just like we're hunting the terrorists down one at a time, we're hunting these predators down one at a time too. Based on the progress, I'm pleased to announce that we will expand this program and significantly increase the funding in the next fiscal year. We will also seek to almost double funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, from \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2002 to \$12.5 million in fiscal 2003. These task forces help State and local authorities enforce laws against child pornography and exploitation.

Since 1998, the task forces have helped train more than 1,500 prosecutors and 1,900 investigators. They've served 700 search warrants and 1,400 subpoenas. The task forces have provided direct, investigative assistance in more than 3,000 cases. They've arrested more than 1,400 suspects. These task forces are a great success. They're a great success because we've got a lot of good people working on these projects, a lot of dedicated Americans whose stomachs turn when they realize what's happening to our children, great Americans who decided to do something about it. This additional funding I've announced means that in—we'll increase the number of regional task forces up to 40 around the country.

Our efforts to fight Internet exploitation of children extend throughout this Government, throughout all levels of government. The U.S. Postal Inspection service provides an important role in tracking sexual predators, because child pornographers often use the mail to purchase obscene materials off the Internet. In Operation Avalanche, postal inspectors created an undercover Web site which they used to bring down what is to believe—what is believed to be the largest commercial child pornography enterprise ever encountered by law enforcement authorities in the United States. It started in Texas. It ended in Texas because of the hard work of the postal inspectors, the good work of prosecutors, and the sentencing of one tough Federal judge.

The Customs Service is conducting Operation Hamlet, which earlier this year dismantled an international ring of child molesters, an international ring of sick minds. Acting on a tip from European authorities, Customs

officers tracked down child molesters in the United States, many of whom were molesting their own children and distributing the images of these children on the Internet. Authorities have identified 25 individuals involved in this ring, 14 of whom were Americans. Through Operation Hamlet, 65 children have been rescued.

We're taking aggressive steps to protect children from exploitation and victimization. And the United States Congress can help by passing the "Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act." The House has passed this important bill, and I want to thank them for their good work.

The House passed a bill which makes it illegal for child pornographers to disseminate obscene, computer-generated images of children. It's an important piece of legislation. The Senate needs to act soon. The Senate needs to get moving and join the House in providing our prosecutors with the tools necessary to help shut down this obscenity, this crime—these crimes against children.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has come real. The people in this room are on the frontlines of a great struggle, determined to see that no parent is forced to live through a nightmare.

I'm tremendously grateful for the good works. I want to thank you all for being true patriots. I want you to know, at the Federal level, we're joining in the fight. We'll go after them, one person at a time, to make America a promising place for everybody who lives here.

May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the sniper attacks in the Washington, DC, area which left 10 dead and 3 injured. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Russian Democracy Act of 2002

October 23, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 2121, the "Russian Democracy Act of 2002." This Act seeks to promote democracy, the rule of law, and an independent media in the Russian Federation.

Section 3(b) of the Act purports to establish U.S. policy towards Russia. My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the statements of policy in section 3(b) as U.S. foreign policy. Given the Constitution's commitment to the presidency of the authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe such policy statements as advisory, giving them the due weight that comity between the legislative and executive branches should require, to the extent consistent with U.S. foreign policy.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2121, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-246.

Proclamation 7614—United Nations Day, 2002

October 23, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The United Nations was founded 57 years ago to improve our global community by strengthening the ties among member nations through improved communication, expanded understanding, and enhanced security. On United Nations Day, America joins the world in commemorating the founding of this important international organization and recognizing the profound impact it has had on our world and the role that it continues to play.

Since October 24, 1945, the United Nations Organization has grown to include 191 member states. Through its relief agencies, the U.N. aids and protects millions of refugees and displaced persons worldwide. For example, in 2001, the United Nations World Food Program provided aid to 77 million people in 82 countries and helped to avert a severe famine that threatened Afghanistan. The U.N. also seeks to improve living conditions around the globe by immunizing children, providing safe drinking water, and fighting disease.

The United States remains committed to helping the U.N. to advance human rights, healthcare, security, and education throughout the world; and we will continue to meet these and other commitments as we rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Our country continues to work with the U.N. in supplying aid for nations and peoples in need or distress, and in providing medical care and other essentials through U.N. agencies such as UNICEF.

As our world faces new challenges and opportunities, the efforts of the United Nations take on a renewed significance. The United States recognizes the U.N. for its efforts to support and strengthen the international coalition against global terror. And we hope the United Nations will fulfill its role in addressing the threats posed to the civilized world, particularly the threat now posed by Iraq. As a founding member of the U.N., the United States reaffirms our dedication to this vital organization and our hope that it will continue to fulfill the vision of its founders.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2002, as United Nations Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks in Charlotte, North Carolina

October 24, 2002

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad to be back in North Carolina, and thanks for such a warm welcome. I want to talk about some things that are important. I want to talk about the future of this great country. We've got some tough tasks ahead of us. No question in my mind, we can accomplish anything we set our mind to. We're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to talk to you about how to make our country safer, stronger, and better. And one way to do so is to send Elizabeth Dole to the United States Senate. There is no question in my mind, she is the right person for the job for North Carolina.

The senior Senator from North Carolina is retiring after a lot of good years of service to our country. I admire his service—no finer gentleman in the United States Senate. He represented North Carolina well. He's a credit to our country. And the right person to follow Senator Jesse Helms is soon-to-be Senator Elizabeth Dole.

She married well, and so did I. The truth of the matter is, Senator Dole—the male Senator Dole—and I married above ourselves. Laura sends her best. I just talked to her on the phone. She's on our—she wishes she could be here. She's on our ranch in Texas. It's been raining, so she needs to sweep the porch, because the President of China is coming tomorrow. *[Laughter]*

But she's doing great. She sends her love to Elizabeth, her best to all the candidates. She sends her best to all the friends of ours in North Carolina. I'm really proud of the job she's done on behalf of the American people.

I want to thank you all for coming, because it gives me a chance to thank you for what you have done and for what you're going to do. And what I hope you do, and I think you're going to do, is go to your coffee shops

and your places of worship and your community centers and remind people that in America they have a duty to vote, that in this country there is a responsibility that comes with being a United States citizen. We expect you to vote. We expect you to do your duty.

And by the way, when you're reminding them to vote, you might make a couple of suggestions. [*Laughter*] One suggestion is Elizabeth Dole. When you're getting on the telephone and when you're putting up the signs and when you're mailing the mailers, the grassroots that makes a difference in an election, make sure you do so—if you're living in Robin Hayes' district—to send Robin Hayes back to the United States Congress.

I appreciate Robin. I appreciate talking to him. I appreciate his firm stands on national security, and he's kind of wearing me out when it comes to jobs in North Carolina. [*Laughter*] He cares deeply about the people in his district and the people of this State. He cares deeply about making sure people can find work. And I appreciate his deep concern. I appreciate working with him to make sure our economy continues to grow.

With us today as well is Congressman Cass Ballinger. He's another friend. He's another good one you sent up to the United States Congress from the State of North Carolina. And I'm real proud of Sue Myrick. She's done a great job. She's a fine soul. She's got those North Carolina values etched in her heart, and she represents you well in the United States Congress. I want to wish Carolyn Grant all the best, and hope for—the folks in her district realize she is the best candidate for the United States Congress.

I'm thankful for the mayor being here. Mr. Mayor, thanks for your time. [*Applause*] You've got a—a couple of your relatives showed up, Mayor. [*Laughter*]

You've got a lot of great candidates running for your court, particularly the supreme court. And I hope, as you're getting out to work, you make sure you've got a bench that is strong, a bench where people aren't on there to legislate but to interpret the constitution of the State of North Carolina.

And speaking about benches, another reason we need Elizabeth Dole in the Senate, besides the fact that she's going to do a great job for North Carolina, is I've got to have

United States Senators who will work with me to make sure our Federal judiciary is strong. The record—I'm picking good people to be judges, good, solid, honorable people to be the judges on the Federal judiciary, people who will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States, not people who will use the bench to write new legislation.

And the record of this United States Senate is a lousy record. They have politicized the process. They have distorted the records of many of our good candidates we put forward. They're playing petty politics with the candidates that I put up there. We're not getting a hearing fast enough. The percentage of judges is the worst in modern history, percentage of judges approved, and that's not right.

Let me tell you about one, Terry Boyle from North Carolina, I nominated for the fourth circuit court. I nominated him a long while ago. He can't even get a hearing. For the sake of a good, sound judiciary, we need to change the United States Senate, and you can start by electing Elizabeth Dole to the Senate.

You got a good shot, if you go out and vote and you work hard, to capture the legislature. And that's important. So I'm here not only to tout the candidacies of some fine people, but I'm here to thank you—thank you for getting to—getting ready to get to work. We're coming down the stretch. Candidates can't win without you. So do your duty. Convince your neighbors to do their duty. And by the way, make sure you not only talk to Republicans but talk to some Democrats. Some of these Democrats understand the difference between good Government and bad Government. They know the difference between a good candidate and a bad candidate. They know the difference between plain talk and somebody who is going to cloud up the issues. And also find those who don't give a hoot about a political party and turn them out to vote. It's the right thing for America to do that.

I appreciate so very much Elizabeth's focus on education. I share the same focus. We share the same philosophy. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. That's an important distinction. It's important to

have that ingrained in your heart. If you believe every child can learn, it means you're going to insist upon high standards and high expectations. It means you're willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, if you believe certain inner-city kids can't possibly learn, if you believe children whose parents may not speak English as a first language can't learn, then you're willing to have low standards and low expectations. And that's not right for America.

Secondly, Elizabeth and I not only believe you ought to set high standards, we believe in local control of schools. We believe that you got to trust the local folks. Listen, the people who care more about the children of North Carolina are the people of North Carolina, not people living in Washington, DC.

We're spending Federal money on education. As a matter of fact, North Carolina will receive \$1 billion of Federal monies. And that's good. And it's monies targeted to people who need help. But for the first time, we're starting to ask the question, are we getting a return on our dollar spent?

See, for the first time the United States Congress has said, "For money spent, we expect every child to learn because we believe every child can learn. Therefore, you got to show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract." And if not—first of all, if so, we'll heap praise where it belongs, and that's on your teachers and your parents and your principals who are working hard to make sure there's a quality education for every child. But if the accountability system shows that there are children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, you better make sure you've got public representatives who are willing to challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in America. I look forward to working with Elizabeth on education matters, based upon the philosophy I just outlined.

I look forward to working with her to make sure medicine works. Listen, medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck. And yet it's an incredibly important program. It's a promise which

we have made to our seniors. It's a promise that we must keep for the sake of having a stronger America and a better America. I look forward to working with Elizabeth Dole to make sure that Medicare is modern, just like medicine, and the seniors have got a prescription drug plan.

We share the same view that if somebody is looking for work in America and can't find a job, that we need to do everything we can to increase jobs in America, that we ought to be thinking about pro-growth policies; pro-growth so people can find work, not pro-growth so the Federal Government expands; pro-growth so that the person here in North Carolina who's looking for work is able to put food on the table. That's what we want. And one way to do that is to let people keep more of their own money.

We read from the same textbook. It says, if a person has more money in their pocket, he or she is more likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in our society, in the marketplace, somebody is more likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody in North Carolina, or elsewhere in America, is more likely to find work.

The best way to invigorate a sluggish economy, the best way to make sure that people are able to find work, is to let people keep more of their own money. The tax cuts that Elizabeth Dole supports will provide the people of North Carolina, over the next 10 years, \$28 billion in income tax and death tax relief, \$4.5 billion in child credit relief, \$1.8 billion in marriage penalty relief, billions of dollars over the next 10 years to be in your pocket so you can decide what to do with it, so you can help invigorate the economy by just doing what you normally do, which is, demand a good or a service.

But the issue is alive and well because there are some in Washington that do not want to make the tax relief plan we put in place permanent. See, it's temporary. I need a United States Senator to join me—with me to make sure that tax relief is permanent. How can you plan if tax relief is temporary? How can you run your small business if you're not sure what the tax rules are going to be? It doesn't make any sense to say, "On

the one hand, we giveth. On the other hand, we taketh away.” We need a United States Senate that will make the tax relief permanent.

I know it makes some of them nervous up there to hear us talking about that. But they’ve got to understand that small business is the engine of economic vitality for America. Seventy percent of new jobs are created by small businesses. We want the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish. We want small businesses to be able to grow to be big businesses. And one way you do so is, you let them keep more money in their pocket. That’s how you encourage small-business growth. And by cutting the individual tax rates, which most small businesses pay because they’re sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, we are invigorating the small-business sector of America.

I believe this economy is going to be fine, because interest rates are low, inflation is low, and productivity is high. It’s also going to be fine because the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. That dream is a big dream for people. Today we’ve got with us David and Helen-Marie Berthold. They started their own business. It’s called Ehren-Haus Industries. It’s a plastics and wire company. They had a dream. They wanted to own their own business. They wanted to make employment opportunities available in North Carolina. They worked hard to build up their own business, and they’re pretty darn good about it, by the way. David and Marie won the 2001 Entrepreneurial Award from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Marie is the National Association of Women Business Owners Woman of the Year. They know what they’re doing.

But let me tell you what they’re worried about. They’re worried about overregulation. They see reams of regulations coming out of these bureaucracies at the Federal and State level. I look forward to working with Elizabeth Dole to make it easier for small businesses to prosper, not harder for small businesses to prosper, by reducing unnecessary regulations.

Let me tell you what else they’re worried about—and so am I. They’re worried that they’re not going to be able to leave their business to their family. If you’re a farmer

or you’re a rancher or you’re a small-business owner, the death tax is an incredibly punitive tax. See, people work all their life to build up their small business, like David and Helen-Marie have done. You’ve got farmers here in North Carolina, worked all their life to build up their farms and then want to leave it to their child. But the death tax oftentimes prevents people from doing that. It means a person’s assets are taxed twice. It means the Federal Government gets in between the owner of the asset and the person they want to leave it to. You need to have a United States Senator who speaks plainly on how bad the death tax is to America and make sure that the death tax is repealed forever.

Let me talk about one other issue right quick, about domestic policy. And I worry about the cost of health care, and I’m worried about the accessibility of health care. And one reason the cost of health care is up and one reason there’s fewer doctors practicing medicine is because there’s too many junk and frivolous lawsuits hurting our docs. We want people to have access to the courts, but you can’t have access to the courts when you’ve got frivolous lawsuits filed all over the place. And you’ve got docs being run out of business.

I was in Mississippi the other day, and I was talking to a young doctor who had moved down to the Delta. He followed his heart. He and his wife moved to the Delta from up north because they wanted to help people who couldn’t help themselves with medicine. The lawsuits, the trial lawyers have made it so hard for this guy to practice compassionate medicine, he said, “I’ve had it. I’m moving back home.”

Listen, we can have a health care system that’s responsive. We need a legal system that takes care of people who are injured. But we need a law at the Federal level, a medical liability reform law that prevents the plaintiff’s attorneys of America from driving up health care costs and driving good people out of medicine.

No, there’s a lot of work we’re going to do together to make sure that America is a stronger place, make sure the economy goes forward, make sure people get educated. We’ve also got to make sure America is a

secure place, safer place. It's the biggest challenge we have right now in America, is to protect the homeland.

You've just got to know that there's an enemy out there lurking around which hates America. They just do. And they hate us because of what we love. We love freedom, is what we love. We love to be able to worship an Almighty any way we see fit in America. We value our elections, although the candidates may be getting a little tired of it. We value open discourse. We value a free press. We value freedom. And so long as we love freedom, there's going to be an enemy out there which hates what we love. You've just got to understand that.

We're in a new era. Oceans no longer protect us. After September 11th, 2001, we learned a harsh lesson here in America that reality has changed. It used to be, when we were coming up or when we were younger, that two oceans could protect us. And there would be a conflict overseas, and the United States had the luxury of picking and choosing whether or not we wanted to participate in the conflict. We had that luxury, but it's changed. And America must understand it has changed. No longer can we assume oceans will protect us—as a matter of fact, quite the contrary. We must assume that the enemy is coming, and we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland.

That's why I started talking about the issue of Iraq. In the new reality, we must view all threats—we must take all threats seriously. We must have a cold, hard look at every threat facing America. And the man over there in Iraq is a threat. After all, he has gassed his own people. He hates what we stand for. He hates what America believes in. He has not only gassed his own people; he used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. He's used weapons of mass destruction on countries in his neighborhood. He has told the world he won't have weapons of mass destruction; for 11 years he's lied. Time and time and time again, he has lied. Time and time and time again, the United Nations has passed resolutions telling him, "Disarm." He's totally ignored the resolutions.

So here is our strategy. Our strategy is to make it clear to the United Nations, we want

you to be effective. We don't want you to be the League of Nations. We want you to be an effective United Nations. It's your choice to make. We're sending a clear message to Mr. Saddam Hussein, we believe in peace in America. We want the world to be peaceful, not only for ourselves but for people in your neighborhood. And so you must disarm. You said you would disarm, and you must disarm. It's your choice to make.

We have made the call to the international community and to Mr. Saddam Hussein, himself, to disarm. But my friends, if the United Nations won't act, if they're feeble in their responsibility, and if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, the United States will lead a coalition in the name of peace to disarm Saddam Hussein.

That's our responsibility. That's my responsibility to see as clearly as I can see, to anticipate true threats to our homeland and deal with them—deal with them in a way that enables me to tell you that I'm doing everything I can—or we're doing everything we can to protect the people. That's our most important responsibility.

There is a lot of good people working hard on your behalf, people at the Federal level, people at the State level, people at the local level, a lot of people. See, we're on alert. We understand the realities. We remember, and we're not forgetting what took place. We saw what happened in Indonesia. We understand the people we're dealing with. There's no therapy, by the way, that can heal these people. These are coldblooded killers. That's all they are.

And so, therefore, we got to do everything we can here at home to button up the homeland. That's why I asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security, a Department that's—whose job it is to make sure that number one priority of agencies involved with the homeland security is just that—is your protection. We need people under one agency, I felt, because in order to make sure that that becomes the number one priority, that some cultures within agencies need to change. And we could effect a cultural change better if there was one agency involved with your protection.

We're making some progress. The House voted a good bill, and the Senate is stuck.

The Senate hasn't gotten a homeland security bill. They're arguing over things. As a matter of fact they said, "We'll get you one, Mr. President, but you got to pay a price." And here's the price they wanted me to pay: They want to roll back an authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, which will allow me to suspend some work rules for the sake of national security.

See, I need to have that capacity, like every President since John Kennedy has had, to say that it's in our national interest that certain work rules be suspended, not that we're going to suspend collective bargaining rights, not that people can't accumulate the way they see fit, but that certain rules which may get in the way of our ability to protect America need to be suspended. I'll give you an example.

We thought it was important for Customs agents to wear radiological detection devices. After all, if you're worried about weapons of mass destruction coming into America, you want your Customs people to have a device that will help detect weapons of mass destruction. The union heads said, "Wait a minute. You can't make these people wear that. That's an issue over which we must have collective bargaining." See, because I had the power to suspend the rules, after 4 months' discussion, we got it done.

But the Senate is stuck. They're more interested in some special interests up there, and I'm not going to stand for it. It's not right for America. I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America, and Elizabeth Dole will be a strong ally.

The best way to protect America, however, is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And we're making progress. But it's a different kind of war. Used to, you could measure progress based upon the number of tanks that no—were out of commission or number of airplanes you shot down.

These people we fight are people who hide in caves or lurk around the dark corners of parts of the world and send youngsters to their suicidal death. See, that's the new kind of army we face. And they're tough. They're not as tough as we are, but they're tough. They hide. You got to understand when you

explain this to your children—it's important you do and—or people who are questioning why this is going on, you've got explain to them that here in America we value life. Everybody counts. Everybody is a precious soul. But they, the enemy, they don't value life. They've hijacked a great religion, and they murder. Innocent life doesn't matter to them. It just doesn't count. It doesn't—it's just not on their radar screen.

And there's a difference. And therefore, we fight a determined enemy. But the only way to deal with them is to keep our coalition strong and to hunt them down. You know, I laid out a doctrine—you just got to know it still stands—it said, "Either you're with us, either you love freedom and with nations which embrace freedom, or you're with the enemy. There's no in-between." And the doctrine still stands.

Sometimes—sometimes you'll see the progress on your TV screens, and sometimes you're not going to see the progress on your TV screens. It's a different kind of war. We're cutting off their money when we can find it. We're sharing intelligence, and we're hauling them in.

The other day a guy popped his head up, named bin al-Shibh. [*Laughter*] He's not a problem anymore. [*Laughter*] He was a significant character because he wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He was still out there plotting.

Slowly but surely, this great country, with our friends and allies, are hunting them down and bringing them to justice. It doesn't matter how long it takes, by the way. Yesterday I signed a defense appropriations bill, right there in the Rose Garden. I said two things about it. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And secondly, that was a message to friend and foe alike, it doesn't matter how long it takes. The increase in defense spending, the largest since Ronald Reagan, sends a clear message: We're in this deal for the long haul. See, we understand freedom. We understand responsibility. I don't know what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. I can't imagine. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed, so selfish, so materialistic that after

2001—September 2001, oh, we might have filed a lawsuit or two. They didn't know. They don't understand America. They don't understand America like I understand America. When it come to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to our obligations and duty for the future for our children, this country will remain strong, and this country will remain tough.

For those of you who have got relatives in the United States military, you tell them their Commander in Chief has got all the confidence in the world in those good troops. I'm glad they're on my side.

No, we got a lot of work to do, but I want you to know—I firmly believe this—that if we stay the course and do our duty, fulfill our obligation, we can achieve peace. That's my dream. My dream is not only for a peaceful America but to bring peace in parts of the world who have quit on peace.

I believe it's possible that we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I have a clear vision on how we can get there—going to have to renounce terror. We have to remain true to our principles. We have to remember that freedom is God-given—it's not United States-given—that freedom is a universal value, not an American value.

No, out of the evil done to America can come some great good, starting with peace in the world. And here at home, we can be a better America. You just got to understand there are pockets of despair in this country. People hurt—places where people are addicted or lost. People wonder whether or not the American experience, the so-called American Dream, is meant for them. My attitude is, so long as one of us hurts, all of us hurt. But I believe we can eradicate those pockets of despair and hopelessness. I believe that—not only by having a good education system, good health care, making sure that the welfare system is in place that encourages and helps people work. I believe we can accomplish that. But we've got to understand the limitations of Government.

Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. The way we can change America, one heart, one soul,

one conscience at a time, is for each of us to understand people hurt and put our arm around them and tell them we love them. If you want to change America, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, our vision—Elizabeth's vision and my vision—understands the great power of all faiths in our society. We understand a universal law of love. And we understand that America can change, that there are forces more powerful than addiction; there are force more power than—powerful than hopelessness; there are forces more powerful than loneliness.

My call to our fellow Americans, if you want to join the fight against evil, is do some good. Mentor a child, just like your mayor does. Mentor a child. You can save Charlotte, North Carolina, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Be a Boy Scout leader or a Girl Scout leader. Go to your Boy's Clubs or Girl's Clubs. Feed the hungry. Find housing for those who need a home. There's all kinds of ways you can help.

One person can't do everything. I recognize that. But each of us can be that one person doing something to make sure that the enemy which hits us understands that they hit the greatest, most powerful, and yet, at the same time, most compassionate country on the face of the Earth.

No, they hit us; they didn't know who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more hopeful day.

I want to thank you for your interest in our political process. I urge you to get out the vote. In the meantime, may God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the Charlotte Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole and her husband, former Senator Bob Dole; President Jiang Zemin of China; Carolyn Grant, candidate for North Carolina's 13th Congressional District; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Columbia, South Carolina

October 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for coming out today.

Audience member. I love Bush!

The President. And I love South Carolina. [Laughter]

We've got a lot of friends here. I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to talk about a couple of things. I want to talk about some of the challenges facing our country. We've got some steep hills to climb, but there's no doubt in my mind we can climb them. After all, we're the finest nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to talk a little politics with you. You see, there's no question in my mind that if you're interested in the State of the South Carolina, and if you're interested in the future of this State, you need to have Mark Sanford as the next Governor. And there's also no question in my mind, one, that you've been really well represented by the great Strom Thurmond.

I'm really proud to be able to serve with the Senator. As a matter of fact, he came by the other day. We were talking about an important issue, and he reminded me that early December is his 100th birthday. [Laughter] I couldn't tell if he was hinting or not, so I took the bait and invited him over to the White House for his 100th birthday party. [Laughter] So he's coming.

So you've got to make sure you replace this good man with somebody who can do the job, somebody who will do what's right for South Carolina, and somebody who will make the strong stands for America. No question in my mind, the right man to take the place of Strom Thurmond is soon-to-be United States Senator Lindsey Graham.

I appreciate Jenny Sanford being here, your next first lady. She brought those four Sanford boys with her. [Laughter] Speaking about first ladies, you drew the short straw. See, if Graham and Sanford were smart, they'd have asked First Lady Laura Bush to come instead of me. But I—he said he did. [Laughter] The reason she couldn't come, well, it rained in Crawford. [Laughter] And that's where she is, and she's sweeping the

porch because the President of China is coming tomorrow. [Laughter]

But she sends her love. You know, when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian. That always gets one cheer. [Laughter] But you know what I'm talking about; that's a job that requires a good heart and deep care about our children. Anyway, when I asked her to marry me, she was that, and she didn't particularly like politics—[laughter]—and she didn't like politicians. [Laughter] And now here she is, as a fabulous First Lady for America.

I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who joined us here. That would be Congressman Henry Brown and Congressman Joe Wilson. Some of the statehouse folks are here, and they're doing a fine job on behalf of the South Carolinians. That would be Bob Peeler, David Wilkins, and Charlie Condon and Jim Miles. I'm honored that they're here. You've got a great slate of candidates running with—running with Mark.

Let me tell you why I'm here. I want you all to understand, it's important to do your duties as Americans. It's important that you vote. It's important that you find good candidates. I've obviously got a few suggestions for you here. [Laughter] It's important that you go to your coffee shops and houses of worship and your community centers and remind your fellow South Carolinians they have a duty; they've got a duty to this country; they've got a duty to democracy to participate. It doesn't matter whether they're Republican, Democrat, could care less about parties. They have a duty, and so you need to go out there and round up the vote.

I want to thank you for what you have done in the political process. But as importantly now, I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is to turn out that vote and make sure this good slate of candidates win on November the 5th.

And there's a reason—there's a reason here in South Carolina. You need a Governor who's willing to change the tone of this State. You know, there's just too much partisan bickering that goes on in the statehouse. You need somebody who is going to rise above it all, somebody who doesn't need a poll or

a focus group to tell him how to think, somebody who stands on principle, somebody that's going to be the Governor of everybody when he wins. And that person is Mark Sanford.

I appreciate his commitment to education. When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to tell them that education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's by far the most important priority of any Governor. That is, educating every child. Mark and I share a philosophy. It's a philosophy that's going to be good for South Carolina when he wins. It's a philosophy that starts with this concept: Every child can learn. You see—and I mean every child, not just those who live in nice suburban districts—every child. If you believe that, it's historic for educational excellence for every single child. We've got to have you, a Governor who's willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, that's what's going to happen. And so you've got to start with a Governor who's optimistic and bold in his vision about every child being able to learn. That's how Mark thinks. But you've also got to have a Governor who's willing to challenge the bureaucracy and trust the local people to chart the path to excellence for every child.

We believe in local control of schools. This year, we're going to be sending \$600 million of Federal money to help South Carolina run its schools. But for the first time, thanks to the work of Lindsey Graham in the United States Congress and the other Congressmen here, Henry and Joe, we're starting to ask this question: What are the results? See, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child is learning. If you believe every child can learn to read, then it seems to make sense to ask the question, is it happening? Are the schools in South Carolina meeting the objective to teach every single child, not just a few—every child how to read? So you're asking the question for the first time.

You've got to have a Governor who's willing to hold people to account, who's willing not to be captured by special interest. The only interest Mark cares about are the children. That's his special interest. You've got

to be willing to have high standards, local control of schools, and you've got to know whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And then once you know, you must have a Governor who's willing to praise those hardworking teachers for being successful. And for those of you who teach, thanks for what you're doing.

But if you believe every child can learn and you find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, for the good of South Carolina, you better have a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo, and that Governor is going to be Mark Sanford.

And I look forward to working with Mark when we continue to work on welfare reform. Welfare reform is an important issue, because if a person gets trapped in the Government's cycle, they won't be able to realize their human worth. People can find dignity through work. So one of the things I'm going to do when I'm the President, if they reauthorize welfare, is to work with Mark Sanford to make sure that there's training programs available, so a man or a woman can find work, can be able to see the dignity of work. He understands that. He understands that, if you're trapped in Government, it will sap your soul and drain your spirit.

Everybody counts in the State of South Carolina. And so when we work on important issues that deal with the human condition, we've got to work in a way that understands human dignity is found by empowering each and every person. Mark Sanford understands that clearly.

No, he's going to make you a good Governor. I urge you to—as they're coming down the pike, to support this good candidate and his family with your vote, with your energy, with your enthusiasm, and sure enough, on election day, you will have Mark Sanford as your Governor.

And I'm looking forward to working with Lindsey Graham. And I don't need a Senator from South Carolina where I've got to worry about where he lights on any issue. [*Laughter*] You don't need a Senator from your State that kind of is for one thing one day and the heat gets on and changes his position the next day. That's not going to serve your State

well. It's certainly going to make it harder to get an agenda through that will make America safer, stronger, and better. And after all, that's what we need to do, to work together to make America a safer country and a stronger country and a better country.

When it comes to making America a stronger country, that starts with making sure our economy continues to expand. My attitude is, any time somebody who wants to work and can't find a job—says we've got a problem. My attitude is, is that we want to help people put food on the table. If people are struggling to get ahead, we've got to do everything we can in Washington, DC, to expand the job base.

And it starts with understanding how our economy works. The page of the textbook that we have read says this: If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan that Lindsey Graham supported came at the right time in American economic history.

Over the next 10 years, that tax relief plan will put about \$14.9 billion in the pockets of South Carolinian citizens. That's your money to begin with, by the way. Listen carefully to the rhetoric of these candidates when they start saying, "Oh, we're going to spend the Government's money." They seem to forget whose money they're spending in Washington, DC. You listen carefully to the rhetoric of the candidates. You want you a candidate who understands whose money we've got in Washington, DC. And when you have more of your own money, not the Government's money but your money, in your pocket, it means it's more likely somebody is South Carolina is going to find work.

But we've got a problem. See, the Senate, on the one hand, giveth, and on the other hand, taketh away. And the tax relief we plan—passed is not permanent. It's temporary, which means some in Washington, DC, want that \$15 billion, more or less, of tax relief, of your money, to go to the Government coffers. And that would be bad for

the economy. And that would be bad for South Carolina.

The death tax is bad. The marriage penalty is bad. The child credit is good. Reducing income tax rates helps small business. For the sake of economic vitality, you need to have a United States Senator who will make the tax cuts permanent, and that's Lindsey Graham.

He also understands the quality of life for our seniors is important. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck. For the sake of our seniors, elect a Senator who will work with me to make sure Medicare is modern and our seniors have got a prescription drug plan.

A stronger America is an America who's got a good Federal bench. One of my jobs is to nominate good, solid citizens, good lawyers, good jurists to our benches. It's a solemn obligation of the President. Yet, the way this Senate is structured, they have done a lousy job. The percentage of our judges which have been approved is the lowest in a long time. And when my judges have made it to the floor, they have been—their records have been distorted because of petty politics, special interest politics in Washington, DC.

I named a good man named Dennis Shedd to represent the fourth circuit court. He's a good jurist. For 17 months, he's still waiting for a vote. The two Senators from South Carolina supported him. Both Republican and Democrat Senators supported him. For 17 months, he's been able to get—unable to get his hearing in the Senate, and we've got a vacancy problem. We've got a vacancy problem because the Senate is playing too much politics. We've got a vacancy problem because they don't like it that I'm nominating good people who are going to strictly interpret the Constitution and not use the bench from which to legislate. We've got a vacancy problem on the Federal court, and one way to solve that is to put Lindsey Graham into the United States Senate.

We've got problems with our economy. It's not growing as robust. And I can promise you I'm going to work with Senator Graham to do everything to make sure people find work and work with Senator Graham to make sure the people have got a good health care

system, work with Senator Graham to make sure the judiciary is strong. And I intend to work with Senator Graham on the most pressing problem facing us, and that's our security of our homeland.

You've just got to understand there's an enemy out there that hates America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love our free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not changing. We're not backing down, and the enemy can't stand that.

The more we love, the more they hate. So our most important job is to protect the American people from further harm, from further attack. And they're out there. People in Australia, many of them grieve now because they're just not—coldblooded killers hit them in Bali. You may remember that. That's all part of this campaign to terrorize the free world, to try to get us to retreat, forget what we're made out of. They don't understand America. They just don't understand us.

They must have thought after September the 11th, 2001, we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's not us. See, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to the defense of our people, when it comes to protecting innocent life, we value innocent life. Every life matters in America. To these killers, no life matters.

When it comes to protecting this country, we'll be plenty tough. When it comes to protecting this country, we've also got to be realistic about the new world we're in. Prior to September the 11th, 2001, we used to think two oceans could protect us from harm. I remember thinking about conflicts and realizing our country could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to participate in the conflict but never really worried about whether or not the conflict would hurt us here at home. For a long time, our country felt like oceans could keep us immune from personal attack, and people wouldn't suffer here at home. We learned a horrible lesson, that in the new wars of the 21st century, we're the battleground—we're one of the battlegrounds.

And that's why I've asked our country to think seriously about Saddam Hussein in

Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He made that promise to the world. He's hiding; he's deceiving; he's lying about whether he has them or not. Not only does he have them, he used them. He used them against people in his neighborhood. He used them against his own people. This is a man who has lied about whether or not he possesses weapons of mass destruction, a man who uses them, a man who hates America, a man who hates our friends. He's a threat to peace.

The United Nations decided they were going to deal with Saddam a while ago. Sixteen resolutions have been passed in the United Nations, resolution after resolution after resolution, calling him to account. And he's ignored them. So I made a decision on behalf of our country that I would go to that body and, for the sake of peace, remind them they have an obligation to honor those resolutions, to do something about them. I made the case that you have a choice, United Nations, to keep the peace by showing some backbone. You can be the United Nations or the League of Nations. It's your choice.

And my message to Saddam Hussein is clear as well: You've said you would disarm. For the sake of peace, you said you would get rid of the weapons of mass destruction. It's your choice to make. And so we're working with the international community, reminding Saddam Hussein of his obligations. But I want you all to know, for the sake of peace, for the sake of the security of the United States and our friends and allies, if the United Nations won't deal with him, if he refuses to hear the call for peace, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

As we're clear-eyed about the threats we face overseas, we must be clear-eyed about the threats at home as well. There's a lot of good people working hard to protect you. We're now on alert. We understand the new reality. There's people at the Federal level and the State level and the local level working a lot of long hours to chase down any lead, any hint. Anytime we think somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're responding; we're disrupting; we're

denying; we're making sure we fulfill our solemn obligations to protect you.

But there's more we can do. And so that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to pass a Department of Homeland Security. You see, there's over 100 agencies involved with securing our homeland. They're kind of scattered around up there in Washington. It seemed to make sense to me to put them under one umbrella organization, so that the priority can be set and, if need be, cultures can be changed, so we can get people focused on doing the most important job they've got. And we're making progress.

Part of the progress was made because the House of Representatives—Lindsey Graham was strong on this, and Joe and Henry voted with us—was to create a Department of Homeland Security that would give an administration the capacity to manage the Department, to be able to protect you. It's stuck in the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate because the Senate wants to extract a price from the administration. Every President since John Kennedy has had the ability to act in a national security interest. He had the ability to suspend work rules if they got in the way of protecting the homeland or got in the way of national security, but the Senate wants to take that away. Here we are at war, and all of a sudden they decide I shouldn't have the same authority as every President since John F. Kennedy. I'd have that authority for the Department of Agriculture—[laughter]—but not for the Department of Homeland Security.

Secondly, I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time. We've got a border control issue. We need to know who's coming into our country. We need to know who's coming in and who's going out. We don't know what they're bringing in. Yet, on the border we've got good, hardworking people, fine people, working in three different agencies, Border Patrol, INS, and Customs. Some sectors of the border they've got different strategies; they wear different uniforms. But yet, the work rules prevent us from coordinating them. For the sake of the national security, I need a Senator who will join me in making sure that we can structure the agency so it works.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're—yesterday I signed a defense bill, right there in the Rose Garden. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. The reason why was because any time we put our troops into harm's way, we owe it to our troops and we owe it to the loved ones of the troops to make sure they've got the best training, the best possible pay, and the best equipment. And our troops are good. They're really good.

And the other message was, to our friend and foe, it doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it takes to win this war on terror. There's no calendar on my desk, right there in the great Oval Office. There's not a calendar that says, you know, by such and such a date, we're hauling them home; by such and such a date, we're going to forget our obligations to our future; by such and such a date that we say, fine, let them sit out there. That's not the way America thinks.

It doesn't matter how much it costs. It doesn't matter how long it takes. This great country will defend our freedoms and defend our people. And we're making some pretty good progress. Remember the doctrine that said, "Either you're with us or you're with them." It still stands. And so we've got a lot of people working together to haul them in.

See, this isn't the kind of war that some of the old vets here are used to: You destroy a bunch of tanks, and you make progress. That's not the kind of war this is. See, we fight these killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a new kind of army. That's why we've got to do a better job of cutting off their money, of sharing intelligence, of finding where they hide, of finding these kind of—putting the sunlight on these dark corners of the world where they kind of slither around. That's what we got to do.

But we're making progress. And sometimes you'll see it, and sometimes you're just not going to see it. The other day one of them popped his head up, bin al-Shibh. He's no longer a problem. [Laughter] Slowly but

surely, we're doing our duty to our country. Slowly but surely, we're hunting these killers down, one at a time.

And that's what we've got to do. But you know how I feel about this, that by being tough and strong and clear, by remembering that freedom is not American-blessed, it is God-given, it's universal, remembering that freedom is a part of what we think about—we remember those values that make us a great nation, we will keep the peace—that the mission of this administration is to make the world more peaceful, that the reason we do what we do is because we believe in freedom and we believe in peace.

And it's going to happen. See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. They gave us a chance, a chance we will seize, to not only protect America and keep America peaceful, but because we value all life, everybody counts, that we want there to be peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace.

We have a chance to achieve the peace in the Middle East. We have a chance to achieve the peace in South Asia. By being strong and determined, and resolute in our mission, we can make the peace.

And here at home, we can make America a better place, too. See, out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good—incredible good. You just got to know—and I know you know—that there are pockets of despair and loneliness in our country. There are people who are hurt, people who are addicted, people who wonder when you say, “American Dream,” they don't understand what that means.

My attitude is, so long as one of us hurts, we all hurt. It's an opportunity, though, however, for us to deal with these pockets of despair. Government can help. We will. We'll worry about education. We'll worry about making sure the welfare system works. We have a Faith-Based Initiative to encourage people of faith to love their neighbor. But Government is limited in its capacity. It can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

That is done when a fellow American has heard the universal call to love a neighbor

just like you'd like to be loved yourself; find somebody who hurts, puts their arm around him, and says, “I love you. What can I do to help make your day?”

Each of us—each of us can help change America, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. Each of us can make a difference in making sure that the enemy hit us, but out of that evil and harm and hurt and tears can come a more compassionate and decent society. There's no question in my mind, no question in my mind, that this great country will lead the world to peace. And there's no question in my mind that this great country, the hope of this great country, the great promise of America can have—can shine in every neighborhood and every home.

And do you know why? Because we're the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth. Thank you for coming.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the Jimmy Doolittle Flight Facility Hangar. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Mark Sanford, and his wife, Jenny Sanford, and their children Marshall, Landon, Bolton, and Blake; senatorial candidate Lindsey Graham; President Jiang Zemin of China; South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Bob Peeler; South Carolina Speaker of the House David Wilkins; South Carolina Attorney General Charlie Condon; South Carolina Secretary of State Jim Myles; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks in Auburn, Alabama

October 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. You all go ahead and be seated. Thanks for coming.

I have the honor of being the second United States President to ever visit Auburn University. The first was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I don't know how he started his speech, but here's how I'm going to start mine: War Eagle!

Audience member. War Eagle, hey!

The President. I want to thank all you War Eagles for being here. I particularly want to thank your president, President Walker. You did a fine thing when you picked a native Texan to run Auburn. [Laughter] And he's doing a fine job.

And I also want to thank so very much Steven Renfroe, who's running the baseball program here. We'll leave behind some of my entourage to make sure the infield is smooth after we leave. [Laughter]

I particularly thank you all for coming. It's a huge honor to be here. It's a great pleasure to be able to come and talk about some of the challenges which face our Nation, talk about why I'm so optimistic that we can face any challenge before us, to talk about your duty as citizens. You see, we're almost upon an election, and you have a responsibility as American citizens to exercise your right, to exercise your freedom to go to the polls.

I think you have a duty to go to your coffee shops and your community centers and your houses of worship and ask others to go to the polls. It doesn't matter whether they're Republican or Democrat or don't give a hoot about politics. You ought to remind them of their duty.

And I suggest when you go, if you're interested in your State and you're interested in your country, that you remind them to vote for Bob Riley as your next Governor. And as you're rounding up those votes, as you show your interest and concern for our country and our country's future, make sure you send to the United States Congress a man I can work with, and that man is Mr. Mike Rogers.

There's a lot of reasons you ought to be for these two, but a real good reason is, they both married well. [Laughter] Like me, they married above themselves. I'm honored to be with Beth Rogers and the next first lady of Alabama, Patsy Riley.

Speaking about First Ladies, Laura sends her very best. She campaigned for Riley the other day in Mobile. I told him he drew the short straw here.

I just spoke to her. We're—it's raining in Crawford, Texas, and that's where she is. She's on our place in Crawford. And tomorrow we are hosting the President of China, but she's sweeping the porch. [Laughter] But

she sends her best. You know, when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian. [Applause] There's always one in every crowd. [Laughter] And that one in every crowd, like Laura, has got to have a good heart, cares deeply about the school children. And by the way, for those of you who are going to Auburn and thinking about becoming school children—a school teacher—[laughter]—or a public school librarian, I want to thank you for that. It's a really important profession, it's a noble cause.

You know, when I asked her to marry me, she wasn't interested in politics and didn't like politicians. [Laughter] Now she's the First Lady of the United States, and she is doing a fabulous job on behalf of America. I'm really proud of her. People now know why I asked her to marry me. A lot of them are wondering why she said yes. [Laughter] But she sends her best.

I'm also honored to be here with a fabulous United States Senator named Jeff Sessions. I like working with Jeff. We work well together. We need more Senators like him. One of my most important responsibilities is to name good judges, is to find good people to serve the Federal bench. I can count on his support. The problem is, I can't count on a lot of Senators' support. They've been playing politics with my judges. I put good, honorable, honest people on there whose job isn't to try to rewrite law, but to strictly interpret the United States Constitution. They've got a lousy record in the United States Senate. No, they don't like those kind of judges up there, so they play politics with them, petty politics. For the sake of a sound judiciary, we need to change the leadership in the United States Senate.

I appreciate Congressman Terry Everett; I appreciate Spence Bachus and Sonny Calhoun, three fine Members of the United States Congress. And I'm glad they are here today. And I'm also glad to be up here with Jo Bonner, who's going to take Sonny Calhoun's place, and he'll do just as good a job in the United States Congress as Sonny did. But you've got some good ones. You've got some good ones from Alabama up in Washington, and I'm proud to work with them, and I'm proud to call them friends.

You've also got a fine slate of people running for office here, good, honest, honorable Americans. I hope you get out and support them. It's important.

You know, when it comes to talking about the Governor, I know something about being a Governor. I was one. And it seems like to me that, particularly when you look around the statehouses, you want you a Governor who's going to elevate the discourse, who won't play the same old, tired politics of name calling and slashing and burning. You've got to have a Governor who's willing to commit himself to change the tone in the statehouse, to bring people together to get something done on behalf of the citizens. You've got to have you a Governor who will be honorable and honest and full of integrity, and that next Governor is Mr. Bob Riley.

He's got his priorities straight. Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. Therefore, you better elect yourself a Governor who makes education the number one priority. And that Governor has got to have the right attitude about public education.

See, you've got to have a Governor like Bob Riley, who is willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, somebody who believes every child can learn, somebody who's willing to set high standards, somebody who refuses to leave any child behind. No, you've got to have you a Governor who sets high standards but also understands that local control of schools is how you achieve excellence for every child in the State of Alabama.

The Federal Government is going to send \$700 million of your tax money out of Washington, DC, to help the schools here. And in return for that money, we're beginning to ask the fundamental question as to whether or not our children are learning, whether or not they're learning to read and write, add and subtract. See, that's a fundamental question that Riley is going to ask as Governor. You've got to ask that question.

If you believe every child can learn, then it makes sense to want to know whether every child is learning. And when they are, we'll praise the teachers. But when we find children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, you better have you a Governor who's willing to challenge the sta-

tus quo. No child should be left behind in the State of Alabama.

I appreciate the fact that Bob Riley is an entrepreneur. He started his own business. If you're worried about jobs in the State of Alabama, it seems like you better have somebody who knows what it's like to create a job, somebody who's actually met a payroll, somebody who can empathize with the small-business owners of the State of Alabama. And that person is Mr. Bob Riley, your next Governor.

And finally, I look forward to working with Bob when he's your Governor on one of the most important initiatives I'm trying to push in Washington, DC, and it's a Faith-Based Initiative. It's an initiative that understands that Government can hand out money. Government can't solve a lot of the harms and hurts in our society. If you're really interested in saving people's lives, if you're interested in a society which is compassionate, decent, we must empower the houses of worship, the places of faith, to step in where Government has failed and to provide love and compassion.

I'm not talking about one religion; I'm talking about all religions. All religions have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Bob Riley and I look forward to unleashing the great strength of the country, and that's the compassionate hearts of our fellow citizens to solve some of the needs and hurts in our society.

I'm also here to make it clear to you, as clear as I can for the people of this district: You need to send Mike Rogers to the United States Congress. And there are a lot of reasons why. We've got some big hurdles in the country, and I need a man up there with whom I can work representing this great district.

One of the hurdles I face is that our economy isn't as good as it should be. It's bumping along. Anytime somebody is trying to find work and can't find a job in America, I think we've got a problem. Anytime somebody wants to put food on the table and they can't find a job, we need to do something about it.

Except our philosophy is different from some of them in Washington. The role of

Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small-business owner can grow to be a big business, in which people with the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes, in which job creation is strong and evident. And the best way to do that is to let people keep more of their own money. Here's the textbook we read from. It says that if you let a person have more of their own money, then they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find a job.

The tax cuts came at exactly the right time in U.S. economic history. And these tax cuts—and that tax relief plan is good for small-business owners. It's good for your ranchers. It's good for your farmers. It's good for working people. It's good for everybody. The tax relief plan did something on the marriage penalty. See, we believe the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. The Tax Code is putting the death tax on its way to extinction.

But there's a problem. See, the way the Senate voted it out, that after 10 years from the time of enactment, the tax relief goes away. And that's not right. It creates uncertainty in the Tax Code. It creates uncertainty for people wanting to plan their business, to create jobs. In order to make sure that our economy grows, in order to make sure the job base is strong, you need to have a Congressman who will join me in making sure the tax relief plan we passed is permanent and doesn't go away.

I look forward to working with Mike to make sure the country is a stronger country. By the way, one way we need to make the country a stronger country is to make sure our health care system works, particularly for our elderly. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of a stronger America, for the sake of our seniors, we must reform Medicare and provide prescription drugs for the elderly.

No, there are a lot of issues that we can work on together, and I look forward to

working with him. I'm not going to have to worry about his vote, and that's important. I know he stands solid and square with the people of this district, and that's important. But the biggest issue we're going to have to work on is protecting America. The biggest issue we face, the biggest issue my administration faces and future Congresses are going to face, is the protection of you.

You see, there's an enemy out there which hates us. They hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom. We love freedom, and we're not going to change. We love freedom with every fiber in our body. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God freely in this society. We appreciate people's right to express themselves. We love the freedom of a political process where people can vote. We love a free press. We love every single thing about freedom, and we're not changing.

And as a result, the enemy hates us. I want you to know that not only does our love for freedom differentiate us from an enemy; our value for life differentiates us from the enemy. You see, in our view, everybody is precious; every life matters; everybody counts. But the enemy we face is nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who, on the one hand, hijack a great religion and, on the other hand, kill with impunity.

And so we've got a big chore ahead of us. See, it used to be that oceans could protect America. I remember conflicts across the sea, and it didn't seem to bother us because oceans were there to guard us. After September the 11th, 2001, we've learned a new lesson, that if there's an enemy out there that hates us, the battlefield can come home.

And it's a lesson we've got to remember—it's a lesson I'll certainly remember—which means that we not only have to be alert for the known enemy, the obvious enemy, the killers that bombed Bali—Bali—or continue to try to take innocent life. But we've got to worry about people who've been a problem for a while and are going to be a problem over time. And I'm talking about Saddam Hussein.

He's a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He lied and deceived the world. He's a person who not only has weapons of mass destruction;

he has used weapons of mass destruction. He's used them in the neighborhood, and he's used them on his own people. This dictator has defied the world over and over and over again. He also can't stand America, can't stand our friends, can't stand our allies. He hates freedom.

I decided to go to the United Nations and make the case that it's time to deal with this man. It's time to hold him to his word. It's time to disarm him. It's also time for the United Nations to show us whether or not they're going to be a body which can keep the peace, whether or not they're going to be the United Nations or whether or not they're going to be the League of Nations, an ineffective body. It's their choice to make.

I hope they act. I hope they show the world that this body is capable of keeping the peace. I hope they show the world that after 16 resolutions which were defied by Mr. Saddam Hussein, that the United Nations finally acts in the name of a peaceful world. I hope that Saddam Hussein hears the call for freedom-loving nations and does what he said he would do, which is disarm. But if he doesn't, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our children, for our children's children, if he doesn't act, the United Nations will not act, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Mr. Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I say that because I believe in peace. I say that because we must be clear-eyed about the real world. I say that because I understand, after September the 11th, the world has changed for America. I say that because our most important obligation is to protect you, which is why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join me in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

See, there's over 100 agencies scattered about in Washington, involved with protecting you. They're all over the place up there, and it felt like to me that they ought to be under one organization, so that if the number one priority is to protect the homeland, it becomes the number one priority of scattered agencies. If protecting the homeland is important, it seems like to me that under one umbrella, a new Department, that

it will be easier to change cultures. And we're making progress.

By the way, you need to know a lot of good people are working on your behalf, at the Federal level, at the State level, at the local level. If we get any kind of hint, any evidence whatsoever that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're moving. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can to protect the homeland.

But we can do a better job. And that's why the House of Representatives acted, and I appreciate Bob Riley's vote and the other Congressmen here's vote to get that out of the House. But it's stuck in the United States Senate. The Senate actually wants me to give up some power in order to accept their version of the bill. They want me to give up a power that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, which is the capacity to suspend collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security. And I'm not going to accept that.

I need to be able to move people to the right place at the right time to protect you. We've got a border issue. We need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and are they leaving America. We've got three agencies on the border, INS and Customs and Border Patrol. They're full of fine people, really good, hard-working Americans. But in some sectors, they've got different strategies; they wear different uniforms. We need a seamless capacity to protect America. The Senate needs to give me the flexibility and the authority to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America.

But the best way to protect America, the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to protect our families, is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that is exactly what we are going to do.

It's a different kind of war. In the old days, you could count the number of tanks destroyed or ships that were sunk or airplanes shot out of the air, and you say you're making progress. This is a war where the leaders hide in a cave, or they kind of hide in a dark corner of one of these cities around the world, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal

deaths. They don't care about innocent life. They're coldblooded killers. And therefore, the best thing for us to do is to get them on the run, to hunt them down and to bring them to justice, which is exactly what is happening.

I want you to know that therapy isn't going to work. [Laughter] The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," it still stands. And there's a lot of good folks hunting these people down. Sometimes you'll see us making progress, and sometimes you won't. We've probably hauled in a couple thousand of them so far. And like number weren't so lucky.

The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. [Laughter] He is no longer a problem to the United States of America.

No, we've got a lot of work to do. There's still a lot of heavy lifting. There's still a lot of killers on the loose. But I've unleashed one of the finest militaries in the history of mankind. Yesterday I signed the defense appropriations bill. It's the largest increase in defense spending since President Ronald Reagan was in office. I did so because I wanted to send two messages. One, anytime we put our troops, our youngsters, into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay. We owe it to our soldiers, and we owe it to their loved ones.

And I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to answering history's call, we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that one day the date is going to pop up and say, it's time to pull them in. It's not the way I think. It's not the way America thinks. We've been called to action. Our generation has been given a charge to keep. We are responsible for this country's safety. We're responsible for our freedoms. And the message I sent by signing that defense bill, to the enemy: You've got a big problem with America, is what you've got.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind when they hit us. [Laughter] You know, they thought we were so materialistic, so selfish, so self-absorbed, that after Sep-

tember the 11th, 2001 we might have filed a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] That's all we were going to do.

No, they don't understand this country. They don't understand the courage of our people. They don't understand the depth of love we have for freedom. They don't understand that we're a nation full of responsible citizens who understand we have a duty to future generations of Americans. That's what they don't understand. And they're going to pay a serious price for misunderstanding America.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that we can achieve peace if we are strong and focused and diligent, if we remember that freedom is not an American blessing; it's a God-given blessing for people all around the world. If we remain true to our beliefs, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for people here at home. We can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, amidst this talk about going to get them and hauling them in, you've just got to know that I believe in peace. And I believe peace is going to come. I believe peace is going to come.

And here at home, I know that out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate country. See, amidst our plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people when they hear the word American Dream, they don't know what you're talking about. They don't have a dream. They're lost souls. Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. That happens when a fellow American puts their arms around somebody in need and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you, brother? How can I help you?" No, the best way to fight evil here in America is to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. See, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which change our country.

I met Shirley Rose Glisson today at Air Force One in Montgomery. She came out because she is a—she's one of the soldiers

in the armies of compassion right here in Auburn. She goes to Auburn United Methodist. She decided she was going to start a food pantry with members of her church. They now feed 30 hungry families. It's this act and thousands of acts like it which define the true character of our country.

You know, it's interesting about what happened on September the 11th. A lot of our citizens have taken a step back. They wonder what life is all about. The most vivid example of the new American spirit took place on Flight 93, people flying across the country. They heard the plane was being used as a weapon. They were on their cell phones to their loved ones. They said goodbye. They said, "I love you." They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

You've got to understand that patriotism—patriotism or the American spirit can be served all kinds of ways. It is more than just putting your hand over your heart. It is serving a great nation. And you can do so by helping somebody who hurts, somebody in need.

No, the enemy hit us. They had no idea who they were hitting. There's no doubt in my mind that this great nation can lead the world to peace. There's no doubt in my mind that we can have a more compassionate tomorrow for everybody who lives in this country because, my fellow Americans, we're citizens of the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:33 p.m. at Hitchcock Field at the Plainsman Park Baseball Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to William F. Walker, president, and Steven Renfroe, head baseball coach, Auburn University; gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley and his wife, Patsy; Mike Rogers, candidate for Alabama's Third Congressional District, and his wife, Beth; Jo Bonner, candidate for Alabama's First Congressional District; President Jiang Zemin of China; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Statement on Apprehension of Suspects in the Washington Area Sniper Attacks

October 24, 2002

The entire Nation is grateful to all of the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials who have worked with such great urgency and with so little rest to solve the sniper case. Their efforts resulted in the apprehension of those considered suspects in the sniper shootings. We are also grateful to the citizens who kept their eyes open and provided information to the police. We will keep the victims and their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers. The hunt for a merciless killer has been difficult—and America greatly appreciates all the good men and women who fight crime and uphold justice across this great country.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

October 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002. The previous submission covered events from June 1, 2002, through July 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under United Nations auspices. As in the past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston provided diplomatic support to the process. Our new Ambassador to Cyprus, Michael Klosson, provided similar support when he assumed his post in August. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang Zemin of China in Crawford, Texas

October 25, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome the President of China to our ranch and to Texas.

I want to start off by saying how sad Laura and I are about the sudden and tragic death of United States Senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, and one of his children, as well as the death of others on that private airplane. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy goes to their sons, their loved ones, their friends, and the people of Minnesota. Paul Wellstone was a man of deep convictions, a plain-spoken fellow who did his best for his State and for his country. May the good Lord bless those who grieve.

This is the third meeting of the President and me, and our personal relations and the relations between our two countries are strong. In our meeting, we discussed the threat posed by the Iraqi regime. China supports Iraq's strict compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. And today we discussed and I urged President Jiang to support a new Security Council resolution demanding Iraq fully disarm itself of weapons of mass destruction.

The President and I also discussed and expressed concern about the acknowledgment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a program to enrich uranium. We agreed that peace and stability in northeast Asia must be maintained. Both sides will continue to work towards a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula and a peaceful resolution of this issue.

The United States and China are also allies in the fight against global terror, and our two countries are deepening our economic relations. It is inevitable that nations the size of the United States and China will have differences, but the President and I agree that we need to resolve our differences through mutual understanding and respect.

On human rights, I emphasized that no nation's efforts to counter terrorism should be used to justify suppressing minorities or silencing peaceful dissent. I shared with the President my views on the importance of China freeing prisoners of conscience, giving fair treatment to peoples of faith, and preserving the rights of Hong Kong citizens. I also spoke of the importance of respecting human rights in Tibet and encouraged more dialog with Tibetan leaders.

On proliferation, I expressed our continuing concerns about transfers of sensitive technologies.

On Taiwan, I emphasized to the President that our "one China" policy, based on the three communiques in the Taiwan Relations Act, remains unchanged. I stressed the need for dialog between China and Taiwan that leads to a peaceful resolution of their differences.

The United States seeks and is building a relationship with China that is candid, constructive, and cooperative. We will continue building this relationship through contacts at many levels in months to come, including a new dialog on security issues.

I'm pleased to announce that Vice President Cheney will visit China next spring. The United States and China believe that a strong relationship between our nations will help to build a more peaceful world.

Thank you for coming, President Jiang.

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I just learned that one plane crashed. I would like to express my deep condolences for the loss of the Senate. And also I would like to express my condolences to the bereaved family.

I'm very pleased to visit President Bush at his ranch. I would like to thank President Bush and Mrs. Bush for the warm hospitality accorded to us. President Bush and I had a very good conversation. We exchanged views on some important issues of mutual interest. The meeting has been constructive and productive.

We all agree that China and the U.S. are two great nations sharing extensive and important common interests. The two sides should increase exchanges and cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, educational and

other fields. We should stepup dialog and coordination on major international and regional issues, and constantly move our constructive and cooperative relationship forward.

We are satisfied with our counterterrorism cooperation of the past year. We agreed to strengthen such cooperation in a two-way and mutually beneficial manner and work together against terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

We have had a frank exchange of views on the Taiwan question, which is of concern to the Chinese side. I have elaborated my Government's basic policy of peaceful unification and one country, two systems, for the settlements of the Taiwan question. President Bush has reiterated his clear-cut position that the U.S. Government abides by the "one China" policy.

We did, indeed, discuss the nuclear issue concerning DPRK. I point out that China has all along been supporter of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and wants peace and stability there. I agreed with President Bush that we will continue to consult on this issue and work together to ensure a peaceful resolution of the problem.

We have also discussed human rights, religion, and other issues. I told President Bush that democracy and human rights are the common pursuits of mankind and that China's human rights situation is at its best time, characterized by constant improvement. Regarding our differences in these areas, the Chinese side stands ready to continue exchanging views with the U.S. side on basis of mutual respect and seeking common ground while shelving differences, with a view to deepening understanding and enhancing consensus.

I'm confident that, so long as the two sides persist in viewing and handling their relations from a strategic height and with a long-term perspective and keep expanding cooperation and enhancing mutual trust, China-U.S. relations will be able to grow steadily and bring benefits to both peoples.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

I told the President that we would—asked him if we could take some questions. He said,

"Sure." There will be two questions from each side. And I promised him I would do my very best to make sure that the questioners would only ask one question, if you know what I mean, Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. [*Laughter*]

President Jiang said he remembered a couple of the American reporters were quick to break the one-question rule, and he asked if a fellow, Fournier, would be there. And I said, "Well, surely he won't do it this time."

Mr. Fournier. [*Laughter*]

Q. I understand that means I can ask each President one question? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. That's exactly the problem. [*Laughter*]

North Korean Nuclear Program

Q. I'll be glad to—I'll be glad to—your question, President Bush, is, are you willing to negotiate with North Korea, while North Korea maintains a nuclear weapons program?

And President Jiang, could you tell us, do you think North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a threat to your country and, if so, how do you plan to stop it?

President Bush. See, I told you he wouldn't abide by the one-question rule. [*Laughter*]

Our first step, to make sure we resolve this peacefully, is to work with our friends, is to remind our friends of the dangers of a nuclear regime on the Korean Peninsula. President Jiang made it clear that China, like the United States, believes in a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons.

This is a chance for the United States and China to work very closely together to achieve that vision of a nuclear free—nuclear-weapons-free peninsula. And so I've instructed Secretary Powell to work very closely with his counterpart, as well as with their counterparts in South Korea and Japan and Russia, to come up with a common strategy to convince Kim Chong-il to disarm. And we look forward to working to that end.

And so to complete our—the important dialog of developing a strategy that will hold North Korea to account in terms of disarming, I'm going to be visiting with the Prime Minister of Japan and the leader of South Korea tomorrow in Mexico.

President Jiang. I can answer your question in the most clear-cut terms and most definitely that we Chinese always hold the position that the Korean Peninsula should be nuclear-weapon-free. We are completely in the dark as for the recent development. But today President Bush and I agreed that the problem should be resolved peacefully.

Thank you.

China-U.S. Relations/“One China” Policy

Q. I'm from CCTV. My first question is for President Jiang. This is your third meeting with President Bush. How do you evaluate China-U.S. relations in the past year, and how do you envisage the future of the relationship?

And also a question for President Bush. Just now you—

President Bush. It's an international problem. [Laughter]

Q. —said that the United States supports a “one China” policy. What concrete step would you take to translate this commitment into reality?

President Jiang. In the past year, China and the United States have expanded their cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding and trust. On the whole, the relationship has enjoyed a good momentum of growth. Facts have proven once again that, despite the profound changes in the international situation and despite the differences of one type or another between China and the U.S., our two countries have more, rather than less, common interest. And the prospect of cooperation between us has become broader, rather than narrower.

President Bush. In terms of your question about the “one China” policy—“one China” policy means that the issue ought to be resolved peacefully. We've got influence with some in the region. We intend to make sure that the issue is resolved peacefully, and that includes making it clear that we do not support independence.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters].

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Sir, do you feel like you've got China's support for a new resolution on Iraq? And are you willing to make any more concessions in the language of a U.N. resolution, now

that Russia and France have offered a watered-down resolution?

President Bush. Thank you for asking one question. [Laughter] Now I'll try to answer it.

I made it clear to the President of China that I am interested in seeing to it that the United Nations is effective—effective in disarming Saddam Hussein. That's what the United Nations has said for 11 years, that Saddam ought to disarm. And therefore, any resolution that evolves must be one which does the job of holding Saddam Hussein to account. That includes a rigorous, new, and vibrant inspections regime, the purpose of which is disarmament, not inspections for the sake of inspections.

And any resolution which will be effective must have—there must be consequences. Let me put it bluntly: There must be consequences in order to be effective. And therefore, in order for there to be consequences, we won't accept a resolution which prevents us from doing exactly what I have told the American people is going to happen. That is, if the U.N. won't act and if Saddam won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him. And we're working with all countries, particularly those on the Perm 5, to do just that.

And that's what we'll accept, something that will enable us to do precisely what I have just described and what I describe almost every day that I'm out there talking to the American people.

You tried to violate the rule, but I'm not going to let you.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. I'm from Xinhua news agency. For some time, certain people inside the United States call for containment against China. These people believe that a rising China poses a growing threat to the United States. What is your comment?

President Jiang. Given their different national conditions, it is only natural for China and the United States to disagree from time to time. Such a disagreement should be viewed and handled with a broad perspective. China has chosen a development path suited to its national conditions. It has enjoyed a rapid progress in economic growth,

cultural development, and the building of democracy and rule of law, bringing tangible benefits to the Chinese people. Their quality of life and standard of living are improving.

As the biggest developing country in the world, this road is still very long before China achieves full modernization. Our central task and long-term goal remain one of economic development and improvement of people's living standards.

The Chinese people have a tradition of peace loving. China has never engaged in expansion nor sought hegemony. We sincerely desire peace all over the world. Even when China becomes more developed in the future, it will not pose a threat to others. Threats have and will continue to prove that China is a staunch force for the maintenance of world and regional peace.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:41 p.m. outside the Governor's House at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. President Bush also referred to the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN, which took the lives of Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota; his wife, Sheila Ison; his daughter, Marcia Wellstone; campaign aides Will McLaughlin, Tom Lopic, and Mary McEvoy; pilot Richard Conroy; and co-pilot Michael Guess. President Jiang referred to the DPRK, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. President Jiang spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 20

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

October 21

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and later met with the National Security Council.

In the evening, the President traveled to McLean, VA, where he attended a Republican National Committee dinner at a private residence. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 22

In the morning, the President had FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Downingtown, PA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Bangor, ME, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary to Washington, DC, on November 8 to discuss cooperation against terrorism, the upcoming NATO summit in Prague, and other issues.

October 23

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey concerning the Turkey-U.S. strategic partnership, cooperation on Iraq, and other issues. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he participated in a roundtable discussion with Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials on online safety for children.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dana Gioia to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Algiere as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

October 24

In the morning, the President had FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

to discuss his support for Russia concerning the terrorist takeover and hostage situation at a Moscow theater.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Charlotte, NC, and then to Columbia, SC. In the afternoon, he traveled to Auburn, AL.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. While en route, he had a telephone conversation with Montgomery County, MD, Police Chief Charles Moose to congratulate him and other law enforcement officials for the apprehension of suspects in the recent sniper attacks in the Washington, DC, area.

October 25

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush welcomed President Jiang Zemin of China and his wife, Wang Yeping, to the Bush Ranch.

In the afternoon, the two Presidents toured the ranch. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with President Jiang and his wife.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 19

Fact sheet: President Takes Action To Protect Pensions and Retirement Security for All Americans

Released October 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Takes Action To Lower Prescription Drug Prices by Improving Access to Generic Drugs

Released October 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary

Released October 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China and the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum

Fact sheet: Increasing Online Safety for America's Children

Released October 24

Transcripts of press gaggles by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 21

H.R. 5531 / Public Law 107-245
Sudan Peace Act

Approved October 23

H.R. 2121 / Public Law 107-246
Russian Democracy Act of 2002

H.R. 4085 / Public Law 107-247
Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2002

H.R. 5010 / Public Law 107-248
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003

1864

Administration of George W. Bush, 2002

H.R. 5011 / Public Law 107-249
Military Construction Appropriation Act,
2003

Week Ending Friday, November 1, 2002

The President's Radio Address

October 26, 2002

America's health care system has advantages no other nation can match but also challenges we cannot ignore. The quality of American medicine is excellent. Yet too many Americans live in communities lacking good clinics and basic health care. Others are forced to wait for new medical devices that are delayed in an overburdened approval process. And the high cost of prescription drugs is placing a heavy financial burden on many Americans, especially our seniors.

This week, we are taking steps to address all of these problems. Today I have signed legislation that will expand the number of community health centers across the country. Community health centers are America's health care safety net, providing prenatal care, checkups, and preventative treatments to anyone who walks in the door. They serve more than a million people, mainly in remote areas or in inner-city neighborhoods, places where too many people do not have the access to the quality health care they deserve.

I have set a goal of creating 1,200 new and expanded community health centers by the year 2006. The bill I signed today will help my administration achieve this goal. If Congress funds my budget request for these important health centers, we can help an additional 1 million Americans get health care in 2003 and 4 million more by 2006.

Also today I'm signing legislation that provides faster access to safe and effective medical devices. Each year, American companies are creating new technologies to save and improve lives, technologies like coronary stents and increasingly sophisticated pacemakers, which have helped reduce the death rate from heart disease by 35 percent since 1980.

Medical devices are often very complex and require careful testing before they're approved by the Food and Drug Administration. But the FDA is overwhelmed by the

volume of new technologies, making delays more frequent and undermining the quality of device reviews. Under the new law, we're going to speed up and improve the approval process. Companies that manufacture medical devices will be required to pay a reasonable fee to the FDA, so the FDA can afford more expert staff to conduct thorough reviews within reasonable time limits. The entire Nation will benefit from a faster approval of lifesaving innovations.

Earlier this week, I also announced action to bring lower cost generic drugs to market more quickly. Right now, some brand-name drug companies are using legal maneuvers to delay the approval of generic drugs, sometimes for years. We're setting new limits on those delays. By reducing the public's wait for quality generic drugs, we will reduce the cost of prescriptions in this country by more than \$3 billion each year. These savings will help employer health plans, State Medicaid programs, and seniors who buy medicines on their own.

On health care reform, we still have much work ahead of us. I applaud the House of Representatives for passing a prescription drug benefit for seniors and for its efforts to fix the Nation's badly broken medical liability system, which is driving up the cost of medicine and driving good doctors out of the profession. I'm disappointed that the Senate has failed to act on these important reforms.

With these reforms and the actions we have taken this week, we will bring the benefits of our health care system into the lives of more Americans. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:35 p.m. on October 25 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vicente Fox of Mexico and an Exchange With Reporters in Los Cabos, Mexico

October 26, 2002

[President Fox made opening remarks in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Vicente, thank you for inviting us here. This is a very beautiful part of the world, and we're so honored you're hosting this convention.

We did have a very good discussion, but I'm not surprised. After all, we're close friends. We discussed trade. We discussed commerce. We did discuss migration. Ever since I have been the President and Vicente has been the President, we have had a mutual desire to deal with the migration issue in a way that recognizes reality and in a way that treats the Mexican citizens who are in the United States with respect. And we will continue to work on this issue.

And we did talk about world peace and Iraq. Mexico is a member of the Security Council. We discussed how to keep the world peaceful, how to hold people to account, how to make sure the United Nations is effective. And I appreciate so very much the President and the Foreign Minister's desire to consult closely with the United States as we move forward to making the world more peaceful.

So we're—it's an honor to be here. It's going to be a very important conference, being held in a beautiful spot and hosted by a good friend, Mr. President.

We'll take a couple of questions.

Immigration

Q. President Bush, we know that—we understand President Fox was going to talk to you about the impact that your subsidies would eventually have on Mexican illegal migration to the U.S. Did you have an answer for him?

President Bush. Ask the question again—agricultural subsidies?

Q. Migration——

President Bush. Oh, yes. Well, here's the answer. The answer is, the long-term answer for the migration issue is to work a way that encourages commerce on both sides of the

border, so people can find jobs here in Mexico, for starters. That's the long-term solution.

And the short-term solution, we've got to recognize that wage differentials are going to cause people to want to come to the United States. And when they come to the United States, we've got to work to make sure they're treated with respect. And the issue is, how do we recognize the reality of two societies with a wage differential the way they are? Here on the border, the wage differential is narrowing—or on the border, wage differential is narrowing, so the migration pressure tends to come from interior of Mexico and the south of Mexico.

And one of the things that the President and I have discussed in the past is, how best to develop industry together in the midst of Mexico, in the south of Mexico, so that people are more likely to find work at home.

Heidi [Heidi Pryzbyla, Bloomberg News]. Oh, sorry.

North Korea

Q. A senior administration official told us this morning that the goal with North Korea is to isolate them. What is your strategy for doing that without winding up in the same position that we were in, in 1994, with a failed agreement?

President Bush. Well, I'm glad you asked a senior administrative official. Our goal is to work with our friends in the region to convince Kim Chong-il to disarm. I made a positive step yesterday in Crawford when the President of China made a public declaration that—he said, "Like the United States, we share the desire to make sure the Korean Peninsula is nuclear weapons free."

Right after this meeting with President Fox, I'll be meeting with the leaders of Japan and South Korea, where we'll continue this dialog. So the strategy is to make sure that our close friends and our allies and people with whom we've got relations work in concert to convince Mr. Kim Chong-il that a nuclear-weapons-free peninsula is in his interests; it's in South Korea's interests, and it is in the world's interests.

[At this point, a reporter asked a question in Spanish. President Bush and President Fox

responded in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. For President Fox—it's the same question, basically. For President Fox, are you prepared to support the U.S. position at the U.N. and vote for a resolution authorizing force?

And for President Bush, are there any consequences for nations that don't support our position at the U.N.?

President Bush. The only consequence, of course, is with Saddam Hussein. And if the U.N. does not pass a resolution which holds him to account and that has consequences, then as I have said in speech after speech after speech, if the U.N. won't act, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Q. President Fox?

[President Fox responded to the question in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. at the Las Ventanas al Paraiso Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda of Mexico; General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; President Jiang Zemin of China; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Statement

October 26, 2002

Today President George W. Bush, President Kim Dae-Jung, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met to reaffirm their commitment to a peaceful Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

The three leaders agreed that North Korea's program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons is a violation of the Agreed Framework, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, North Korea's IAEA safeguards agreement, and the South-North Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The three leaders called upon North Korea to dismantle this program in a prompt and verifiable manner and to come into full com-

pliance with all its international commitments in conformity with North Korea's recent commitment in the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration. In this context, the three leaders agreed to continue close coordination.

The three leaders stressed their commitment to resolve this matter peacefully in close consultation trilaterally and with other concerned nations around the globe.

The three leaders agreed that South-North dialogue and the opening of Japan-DPRK normalization talks can serve as important channels to call upon the North to respond quickly and convincingly to the international communities' demands for a denuclearized Korean peninsula. President Kim briefed that during the recent South-North Ministerial Meeting held in Pyongyang, the South strongly urged North Korea to take immediate action for a prompt and peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue. Prime Minister Koizumi reiterated that Japan-DPRK normalization should promote not only bilateral relations with North Korea, but also contribute to peace and stability of the region. In this regard, Prime Minister Koizumi stressed that Japan-North Korea normalization talks would not be concluded without full compliance with the Pyongyang Declaration between Japan and North Korea, in particular with regard to the security issues, including the nuclear issue, and abduction issues. President Bush reiterated his February statement in South Korea that the United States has no intention of invading North Korea as well as the fact that he had been prepared to pursue a bold approach to transforming U.S.-DPRK relations.

The three leaders noted the potential for North Korea to benefit from greater participation as a member of the international community. However, the three leaders agreed that North Korea's relations with the international community now rest on North Korea's prompt and visible actions to dismantle its program to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

With a view to contributing to regional as well as international peace and stability, the three leaders reaffirmed that continued close

consultations and trilateral coordination remain vital to the success of their efforts towards North Korea.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks in Phoenix, Arizona

October 27, 2002

Thank you all. Governor, thanks for that kind introduction. You know, it wasn't all that long ago that a lot of people were saying, "Old Matt Salmon doesn't even have a chance." A lot of the pundits here in the State of Arizona had written this good man off, but it looks like to me they might have wasted a little ink.

A lot of people were saying, "Well, he's just not going to get there." My fellow Americans and the good folks from Arizona, with your help, with your hard work, with your turning out the vote, with your joining this good man and his good wife, Matt Salmon is going to be the next Governor of Arizona. And I am proud to be here as one of his strongest supporters.

I'm not as strong a supporter as the next first lady from Arizona. I'm proud that Nancy is here. She's going to make a great first lady. Old Matt and I married above ourselves. [Laughter] Laura sends her best. She sends her best regards to the Salmons. She knows what it's like to be running for office. She knows what it's like to be a first lady of a State. She's got all the confidence in the world, as do I, in the Salmon family. They will represent you with dignity. They'll represent you with class. They'll do a great job for everybody who lives in the State of Arizona.

I'm also proud to be up here supporting Rick Renzi for the United States Congress. I like a man who believes in family values—all 12 of them. [Laughter] I had the privilege of campaigning with Rick in northern Arizona, the heart of his district. He's well liked there. People understand him. He's going to make a fine United States Congressman. No question in my mind, with your help, he is going to win.

I want to thank one of my Cabinet Secretaries for joining us today, Mel Martinez

from the Housing and Urban Development. Let me tell you about Mel. He's from Florida. There's another Governor's race over there I'm paying attention to, I might add. [Laughter]

A long time ago when Mel was a little fellow, his parents made a difficult decision. They sent him to the United States from Cuba. They sent him in what they call Operation Pedro Pan from an island controlled by a dictator to the land of the free. They put their young lad—let him go—they stayed behind for a while, not certain if they could get out—because of what America stood for. And here is that little man. That Pedro Pan, years later, is now in the Cabinet of the President of the United States, doing a fabulous job on behalf of America. The American Dream is alive and well, and Mel Martinez represents it all.

I'm honored to be here with my good friend the Governor of Arizona; I appreciate her service to your State, and I appreciate her friendship to Laura and me—Jane Dee Hull. Thank you, Governor.

I want to thank Cindy McCain for coming. She didn't bring John. She brought Jack. [Laughter] Senator McCain is out working hard to make sure that we change the leadership in the United States Senate. I appreciate John McCain and Jon Kyl's good work on behalf of the American people. And there's a lot of reasons why we need to change the Senate—no more clear reason than to make sure the good, honest judges I put up for the Federal bench get a good hearing.

We've got some of the members of the mighty Arizona congressional delegation who are here with us. One man not with us, but a man who's done a fabulous job on behalf of the people of Arizona and the people of the United States, is the chairman, Bob Stump. He served with distinction. He served with class. And of course, we all wish Bob all the very best.

I'm so proud to be up here with John Shadegg and Jeff Flake and big J.D. Hayworth. I told J.D., those of us in the political world make a living by shaking hands, and I'm not shaking his anymore. [Laughter]

I also want to thank Trent Franks, who's running for the United States Congress, for joining us today. For those of you in Trent's

district, give this good man your hard work. Thanks for coming, Trent.

I know we've got the mayor here, Skip Rimsza, from the city of Phoenix. I want to thank you for coming, Skip. I'm proud to—I don't see you anywhere, but I'm proud that you're here. You're not Skip. [Laughter] You're not even old enough to vote. [Laughter] But if you're wise, you'll follow in his footsteps and serve your community, like he does. But thank you, Mr. Mayor, for coming today.

I want to thank the Mountain View High School Band for being here on a Sunday afternoon; thank you all. I appreciate you all coming. I'll try to keep my short—my speech short, so you can go back and study. [Laughter]

I want to thank all those of you who are involved in the political process for being here today. Obviously, you're interested; otherwise, you wouldn't have come. But a lot of you are the folks at the grassroots level who make a tremendous difference as to whether or not a candidate has a chance of winning or not.

For those of you who are at the grassroots, I want to thank you for what you're doing and going to do, which is to man the phones, put up the signs, send the letters, remind your friends and fellow Arizonians they have an obligation to America to vote. If you're living in this country, you have an obligation as a citizen to exercise this wonderful freedom. Go to your houses of worship and your community centers and your coffee shops and talk it up. Talk it up about Matt Salmon and your congressional candidates. Don't be afraid to talk to good Democrats, either. Listen, a good Democrat knows the difference between a tax raiser and a tax cutter. These candidates are going to win, and they're going to win because of you all. So thanks for coming, and thanks for your interest.

The Governor's race of any State is really important. It's important to have somebody who's going to do in office what they say they're going to do, not somebody who kind of walks around taking a poll here and running a focus group there, trying to figure out what position to take, not somebody who will take a position one day, and then the butane gets turned up and changes their mind.

That's not the kind of Governor you need. You need somebody who's steady, somebody who knows what he believes, somebody like Salmon that, when he went to the United States Congress, he said he was only going to serve three terms, and then did what he said. That's the kind of Governor you need, somebody whose word you can trust.

You must have a Governor who's got the right priorities. Educating a child is the right priority, and that's Matt Salmon's priority. Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government, by far the most important priority. And this Governor understands that.

But a good Governor is someone who also has the right frame of mind when it comes to education. And that frame of mind starts with realizing every child can learn and believing that every child can learn, a frame of mind that is willing to set high standards and therefore challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations; somebody that understands that if you set the bar low, you're going to get bad results.

It's that type of attitude, by the way, the people that set the bar low or those who are willing just to write off certain children who are hard to educate—you see, it's much easier to walk into a classroom full of children whose parents may not speak English as a first language and say, "These kids can't learn. Let's just move them through." You've got to have a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo, who's willing to say that it is unacceptable to socially promote children who may be hard to educate, a Governor whose vision for their State says every child can learn, not just those in good suburban districts but every single child can learn.

You've got to have a Governor who also understands that bureaucracies don't set the path to excellence for every child, that you've got to have local control of schools, that one size doesn't fit all. And you've got to have a Governor who's willing to ask the fundamental question, is every child learning in Arizona? See, if you believe every child can learn, then you've got to ask the question. Show me. And therefore you must have accountability.

And with Matt Salmon as the Governor, when he finds children in schools that are

working, he'll praise the teachers, and we need to praise the teachers. But the thing I appreciate about this good man is, when he finds children trapped in schools that will not teach and schools that will not change, this is a man who will challenge the special interests of Arizona with one interest in mind, the children. He will challenge the status quo because he believes, like I believe, that no child should be left behind in the State of Arizona.

I appreciate so very much that Matt understands the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small-business owner and the entrepreneur can flourish. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners, and you better have you a Governor who understands the role of small business in our society. And Matt Salmon understands that. When he says he's not raising taxes, book it.

I look forward to working with Matt when we get a welfare reauthorization bill through the Congress, one that says that we're going to help people find work. The best welfare program is a program which incorporates work so that people have the dignity of being able to put food on their own table.

I look forward to working with Matt to make sure our health care system works. And I look forward to working with Rick and the other Members of Congress and the two United States Senators to make sure our health care system works. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is going modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of our seniors, for the sake of the quality of life for those who depend upon the Federal Government when it comes to Medicare, we need to modernize Medicare, reform Medicare, and include a prescription drug benefit for Arizona's seniors.

Now, there's a lot of issues that we can work on together. The people of Arizona will understand when Matt becomes the Governor that he's going to work to change the tone. He's going to elevate the discourse, that he's not politics as usual, that he's here to serve the good people of the State. He's not going to be one of these fellows that says, "Well, did you vote for me? I'm going to be your Governor. If you didn't vote for me, I'm

not." His intention is to represent every single person in Arizona, and he will do so with distinction and with class.

I keep talking about Renzi. One reason I'm anxious to get Renzi up there is because I want to make sure Denny Hastert remains the Speaker of the House. The leadership of the House of Representatives and the Members of the House of Representatives from the Republican Party have done a really good job on behalf of America. They've had a very strong agenda. They passed a lot of legislation that has been positive for our country.

I can't say the same thing for the United States Senate. A lot of good legislation is stuck—no more important piece of legislation than the homeland security bill. The reason why we need a homeland security bill is because there's an enemy out there which hates America; enemy out there still lurking around; enemy out there that hates us because of what we love. And we're not changing what we love. We love freedom.

We love the idea of our fellow Americans being able to worship an almighty God any way you see fit. We love that. We love our democracy. We love our free press. We love every aspect of our freedom. And so long as we hold those freedoms dear to our heart, there's an enemy out there which is trying to hurt us. And so our biggest job now is to protect the American people. I take that seriously. It's a solemn obligation. *[Applause]* You all go ahead and sit down.

It's even more solemn now that—that we're no longer protected by two oceans. It used to be, of course, that we could depend upon our geography to protect us from hatred, that there might be a turmoil somewhere in the world or there might be a threat somewhere in the world, and we could contain that threat if we choose to do so, or we could be involved in the conflict if we chose to do so. But we felt pretty comfortable about our security because of our—because of the two oceans which protected us.

And we learned a rough lesson on September the 11th, 2001, that when there's hatred and people trying to hurt us, the battlefield can end up right here at home. And we've always got to remember that. I'm certainly going to remember that, that the stakes

are different and that they're higher. In order to protect the American people, we must see clearly the threats we face. We can't have any fuzziness anymore, because the oceans aren't there.

And there's a true threat that we face in the form of Saddam Hussein. It's a real threat; it's not an imagined threat. It's a threat—it's a threat because he's shown the world what he's like.

He said he doesn't have any weapons of mass destruction, said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, and he does. He's not only got weapons of mass destruction; he's used weapons of mass destruction. He's used them against his neighbors. He's used them against his own citizens. This is a man who can't stand America and what we believe in. Nor can he stand some of our friends and allies. He's a danger; he's a threat.

And so I went to the United Nations, and I said, "You've told this guy for 11 years in 16 different resolutions to disarm, and he hasn't done it. And for the sake of world peace, why don't you show us whether or not you're going to be a body which can act in the name of peace, or whether you're going to be something like the League of Nations. You have a choice to make," I said to them. "Show us whether or not you can be effective. We want you to be effective in the name of peace. We want you to have people listen to your word. If you say, 'Disarm,' we want people to disarm. If you come together as an organization that puts out a decree that the free world speaks, we want you to be effective." I think it's going to make the world a more peaceful place as we head into the 21st century, particularly as we face these new threats. It's their choice to make.

And at the same time, we said the same thing to Saddam Hussein: "You said you would disarm. Now disarm. The choice is yours."

But my fellow Americans, for the sake of peace and security, for the sake of making sure the Middle East is peaceful, for the making sure that the true threats don't come to our shore in the form of a terrorist organization which may have obtained weapons of mass destruction from this man, I believe we owe it to our children and our children's chil-

dren to lead a coalition. If the U.N. won't act, if Saddam Hussein will not act, if he continues to defy the world, the United States, in the name of peace, will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

No, the threat is real. The threat is real. It's important to be clear-eyed. It's also important to do everything we can here at home to protect you, and a lot of good people are working hard to do so. Anytime we find a hint, any kind of evidence of a plot, we're doing everything we can to disrupt or deter or deny. We've got a lot of good people at the Federal level and the State level and the local level working a lot of long hours.

You see, we are on alert; we're aware. We weren't aware prior to September the 11th about this enemy that—how evil they are. But now we know they're out there. And we're doing good things here at home, but we can do better. And that's why I've asked the Congress to join me in creating this Department of Homeland Security, so that the agencies involved with protecting you have got the capacity to have as their number one priority and their number one focus and a culture which says protecting America is the most important thing we'll do.

And the House of Representatives passed a good piece of legislation that enables this administration and future administrations to be able to have the management capacity to protect the homeland. The Senate is stuck. See, they want me to give up some power, power that has been in the Presidency since John Kennedy was the President, the ability to suspend work rules in the name of national security, the capacity to say it's in our national interests to suspend certain work rules so that you put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. And I'm not going to accept a lousy bill out of the United States Senate.

And the reason why is, this is a task that we'll be involved with for a while. And so the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what the United States of America is going to do.

Last week I signed a defense bill which is the biggest increase in defense money

since Ronald Reagan was the President. People ought to read two things in that defense bill. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe that to the loved ones of the troops. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, you've just got to know, this Commander in Chief has all the confidence in the world in the men and women who wear our uniform.

It's a different kind of war—oh, the second message that we're sending, by the way, is that we're in this deal for the long haul, that there's no time certain where we've got to quit. In other words, this isn't a—defending freedom doesn't have anything to do with the calendar; it has everything to do with success. And so we're going to stay the course until we defeat the agents of terror.

The coalition is strong. The doctrine still stands that says, "Either you're with the United States and freedom-loving people, or you're with the enemy." That doctrine still stands. And the message of that defense bill says it's going to stand for quite a while.

And we're making progress—we're making progress. It's a different kind of war we fight. So I like to spend time, whether it's in the midst of the campaign, or Governor Salmon's time, or any other speech, to help educate the American people about the nature of this war.

The best way I like to describe it is, in the old days, you could determine whether or not you were making progress against the enemy by the number of tanks that you destroyed or the number of aircraft you shot out of the air or the number of ships you sunk. This bunch we fought, they don't have ships. They hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal death. These are the kind of people that have hijacked a great religion. They have no regard for innocent life, and they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and we're going to treat them like that.

So we're after them. We're after them one at a time. And that's why intelligence-sharing is incredibly important. That's why it's important to work with others to cut off their money. I just came up from Cabo San Lucas,

where I was meeting with APEC nations. These are nations that border the Pacific. And yesterday the first agenda amongst the leaders was terrorism, counterterrorism. I was the first speaker. I reminded them that the war goes on. I reminded them they have an obligation to join with us. And when we find somebody that we know is a part of this terrorist network, they go get them, or we go get them. Either case, we're going to get them.

The other day, one guy popped his head up. His name was bin al-Shibh. He's not a problem anymore to America. He's now—he was—this is the person that was going to be the 20th hijacker, and he was in Pakistan, hiding. But we found him. See, there's no cave deep enough to hide. There's no corner of the world dark enough. Slowly but surely, America and others who love freedom are hunting them down. We've probably hauled in a couple of thousand of them so far. A like number wasn't as lucky.

And it's going to take a while. It's going to take a while. We've got brave troops still on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. They've got—I was with—I talked to the President of the Philippines, Gloria Arroyo, who has been such a strong supporter. I said, "We'll continue to provide you help, and thanks for going to get the head of the Abu Sayyaf," who was the person that led a group of killers that kidnaped Americans and just tried to wreak havoc—they're terrorists.

Slowly but surely, we're going to bring these people to justice. There's no doubt in my mind. See, the enemy didn't understand who they were hitting. They thought they were hitting somebody that—somebody that was so selfish and materialistic and so self-absorbed that, after September the 11th, 2001, we'd take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's what they thought. And they found out something differently. They found out the mighty United States of America loves freedom, and we're relentless when it comes to the pursuit of justice. And we're not backing down.

I believe strongly that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I believe that because we're such a great nation and a strong nation and a compassionate

nation, that out of the evil done to the country will come some good, starting with peace.

You've got to understand, and I hope you tell your loved ones, that amidst all the talk about war is a deep, abiding desire for peace. I long for peace for our own country. But because this Nation says everybody matters—in contrast to the enemy, this Nation believes every life counts; everybody has worth. I long for peace around the world. I long for peace in places where people have quit on peace. And I believe we can achieve it. I believe by being strong and tough, by being true to our love of freedom and understanding that freedom isn't America's gift to the world, it is a God gift, and that freedom is universal, it is applied to everybody—if we remain true and strong and diligent, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace.

And here at home we can achieve a better America, too, an America that—that the great hope of America, the great bright light of America shines in every neighborhood. See, amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There are some who say, you say, "American Dream," and they don't even know what you're talking about. "American Dream, what is that?"

And so long as one of us hurts, we all hurt, as far as I'm concerned. And we have a chance—we really have a chance. The Government can help; we can do things, of course, to make sure that people's lives are better. I talked about education. I talked about Medicare. Another thing Government can do to make sure lives are better is to make sure that tax cuts we passed are permanent. You see, when you let people have more money—if you let people have more money in their pocket, it's going to encourage economic growth. And so long as somebody is looking for work, who wants to work and can't find a job, we've got a problem.

And therefore, one of the things Government can do is be pro-growth, is do everything we can to encourage the vitality of the economy to go forward. I'm optimistic about our economy. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. Productivity is up. But in order to make sure small business flourishes and the entrepreneurial spirit is strong, Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent. Congress needs to make sure we get rid of the

death tax, once and for all—another reason to make sure that we change the Senate and keep Denny Hastert as the Speaker.

But one of the things we've got to remember is that Government can do certain things. Government can hand out money, for example. And sometimes we do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

See, we can change America, one heart and one soul at a time, if all of us understands that we can make—each of us can make a difference. When you put your arm around somebody who hurts and somebody in need—who's in need, and say, "I love you," you're part of changing America. If you're a Boy Scout leader or a Girl Scout leader, you're changing America. If you work in a Boys or Girls Club, you're changing America. If you're involved in the quality of education in your neighborhood, you're changing America. If you just walk into a shut-in's house and say, "I love you; can I help you," you're changing America.

No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They didn't understand America like I do. Not only are we strong, we are compassionate. Many of our fellow citizens have taken a step back, and they said, "What is life all about? What is the true definition of a patriot?" I think we're all beginning to understand, serving something greater than yourself in life, serving your Nation by helping a neighbor in need, is the definition of the American spirit that is alive and well.

I want the youngsters here to realize that you live in the greatest land in the face of the Earth. It's a land that we can never take for granted. That's why voting is incredibly important. But as a citizen of this land, in order to make sure it continues to remain great, you have an obligation—we all have an obligation to do what we can do, to do what Government cannot do, and that's to help people, one person at a time.

Perhaps the most vivid reminder—I think history will show this is a vivid reminder of what I'm talking about, the American spirit that is alive and well—took place on Flight 93. People were flying across the country—people were flying across the country that

day. They weren't sure what was going on. They were on cell phones, using the modern technology to learn that the airplane they were on was being used as a weapon.

Some of them didn't panic. Probably all of them didn't. They were on the phones to their loved ones. They said goodbye. I'm sure they said, "I love you." They used the word "love." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the airplane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

That's the American spirit that is alive and well and strong. It is a spirit of sacrifice. It is a spirit of compassion. It is a spirit of decency. And it is the spirit that allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America is going to come an America that is more hopeful, more decent for every single person who's fortunate enough to live in this country.

No, you're looking at one of the greatest optimists ever to hold the office of the Presidency, because I understand America is the greatest nation, full of the most decent people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming today. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:54 p.m. at the Dodge Theater. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Matt Salmon, who introduced the President, and his wife, Nancy Salmon; Rick Renzi, candidate for Arizona's First Congressional District; Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; Cindy McCain, wife of Senator John McCain, and their son Jack; Trent Franks, candidate for Arizona's Second Congressional District; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Statement on Signing the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002

October 26, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5651, the "Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002." The Act protects patients from inappropriate reuse of medical devices, strengthens the inspection regime for medical device manufacturing facilities,

modernizes Food and Drug Administration (FDA) medical device operations, and establishes a program under which the users of the FDA's medical device review services pay for those services.

Section 201(a) of the Act enacts section 704(g)(10) of the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, which purports to make the operation of the "accredited persons" inspection provisions for medical device establishments dependent upon certain determinations by the Comptroller General, a legislative agent, of amounts obligated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for particular purposes. The executive branch shall construe this provision in accordance with the principles set forth in *Bowsher v. Synar*, 478 U.S. 714 (1986).

Several provisions of the Act require executive branch officials to submit recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 26, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5651, approved October 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107-250. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 28.

Remarks in Alamogordo, New Mexico

October 28, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. *Hola.*

Audience members. *Hola.*

The President. *Si.* Thank you all for coming today. It's a beautiful day here. Of course, every day is a beautiful day in New Mexico. I love to come to a part of the country where the cowboy hat is—the cowboy hat, instead of the tie, is a part of the work uniform. It kind of reminds me of home, right around the corner from here.

They tell me I'm the first President ever to come to Alamogordo. For that, I'm honored. I'm honored, and I'm honored so many of my fellow Americans have come out to say hello, to listen to what's on my mind. First of all, what's on my mind is that in order to be a good American, in my judgment, you've got to exercise your right. You've got to go to the polls. In order to do your job as an American, you can't take democracy for granted. You owe it to our society to go vote.

Of course, I've got a few suggestions for you when you go to the polls. It doesn't matter to me whether you're a Republican, Democrat, or independent. You have an obligation. So I'm here to urge you all to do your duty and to go to your coffee shops and your houses of worship, community centers, and urge your fellow citizens to do their duty as well. And while you're asking them to do it, remind them, for the good of New Mexico and for the good of the country, Steve Pearce is the right man for the Congress.

And I also want you to remind them that you've got a good man running for Governor, a man who can do the job, a man who represents the best of New Mexico. Tell them John Sanchez is the right man for the Governor of New Mexico.

I'm proud to be here today with a member of my Cabinet. His name is Mel Martinez. I want to tell you about Mel's story right quick. He was a young boy, born in Cuba, but his mother and daddy realized the promise of America. They realized that the land of freedom was the right place to raise their child. And so they sent Mel by himself from the island of Cuba, from the island of Cuba to escape the clutches of Fidel Castro's repressive regime, to America. His mother and daddy decided America was so important and so promising that they made an incredibly difficult choice for a mother and dad, and that is, they said, "Son, we love you. We love you so much that we're sending you by yourself as a young boy to America." And here he is today, in the Cabinet of the President of the United States. He represents the best of America, the promise of America, and the hope of America.

And that's the greatness of this country. And that's what we've all got to work together

to achieve, to make sure the greatness of America and the promise of America shines brightly for everybody.

I'm proud to be here today with my friend the Governor of New Mexico and the great first lady of New Mexico, Gary and Dee Johnson. And one thing for certain is, I'm not going to challenge him to a footrace—[laughter]—or a bike race, or a swimming race. [Laughter]

I mention the first lady—unfortunately, you drew the short straw today. If you really were smart, Steve would have invited Laura to come instead of me. I just talked to her on the phone. She's in Crawford. She's fixing to head up to Washington. She's doing great, by the way. I'm really proud of her. She's born and raised in Midland. When I met her, she was—actually, we went to eighth grade together at San Jacinto Junior High. And then we got to know each other again, and when I met her, she was a public school librarian. [Applause] Oh, yeah. There's always one or two in every crowd. [Laughter]

I don't know how you feel about politics, but I can tell you how she felt about politics. She didn't care for them. [Laughter] When I married her, she didn't like politicians. Yeah, I know. [Laughter] But fortunately, she said yes when I asked her to marry me, and she is a great First Lady for America. I think it has a lot to do with the part of the world that we're from, the part of the world she's from—your part of the world, a place where values matter a lot, where family counts first, where faith is important.

Today I'm sorry that one of the really finest United States Senators amongst the 100 is not with us. He's on his way to mourn the loss of a fellow Senator, Paul Wellstone. We all send our send our prayers and thoughts to his family. Pete Domenici is one of the fine ones. He's a really, really great American. He's a solid, solid citizen. And I hope, if all goes right next Tuesday, all around the country we're going to start calling him Mr. Chairman again, because we're going to change the United States Senate.

No, I'm working hard to make sure that Denny Hastert remains the Speaker. That's why I want you to send this good man, Steve Pearce, to the Congress. I want to urge you to make sure that Pete Domenici goes back

to the Senate. We're working hard so that we can say with certainty that in Washington we're working together to make America a better place.

I appreciate so very much the fact that Joe Skeen has served New Mexico with distinction. Joe's a good man. I've known him for a long time. Of course, he's struggling right now with physical affliction, but his faith is strong; his spirit is high. And we all owe him a debt of gratitude for serving this great part of the world with class.

I want to thank the mayor of Alamogordo for coming here. I appreciate, Mr. Mayor, your good work for this important community. I want to thank all of you all who are involved with grassroots politics—Republican grassroots politics, those of you who man the phones and put the signs in the yards and lick the envelopes. It's an essential part of democracy. It's an essential part of how people win. I want to thank you for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is do everything you can to turn out a big vote for these good candidates.

And there's a reason—not just because they look pretty. [*Laughter*] Well—[*laughter*—because they've got ideas on how to make New Mexico a better place and how to make the country a stronger place. John Sanchez understands that education is the most important priority for any State. That's what he knows. He knows what I know, that in order to be effective, in order to make sure people can learn, you've got to set high standards. You've got to believe every child can learn. You've got to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

If you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results. If the system believes that certain children can't learn, you know what's going to happen? People are going to get left behind. You've got to have the highest of high standards. You've got to believe every child can learn, especially those children whose parents may not speak English as a first language. You've got to have a Governor in whose heart of hearts understands that high expectations is one of the keys to success. And then you've got to have a Governor who doesn't get captured by the special interests of any State capital or National Capital

but a Governor who trusts the local people to chart the path to excellence for every child. Local control of schools is an incredibly important part of educational excellence.

No, education is important. And if you believe every child can learn, then you want to have an accountability system which will show us whether every child is learning. See, if you believe every child can learn, then you better have yourself a Governor who's willing to ask that fundamental question, can our children read and write and add and subtract? Can we teach them early enough, before it's too late? You want to have a measuring system so that you're able to praise the teachers for their good work. And for all of you who are teachers, thank you from the bottom of our heart.

But in order to make sure every child can learn, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know. In order to make sure, you better have an accountability system that tells us whether or not our children are trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change. And then you have a better—Governor who's got the courage and the willingness, for the sake of the children, to demand change. No child should be left behind in the State of New Mexico when John Sanchez is your Governor.

If one of the concerns is jobs in New Mexico, then it seems like to me you better get you a Governor who knows how to create jobs. See, he's done that. He's an entrepreneur. He understands the role of small business in our society. Small businesses create 70 percent of the new jobs in America. So get you a Governor who knows that, and get you a Governor who also understands the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create opportunity, opportunity for our small businesses to grow to be big businesses, opportunities for our farmers and ranchers to be able to make a living.

John Sanchez is the right man for Governor. When you turn out the vote, make sure you back this good man. He's going to make you one you can be proud of. And I need Steve up in the United States Congress. I don't need to be worried about a vote from this part of New Mexico. I need somebody who's going to work with me on a solid way,

somebody we can count on. And the reason I know I can count on him is because we share the same philosophy about life. We understand the role of Government, and we understand and are optimistic that we can accomplish anything put in this country's path.

And we've got some big hurdles to cross. We've got some big steps to climb. There's no question in my mind we can do that. After all, this is the finest nation on the face of the Earth.

One big hurdle we've got to cross is to make sure this economy keeps growing, make sure people can find work. Anytime one American who wants to work can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem. And therefore, in Washington, we've got to be promoting pro-growth policies, pro-growth in the sectors necessary to increase employment.

One of the things I took on was the Tax Code. I told the people of New Mexico and the country that if you elected me as President, I was going to do everything I can to reduce the tax burden on the American people. And fortunately, it came at the right time.

See, here's what I believe—here's what Steve knows—that if you let a man or a woman keep more of their own money, they're more and likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in our society, in our marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, it means somebody is more likely to be able to find a job.

The best thing we have done in Washington for our economy is to let the people of New Mexico and America keep more of your own money. And now we need to have us a Congressman who will join me in making sure that the tax relief is permanent, that it exists for the next decade, so you know you've got that money in your pocket, so you know no one is going to come and take that money back away from you. See, that's an important issue. It's an important issue.

There's a fundamental difference among some of us in Washington. One of the things Steve and I understand is, when we're talking

about the money up there, it's not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

We're working hard in Washington to make sure the country is a better place. And that means fulfilling some of our commitments that we made. One such commitment, of course, is Medicare. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine is becoming more and more modern with the new technologies and the new medicines. Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of a better America, for the sake of an America fulfilling its promise, we need to modernize Medicare, including a prescription drug plan for our seniors.

Steve understands that. Steve understands that. I look forward to working with him on issues important, whether it be education or Medicare or taxes or making sure Congress doesn't overspend. These are key issues we need to work on. But there's no more important issue than to make sure our homeland is secure. The most important obligation we have at all levels of government is to do everything we can to secure the homeland, is to protect innocent life, is to prevent an enemy which hates America from hurting any American.

And that's an important job, because—and it's an ongoing job, because you've just got to understand that an enemy lurks out there. They're dangerous. They're determined. They're based upon—they base their sentiments upon hatred. They don't value innocent life. See, that stands in stark contrast to America and Americans. We value life. We say everybody is precious; everybody counts.

That's not how the enemy thinks. They've hijacked a great religion, and they murder in the name of that religion. They don't value life. They hate America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the idea of people being able to worship an almighty God any way you see fit. We love our free society. We love the idea that people can come to America and realize their dreams. Freedom stands at the heart and soul of America, and we're not changing. And so long as we love freedom, they're going to hate us.

The other thing that's important for our citizens to realize is that the stakes have changed. After September the 11th, we

learned a hard lesson and a cold lesson, and that is, oceans no longer protect us from the hatred of our enemies. When a lot of us were coming up, we used to, could sit back and say, "Oceans protect us. Therefore, we have the luxury of picking or choosing what threat we deal with. We can take our time." If we chose not to be involved, we could just let a threat materialize, and we don't have to worry about it.

We've got to be clear-eyed about the new dangers we face. We've got to be realistic. If we're going to protect America, it's very important for all of us, particularly those of us in Washington, to not hope for the best but to see clearly the threats. And there is a real threat, in my judgment, a real and dangerous threat to America in Iraq, in the form of Saddam Hussein. I want to—this is a man, this is a man who told the world that he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He's got weapons of mass destruction. This is a man who has used weapons of mass destruction. He's used them against his neighbors. He's used them against his own people. This is a person who can't stand America. This is a person who has had contacts with Al Qaida. This is a person who has defied international bodies time and time again. This is a person who has made the United Nations look foolish.

I went to the United Nations. I said to them as clearly as I could, in Western language—[laughter]—I said, "You can be an effective body to help us keep the peace. You can be an effective U.N., or you can be the League of Nations. That's your choice to make. You have the choice as to whether or not you will allow this dictator to continue to defy the United Nations and therefore weaken you. Or you can join with the United States and disarm him like he said he would do."

I've also sent a message to Mr. Saddam Hussein: After 11 years, you have defied the U.N. You have not done what you said you would do. And now it is the time for you to disarm. The United States Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, have debated this issue, and they spoke with one clear voice. And here is what the administration and now your elected Representatives are saying to the world: Either the United Na-

tions will do its duty to disarm Saddam Hussein, or Saddam Hussein will disarm himself. In either case, if they refuse to act, in the name of peace, in the name of a secure tomorrow, in the name of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

The President. No, we've got to be clear-eyed and realistic about the threats we face. History has called us into action. This country loves peace, and we love freedom, and we must lead the world to a more peaceful world and a freer world.

It's also important to be realistic about what could happen here at home. These people are lurking around. And so everybody—you've got to know that we're working hard at all levels of government to run down any lead, to chase down any hint, to deter and defy and deny an enemy who still hates America. There's a lot of people working hard on your behalf. But I believe we can do a better job, and that's why I asked Congress to make sure that we bring all these agencies involved with protecting America under one Cabinet office, so that we can set a clear priority, and if need be, change cultures to make sure we're doing everything in our power to protect America.

Let me give you some examples of what we need to have happen. On the border, it's important to know who's coming into the country, what they're bringing into the country, and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. On our borders, we can be respectful to people and our neighbors and, at the same time, be tough on terror. But there's three Federal agencies full of good, decent people who are working hard on border. There's INS and Border Patrol and Customs, three really fine agencies, full of good people, but sometimes they don't share the same strategy. They've got different uniforms. Sometimes they don't work as closely as they should, because of rules, bureaucratic rules.

And so I've asked the Congress, give me the power to, in the name of national security, to be able to effect those work rules, so that we can better say to the American people, "We're doing everything we can to

protect you.” The House heard the call. The Senate hadn’t. The Senate hadn’t moved—another reason we need to change the leadership in the Senate so we can get a—so we can have a Homeland Security Department where this President and future Presidents are able to put the right people at the right place with the right equipment at the right time, to protect the American people.

I don’t have to worry about old Steve Pearce’s vote on that issue or Pete Domenici’s. I want you to know that no matter how hard we work here at home—and we’ll work hard; however long it takes, we’ll work hard—the most effective way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. That’s the most effective thing, and we’re doing it. Slowly but surely, we’re hunting them down.

Now, it’s hard to tell progress sometimes because this is a different kind of war. I’m sure we’ve got some vets out there who remember the wars where, “Yes, we’re making progress because we destroyed some tanks,” or, “We’re making progress because we shot some airplanes out of the sky.” That’s not the type of enemy we face now. These people are ones who hide in caves, kind of lurk in the dark corners of some of the cities in the world. Then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It’s a new kind of war, a different kind of army. But that doesn’t mean we can’t win. As a matter of fact, I’m confident we will win. And I know we’re making progress.

And part of my confidence rests in the fact that we’ve got the finest United States military in the world. And I just signed a new defense bill. It’s the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. The message—there’s two messages in that bill; it’s important to hear. One, anytime this country puts our troops into harm’s way, we owe it to the troops, and we owe it to the loved ones of the troops, to make sure they’ve got the best training, the best equipment, and the best possible pay.

And the second message is that—and this is a message to our friends and to our foes alike—that we’re in this deal for the long haul. It don’t matter how long it takes. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to the—defending the American

people, it doesn’t matter how long it takes. There is not a calendar in the Oval Office which says, on this day, Mr. President, you haul them home. That just doesn’t exist in my way of thinking. It doesn’t exist in the way of thinking of most Americans. They understand what is at stake. They understand we have an obligation. They understand no matter how long it takes, no matter what the cost, we’re going to do our duty, and that is to defend freedom and to defeat the enemy of terror, to defeat that enemy that loves terror as a weapon.

We’ve hauled in a couple of thousand of them so far. I say “we”—the doctrine still stands which says, “Either you’re with us, or you’re with the others.” That doctrine still exists, and there is still a coalition of people working together. The other day we got a guy named bin al-Shibh. He thought he was going to be the 20th hijacker. That’s what he wanted to be. He popped his head up. He is no longer a problem to America.

A couple of thousand of them have been hauled in by America and our friends, and we’re still making progress, one at a time. We’re putting that spotlight into caves, and we’re hauling them out of there. We’re finding them in the dark corners. A like number hadn’t been so lucky, by the way. And they’re not a problem, either. Slowly but surely, it doesn’t matter how long it takes.

You know, I don’t know what was going through the mind of the enemy. They probably took a look at America and said, you know, “These folks are shallow. They’ve got one religion called materialism. They’re self-absorbed.” After they hit us, we’d probably take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] No, they made a big, big mistake. They don’t understand the character of the country.

See, this country is strong; it’s steady. This country is determined. And so long as we remain strong and determined, so long as we remember that freedom is not created by America, freedom is God-given for everybody around the world, so long as we hold our values dear, we can bring peace. I want you to tell your kids that amongst all the talk about war, there’s a burning and deep desire to make the world peaceful, to make America

peaceful—not only to make America peaceful because we value each life, everybody counts, peace in other parts of the world, as well.

I truly believe that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good—some incredible good. And that good is going to be a peaceful world. I also know here at home that we can be a better America. I've talked about ways for Government to help, but you've got to know that Government, even though it can hand out money, it can never put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. The best healing there is in America, the best way to eliminate pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist in this land, the best way to make sure that the American experience is for everybody, is for our fellow citizens to put their arm around somebody who hurts and say, "I love you. I love you."

If you want—I used to tell people right after September the 11th, if you want to join the war on terror, if you want to fight evil, do some good. Do some good. Do some good right here in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Help feed the hungry. Help—mentor a child. If you really want to do some good, teach a child how to read. See, our society is going to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

The enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting us. They didn't realize they were hitting not only a strong nation, a tough nation, but a compassionate nation as well. The great strength of America lies not in our halls of Government; the great strength of our country lay in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

You know, one of the things that's happened after September the 11th is that a lot of Americans took a step back and said, "How best to live my life—what can I do? How best to realize the American experience?" I think a lot of it had to do with what took place on Flight 93 that day, when our fellow citizens were flying across the country. They learned that the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon to destroy life. On their cell phones they told their loved ones goodbye. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer; they prayed for guidance and strength. A guy said,

"Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

The aftermath of the evil done to America has caused a lot of Americans to understand that a full life, a decent life, a complete life is to serve something greater than yourself in life. If you're a mom or a dad, remember your most important job will be to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you care about your community here in New Mexico, get involved with your schools. Help people in need. If you're running corporate America, you remember you have a responsibility to tell the truth and not lie and cheat employees and shareholders.

No, the enemy hit us, but they hit a great nation, a nation which will work to keep the peace, and a nation which will respond in a way here at home, where that great hope of America, the great promise of our country, the spirit that caused Mel's mother and daddy to send him here to America, applies to everybody.

There's no question in my mind, fellow citizens, that we've got hurdles ahead of us. No question in my mind we're going to leap those hurdles, because this is the finest nation, full of the most decent people on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. God bless you all. And God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 a.m. at the Riner Steinhoff Soccer Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Pearce, candidate for New Mexico's Second Congressional District; gubernatorial candidate John Sanchez; Mayor Donald E. Carroll of Alamogordo; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan. The President also referred to Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who died in the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN.

Remarks in Denver, Colorado

October 28, 2002

The President. Thanks for coming. Thanks for such a warm welcome. It's nice to be in a part of the world where the cowboy hats outnumber the ties. I'm honored so

many of you all came. Please be seated, unless you don't have a seat. [Laughter] I'm honored so many came out today.

I've got some things on my mind that I'd like to share with you. One thing that's on my mind is that we have a duty to our country to participate in the political process. See, if you believe in freedom, you have a duty to exercise your right to vote to begin with. One of the reasons I'm coming to this big State is to encourage people to do their duty, to go to the polls. I want all people, no matter what their political party is or whether they even like a political party, to exercise their obligation to vote.

Now, I've got some suggestions when you go—[laughter]—I've got some suggestions. For the sake of Colorado and for the sake of the country, Wayne Allard needs to be sent back to the United States Senate.

Audience members. Six more years! Six more years! Six more years!

The President. Whether he wins or not is going to depend upon many of you here. See, grassroots politics makes a big difference—turning out that vote, getting on the telephones and putting up the signs, going to your coffee shops or your houses of worship or your community centers to put out the word that, when you've got a good one like Wayne, you've got to do everything you can to help him get back to Washington.

You know, in Colorado, I'm sure you understand this. Around Crawford, we kind of know the difference between a show horse and a work horse. [Laughter] With Wayne, you've got somebody who's willing to work on your behalf. When he says something, he means it. And he does not need a focus group or a poll to tell him what to think.

I'm proud to have traveled in with Joan today, too. Like me, he married well. He drew the short straw. If he'd have been smart, he'd have invited Laura to come and speak instead of me. [Laughter] And she's doing great, by the way. She's on her way from Crawford back to Washington.

I don't know if you remember the story. I see my friend Ricky Griess here. He and I both went to San Jacinto Junior High with Laura. When I married her, when I asked her to marry me—or asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. And she

didn't like politics. [Laughter] And she didn't care for politicians, either. [Laughter] Thank goodness she said yes when I proposed. She is a fabulous First Lady for America, and she's for Wayne Allard.

And like me, she's also awfully fond of your Governor and first lady, Bill Owens. Governor Bill Owens is one of the finest Governors in the United States. And you better make sure you put him back in, too. He's got a great record. He cares deeply about the citizens of this State, and he's proven that he's a Governor of everybody. The thing I like about Governor Owens, he campaigns proudly as a Republican, but he serves all the people of this State. And he's going to get a big vote from Republicans and Democrats and independents because of the job he has done. I'm not saying that just because he was born in Texas. [Laughter] I'm saying that because his record speaks loud and clear. And we love Frances, too. She's done a great job as the first lady of Colorado.

I'm proud to be up here with another fine United States Senator. Ben Nighthorse Campbell is a class act and a good man. I'm honored to be here with two Members of the United States Congress, Bob Schaffer and Tom Tancredo. I appreciate them coming.

And I'm here to make sure—to encourage you to work hard, to make sure that Denny Hastert remains the Speaker of the House of Representatives. And if you're interested in joining me in doing that, you'll make sure Bob Beauprez gets elected to the United States Congress.

I appreciate Bob. He represents the Colorado story, the Colorado story from a pioneering family. He's an entrepreneur. He's a hard worker. He's a God-fearing man. He's a decent soul. For the sake of the country, it's important that Bob Beauprez become the United States Congressman from the Seventh District.

You need to work hard to get out the vote in this close race. You need to turn out everybody you can find. And once you get through getting him elected, make sure you don't forget Marilyn Musgrave, who's going to be the Congresswoman from Colorado. Marilyn knows what she's doing. She doesn't need

a bunch of on-the-job training in Washington. She'll be a good, steady hand from the get-go.

I also want to—you to work hard for senator—State senator Ken Chlouber. Ken's running—Ken's running for the Congress. He too is a good, honest man, a good, decent fellow who will make a fine United States Congressman.

No, it's important for the sake of our future that Denny Hastert remain the Speaker of the House. I can work with him. And we need to work together, because we've got some big projects ahead for America, we've got some big challenges for our country. But you've got to know you're looking at an optimist. There's nothing this country can't achieve when we put our mind to it.

Some of the biggest challenges we face will require us being able to work together in the—with the administrative branch and the legislative branch, in concert. We're doing what's right for America. Listen, I worry about the fact that some people can't find a job here in America. Anytime one's looking for work and can't find a job means we've got to do—we've got to have a pro-growth agenda. Anytime somebody wants to work and can't put food on the table means we've got a problem in America.

Let me tell you what we think. People on this stage believe that the tax cuts we passed, the tax cuts that Congress enacted, was one of the best remedies for making sure people can find work. And the reason why is because when somebody has more of his own or her own money in their pocket, they're more than likely to demand an additional good or a service. And in the marketplace, when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody in Colorado or elsewhere in the country is more likely to find work. The tax relief we passed came at exactly the right time in American economic history.

And I want to thank Senator Allard for his support. I don't have to worry about his position on tax relief. Nor do I have to worry about Bob Beauprez's position on tax relief. And that's the kind of representation you need to have in Washington. It's still an issue, because the Senate rules are such that after

10 years, the tax relief we passed goes away. See, that creates a sense of uncertainty in the marketplace. It's hard to plan if the tax rules are going to change on you.

The tax relief plan we passed made eminent sense for our small businesses. Seventy percent of the new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And when you reduce the rates, the individual tax rates, it affects small-business growth because most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. For the sake of job creation, for the sake of enhancing the entrepreneurial spirit, for the sake of strengthening the small-business sector in America, you need to send people to the Senate and the Congress who will make the tax relief permanent.

I know there is concern about what they call "urban sprawl" here in Colorado. One of the reasons why urban sprawl can get out of hand is because farmers and ranchers are forced to sell their property before they want to because of the death tax. The tax relief plan we passed puts the death tax on its way to extinction. However, because of the Senate rules, it doesn't go away after 10 years. It kind of heads toward extinction, but doesn't die. It's like the Senate giveth, and then they taketh away. You better have you a United States Senator and Members of the United States Congress who will support the administration and make the repeal of the death tax permanent.

We need Members of the United States Congress who will work with the administration to get an energy bill. We can't get an energy bill out of the Congress. That doesn't make any sense. Listen, we are dependent upon foreign sources of crude oil, and some of those sources of crude oil aren't really friendly to the United States of America. I wouldn't call them friends. For the sake of job security, for the sake of national security, we need people in Congress who will work with us to get an energy bill which encourages conservation, encourages renewable sources of energy but, at the same time, encourages exploration, environmentally friendly exploration, so we become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

I look forward to having people in the United States Congress with whom I can

work, like Wayne and Bob, to make sure we've got reasonable forest policy. You all suffered a lot of burning here in the West because we've had lousy forest policy, forest policy that didn't make any sense, forest policy that just said, "Let's just ignore the forest. Let's just let this kindling build up. Let's create a dangerous situation." And then all of a sudden, lightning struck, or man may strike, and these forests that have been not tended to, forests that have been ignored, caught on fire and our heritage was destroyed.

For the sake of good environmental policy, commonsense environmental policy, send these two people up there so they can join with us, so we can have a forest policy that protects our forest by thinning out the dead wood, by making sure kindling doesn't pile up, to prevent forest fires from happening in the first place through sound forest management practices.

I look forward to working with these two men to make sure our Medicare system works. Medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern, got all kinds of new technologies and drugs that will help save lives, and Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of honoring our commitments to our seniors, we need people in Congress with whom we can work to make sure Medicare is modern and our seniors have got a prescription drug benefit.

No, there's a lot of things we can work on, a lot of things we can work on together to make America a stronger place and a better place. One way I can—I believe I can influence America in a positive way is to make sure I get some good judges nominated for the Federal bench, the kind of judges who apply the law as it's written, not who go on the bench to write new laws of their own. And the Senate has got a lousy record on my judges. We need to change the Senate for a lot of reasons, and one reason is to make sure we've got a sound judiciary. There's no question where Wayne Allard stands when it comes to good, conservative judges. He's a vote on which I can count.

There's a lot we can do together to make sure the economy is strong and the health care systems work, make sure environmental policy makes sense. These two men up here

on stage with me are running for office, are exactly the right answers for Colorado.

We've also got to make sure that we are able to continue to do the most important job we have, and that's to protect the homeland. See, America is still under threat. Oh, we can play like we are aren't. We can play like there's not a threat out there, but that's just not the way I am. I think we need to have people in Congress and around the country who are realistic, see clearly the threats we face. We've got to do that. The most important job we have as Government is to protect innocent life.

And the reason why the issue is still alive is because there's an enemy lurking around out there that is pretty tough. And they're resolute, and they're driven by hatred. They hate what we love. We love life. Everybody matters, as far as we're concerned. Everybody is precious. They have no regard for innocent life whatsoever. They hate the fact that we love freedom. We love our freedom of religion. We love our freedom of speech. We love every aspect of freedom, and we're not changing. We're not intimidated. As a matter of fact, the more they hate our freedoms; the more we love our freedoms.

And so we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. We've got to be realistic about the threats we face. See, after September the 11th, 2001, it should be evident to all Americans that these oceans no longer protect us. A while ago it would be easy to say there's a conflict somewhere, and we can pick and choose if we want to be involved, or there may be a threat emerging, but we really don't have to worry about it that much because we've got oceans to protect us. Now we realize that the battlefield is here at home. The battlefields used to be elsewhere. They're here at home now, which means the stakes are much higher. And when we see a threat, we've got to be realistic about the threat, and we've got to be firm in our resolve to deal with threats.

And there's a true threat which exists in Iraq. Oh, we can hope the man changes, but I want you to remember that this is a person who has gassed his own people. It's a person who claims he has no weapons of mass destruction, in order to escape the dictums of the U.N. Security Council and the United

Nations, but he's got them. See, he'll lie. He'll deceive us. And he'll use them.

He can't stand America. He can't stand our friends and allies. For 11 years he's defied 16 resolutions out of the United Nations. You see, 11 years ago, he said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He told the world, "Fine, I got whipped, and I'm not going to have weapons of mass destruction." And then he defied the U.N., resolution after resolution after resolution. He's a threat to America, and he's a threat to our friends. He's even more of a threat now that we've learned that he's anxious to have—once again to develop a nuclear weapon. He's got connections with Al Qaida.

And so I went to the United Nations to raise the issue. I went there for a couple of reasons. One, I want the United Nations to be effective. It seems like to me that, if the new war we fight requires intelligence sharing and cutting off the money, then we ought to have a group of nations working toward that end. I don't want the United Nations to be the League of Nations, but it's their choice to make. They have the choice to make, to free—the leaders of the free world have got a choice to make as to whether or not Saddam is going to be allowed to defy their resolutions and weaken—weaken their capacity to keep the peace—their choice.

And Saddam Hussein has got a choice to make too. He can do what he said he would do; he can disarm. The Congress debated the issue, members from both parties stated their opinion. It was a good, healthy, open debate. And the Congress has now joined with the administration to speak with one voice, and here's our message. Our message from America is this: If the United Nations does not have the will or the courage to disarm Saddam Hussein, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

No, we've got to be realistic. We must be realistic here in America. We can't hope for the best. Times have changed. The battlefield is here, as we learned so clearly on that fateful day. And they're still out there. The poor souls of—in Indonesia who lost their lives are an example of what I'm talking about. These people are coldblooded killers.

But you've got to know there's a lot of good people working hard here at home to protect you, people at the Federal level and at the State level, the local level, people working overtime to run down any hint or to chase down any lead so we can deny, disrupt any plans. We get a hint; I'm telling you, we're moving on it. We're doing everything we can. See, we are on alert. We're now aware of the realities we face.

But we can do a better job, and that's why I asked Congress to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, so we can better coordinate amongst the agencies involved with the securing the homeland, so we can set the homeland security as the priority, if need be change cultures, so we've got people all headed in the same direction, which is your protection. And the House of Representatives passed a good bill. But it's stuck in the Senate. They couldn't get it out of the Senate. They're trying to extract too high a price from me.

For 40 years, Presidents have had the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department when the national security is at stake. For 40 years, since John Kennedy, Presidents have had that power. And now the Senate, in a time of war, wants to take that power away from me. I'll have that power in the Agriculture Department but not in the Department of Homeland Security. And I'm not going to accept a lousy bill from the Senate. And I want to thank Wayne Allard for his support. I know where he stands.

The best way, however, to secure our homeland, the best way to make sure we defend our freedoms and fulfill our obligations to our children is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is exactly what we're going to do. It's going to take a while. It's not an easy lift. It's going to take a while. This isn't one of these instant gratification deals. This is going to take a while to get it done.

The Congress responded to my budget request for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I want to thank them for that. I signed that the other day in the Rose Garden. And we signed that—I asked for that amount of money for two reasons. One, anytime this country commits our troops into harm's way,

they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe that to the loved ones of our troops. And for all the loved ones of our troops out there, I want to thank you for your sacrifices, and you tell your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, however he or she is related to you, that the Commander in Chief is confident in their capacity and proud of their service to the United States of America.

And the other message we're sending loud and clear, that defense bill sends this message loud and clear to friend and foe alike, that we're in this deal for the long haul. There is not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says by such-and-such a date, you quit. That's just—that's not the way I think. That's not the way most Americans think, because they understand freedom is precious and they understand the stakes. They can see clearly that the battleground has shifted, and we have an obligation and a duty for future generations of America to stay the course. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," it still stands too. And we're making progress at dismantling the terrorist organization. We've hauled in a couple of thousand. One by one, we're finding them and bringing them to justice; like number were not as lucky. In either case, the sum total is, they're not a problem to the United States or our friends and allies anymore.

The other day, one of them popped his head up. See, these are the kinds of people that hide in caves. They don't fly airplanes like the one I used to fly, the 102, or they don't sit in tanks. They hide in caves, and they send their youngsters to their suicidal deaths. And so you've got to treat this like a manhunt. One time, a guy the other day named bin al-Shibh, who was going to be the twentieth hijacker, he popped his head up, and he's not a problem anymore. We've got a lot of good people chasing them down, a lot of good people. Sometimes you'll see about it, read about it, or see it on TV, and sometimes you're just not going to see it. But you've got to know the manhunt is on, and it doesn't matter how long it takes, doesn't

matter how long it takes. I like our chances better than theirs. We've got a fabulous military, and we've got a great resolve.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind. They must have thought our religion was materialism. They must have thought we were so self-centered and so absorbed with our own kind of shallow materialism that all we would do after September the 11th was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They just didn't understand, and they're going to pay a dear price for doing what they did to America.

You see, this great country—this country understands what's at stake. This country is strong. This country is resolved. And by being strong and by being resolved, there's going to be some incredible good come out of the evil done to America, starting with peace. Amidst all the talk you're hearing, you've got to understand my vision is for a peaceful world.

Oh, I understand the stakes; I see the risks. But the dream—and it's an achievable dream—is for the world to be peaceful, not only for Americans but for people in parts of the world that have quit on peace, parts of the world like the Middle East, where they just think peace doesn't have a chance. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe this Nation can lead the world to a peaceful world.

We're going to have to be strong. We're going to have to be tough at times. And we've always got to remember the value we hold most dear, freedom, is not an American-created value. It's a God-given value that applies to everybody around the world. No, we can achieve a peaceful world, and also at home we can achieve a more compassionate world as well.

The evil done to America caused a lot of good folks to take a step back, to kind of take an inventory of that which is important in their lives. A lot of good folks took a step back and said, "How can I best serve my country? What can I do? What can I do to help fight evil?" And the answer is, if you really want to help, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

See, Government can hand out money, and we can do things. We'll work hard on education matters. We'll work hard to make

sure the Medicare system works. And Government can pass money out. Sometimes we do a pretty good job of it. [*Laughter*] But what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to convert the evil done to America to some good is to recognize there's pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. There's loneliness. There's addiction. There are people who hurt in our midst. And so long as some of us hurt, we all hurt. And the best way to cure that loneliness and hurt is for a fellow American to put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

You see, the enemy had no idea who they were hitting. They didn't understand America like I do and you do. This is a country full of people that are decent and honorable, people who learned the lesson of Flight 93. That was the lesson of people who were flying across the country. They heard the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the American spirit of sacrifice and service and compassion and love is alive and strong. And therefore, I boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will not only come a more peaceful world, but out of the evil done to America will be a more compassionate America, where the great hope of this country, the great vibrancy of the American Dream, will be alive and well in every corner, in every neighborhood here in America. I'm an optimistic fellow because I understand that America is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Joan Allard, wife of Senator Wayne Allard; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado, and his wife, Frances; Marilyn Musgrave, candidate for Colorado's Fourth Congressional District; Ken Chlouber, candidate for Colorado's First Congressional District; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the

September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks on Signing the Help America Vote Act of 2002

October 29, 2002

The President. Thanks for coming. Good morning.

Before we begin today, I would like to pause and remember a devoted public servant who was taken from us last Friday, along with his wife and his daughter and several other members—several other Americans. Paul Wellstone was a deeply principled and a good-hearted man. He will be missed by all who knew him and by all who had the privilege of serving with him. So before we begin, would you join me in a moment of silence in honor of his memory.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

The President. Today I'm proud to sign into law an important reform for our Nation. Americans are a self-governing people, and the central commitment of self-government is free and fair elections. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 is a bipartisan measure to help States and localities update their systems of voting and ensure the integrity of elections in America.

The commission that helped inspire this legislation was led by two exceptional Americans, with broad experience in public service, our 38th and 39th President—Presidents. [*Laughter*] Although Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter could not be here today, our Nation is grateful for their work on election reform and for all they have given to America. We're pleased, however to be joined by the co-chairmen of the commission, former Congressman Bob Michel of Illinois, former Presidential Counselor Lloyd Cutler. Thank you both for coming. Thank you for your good work.

I also appreciate—I also want to thank the Members of Congress who are here with us today. I particularly want to thank Senator Christopher Dodd and Congressman Bob Ney for their hard work on this legislation. I appreciate Senators Mitch McConnell and Kit Bond for joining us. I appreciate Jim

Langevin from Rhode Island for coming. And I'm honored that Connie Morella from Maryland is with us as well. And Steny Hoyer, from Maryland, has joined us as well. These Members worked hard, along with the chairman, John Conyers, of the State of Michigan. The Members didn't let—didn't get discouraged. They worked through the issues, and they produced a really good piece of legislation. I'm proud to be able to sign this bill.

I also want to thank the four secretaries of state from around the country who have joined us. I appreciate you taking time to witness this important—the signing of this important piece of legislation.

The vitality of America's democracy depends on the fairness and accuracy of America's elections. Over two centuries our country has broadened the right to vote and sealed that right in law, making our Government more accountable to the people and more representative of the people. When problems arise in the administration of elections, we have a responsibility to fix them. Every registered voter deserves to have confidence that the system is fair and elections are honest, that every vote is recorded and that the rules are consistently applied.

The legislation I sign today will add to the Nation's confidence. Each State will be required to maintain a clean and current and accurate State—statewide list of registered voters, making it easier to register and easier to detect fraud. Under this law, people registering to vote are required to prove that they are who they say they are with appropriate identification. First-time voters who register by mail will be asked to provide identification when they cast their ballots. This law also creates new criminal penalties for providing false information and punishes anyone guilty of conspiracy to deprive voters of a fair election.

Each polling place must have at least one voting machine accessible to persons with disabilities. When people show up at the polls and their voting registration is in doubt, they should not be turned away but allowed to cast a provisional ballot so their vote can be counted if it is later verified that they are properly registered. And every State must have a fair procedure for hearing and resolv-

ing voter complaints. Under these reforms, training and education will be provided to pollworkers and voters, reducing the possibility of confusion and error at the polls.

Along with the resources come high standards for the integrity of elections. States must ensure that voting systems have minimal rates of error and allow voters a reasonable opportunity to review their ballots and correct any mistakes before a vote is cast.

The administration of elections is primarily a State and local responsibility. The fairness of all elections, however, is a national priority. And through these reforms, the Federal Government will help State and local officials to conduct elections that have the confidence of all Americans. We're counting on these officials to meet their responsibilities to protect the sanctity of the vote and to encourage Americans to exercise the right to vote.

All of us in America have a duty to vote. I urge all Americans to show up for this election cycle on November 5th, to do their duty as Americans, to recognize in a free society we have a responsibility to participate in the process.

Citizens of every political viewpoint can be proud of this important law. This legislation reflects the judgments of a distinguished bipartisan commission. These measures were carefully considered and overwhelmingly adopted by the House and the Senate. Congress has made a vital contribution to the democratic process.

Now it's my honor to sign into law the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN, which took the lives of Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota; his wife, Sheila; his daughter, Marcia Wellstone Markuson; campaign aides Will McLaughlin, Tom Lopic, and Mary McEvoy; pilot Richard Conroy; and copilot Michael Guess. H.R. 3295, approved October 29, was assigned Public Law No. 107-252. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Help America Vote Act of 2002

October 29, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3295, the “Help America Vote Act of 2002.” This Act comports with the basic principles set forth in the final report of the bipartisan National Commission on Federal Election Reform, which I endorsed in July of 2001. Consequently, the Act appropriately respects the primacy of State and local governments in the administration of elections, while helping to ensure the integrity and efficiency of voting processes in Federal elections by providing Federal governmental support for that vital endeavor.

Section 203(a)(2) of the Act mandates that members of the congressional leadership submit to the President recommendations of persons to be appointed to the Election Assistance Commission—an entity, created by the Act, that will exercise significant governmental functions of an executive nature. The executive branch will not construe this provision as establishing the submission of congressional recommendations as a condition precedent to presidential nomination of persons for appointment to the Commission. Such a construction would impose impermissible constraints on presidential power under the Appointments Clause of the Constitution.

Section 203(a)(4) purports to require the President to make appointments to the Commission no later than 120 days after enactment of the new law. As with the provision regarding recommendations for appointment, this deadline unduly circumscribes the presidential appointment power. Moreover, this deadline is practically impossible to satisfy given the time required for the pre-nomination personnel process and confirmation by the full Senate. For these reasons, the executive branch shall interpret this provision as advisory.

Section 902(c) would authorize the Comptroller General, an officer of the legislative branch, to make determinations that would impose binding payment obligations upon entities outside that branch. Because this provision attempts to vest executive functions in the Comptroller General, it violates the

constitutional principle of separation of powers.

Finally, the executive branch shall implement section 101, concerning the provision of voting assistance, in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 29, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3295, approved October 29, was assigned Public Law No. 107–252.

Proclamation 7615—National Family Caregivers Month, 2002

October 29, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

One of our most important responsibilities as citizens is to give back to our communities. Individuals who care for loved ones in their homes demonstrate the compassionate spirit of America. During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor these individuals who bring hope and comfort to their fellow citizens in need.

America’s family caregivers are vital to the strength of our communities. Through specialized care for family members with disabilities or those who are aging or chronically ill, millions of caregivers help their loved ones live in a comforting environment. As the size of our elderly population continues to grow, home care increasingly represents an important, dignified, and compassionate alternative for countless individuals.

To support and train families at all stages of caregiving, the Administration on Aging provides community-based assistance through the “National Family Caregiver Support Program.” This network of community service providers, faith-based organizations, tribal organizations, State and local agencies on aging, and hundreds of thousands of volunteers informs caregivers that they are not alone, and that help is always available

through counseling, support groups, training, respite care, and supplemental services.

As we work to build a culture of service, responsibility, and compassion, caregivers continue to bring our families and communities together. Through their efforts to assist loved ones in need, family caregivers demonstrate the true spirit of our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to pause to honor the family members, friends, and neighbors who shoulder caregiving responsibilities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:34 a.m., October 31, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 1.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

October 29, 2002

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sudan pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan, including continuing concern about the presence and activities of certain terrorist groups, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery, restrictions on religious freedom, and restrictions on political freedom. Because the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan continue to pose

an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on November 3, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond November 3, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 29, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:11 a.m., October 30, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 31.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan *October 29, 2002*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 31, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 55869).

The crisis between the United States and Sudan constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan, including continuing concern about the presence and activities of certain terrorist groups, including

Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery, restrictions on religious freedom, and restrictions on political freedom, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on November 3, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Sudan**

October 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

**Remarks on the Judicial
Confirmation Process**

October 30, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you, Al. He's—everybody must have a good lawyer, and I got one in Al Gonzales.

I want to welcome you all here to the White House. Thank you for coming.

The Federal courts play a central role in American justice, protecting the innocent, punishing the guilty, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law. Yet, today, our Federal courts are in crisis.

The judicial confirmation process does not work as it should. Nominees are too often mistreated; votes are delayed; hearings are denied. And dozens of Federal judgeships sit empty, and this endangers the quality of justice in America. Everyone knows these facts. Everyone knows the system isn't working. These concerns are not new, and we will not find a solution in an endless cycle of blame and bitterness.

Today I'm proposing a clean start for the process of nominating and confirming Federal judges. We must have an evenhanded, predictable procedure from the day a vacancy is announced to the day a new judge is sworn in. This procedure should apply now and in the future, no matter who lives in this house or who controls the Senate. We must return fairness and dignity to the judicial confirmation process.

I want to thank the Judge, Al Gonzales, for working on this initiative, and I want to thank his team for working hard. I appreciate John Ashcroft's service to our country. He is a great Attorney General, and I'm not saying that just because his wife and her twin sister are here. [*Laughter*]

I'm so pleased that Ted Olson, the Solicitor General, is with us. I thank Fred Fielding, the former counsel to President Ronald Reagan. Boyd Gray is with us, former Counsel to Number 41. Dennis Archer is with us today, president-elect of the American Bar Association and, of course, the former mayor of Detroit. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming. Thomas Hayward, chair of the Committee of Federal Judicial Improvements for the American Bar Association, and all of you, thank you for your interest in this subject.

Nearly 18 months ago, at an event right here in the East Room, I introduced my first 11 nominees to the court of appeals. I urged Senators of both parties to provide a fair hearing and a prompt vote to each nominee. Thus far, only 3 of these 11 nominations have been brought to a vote in the United States Senate.

The eight who are stalled in the Judiciary Committee include people such as John Roberts. John Roberts has argued 38 cases before the Supreme Court. He has served as Deputy Solicitor General of the United States. He's widely regarded as one of the best Supreme Court lawyers in America.

And they include Miguel Estrada, who has argued 15 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and has served in the Justice Department, under Presidents of both political parties, as a Federal prosecutor and as the Assistant to the Solicitor General.

The Judiciary Committee has prevented full Senate action on people such as Priscilla Owen, who has served brilliantly on the Texas Supreme Court since 1995 and was overwhelmingly reelected by the people of Texas in the year 2000.

Mr. Roberts, Mr. Estrada and Justice Owen have the highest ratings from the American Bar Association, which some Democrat Senators have called "the gold standard." They have broad support among lawyers in both political parties. Both Mr. Roberts and Mr. Estrada have the support of former President Clinton's Solicitor General. Justice Owen is supported by three former Democrat justices of the Texas Supreme Court.

In all, I have sent to the Senate 32 nominees for the court of appeals. They are well-qualified men and women with experience, intelligence, character, and bipartisan home-State support. They represent the mainstream of American law and American values. Yet the Senate has confirmed only 14 of these 32 nominees, which is far below the pace of past Senates at the start of an administration. It's a lousy record. Not one of my nine pending nominees to fill vacancies on the Sixth and DC Circuit Courts has received a Senate vote, not one. As of November, 15 of my appeals court nominees will have been forced to wait over a year for a hearing.

That's more in this Presidency than under the previous nine Presidents combined.

There's no good reason why any nominee should endure a year, a year and a half, or more, without the courtesy of an up-or-down floor vote. There is not one good reason why. Whatever the explanation, we clearly have a poisoned and polarized atmosphere in which well-qualified nominees are neither voted up or down; they are just left in limbo. This is unfair to the nominees and their families. This process discourages good people from serving as judges. It's also unfair to the courts themselves, which are forced to handle a growing caseload without the judges they need.

Nine percent of all Federal judgeships in America are now vacant—9 percent. Of the 12 regional courts of appeals, the courts right below the Supreme Court, there is a 17-percent vacancy rate. The Court of Appeals for the DC court, which rules on many significant Constitutional and regulatory issues, now operates with one-third of its judgeships empty. And the Sixth Court of Appeals, which covers Kentucky and Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee, is nearly half empty, with 9 active judges doing the work of 16.

Meanwhile, the number of Federal appeal court filings reached an all-time high this year. Benches are empty; the number of court filings has increased to an all-time high. We can expect them to increase even further as a result of the war on terror, corporate fraud prosecutions, and issues arising out of the September the 11th attacks.

If the judicial vacancies go unfulfilled, we will see more crowded dockets and longer delays. The Federal courts will be unable to act in a timely manner to protect constitutional rights, to resolve civil disputes, and enforce the criminal laws, the environmental laws, and the civil rights laws that affects the lives and liberties of every single American. Chief Justice Rehnquist has called this situation alarming. The American Bar Association's report has described the current status of the Federal judiciary as an emergency situation.

The judicial crisis is the result of a broken system, and we have a duty to repair it. I want to work with the Senate to fashion a

new approach to filling Federal court vacancies. We should leave behind the arguments and grievances of the past. We need to fix this problem together. That's why we've come to Washington, to fix problems, and each branch of Government can contribute, and must contribute, to a better system.

So today I'm offering four specific proposals to break the logjam in Washington and bring the Federal courts of appeals and district courts to full strength.

First, I call on Federal judges on the courts of appeals and district courts to notify the President of their intention to retire at least a year in advance, whenever this is possible. Because the nomination and confirmation of a Federal judge is a lengthy process under the best of circumstances, judges who retire without advance notice can unintentionally create a judicial vacancy that can last for many months. The request for one year advance notice builds on existing policy of the judiciary and will help us work toward a system in which a new Federal judge is ready to take the bench on a day the sitting judge retires. That's the goal.

Second, I propose that Presidents submit a nomination to the Senate within 180 days of receiving notice of a Federal court vacancy or intended retirement. In other words, we have a responsibility as well to make sure the judiciary is sound and whole. This will speed up the sometimes time-consuming process of obtaining recommendations and evaluations from home-State Senators and Representatives and Governors and bar leaders, while leaving ample time for Presidents to vet and choose nominees of the highest quality.

Third, I call on the Senate Judiciary—Senate Judiciary Committee to commit to holding a hearing within 90 days of receiving a nomination. A strict deadline is the best way to ensure that judicial nominees are promptly and fairly considered, and 90 days is more than enough time for the committee to conduct necessary research before holding a hearing. That's plenty of time.

Finally, I call on the full Senate to commit to an up-or-down floor vote on each nominee no later than 180 days after the nomination is submitted. This is a very generous period of time that will allow all the Senators to

evaluate nominees and have their votes counted.

Our proposals would not favor Democrats or Republicans. The plan would be fair and would apply to—regardless of who the President is. It doesn't matter who the President is. What matters is a system which works.

For the first time in years, the judicial confirmation process would work as it was intended to work. All Senators would have a chance to make their voices heard and their views known, and that's important. All nominees would have the certainty of an up-or-down Senate floor vote within a reasonable period of time, and that is important. All Presidents would know that their judicial nominations would be addressed promptly. All Americans would see a more dignified process and have their Federal courts fully staffed to protect their rights and their liberties. And the vacancy crisis would be resolved once and for all.

I urge every Member of the Senate, in particular those serving on the Judiciary Committee, to carefully consider this new beginning for the judicial nomination process, to weigh their responsibilities, to look at the vacancy problem we have, to act in a responsible fashion.

The failure of the judicial confirmation process is harming the administration of justice in America. That is a fact. The current state of affairs is not merely another round of political wrangling. It is a disturbing failure to meet our responsibilities under the Constitution. The Constitution has given us a shared duty, and we must meet that duty together.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General Ashcroft's wife, Janet Ashcroft, and sister-in-law, Anne Giddings; and former Solicitor General Seth P. Waxman.

Statement on Signing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act

October 30, 2002

I have signed into law S. 1227, the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act. The

Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, along and in the vicinity of the Niagara River.

Section 3(d) purports to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to the Congress recommendations related to legislation. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to submit for consideration to the Congress legislative proposals as the President judges are necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 30, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1227, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 107-256.

Remarks in Aberdeen, South Dakota October 31, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thanks a lot for coming. Thanks for having me here. The next time you get me to come back, let's go pheasant hunting. I can't go today. [Laughter] I've got to work. I'm traveling our country to remind people that the American spirit is alive and well today.

That spirit is the spirit of a determined nation willing to defend our freedoms, no matter what the cost. That American spirit says loud and clear that we're willing to serve something greater than ourselves. We're willing to serve people in need, a community we love. And part of the American spirit is for our citizens to exercise their duty, and their duty is to cast a vote on November the 5th. You have a duty. You have a duty in this country. If you believe in freedom, if you believe in the values that make this country the finest nation on the face of the Earth, you have a duty to go to the polls. That's part of what it means to live in a free society.

I want to thank you all who have voted. I want to thank you who are fixing to vote. And I've got some suggestions for you when you get inside the voting booth. [Laughter] For the sake of South Dakota, for the sake

of our country, John Thune should be the next United States Senator.

Audience members. Thune! Thune! Thune!

The President. For the sake of South Dakota and for the sake of the country, Bill Janklow needs to be the next United States Congressman. And for the sake of South Dakota, particularly the sake for excellence in education, Mike Rounds needs to be the next Governor.

I urge all the citizens of this State and around the country, Republican, Democrat, or independent alike, to go to the polls. But I believe when those discerning Democrats and those wise independents take a look at the candidates that I'm here to support, they're going to vote for them. It's in the best interests of their families. It's in the best interests of this State that these three men be elected to their offices.

Not only have these three good men decided to put their hat in the ring, all of them married above themselves. [Laughter] Kimberley Thune is a great wife of John Thune. She is a wonderful lady. She'll bring a lot of class—she has brought a lot of class to Washington. We're proud to call her friend. John is proud to call her wife, and her kids are proud to call her mother.

I'm proud to be up here with Mary Dean Janklow, who's been a great first lady for the State of South Dakota. And Jean Rounds will be a great first lady for the State of South Dakota.

I know something about First Ladies. One of them got stuck with me. [Laughter] Laura sends her love; she sends her very best. She's coming to the State to campaign, which means you drew the short straw. [Laughter] Laura and I share the values of the people of South Dakota. After all, as John mentioned, we were raised in west Texas. It's good. [Laughter] Then you know what I'm talking about. Actually, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She didn't like politics. She didn't care for politicians. [Laughter] Thank goodness she said yes when I was there on bended knee. America now knows why I asked her to marry me. She's smart. She's capable. She's calm. She is a great First Lady for this country.

I want to thank Dr. Hilpert for opening up this beautiful facility for this rally. I want to thank the university staff for putting up with the President's entourage. I want to thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank the mayor of Aberdeen, Tom Hooper, for coming out to say hello today. I appreciate—Tom Hopper. I appreciate very much his hospitality. I want to thank all my citizens for coming.

I want to thank the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank you for your activity in the democratic process. I want to thank you for turning out the vote. I want to thank you for what you have done in the past. I want to thank you for what you are going to do during the next couple of days, which is to man the phones, which is to go to your coffee shops and remind the people there that when you find good, honorable, decent, honest people, they ought to vote for them. When you go to your community centers, urge your neighbors to turn out to vote. Make sure that you do your duty not only to vote but, if you believe in the character and the vision of these candidates, turn out your neighbors to the polls come next Tuesday. Work hard. And you know what's going to happen on election day: These three good people are going to get elected.

And there is a reason why. Mike Rounds has got a vision for education for this State that says no child will be left behind, a vision which says every child can be educated. There's a reason why to vote for him, besides the fact that he's a good and honorable man. It's because he's got a vision that's positive for the future of this State.

There's a reason to support Janklow, besides the fact he and I are good buddies. There's a reason to support him, besides the fact it will be a vote that I can count on to make sure that we go the right direction in this country, and that is, he's got a solid record of accomplishment in the State of South Dakota.

And there's a reason why John Thune ought to be in the Senate. He's an independent fellow who works on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota with all his heart. He can work with both Democrats and Republicans. He doesn't get caught up in all the nasty rhetoric that tends to divide our

Nation's Capital, that rhetoric which sends bad signals to many of our citizenry. He's a fellow who works hard on behalf of the schoolchildren of South Dakota. After all, with his help we were able to send \$185 million in educational funding this year. John Thune was working hard to make sure that the schools of South Dakota were treated well.

He's a man who is committed to our military, not just at election time, by the way. After all, his dad, Harold, was a World War II fighter pilot who taught John that peace comes through strength, that the stronger this Nation of ours is, the more peaceful the world will become. John also, like me, listens to his mother. [*Laughter*] She told him, she said, "You get up there, you better make sure Social Security is secure." And he has made that commitment.

I look forward to working with John on key issues in the United States Senate, like Medicare. That's a key issue. This Nation has made a promise to our seniors, and we need to do something about the Medicare system. After all, medicine is modern; Medicare isn't. Medicine has changed, but Medicare is stuck in the past. I need a Senator with whom I can work to modernize Medicare, and a modern Medicare system means prescription drugs for our seniors.

I need somebody I can work with in the Senate to make sure that the crisis of our—in our judiciary gets solved. There's too many vacancies in our—on our Federal benches, which means the dockets are crowded. It means Americans aren't getting the justice they deserve. The Senate has done a lousy job with my nominees. I need a Senator with whom I can work to make sure that we stop playing petty partisan politics with the judicial nominations I've sent up, to make sure people's records aren't distorted, and to make sure we have a bench that is full of judges who aren't there to write the law but are there to strictly interpret the United States Constitution. And make no mistake about it; that Senator is John Thune.

Audience members. Thune! Thune! Thune!

The President. I appreciate the fact that John understands the importance of agriculture in our economy and in our way of

life. He tried to convince me of that one time. I said, "You don't have to convince me. I'm from the second largest agricultural State in the country." He said, "Yeah, but you're not from South Dakota." I said, "No, good point." [Laughter] He understands farmers and ranchers. We both know the values that are found on our farms and our ranches, those family values that are dear to the heart of America.

He knows, if you're good at something, we ought to promote it. We're good at raising crops, and we ought to be selling them all around the world, for the sake of South Dakota farmers and South Dakota ranchers.

He's a commonsense fellow. He understands good, practical policies can make a large difference. We need to change our forest policies. We need to change our forest policies for the sake of the people who live in this State. We need to change our forest policies so we can preserve our national treasure. It doesn't make any sense to have a forest policy that will not allow for thinning and clearing, a forest policy that is so backward that we allow kindling to build up in these forests, and then with an act of nature or with a sleight of hand by mankind, our national treasures burn to the ground. John Thune has got a commonsense vision for good forest policy. I look forward to working with him in the United Nations Senate to preserve these national heritages.

I look forward to working with John to deal with some of the high hurdles we have to cross as a nation. One of the high hurdles is our economy. Anytime people are looking for work and they can't find work means we've got a problem in America. We've got some good news today. The third quarter growth was positive, and that's good. We're kind of moving our way toward a time when people can find work. But there's more to do. There's more to do, and Congress has a role to play. They need to get an antiterrorism insurance bill to my desk that will put hardhats back to work, that rewards hardhats and not America's trial lawyers.

But one of the best things we can do is to make sure these tax relief plans that we—package we passed is permanent. The Senate rules say that they last for only 10 years. That creates uncertainty. How can a small-busi-

ness owner plan for the future if the Tax Code is going to shift around on him or her? You can't. If you want to create jobs, there must be steadiness in our Tax Code. There has to be a permanency to the rules.

And we passed a tax relief plan that over the next 10 years will yield \$3.2 billion in tax relief to the South Dakota citizens. That means you have more money in your pocket. And when you have more money in your pocket, it means you're likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, in the marketplace it means somebody is likely to produce that good or a service, which means somebody is more likely to find work. For the sake of jobs, for the sake of job creation, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

Be wary of those folks who say we need to revisit the tax relief plan. That's Washington, DC, code for, "I'm fixing to raise your taxes." When the economy is bumping along, we don't need to be raising taxes; we need to be reducing taxes. And we've got to also remember you need to have somebody in Washington that understands whose money we're talking about. That money is not the Government's money. We're talking about your money.

So I look forward to working with Senator Thune and Congressman Janklow on the issues that relate to the—our citizenry, issues like economic growth and good health systems and education. The biggest issue we'll be working on together is to protect the American people. That's the biggest issue. The biggest challenge we have in America is to protect our citizens from killers. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. These people have hijacked a great religion, and they kill innocent life. See, they don't like America; they don't value life like we do. We say in our country, "Everybody matters. Everybody is precious in the sight of an Almighty. Everybody counts." That's not the ways these folks we're chasing down think. You just got to know that.

But the Nation is—we've been warned. We understand the stakes. We understand our life is changed. And so there's a lot of good folks doing everything they can to do our number one job, which is to protect you, a lot of good folks at the Federal level and

the State level and the local level doing everything we can to disrupt and deny, to run down every hint, every lead. Anytime we've got any kind of inkling that somebody is thinking about doing something to an American and something to our homeland, you've just got to know we're moving on it, to protect the United States Constitution, and at the same time, we're protecting you.

But we can do a better job. And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, so we can get all of the agencies involved with protecting you to have as their number one focus your protection and, if need be, be able to change cultures within these agencies.

The House of Representatives passed a good bill. I want to thank John Thune for his vote. This bill is stuck in the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate because some Senators are trying to extract a price from the President, and the price is, is that I will give up the capacity to suspend certain bargaining rules in the name of national security, the ability that every President since John F. Kennedy has had.

Let me put it to you this way: The work rules—I wouldn't have the capacity to suspend some work rules for the Department of Homeland Security if I accepted their version, but I would for the Department of Agriculture. Here we are at war; I have more flexibility in dealing with the work rules in the Department of Agriculture than I would in the Department charged with your protection. It doesn't make any sense. I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. John Thune will support me in advancing a homeland security bill that makes sense.

But the best way to protect you is to find these killers, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It just doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our country and defend our freedoms. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, on such-and-such a date you'll be hauling them home; on such-and-such a date we quit. That's not an America I know, and that's not the America you're a part of. You see,

when it comes to defending that which we hold dear, our freedoms, it doesn't matter what the cost; it doesn't matter how long it takes.

See, history has called us—it's called this generation into action. And we are not going to let future generations of Americans down. We have an obligation to future generations to do whatever it takes to defend that which we hold dear, and we hold our freedoms dear.

I signed the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I want to thank the Members of Congress and the Senate for getting that bill to me. The reason I asked for such a big increase is, there's two principles involved. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, anytime we put our youngsters into a zone in which there's danger, we owe it to them and we owe it to their loved ones to make sure they've got the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And secondly, we're sending a clear signal to friend and foe alike that this is a determined nation. I'm determined to make sure that that doctrine that says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," is still clear in everybody's mind around the world. It still stands, by the way. If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; that doctrine still stands, too. And that defense bill shows we mean what we say.

For those of you who have got loved ones in the military, you need to pass on this message: The Commander in Chief has got all the confidence in the world, all the confidence that our military can achieve any objective. I'm proud of them, and I appreciate their sacrifices for our great Nation.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. Sometimes you'll see it on your TV screens, and sometimes you won't. See, it's a different kind of war. In the old days, we'd destroy tanks and ships and airplanes and say, "Look, we're destroying the enemy's hardware, and we're making progress." This bunch we're fighting is people who hide in caves and send their youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a different kind of war. But we're still making progress, one at a time. We're hauling them in. We've got a coalition of people on the hunt.

A couple of thousand of them have been hauled in, and they're no longer a problem. Like number met a different fate, and I can assure you they're not a problem. One of them popped his head up the other day, the guy who was going to be the 20th hijacker. He's not a problem to the United States either. We're slowly but surely rounding these killers up to make America a safe place.

We've got to be clear-eyed. We've got to understand the risk that our country faces. We've got to be realistic, particularly in Washington, DC, when it comes to setting priorities to defending our homeland. It's important that we not see the world the way we hope it is but we see the world the way it really is. The world changed on September the 11th, 2001. It used to be, when a lot of us were growing up, that oceans could protect us. Oh, if there was a conflict overseas, we could pick or choose if we wanted to be involved, but the threat wasn't really real to America. It might be real to some Americans who were overseas, but it wasn't real to our homeland. It was not a threat, but that all changed. And it's important for those of us who are responsible for your safety to be clear-eyed about the threats, to see threats as they are, not as we hope they are.

There is a threat in Iraq. And the threat exists because a leader there not only has denied and deceived the world about whether or not he's got weapons of mass destruction, but this is a guy who's used weapons of mass destruction. He not only has them; he's used them. And he's not only used them in his neighborhood; he's used them against his own people. This is a man who cannot stand what we stand for. He hates the fact, like Al Qaida does, that we love freedom. See, they can't stand that. This is a guy who has had connections with these shadowy terrorist networks. As I said in Cincinnati, Ohio, a while back, he's the kind of fellow who would love nothing more than to hurt America and not leave any fingerprints by using a surrogate army on his behalf. He's a problem. He's a true threat to America and our friends and allies.

I went to the United Nations a while ago because I want the United Nations to be effective. It's a different kind of war we face; we face different kind of threats. It makes

sense for there to be an international body that has got the backbone and the capacity to help keep the peace. And so here is my message, a message, by the way, resoundingly supported by members of both political parties in the Senate and the House: The message to the world is that we want the U.N. to succeed. We want those resolutions you pass to be listened to. You have told Saddam Hussein he must disarm. Do your job.

And Saddam Hussein, you have said you'll disarm; you need to do your job. But if the U.N. won't act, and if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, for the sake of peace, for the sake of a free future for our children, we will lead a coalition of nations and disarm Saddam Hussein.

There's no doubt, there is no doubt that we have got a chance in this Nation to bring some great good to our country and to the world, out of the evil done to us. You know, I kind of wonder what was going through the enemy's mind when they attacked us. They probably thought we were so selfish and that our true religion was materialism, so self-centered that after 9/11, 2001, oh, we might file a lawsuit or two. I guess they've been watching too much TV. *[Laughter]* They don't understand the country.

This country is tough, and it's strong, and it's determined. And by being tough and strong and determined, we can bring peace to the world. You got to know, amidst all the talk—please tell your kids that amongst all the talk that you're hearing, the vision is peace. And I believe it's going to happen. I believe it's not only peace for Americans, but because we value every life—everybody is important; each person matters—there can be peace in parts of the world that have given up on peace. I believe it's possible to have peace in the Middle East. I believe it's possible to have peace in South Asia. The enemy has given us a chance, after our grief, not only to be alert here at home but to work hard to keep the peace elsewhere. And we will.

And here at home, we can be a better America, too. And that's important for you all to realize, that out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. There are people who hurt.

There are people who wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them, people whose lives are hopeless, people whose lives are addicted, people whose lives have no love. And while Government can help and pass laws, what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a fellow citizen takes it upon herself or himself to put their arm around a neighbor in need, a child, and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

And that's happening in this country, and that's happening in neighborhood after neighborhood, after neighborhood. No, the American spirit is alive and well. Part of that spirit is serving something greater than yourself in life.

Today when I came to the airport, I met Clay Crawford, father of four. He took it upon himself for the past couple of years to mentor at-risk youths. I'm confident that amongst you there are hundreds of people who are doing the very same thing, being a part of that movement to make sure that the American experience is alive and well in every corner of our country. It doesn't matter whether you're going to see a shut-in or running a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. It doesn't matter whether you're a youngster wanting to be involved with the USA Freedom Corps. My call to you is, in order to fight evil, is to do some good. You see, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency which define the true character of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for representing the American spirit. Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. in the Barnett Center at Northern State University. In his remarks, he referred to John M. Hilpert, president, Northern State University; Harold and Pat Thune, parents of Representative John R. Thune; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaeda operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in South Bend, Indiana

October 31, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I'm glad I came. I'm glad I came back. The last time I was here, the Fighting Irish were 1-0. This time, they're 8-0. Seems like you ought to keep inviting me back. [Laughter] I know this for sure: The next time I come back, with your help, Chris Chocola is going to be the next United States Congressman.

I'm traveling this country, and I can tell you, the American spirit is alive and well, the spirit of people understanding that to be an American means you've got to serve something greater than yourself. The spirit of America says that we're willing to sacrifice for our freedoms. And the spirit of America says that you take nothing in democracy for granted. You see, if you're eligible to vote, you have an obligation to vote. That's what the spirit of America calls for.

You have an obligation to our country; you have an obligation to democracy itself. So I'm here to—in South Bend to urge Republicans and Democrats and independents, people who don't care about political parties, to do your duty and to go to the polls, to assume your responsibility as an American and go to the polls. And by the way, I've got a suggestion when you get in there: Chris Chocola is the right man for the job.

I want to thank Congressman Steve Buyer for being here—thanks for coming, Steve—I want to thank Mark Souder for coming—two of the fine Congressmen in the United States Congress for joining us. I want to thank those who are running statewide, the candidates who are up here with us who are out asking for your vote. I want to thank Todd Rokita, running for secretary of state. I want to thank Connie Nass, running for auditor. And I want to thank Tim Berry, who's running for State treasurer. I want to thank them for their dedication to the great State of Indiana, and I want to thank you for your service to your community.

I want to say something about Sarah—that would be the next Congressman's wife. I appreciate her taking on this task. I know something about what it takes to put a family

through a political process. It requires a strong partner, somebody who believes in the country as much as the candidate does. And I'm here to tell you Sarah Chocola is going to be a great Congressman's wife.

And speaking about great wives, Laura sends her love, and she sends her best. She's doing great. A lot of people in the country now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of them are still wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But she's learned she can make a huge difference in the lives of our citizens. She cares deeply about the capacity of every child in America to read. She is a fabulous First Lady, and she is—[*applause*].

I want to thank all the good folks here who are active in the political process. You call them grassroots activists. Those are the people who are willing to put up the signs, the people willing to make the phone calls, the people who can really determine the outcome of an election. I want to thank you for what you have done, and I want to thank you for what you're going to do Friday and Saturday and Sunday and Monday, and that is find the good folks in this community who want good government and get them to vote for Chris Chocola next Tuesday.

You can make a difference in the campaign. You can actually determine the outcome. So when you go to your houses of worship or your coffee shops or your community centers, put out the word. And remember there are some discerning Democrats who live up here, people who know the difference between a shrill voice and a solid voice. There are good independents up here, people who want somebody to represent them who will bring honor and dignity to the office. There are people who understand it makes sense to have somebody who has been an entrepreneur serving in the United States Congress, somebody who has actually met a payroll, somebody who knows what it means to put people to work and to take risks. So when you're putting out the word, don't just keep it narrowed to just a few. Put out the good word that you've got a good man running for the United States Congress.

And if it helps, you tell them the President wants him standing by his side in Washington, DC, too. I need somebody from this

district whose vote I can count on. I don't need to be worrying about somebody who's running a focus group or a poll. I need a solid United States Congressman up there, who will support me in making America a stronger and safer and better place for every citizen.

In order to make sure America is a better place, we need to do something about our economy. We had some good news today—we had some good news today. The third quarter was—showed positive growth. And that's positive. That's good news. We're making progress. But so long as somebody's looking for work and can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem. And I need people in the Congress who understand how to create jobs. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be the big business, in which the entrepreneur can flourish.

And part of creating that environment means to understand how the Tax Code works. If you want your small-business person to flourish, you let them keep more of their own money. If 70 percent of new jobs are created by small-business owners, seems like it makes sense to me, if you're worried about job creation, to let the small-business person have more money in their pocket so they can reinvest, so people can find work.

Here's what we believe: If you let a person have more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is going to produce the good or service. And when somebody produces the good or service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan we passed happened at the right time. I need a Congressman who will join me in making the tax cuts permanent.

A good, strong America is an America that's got a good education system. I appreciate Chris' vision on education. We share the same vision. We want to have high standards for every child. We believe in local control of schools. We're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, and we're going to hold people to account. See, if you believe every child can learn, like we do, then

it makes sense to start asking the fundamental question, can every child read and write and add and subtract? And if so, I promise you we'll praise the teachers. And for the teachers out there, thanks for what you do. But you'd better have you a Congressman who understands that when you find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, you've got to challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in the State of Indiana.

Chris understands that we must keep our commitments, must keep our commitments on Social Security and must keep our commitments on Medicare. See, medicine has changed; it's modern. Medicare isn't. Medicare—medicine is, with new technologies and new discoveries, is advancing. Medicare is stuck in the past. In order to modernize Medicare—I look forward to working with Chris to do so, and a modern Medicare system includes prescription drugs for every senior.

No, there's a lot we can do together. But the most important job we're going to have to do together is to make sure that our homeland is protected, is to secure the homeland from further enemy attacks. No, we'll work on the economy together, and we'll work to make sure every child is educated. We'll make sure the health care system is relevant. There's a lot we can do, but our number one priority will be to protect you, because there's an enemy out there which hates America. They hate what we stand for, and we're not changing what we stand for. We love freedom.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. And we've got to be realistic about it. We've got to be clear-eyed. We need somebody from this district who will be realistic about the threats we face. See, we can't just hope for the best in the new world we live in. We can't see the world the way we would wish it would be. We've got to see the world the way it really is, and it's a dangerous world. There's still an enemy that lurks out there that—they're killers. That's the only way I can describe them. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and so we've got to do everything we can here at home to protect you.

And we are. There's a lot of good folks at the Federal level and the State level and the local level working hard—listen, anytime—we understand the stakes now, and anytime somebody is thinking about doing something to America and somehow we're reading their thoughts or reading their mail, we're moving on them. We're disrupting them. We're denying them. We absolutely refuse to let these terrorists have their way. We're going to do everything we can to shut down—to shut down their capacity to hurt us.

And that's why I went to Congress and asked them to help—join me in creating a Department of Homeland Security. It seemed like to me that when you've got over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, involved with the homeland security, that you ought to focus their attention with one agency so that we can set a clear priority and, if need be, change cultures within these agencies so that the direction is clear and the priorities are clear.

And the United States House of Representatives joined in my quest to have a Department that would function well, but it's stuck in the Senate. See, it got stuck in the Senate before they went home to campaign. They couldn't get it out because they were trying to extract too high a price from me. They wanted me to give up a right that every President has had since John F. Kennedy, the right and the capacity to suspend certain work rules in the name of national security.

In other words, if the Senate had their way, I would have the capacity to be able to—I would have more flexibility with the Department of Agriculture to deal with national security concerns than I would with the new Department of Homeland Security. Here we are at war, and they want to take away the capacity for the President to be able to better protect the American people. I need to be able to move the right people to the right place at the right time to protect you, and I'm not going to accept a lousy bill out of the United Nations Senate.

I'm here to tell you the best way to protect America is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're going to do. I need somebody in Congress

who is a cold-eyed realist, who understands the stakes, somebody who understands that history has called our country into action. We've got to protect the future for our children. And therefore, the best way to do that is to get on the hunt and not tire, stay steady and strong.

I went to the Congress and asked them to give me a good defense bill, and fortunately, they did. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. There's two messages in that bill. There's two messages I want to send to the world: One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe that to the loved ones of our troops.

And by the way, for those of you who have got relatives in the military, you can tell them this: I'm confident in their abilities; I'm proud of their service; and we're going to use them to win the war on terror.

And the second message that we delivered with the defense bill is that we're in this deal for the long haul. See, there's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says, by such and such a date we're quitting. That's not America. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes from doing our duty to future generations of America, there is no quit in America. It doesn't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans. It doesn't matter what the cost. We will defend the freedom of the United States of America.

And we're making progress. Sometimes it's hard to tell we're making progress. Some of the old vets will tell you, in the old days, you could measure progress by the number of tanks you destroyed or the number of enemy aircraft that were shot down out of the sky. This bunch we're fighting, they don't have tanks. They're the kind who hide in caves, kind of move around the dark corners of some of the cities in the world, and then send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the kind of people they are.

See, there's a huge difference between us and them. They don't value life. We value life. We say, "Every life is precious. Everybody counts. Everybody in the whole world has got worth." But we're after them. It doesn't matter how dark the cave is or what

corner of the world they're trying to hide in; we're after them, one at a time. That's the way this war is going to be fought, and that's the way it's going to be won.

We've got a lot of good folks working with us, because the doctrine still stands: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling them. And it's going to take a while—it just is going to take a while. We've probably hauled in a couple of thousand of them; like number weren't as lucky. In either case, these groups are not threats to us. The other day a guy popped up, and he was going to be the 20th hijacker. He popped his head up. He's not a problem to the United States of America. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in.

It's important to be realistic about the threats we face. It's important to understand it's a dangerous world. It's also important to understand the stakes have changed since September the 11th. When I was a youngster—kind of when I was an older guy too—we thought oceans could protect us. That's what we thought. If there was a conflict or a threat overseas, we had the luxury, because of two great oceans, to pick and choose our fights. If we wanted to help, we would. If it was a direct threat, we could decide. If there was an indirect threat, we could decide to get involved, not—but oceans protected us.

That's changed. And America must understand that has changed. And therefore, threats that in the past may not have seemed overly significant all of a sudden become significant, like the threat to America in Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a threat to our country. He can't stand what we believe in. He doesn't like America. He doesn't like our friends. He's a man who told the world he would have no weapons of mass destruction, and yet, he does. And not only that, he's used weapons of mass destruction. He's used them against his neighbors, and he's used them against his own people.

For 11 years, he's deceived and denied the world, and he's a threat. He's a threat. If he were to team up, like we think he's trying to do, with one of these terrorist networks, he would be able to use a weapon of mass destruction on America and leave no fingerprints behind. We've got to be clear-eyed

about our responsibilities and the threats we face.

So I went to the United Nations. See, I hope that body can be effective to deal with the new threats that we face, that freedom-loving people face. I told them that “For 16 resolutions this guy has ignored you, and we want you to be successful. We want you to be able to keep the peace, so do something about it.” We also sent the message to Saddam Hussein—I’m saying it again right now—“You said you wouldn’t have weapons of mass destruction. Disarm. Do what you said you would do.”

But if the United Nations won’t act, won’t fulfill their responsibilities to keep the peace, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm—their choices, by the way—the United States of America, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

And I believe, by remaining strong and tough and firm, that we can achieve peace. You’ve just got to know, amongst all the talk about getting them and war and all that, that my vision is for a peaceful world. And I believe we can achieve it. I do. It requires this country to be steady and resolved. It requires us to remember that freedom isn’t an American gift; it’s God-given. It’s got to remember the values that we hold dear of being steady and resolved.

The evil done to America, the evil done to this country, is going to yield some incredible good, I believe. Not only abroad can we achieve peace—and I mean in parts of the world where they’ve quit on peace. Remember, we believe everybody has worth; everybody counts; everybody matters. We want children to grow up in a peaceful world. That’s why, when we went into Afghanistan, we went in not as conquerors but as liberators. And thanks to the United States of America, many young girls now go to school for the first time. Those values we hold dear are important values. Everybody counts.

And here at home we can have a better America as well. See, while we worked for our security and safety, we can also work to make sure this country is a better place for everybody. There are pockets of despair in America. Amongst our plenty, people hurt; people are lonely; people need help. And the

role of Government is a limited role. We can hand out money—which we do; sometimes we’re pretty good at it. We can repair systems when they’re broken. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people’s hearts or a sense of purpose in people’s lives. That happens when a fellow American puts their arm around somebody in need and says, “I love you. I love you.”

You know, I don’t know what was going through the enemy’s mind when they hit us. They probably thought that the national religion was materialism, that we were so self-absorbed and selfish that after 9/11 we’d take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. They just didn’t understand. They didn’t understand our strength, our resolve, that when it comes to freedom, we’re plenty strong. But when it comes to compassion, we’re really decent people.

No, I believe out of the evil done to America can come a country in which the American Dream is known to everybody who lives here, in which people who hurt can find salvation and hope. Today I had the honor of meeting Dick McCloskey. He’s a man who lost a daughter on 9/11 in New York. He’s a man, and along with his family, has dedicated himself to work at the Center for the Homeless. He’s a guy who knows what I know, that we can change America, one heart, one soul at a time and that each of us has a responsibility—each of us has a responsibility as an American to help people in need.

The American spirit is more than just keeping the peace and defending the homeland. The American spirit was embodied on Flight 93, that day when people were flying across the country. They heard the plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, “Let’s roll.” They drove the plane in the ground, to serve something greater than themselves in life.

That’s the American spirit, serving something greater than yourself. No, the enemy had no idea, when they attacked us, they attacked the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for your concern about our country. Thank you for supporting Chris.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. at the South Bend Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Chris Chocola, candidate for Indiana's Second Congressional District, and his wife, Sarah; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Proclamation 7616—To Implement the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act

October 31, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 3103 of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (title XXXI of the Trade Act of 2002, Public Law 107–210) (ATPDEA) amended section 204(b) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3203(b)) (ATPA) to provide that certain preferential tariff treatment may be provided to eligible articles that are the product of any country that the President designates as an “ATPDEA beneficiary country” pursuant to section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended, provided that the President determines that the country has satisfied the requirements of section 204(b)(5)(A)(ii)(I) of the ATPA, as amended, relating to the implementation of procedures and requirements similar to those in chapter 5 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

2. Section 3103(a)(2) of the ATPDEA amended section 204(b) of the ATPA to authorize the President to proclaim duty-free treatment for any article described in section 204(b)(1)(A) through (D) of the ATPA, as amended, that is the growth, product, or manufacture of an ATPDEA beneficiary country, that is imported directly into the customs territory of the United States from an ATPDEA beneficiary country, and that meets the requirements of section 204 of the ATPA, as amended, if the President determines that such article is not import-sensitive

in the context of imports from ATPDEA beneficiary countries, provided that the President determines that the country has satisfied the requirements of section 204(b)(5)(A)(ii)(I) of the ATPA, as amended, relating to the implementation of procedures and requirements similar to those in chapter 5 of the NAFTA.

3. Section 3103(a)(2) of the ATPDEA amended section 204(b) of the ATPA to provide that eligible textile and apparel articles of a designated ATPDEA beneficiary country shall enter the United States free of duty and free of quantitative limitations, provided that the President determines that the country has satisfied the requirements of section 204(b)(5)(A)(ii)(I) of the ATPA, as amended, relating to the implementation of procedures and requirements similar to those in chapter 5 of the NAFTA.

4. Section 3103(a)(2) of the ATPDEA amended section 204(b) of the ATPA to provide that eligible tuna products of a designated ATPDEA beneficiary country shall enter the United States free of duty and free of quantitative limitations, provided that the President determines that the country has satisfied the requirements of section 204(b)(5)(A)(ii)(I) of the ATPA, as amended, relating to the implementation of procedures and requirements similar to those in chapter 5 of the NAFTA.

5. Section 203(e)(2)(A) of the ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(2)(A)) requires the President to publish in the *Federal Register* notice of proposed action under section 203(e)(1) of the ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)) at least 30 days prior to taking such action. Section 212(e)(2)(A) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2702(e)(2)(A)) requires the President to publish in the *Federal Register* notice of proposed action under section 212(e)(1) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2702(e)(1)) at least 30 days prior to taking such action.

6. In order to implement the tariff treatment provided under the ATPDEA, it is necessary to modify the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

7. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2483) (1974 Trade Act) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act,

and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 604 of the 1974 Trade Act, do proclaim as follows:

(1) I have designated the following countries as ATPDEA beneficiary countries pursuant to section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended, and have determined that these countries have satisfied the requirements of section 204(b)(5)(A)(ii)(I) of the ATPA, as amended, relating to the implementation of procedures and requirements similar to those in chapter 5 of the NAFTA:

Bolivia
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru.

(2) In order to provide for the preferential treatment provided for in section 204(b) of the ATPA, as amended, the HTS is modified as provided in the annex to this proclamation.

(3) The functions of the President under section 203(e)(2)(A) of the ATPA and section 212(e)(2)(A) of the CBERA with respect to publishing notice of this proclamation are delegated to the United States Trade Representative.

(4) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(5) This proclamation is effective on the date of signature.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Proclamation 7617—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2002

October 31, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Alzheimer's Disease robs its victims of their independence and identity and greatly affects the lives of their loved ones. This disease and other forms of dementia afflict approximately 50 percent of Americans age 85 and older. Due to the rapid growth of our elderly population, experts expect that the number of individuals who will develop this debilitating illness will dramatically increase. As we observe National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, we rededicate ourselves to fighting this devastating affliction and to supporting Alzheimer's patients, their families, and their caregivers.

Alzheimer's Disease harms its victims by altering the brain's chemistry and disrupting signals to the brain by attacking cells, nerves, and transmitters. Those who develop Alzheimer's Disease may experience memory lapses, confusion, or mood swings. They can also become withdrawn and depressed due to lost confidence, and they have significant problems communicating. These symptoms usually worsen over time and, in most cases, patients eventually need help with all of their daily activities.

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and in the private sector are working to understand how Alzheimer's develops. We hope that their advances will lead to new methods for early diagnosis, new medications that will aid Alzheimer's patients in all stages of the disease, and ultimately a cure for this debilitating illness. Recent studies suggest that commonly used substances, including certain vitamins and anti-inflammatory drugs, may help prevent Alzheimer's Disease. In addition, we are working to increase understanding of the genetic and nongenetic risk factors that may influence the development of this disease.

As we continue to pursue better prevention and treatment regimes, we remain committed to caring for those now afflicted with

Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's patients generally live for an average of 8 to 10 years after they are diagnosed. As the disease progresses, patients require increased support from families and caregivers.

Scientists at the NIH and the Department of Veterans Affairs are continuing their research to help improve patient care and ease the burdens of caregivers at home and in nursing facilities. The Administration on Aging is working to develop best practices for serving persons with Alzheimer's disease and assisting States as they attempt to improve their responsiveness and the accessibility of home and community-based long-term care services and other support resources. My Administration is increasing access to available information, education, and referrals about diagnostic and treatment services for those afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease.

During National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, I commend the members of our research community for their commitment to improving diagnosis and treatment for Alzheimer's Disease; and I encourage those suffering from or at risk for Alzheimer's to participate in clinical treatment studies and therapy trials. These studies and trials have been and continue to be an important part of our progress against this disease. I also commend the families and caregivers of individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease who provide the care and support to their loved ones and carry the daily burden of this tragic disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 4, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Proclamation 7618—National Diabetes Month, 2002

October 31, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects approximately 17 million Americans. During National Diabetes Month, we renew our commitment to preventing and eradicating this illness.

Diabetes interferes with the body's ability to process sugars normally and can lead to adverse complications of the eyes, heart, kidneys, or nerves. There are two major types of diabetes, and both have debilitating effects on organ systems. Type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, is an autoimmune disorder that destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. The young people who are affected by this disease must maintain their health by taking insulin and carefully regulating their diets. Type 2 diabetes, which is also known as "adult onset diabetes," is a metabolic disorder that is linked to a combination of genetics, excess weight, and lack of exercise. The most common form of diabetes is type 2, which comprises 95 percent of the diabetes cases in our Nation. It usually occurs in adults but now also affects a growing number of children who do not get enough exercise. At least 16 million Americans are currently at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

To ensure the future health of our Nation, Americans must safeguard our children and our families from diabetes by encouraging good health and regular exercise. Following the guidelines for good nutrition, getting enough physical exercise, and maintaining proper weight can help prevent diabetes and aid those suffering from it to reduce the chance of severe complications associated with the disease. Doctors have found that even minor weight loss in patients with type

2 diabetes can improve glucose control, decrease dependence on medications, and enhance quality of life.

My Administration is committed to fighting diabetes and its complications through advanced research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), improved medical treatments, and education. In fiscal year 2002, the NIH dedicated approximately \$781 million to diabetes research. My Administration will continue to support NIH's important efforts in this area as well as other scientists and researchers who are working to prevent, manage, and cure this disease. Through the National Diabetes Education Program, a joint effort of the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are educating Americans about the diabetes risk factors and encouraging them to make simple changes in their life that will help them stay healthy and prevent this serious disease. We are also working with volunteers from the American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and other organizations to raise awareness of diabetes in our communities and to provide assistance for families who have loved ones with diabetes.

As we observe National Diabetes Awareness Month, I encourage all Americans to help fight this disease by making healthy lifestyle choices and by providing support to those suffering from diabetes. We can help overcome diabetes and give hope and comfort to countless individuals in the United States and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Diabetes Month. I call on all Americans to increase their awareness of the risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Remarks in Charleston, West Virginia

October 31, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much.

Audience member. We love you, George!

The President. I'm glad I came. Thanks for your invitation, and thank you all for coming. Thanks for your interest in our great country.

I'm here to tell you that the American spirit—it is alive and well in West Virginia, and it's alive and well all across the country. It's a spirit which says that we've got the fortitude to defend our freedoms, that we've got the compassion to help a neighbor in need. It's a spirit which says we understand the stakes ahead of us and we will do whatever it takes to defend our freedom.

And part of the American spirit means that our citizens must do their duty. In a democracy, it depends upon the participation of our citizens. So I've come to this great State to urge all the citizens of West Virginia—Republicans and Democrats, people who don't give a hoot about a political party—to do your duty, to do your duty and to go to the polls next Tuesday.

And I've got a strong suggestion. I've got an idea about how to make sure West Virginia remains a strong State. I've got an idea on how to make sure that West Virginia sends the best to the United States Congress, and that is to send Shelley Moore Capito back to the Congress.

I want to thank all the candidates who are here. I want to thank the good folks who put their name on the ballot, who are working hard. I particularly want to pay homage to Jay Wolfe, the Republican candidate for the United States Senate.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. You're the good people who work hard to get these candidates elected. You're the good folks who helped me win, and you're the good folks who are going to help Shelley Moore go back to the United

States Congress. She can't win without you. So over the next couple of days, when you're going to your coffee shops or your houses of worship or your community centers, tell your fellow citizens they have an obligation to go to the polls. Don't worry about talking to some of these Democrats. There's plenty of Democrats in this State who understand Shelley Moore Capito has done a great job. Round up the vote. Round up the vote and work hard. She needs your help.

And there's a good reason to send her back to the United States Congress. First of all, she's an independent person, representing an independent State. She's smart. She's capable. She brings class to the office. She loves her family.

Audience member. I love you, George!
The President. Thank you.

I appreciate so very much her husband, Charlie—his patience, his support of Shelley Moore. He is a really fine husband. She married well, and so did I. One of Laura's favorite Members of Congress is Shelley Moore Capito. She's got good judgment, Laura does—most of the time. [Laughter] Some of her friends questioned her judgment when there I was on bended knee—she said, "Yes, I'll marry you." [Laughter] Thank goodness she did say yes. She is a great First Lady for our country.

Now, there's a lot of reasons besides Shelley Moore's character that we need her in the United States Congress. She's an effective person. She can get things done. She's a breath of fresh air. She doesn't—her demeanor is such, she doesn't represent that stale, old, tired politics, where you get ahead by trashing somebody. See, she's got a vision. She knows what she wants to do, and she knows our great country has got some challenges. And I look forward to continuing to work with her to meet those challenges.

One of the biggest challenges we have is to make sure people can find work in America. We had good news today on the quarterly growth. But so long as somebody is looking for work and can't find a job, we've got to continue to stress job creation. We've got to do what's right. We've got to do what's right by our people to make sure they can find a job. I want people being able to put food on the table.

I'm optimistic. We've overcome some pretty steep hurdles already. After all, the economy has gone through a recession. We withstood some serious terrorist attacks. And yet we're still strong, and we're moving forward. But we won't rest. We won't rest until people can find work.

Shelley Moore Capito and I understand the role of small business in our society. It's important to have somebody in Congress who understands that. She serves on the Committee for Small Business. See, we understand most new jobs are created by entrepreneurs and small-business owners. Seventy percent of new job creation, it comes from the ingenuity and hard work of our small-business sector. And therefore, growth policy ought to be directed toward small businesses. One thing to make sure small businesses grow is to make sure they have more money in their pocket. That's why the tax relief plan we passed makes eminent sense for job creation.

That tax relief plan was good for small businesses and job creation, and it is good for West Virginia citizens as well. Over the next 10 years, that relief plan, if it stays intact, will provide you all \$5.5 billion. Now, I want you to understand, Shelley and I understand, we're not talking about the Government's money. See, that's the difference of attitude with some of them in Washington. They say, "Oh, we're spending the Government's money, or we're giving the Government's money back to the people." It's your money to begin with.

That tax relief plan was important because when you have more money in your pocket, you're more than likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody in West Virginia or around America is more likely to find work. I need people in the United States Congress who understand this and are willing to make the tax cuts permanent. And make no mistake about it, that somebody in West Virginia is Shelley Moore Capito.

There are other things we can do in Congress to get people working. We need terrorism insurance. We want our hardhats

working. We want the people who are wearing those hardhats building those buildings. And therefore, the Congress needs to work with the administration to make sure there's terrorism insurance to get billions of dollars of construction programs going again. And by the way, the bill must reward the hard-working Americans, the hardhats, and not America's trial lawyers.

I appreciate working with Shelley on a key issue for West Virginia and America, and that's an energy plan. It's about time this country had an energy plan. That's good for not only job security but national security. We need an energy plan which encourages conservation, works on renewables. We need an energy plan that's realistic. We need an energy plan that understands the importance of coal and clean coal technology. We need an energy plan that not only helps people find work, but an energy plan that makes us less reliant on foreign sources of crude oil.

No, there are some things that Congress can do, and there's something Congress has done to help the economy. Not only did the terrorists attack us, which hurt the economy; we had a slight problem—more than a slight problem, a significant problem with some of the people running corporate America. See, they thought they could lie, fudge the numbers, and get away with it.

We sure did—we passed the best corporate reform bill since Franklin D. Roosevelt was the President. Shelley Moore Capito was by my side passing that law, and there's a new signal we're sending: No more easy money in America, just hard time.

We've got the foundation for growth, and we'll continue to work together to make sure people can find work. We also got to work together to make sure our health care systems work. Medicare is a key issue. The Speaker found one of the best there is and put her on as the vice-chairman of the Speaker's prescription drug task force, and that's your Congresswoman. You see, medicine has changed. Medicine has changed because of technology and new discoveries. Medicare hasn't changed. Medicine is progressive. Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of a good future for our citizens, we must make sure Medicare is modern, and that means prescription drug benefits for our sen-

iors. And Shelley Moore Capito led the way in the House of Representatives on this key issue.

And there's another key issue facing health care. We want our citizens to be able to have affordable health care. And there must be doctors available. One of my big concerns is the medical liability situation around the country. Listen, we want our people to be able to get to the courts if they've got a claim. Everybody ought to be able to go to the courts if they have a claim. But the problem is, frivolous and junk lawsuits are driving doctors out of business and are running the price of medicine up. And Shelley Moore Capito understands the need for medical liability reform for the good of West Virginia patients, so health care is affordable and health care is accessible.

And one other issue we worked on—I'm real proud of her work—and that is to make sure our schools are great. We passed one of the most meaningful education reform packages in a long, long time. Thanks to Shelley Moore's hard work, the West Virginia schools will receive \$330 million of Federal money this year.

But we did something else. We passed power out of Washington because we believe in local control of schools. But we also were willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We've set high standards and high expectations. We expect the best for every single child who lives in America. We'll praise success. But when we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, we will demand that the status quo changes. No child shall be left behind in America.

No, I appreciate working with Shelley Moore Capito on these key issues, and we'll continue working together for the good of the country and for the good of West Virginia. There's one big issue that we're going to work together on as well. Overriding all the concerns I've just outlined is one big issue, and that is to protect America. That's our most important job, is to protect you and your families from further attack. And there's still an enemy out there lurking around.

Audience members. Go get 'em!

The President. And they're motivated. They're motivated because they hate us, and

they hate us because of what we love. We love freedom, and we're not going to change.

And so, in order to make sure we do a good job—and by the way, there's a lot of good people working on your behalf right now, at the Federal level and the State level and the local level. We got the message about this enemy. We're aware they're there. We're aware of their hatreds. We know that they're different from Americans because they don't value innocent life, and we say, "Every life is precious. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth."

So we understand, and anytime we get a hint that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. Anytime we get any evidence that somebody is trying to do something to this great country, we're going to move; we're going to deny; we're going to disrupt—everything within our power and within the United States Constitution to do our solemn duty, which is to protect the American people.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join with me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, so we can better protect the homeland, so we can get the agencies involved with homeland security to work together, to set as their priority your protection, and if need be, to work together to change cultures, so that the number one priority is in fact the protection of the homeland.

Shelley Moore Capito supported my version of the bill in the House. It got stuck in the United States Senate. And let me tell you why: Because the United States Senate wanted to take away a power every President has had since John F. Kennedy. Every President since Kennedy has had the capacity to suspend some work rules in order—for the sake of national security. Presidents have had the capacity to say, "Well, this is in our Nation's interest. Therefore, certain work rules must be scrapped for the good of the country."

Secondly, I need the flexibility and the ability to put the right people at the right time at the right—I don't need a book this thick of bureaucratic rules written by special interests in Washington. I appreciate Shelley's support on this key issue. But I want you all to know that the best way to protect

America, the best homeland protection, is to chase the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

I want to thank the Congress for sending a defense bill to my desk that was the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I asked for that increase for two reasons, and I want to share them with you. I believe strongly that anytime we put one of our youngsters into harm's way, anytime our military goes into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our soldiers, and we owe that to the loved ones of our soldiers.

And secondly, the message we sent with that defense bill is this—and it's important for you to hear this; it's important for our enemy to hear this and our friends to hear this—it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend America; we will defend our country. There's no calendar on my desk, in that great Oval Office—there is no calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, we're hauling it in. That's just not the way I think, and I know it's not the way America thinks. We have a duty and an obligation to defend our freedoms. We have an obligation to the youngsters coming up to make sure our society is a free society. We have an obligation to defend the innocent. We have an obligation to bring justice to those who murder Americans. That's our obligation, and it's an obligation we will keep.

Shelley understands, like I know, this is a different kind of war. Some great veterans here with us today, they remember the days when you could judge progress against an enemy by the number of tanks that you destroyed or the number of airplanes you shot down or the number of ships you sunk. This enemy doesn't have tanks. They don't have ships. They hide in caves. They live in—they kind of ooch around—[laughter]—dark corners of the world and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They're fanatics. They're motivated out of hate. They only way to treat them is like they are, coldblooded killers, and run them down.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It is important for our countrymen to understand, therapy won't work. [*Laughter*] And that's why we put together this coalition of freedom-loving countries, to disrupt them, to cut off their money, and to put the spotlight on them in these caves. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy" still stands.

And we're making good progress on this different kind of war. Sometimes you'll see it on your TV screens; sometimes you're just not going to know about it. But slowly but surely, we're rounding them up. We've hauled in over a couple of thousand of them; like number weren't as lucky. Either case, neither group is a threat.

One of them popped his head up the other day, the 20th hijacker. He's not a problem to America anymore, either.

It's important for us to be steady and determined to succeed, because, you see, the stakes have changed. I can see a lot of folks my age out there that remember the day when oceans protected us. If there was a conflict somewhere around the world, we felt pretty good at home, because the oceans were able to protect the homeland. But on September the 11th, on that tragic day, history changed. We now have got the battlefield here at home, and therefore, it's very important for us to be clear-eyed and realistic. We can't look at the world the way we hope the world would be. We must look at the world the way it is. We must see threats for what they are.

And there's a true threat to America and our friends and allies in Iraq. Saddam Hussein—Saddam Hussein is a man who told the world that he would have no weapons of mass destruction. He deceived the world. For 11 long years, he has deceived and denied the truth. This is a man who not only has weapons of mass destruction, a man who was close to having a nuclear weapon at one time, a man who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own people and in his neighborhood. This is a man who hates America and hates our friends. This is a man who has defied the United Nations 16 times. Sixteen times the United Nations has said, "Disarm like you said you were going to," and 16 times he thumbs his nose.

So I went to the United Nations. I said, "I want you to succeed as a body. It's important for you to succeed, it seems like to me, when we face new threats to freedom, new threats to countries such as America. We want you to succeed. We want you to be an effective body. We don't want you to be the League of Nations, an empty debating society." They have a choice to make as to whether or not they want the United Nations to be effective. We of course want them to be.

Saddam Hussein has a choice to make. We've made it clear that nobody likes war; nobody likes what could happen during war. But for the sake of peace, Mr. Hussein, get rid of your weapons. You said you wouldn't have them. Get rid of them.

The other day the United States Congress stood strong and spoke with one voice. And here's our message: If the United Nations is incapable of disarming Saddam Hussein and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, then the United States, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition of nations and disarm Saddam Hussein.

We have a chance—we have a chance because of what the enemy did to us to lead the world to peace. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, because this is a really strong nation. I don't know what went through their mind, what they were thinking about when they attacked America. They probably thought our national religion was materialism, that we were so self-absorbed and selfish that after September the 11th we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they learned—they learned something about America, something you know and I know, that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to fighting for things we hold dear, there's nothing stopping this great Nation.

No, we're not only a great nation militarily; we're a great nation, period. I want you to remind your youngsters that in the first theater of the first war of the 21st century, we went into an impoverished country, Afghanistan, not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. We believe every life counts; everybody is precious. We understand freedom is not American-given; it is God-given. And we believe in freedom for all people.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, starting with peace. Amidst all the talk of war, I have a vision for peace. I want America to be at peace. I want there to be peace in parts of the world that have given up on peace—peace in the Middle East and peace in South Asia.

No, if we remain strong, diligent, and focused as we rout out terror and deal with some of the world's dictators that want to harm us or our friends with weapons of mass destruction, we can achieve peace and lasting peace. And here at home, we can have a better America.

Here at home, we have a chance to take an assessment of what's important in life. A lot of people have done that. September the 11th was a shock to our systems. A lot of people took a step back and said, "What is life all about? What can I do to help? What can I do to help fight evil?" And my answer is, do some good. If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

There are people who hurt in America. Amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There's addiction and loneliness and hopelessness. There are people, when you say, "American Dream," they go, "I don't understand what you mean." So long as any of us hurt, we all hurt, as far as I'm concerned. But we've got to remember the limitations of Government.

We've talked about ways Government can improve people's lives. Government can hand out money, but Government can never put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when a fellow citizen finds somebody who hurts, somebody in need, and puts their arm around them and says, "I love you, brother" or, "I love you, sister." Part of the American spirit is not only to defend our freedoms, but part of the American spirit is to work to eradicate the problems that face our society, one heart, one soul, one person at a time.

And it's taking place here. Today I met John Wells, Jr., from right here from your—right here from West Virginia. For 30 years he's been active in youth organizations. He's been involved in Boy Scouts. He worked for the YMCA. You see, if you want to change

America, it doesn't take much. Oh, you can mentor a child, which is a way to change America. You can help a shut-in. You can run a Girl Scout troop. You can do anything to help somebody realize their potential and that there's love and there's compassion in the world.

The American spirit calls upon each of us to serve something greater than ourself in life. Perhaps the most vivid example of that spirit and why it's alive and how it's alive today happened on Flight 93. I'm sure you remember. People were flying across the country. They were told that their plane was being used as a weapon. They were on their cell phones. They told their loved ones they loved them and goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They drove the plane into the ground to save life. They served something greater than themselves.

No, the American spirit is alive and well. It's strong, which allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world and a more hopeful America. And I say that with absolute certainty, because America is the greatest nation, full of the most decent people on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for coming tonight. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:48 p.m. in the Coliseum at the Charleston Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

November 1, 2002

Thank you, all. Thanks a lot. I'm glad I came. [Laughter] Thank you. Thank you for such a warm welcome. Thanks for getting up early, too.

The American spirit is obviously alive and well here in Pennsylvania. It's alive in our country, all across our country. It's a spirit that says we love freedom. It's a spirit that

says that we're willing to serve something greater than ourself in life. It's a spirit that says, when you live in America, you have a responsibility, and one of the main responsibilities is to participate in the political process. You have an obligation in democracy to vote.

So I'm here to urge the good folks of Pennsylvania to do your duty. It doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat or could care less about political parties. You have an obligation as part of the citizenry of America to go to the polls and vote. And when you do, I've got a suggestion for you for Congress: George W. Gekas.

How about putting it this way: Let's win one for George W. [Laughter] I'm talking about both George W's on the stage.

Both George W's married well, by the way. [Laughter] I appreciate Vangie Gekas for coming today. I'm proud that she's working hard to see to it that the Congressman George W. goes back to the United States Congress. And Laura W. sends her best to George W. and Vangie—Laura W. being the great First Lady of America.

I'm proud that your Governor is here with us today. Mark Schweiker has done a fine job on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania. As you may remember, he went from being the Lieutenant Governor to Governor when I asked somebody you trained really well to join me in Washington, DC, and that's of course, your former Governor, and now my close adviser, my friend, a man who's doing a great job for the American people, Tom Ridge.

Ridge came in a long line of fine Republican Governors, and you have a chance to make sure that lineage is continued. You have a chance this Tuesday to make sure you put the right man in the Governor's office. And, of course, that man is your current State attorney general, Mike Fisher.

He'll do a fine job on behalf of all the citizens of Pennsylvania. He'll represent not just one section of the State but the entire State. He's got a good record. He's got a good record in office, and he's got a good record on the trail. I learned firsthand. After all, in the year 2000, he ran ahead of me by about half a million votes is all. [Laughter] This man can appeal to people from all walks of

life. And so can the next Lieutenant Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, State Senator Jane Earll.

I want to thank Senator Arlen Specter for being here. I want to thank him for his service to Pennsylvania. I want to thank him for working with me on a lot of big issues—no bigger issue than to make sure the Federal judiciary is staffed and full of fine, fine people. The record of this Senate is a lousy record when it comes to the approval of judges that I name. We have a vacancy problem in America. We can't get our judges through the United States Senate because there's too much politics in Washington, DC.

The current Senate distorts the record of good people I put up. I'm going to continue to name judges that are honorable and decent and honest, judges who recognize their job is to interpret the Constitution, not to try to write new law. And I want to thank Senator Specter for being one of the leaders in the Senate to work with the administration to make sure our good judges get approved on a timely basis. One way to make sure our judges get approved on a timely basis is to change the leadership in the United States Senate.

You've got some fine United States Congressmen from Pennsylvania in Washington, all of whom I call friends and all of whom I work closely with on behalf of the American people. And I want to thank them for joining us today: Jim Greenwood, Bill Shuster, Don Sherwood, and Todd Platts. I appreciate they're here to support their friend. They know both candidates in this race, and there's no question in their mind—like there's no question in my mind—that the right man for this congressional district and the right man for America is George W. Gekas.

Not only am I here to urge you to vote, I'm here to urge you to get out the vote. See, there's a lot of grassroots activists here who have made a tremendous difference in campaigns past, and I want to thank you for what you have done. But I'm here to thank you for what you're going to do today and Saturday and Sunday and Monday and Tuesday. And that is to turn out the vote, to get your friends to vote, to go to your houses

of worship, your community centers, the coffee shops and tell people they have an obligation to vote, and they have the obligation to support somebody who's honest and decent, somebody who's represented this district since 1982, somebody who stands squarely with the President on key issues, and that somebody is George W. Gekas.

I also want to thank the Middletown High band for coming today. It looks like I provided you a convenient excuse to miss class. *[Laughter]* I'll try to keep my remarks short so you can get back to the library. *[Laughter]*

George and I believe in the value of hard work and personal responsibility. We believe in—service to our community is incredibly important. We share a passion for education. I want to thank George and the other Members of Congress up here for working hard on the education reform package we passed out of Washington, DC.

First, this bill says that we're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, because we believe every child can learn. And we must set high, high standards for every child in America.

The bill says that we trust the people of Pennsylvania to chart the path to excellence in the public schools of Pennsylvania. People care more about the children who live in Pennsylvania than the bureaucrats in Washington, DC. So we strongly believe in local control of schools.

Thanks to George's hard work, we're passing back \$1.7 billion of Federal money to Pennsylvania schools to help every child learn. But for the first time, we're now asking for accountability for those dollars. We want to know whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. I see some of the seniors here, glazing over, saying, "Oh, no. I hate tests." Well, too bad. *[Laughter]* We want to know whether or not the dollars are well spent. In order to make sure no child gets left behind in Pennsylvania, we must have strong accountability measures.

I appreciate so very much the fact that George shares with me our concern about our economy. Today, it looks like some more Americans are looking for work, and that's a problem. Anytime somebody is looking for work and can't find work means we've got

a problem in America. We want our people to be able to put food on the table, to support their families.

The foundation for growth is strong. Interest rates are down. Inflation is low. Productivity is up. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the best entrepreneurs in the world. We've got the best farmers and ranchers in the world. But we've got a problem when people can't find a job. We're kind of bumping along, and that's not good enough.

I need people in Congress who understand the role of Government. And that's to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the engine for job growth, which is our small businesses, have a chance to survive and thrive in slow economic times. The best way to do so is to let people keep more of your own money.

George and I know that if somebody has more money in their own pocket, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in our marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And somebody produces a good or service, it means somebody is more likely to find work.

Be wary of those who say, "We must revisit the tax relief plan." That's Washington code word for, "We're fixing to get back in your pockets." *[Laughter]* During slow economic times, during times when we're worried about somebody finding work, the best economic stimulus is to let people keep more of their own money on a permanent basis.

And George understands that. He also knows we need to get a terrorism insurance package out of Washington, DC, so the hardhats can go back to work. We've got too many construction programs on hold because they can't find insurance, because of what the terrorists did to us. It's a proper role for the Federal Government to underwrite the terrorism insurance. But this bill needs to keep the hardhats in mind. We need to make sure our hardhats get back to work and not reward the trial lawyers all around America.

No, we've been through some tough times here in America. We had a recession for a while. And then the enemy hit us, and that

hurt our economy. Then something else came up. There was a lack of confidence in the system, because there were some of our fellow Americans who decided they were going to fudge the numbers. And we're going to have the—reveal the whole truth in the corporate accounting practices. They didn't understand that when you're running a corporation, you have a responsibility. You have a responsibility to shareholders. You have a responsibility to employees.

I want to thank George Gekas and Arlen and the other Members of Congress for joining me to pass a law which I proudly signed, which is the toughest corporate reform since Franklin D. Roosevelt was the President. Our message to those who believe they can fudge the books is: There is no easy money in America, only hard time if you don't do your responsibilities.

You need to send George back to Congress. We've got a lot of work to do on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania. We've got to make sure our health care system works. We want our health care system to be accessible and affordable. One of the problems we have is, there's too many lawsuits these days, lawsuits which make it hard for people to take their true cases into courts, because the courts are clogged, lawsuits which are running up the cost of medicine, lawsuits which are driving docs out of business. If you're interested in accessible and affordable health care, you will join Representative Greenwood, Gekas, and me in demanding that Congress pass medical liability reform on behalf of America's patients.

And you'll send somebody to Congress who understands we need to reform Medicare. Medicine has changed. Medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare is old and tired, and it's not doing its job. A modern Medicare system will include prescription drugs for our seniors, and George Gekas understands that.

No, there's a lot of issues we can work on. There's no more important issue, though, is to protect you. That's the most important issue, protect America, protect innocent life from the attacks of the killers. And they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. That's all they are. They hate freedom. They don't value life like we value life in America.

You see, we think everybody is precious; everybody counts; everybody has got worth.

That's not what the killers think. See, they hijacked a great religion and murder in the name of that religion. And so we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. We've got a man like George Gekas, who's the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Control and Claims. Seems like to me it makes sense if your country is under attack to keep him in that important position. After all, one of his jobs is to make sure our border is secure, that we know who's coming in and who's going out and what they're bringing and whether or not what they're bringing could hurt the American people.

No, this issue on homeland defense is incredibly important if you're a clear-eyed realist. And I'm a clear-eyed realist. I'm not forgetting the threats that we face. And therefore, I went to the Congress and said, "Let's work together to come up with a plan to better secure our homeland." There's a lot of good people working hard right now, a lot of people at the Federal level, the State level, and local level, a lot of good police officers and FBI agents, a lot of people running down every hint, every lead.

Listen, if we think we've got something going on, we're going to do something about it. We're on alert. We understand the enemy. We understand their hatreds. We know they hate freedom. We know we love freedom, and we know we're not going to change in our love for freedom.

I want to thank the Members of the House here who joined me in supporting a Department of Homeland Security which will work, which will make sense and works, so we can do our jobs, so we can enforce our borders, like George Gekas wants us to do.

It got stuck in the Senate. Arlen Specter didn't cause it to get stuck, I want you to know. It got stuck because some Senators want me to give up a power that every President since John F. Kennedy has had. See, every President since Kennedy has had the capacity to suspend collective bargaining rules in the name of national security, to suspend rules that will inhibit us from doing our job, prevent us from putting the right people

at the right place at the right time to protect the American people.

I'm not going to accept a lousy bill out of the United States Senate. I owe it to the people of this country to put in place a Department of Homeland Security which will work and which will prevent the enemy from doing harm to the American people. I want to thank George Gekas for his support on putting forth a good homeland security bill.

But the best way to secure our homeland, the best way to make sure you're safe, the best way to make sure one of the first high school graduating classes ever to have the battleground here at home—to make sure that battleground is safe is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. That's what we have to do. See, therapy isn't going to work. *[Laughter]* That's not going to convince them. The only way to convince them is to keep that large coalition of freedom country—freedom-loving countries intact. And by the way, the doctrine still stands: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy.

And we'll continue to lead these coalitions—this coalition and round them up one at a time. See, it's a different kind of war. It's a different kind of war we face. In the old days, you could destroy tanks or airplanes or boats and know you're making progress. These are the kind of people who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They don't care.

Look at Bali, Indonesia. See, the world kind of said, "Well, maybe they're not that dangerous." And all of a sudden they go to Bali, Indonesia, and just over—in a minute's time take innocent life after innocent life after innocent life. They don't care, and so we've got to get them. And that's exactly what we're doing.

The other day one old guy popped his head up. He was going to be the 20th hijacker here in America. Thanks to our friends and allies and thanks to a great United States military, this guy is no longer a problem for America. And that's the way it is going. We've hauled in over a couple of thousand of them; like number weren't as lucky. In either case, they're not a problem to the United States or our friends or allies. Slowly but surely,

we're going hunt them down. It doesn't matter how long it takes.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress—George Gekas supported me; the Members of the Congress up here supported me—to ask for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. There's two messages in that bill. One, anytime this country puts our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And secondly, it doesn't matter how long it takes to win this war on terror and to secure our freedom; we're staying the course. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a time, Mr. President, you've got to haul it in. That's just not the way I think. Our friends need to understand that we're in this for the long haul. Our foes must understand we're in this for the long haul. We owe it to our future; we owe it to our children to defend freedom no matter what the cost. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

We also owe it to our future and our children to see the world the way it really is, not the way some would hope it to be. You see, the world changed on September the 11th, 2001. Not only is the battlefield come home, but two oceans no longer protect us from true threats. It used to be you could sit back, kind of relax, and say, "Well, there's a problem overseas, and we can decide to deal with it or be involved with it if we want to, but we're okay at home because the oceans protect us."

I want the youngsters here to understand that change is a profound change, and U.S. policy needs to change with it if we're realistic and clear-eyed. And that's why I've raised the issue on Iraq. That's why I asked the United States Congress to think about this issue. That's why I've asked the American people to think about this issue. That's why I went to the U.N. to talk about this issue: Because in my judgment and the judgment of a lot of people, Saddam Hussein is a serious threat to America; he's a threat to our friends; he's a threat to our allies.

This is a man who has told the world for 11 years he would not have weapons of mass destruction. This is a man who is close to

having a nuclear weapon. This is a man who has deceived the world. This is a man who not only has weapons of mass destruction; he has used weapons of mass destruction. He has used them on his neighbors, and incredibly enough, he has used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizens. This is a dangerous man who cannot stand America because of what we love.

And so I went to the United Nations to remind this august body that they have a responsibility to help us keep the peace. I reminded them, for 11 years and 16 resolutions later, Saddam Hussein has defied every decree and every resolution. I went because I want the United Nations to be successful, to help us keep the peace. The more people involved with peace, the more likely it is we'll achieve peace. I went because I want the United Nations to be a strong body, not the League of Nations. I went to remind them that if their word is not kept, they will become nothing but a debating society, unable to keep the peace.

And so my message and the message of our United States Congress, including George Gekas, that spoke with one voice to the world is this: The United States will fulfill its obligations to peace; Saddam Hussein will disarm; if not, for the sake of peace, for the sake of securing the homeland, for the sake of protecting our friends and allies, the United States will lead a mighty coalition of freedom-loving nations and disarm Saddam Hussein.

See, I can't imagine what was going through the mind of this enemy when they hit us. They probably thought the national religion was materialism, that we were so selfish and so self-absorbed that after 9/11/2001 this mighty nation would take a couple of steps back and file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They don't understand America. They don't understand the spirit of America.

They don't understand that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes; it doesn't matter the cost. We will fulfill our obligations. This generation of Americans will do our duty to future generations of Americans by making the world a more peaceful place.

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. If we stay the

course, if we remain plenty tough when we need to be tough, if we remember we go into countries never to conquer but only to liberate, like we did in Afghanistan—and you've got to remember, many young girls go to school for the first time in their lives thanks to the United States of America—as we keep in mind the values that are so important, that freedom is not an American gift; freedom is God-given for everybody in the world—no, if we keep those principles close and steadfast in our purpose, we can achieve peace. I believe it.

And not only can we achieve peace around the world; we can achieve a better America here at home. Government can help. I talked about laws that we can pass, Medicare reform and education. But you've got to remember there are pockets of hopelessness and despair in this country. There are people who hurt. They hurt on a daily basis. Many of their problems can only be helped when a fellow American puts their arm around them and says, "I love you. What can I do to help? How can I make your day a better day?"

So my call to America, if you want to join in the fight against evil, is to do some good, is to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. We've got to remember that Government can help, and Government can hand out money, but it can't put love in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when neighbor loves neighbor and neighbor helps neighbor. My call to the high school students here is, help somebody in need. You see, the American spirit is more than just being a patriot. It's more than just being strong when it comes to the defense of our country. The American spirit means serving something greater than yourself in life, is helping people in need, is working to save America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I met Nancy Fierer today. See, all of us can do something and be part of this great fabric and mosaic of compassion. Nancy Fierer came out to the airport today. She started the Susquehanna Service Dogs Program that provides service dogs and hearing dogs to children and adults who have physical disabilities. See, she decided upon herself to make a difference. It's the Nancy Fierers,

and I'm confident many of you here, who are changing America for the better.

I want you to remember the story of Flight 93. I particularly want the youngsters to remember that story. It's the most profound story of recent history about people who served something greater than themselves, who captured that American experience—American spirit that I'm defining for you today.

These guys were flying across the airplane, guys and girls flying across the airplane—the country in an airplane. They heard the plane was going to be used as a weapon. Imagine. They were told on their cell phones by their loved ones. They made their determination that they must do something about it. They said goodbye, said, “I love you.” They said a prayer. One guy said, “Let's roll.” And they took the airplane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. They embodied the greatness of the American spirit, people willing to serve something greater than themselves so that lives would be better.

There's no question in my mind, and I will boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because this is the finest nation, full of the most decent, compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:21 a.m. at Harrisburg International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Evangeline “Vangie” Gekas, wife of Representative George W. Gekas; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher of Pennsylvania; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

November 1, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Thanks for inviting me. Boy, am I glad I came. It's good to be back. It's good to be back with the good folks of New Hamp-

shire. I see a lot of familiar faces amongst the crowd. There's one right there. [*Laughter*] We've got a lot of friends here. First of all, I've got to tell you, Laura—you drew the short straw. You got me instead of Laura. [*Laughter*] She sends her best as well. She's doing fabulous.

You may remember the story about her. She was a public school librarian when I asked her to marry me. She didn't like politics. She didn't like politicians. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes when I was there on bended knee. She has made a fabulous First Lady for America. She sends her best to all the candidates running for office, and she urges you to do what I'm here to urge you to do, which is get out the vote.

I want you to know that the American spirit is alive and well in America. And that's the spirit that says it's important for us to serve something greater than ourself. It's the spirit that says, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we'll be plenty tough.

But part of defending our freedom means our citizens must exercise their duty. And on election day, the duty is to vote. My call here in New Hampshire is for all the citizens—Republicans and Democrats, people who don't give a hoot about political parties—to do your duty and vote. I've got a strong suggestion: If you want to do what's right for New Hampshire, if you want to do what's right for America, vote for John Sununu for the United States Senate.

I've seen him in action in the Congress. I know what he can do. There's no doubt in my mind that he'd be the most effective voice for all the people of this State, for everybody who's fortunate enough to live in New Hampshire. See, he's the kind of fellow that doesn't require a focus group—[*laughter*]*—*or a poll to tell him what to think.

If I remember my days from New Hampshire, that's what you expect here in New Hampshire, somebody who tells you what's on your mind, somebody who shares his philosophy, somebody who doesn't need to move around in the political winds depending upon what might be happening at a particular moment. No, the people of this State

want down-to-earth, plain-speaking Members representing them, and that is exactly what John Sununu is.

And like me, he married well. *[Laughter]* And like me, he picked a pretty good pair of parents. It's good to see the old Governor behind stage. He's still looking pretty spry for an old fellow. *[Laughter]* Don't tell him I said that. *[Laughter]*

I'm also honored to be here in strong support of the next United States Congressman from the First District, Jeb Bradley. Jeb is going to do a fine job. I look forward to working with him. I'm going to talk about some of the issues we need to work on. I don't need to be worrying about the votes from the First District up there in Washington. I need a steady hand who represents the way the people of this State think, and that's going to be Jeb Bradley.

And in order to make sure the stage looked pretty, we invited the Congressman from the Second District here—*[laughter]*—Charlie Bass. I actually meant Lisa Bass. *[Laughter]* It's good to be up here with Kitty and Lisa and all the patient women supporting these candidates for office and standing by them. It's tough for a family to run for office. I understand that. But it requires good, strong women, in these guys' cases, to carry them through, and they married well. I'm real proud of them. I appreciate their hard work, just like I'm proud of the next first lady for New Hampshire—the next first lady from New Hampshire, Denise Benson.

I've known Craig for a while, and you're about to pick a good one to be your Governor, somebody who understands job creation, somebody who's going to bring integrity to the office, and somebody who isn't going to overburden you with a bunch of taxes, and that's Governor Craig Benson.

And finally, I've got to mention my old buddy the senior Senator. That would be your Judd Gregg. He and Kathy are great friends of Laura and mine. We really like to be around them. He is a great United States Senator. And when we take over the Senate, we will be calling Judd Gregg "Mr. Chairman."

Electing John Sununu will help us change the leadership in the Senate. The people of New Hampshire who haven't made up their

mind yet must understand the practicalities involved in this election. There's something very practical about having Judd Gregg become the chairman of the Health and Education and Labor and Pension Committee. It doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or Democrat or independent; it's in your interest. It's in your personal interest, and it's in your State interest that you have one of your own be the chairman of one of the most vital committees in the United States Senate. And the election of John Sununu could easily elevate Judd Gregg to that position.

Audience member. *[Inaudible]*—no war for oil—

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. What did he say?

Audience members. We want Bush! We want Bush! We want Bush!

The President. What did the guy say?

We've got a lot of hurdles that we've got to cross here in America. But there's no question in my mind we can cross them. That's what I want to talk to you about. Part of it depends on who you elect to the Senate; part of it elects upon the will and desire of the American people.

One of the biggest hurdles we've got is to make sure people can find work. Anybody looking for a job can't find a job means we've got a problem in America. We want people to be able to put food on the table. We want somebody who wants to provide, to be able to do so. And yet our economy is bumping along.

I'm optimistic about our economy because, one, I understand this country is one of the finest countries on the face of the Earth. We've got great productivity amongst our workers. Interest rates are low. Inflation is low. The foundation for growth is great.

But so long as anybody is trying to find work and can't find it, we better have people in the Congress willing to work with the administration to increase the job base. One of the most important things we can do to increase the job base is to stimulate small-business growth. And one way to do so is to let people keep more of their own money.

This is a—taxes are a cutting-edge issue in this campaign. You see, it reflects the difference of philosophy. If you understand if

people have more money in their pocket that they're going to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody's likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

The tax relief plan that John Sununu joined me on was not only good for people in New Hampshire, the citizens of New Hampshire, it's good for the small business and entrepreneurs of New Hampshire, because most small businesses pay taxes at the individual income tax rates. The tax cut we passed came at the exact right time for America.

Over the next 10 years, those tax cuts will mean \$6.9 billion for the people of New Hampshire. That's \$6.9 billion for you to decide what to do with your money. You hear these people saying, "Well, we better revisit the Tax Code—tax cuts." Listen carefully for those words. That's Washington, DC-speak for, "We're fixing to go back into your pocket." That's what that means.

If you're interested in job creation, like I am and John is, if you're interested in making sure people can find work, send somebody to Washington who will join me in making the tax cuts permanent.

We need to get us a terrorism insurance bill moving out of the Congress. We had these—these attackers hurt us in many ways. They hurt our economy. And one way they hurt the economy—there's a lot of big construction projects which aren't going forward. That's because people can't get insurance for terrorism. It means a lot of hardhats aren't finding work. Millions of—thousands of people; millions of dollars and thousands of people—millions of dollars aren't being invested, and thousands of people aren't working.

And so therefore, Congress needs to get this bill out, to my desk. I know I can count on John's support. He'll support a bill that I want and that you should want, that makes sure it rewards the hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

No, we've been through some tough times in our economy, and we've still got a ways to go. Remember, we came out of a recession, and the enemy hit us. And it hurt our

economy when they hit us, make no mistake about it. And we're recovering from that.

Then we had another little problem—not a little problem; it's a big problem. We had some of our citizens think that they could fudge the numbers; some of our citizens forgot their responsibilities when it comes to running a corporation. They forgot they were responsible to employees and to shareholders. They forgot their duty as Americans. And I want to thank John Sununu for supporting one of the most far-reaching corporate reform bills since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. Our message, loud and clear, to the corporate wrongdoers is: There isn't any easy money in America; there's only jail time when we catch you fudging the books. No, we've got to work together to get this economy rolling. There's no question in my mind, he's the right person to send up to Washington to work with the administration to help the economy grow so people can find work.

He's also the right man to send over there to work on vital matters, such as education and health care. Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare—medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is becoming more modern through technologies and new discoveries. Medicare is stuck. It's not changing. Send John Sununu to the Senate so we can modernize Medicare, which means a prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

I also want to thank John and, of course, Judd and Charlie for working on the education bill, which was a great education bill because it challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations. It raises the bar. It says we in America believe every child can learn. Inherent in that bill is a strong belief in local control of schools. We trust your future Governor and the people of New Hampshire to chart the path to excellence for every child in New Hampshire. We have sent \$150 million of Federal money to the schools this year in New Hampshire. But in return for that money, for the first time, we expect results. And I appreciate John Sununu's advocacy of this important piece of legislation.

I also know that when he becomes the Senator, I can count on him to make sure that our judiciary is full of judges who aren't

there to write the law, but to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

There will be a lot of issues which we can work together on for the good of New Hampshire and the good of America but no more important issue than making sure our homeland is secure, that protecting the people of this country—that's our most solemn duty now. And the reason why it's ongoing is because there's still an enemy that lurches around, which hates America. They hate America because of what we love. We love freedom, and we're not changing.

It's important to be clear-eyed about the threats we face, and we face a threat. We must see the world, and you must have people in Washington who see the world not the way we hope it would be but the way it is. We're now on notice that America is a battleground. And therefore, we've got to do everything we can to protect you. And a lot of good people are doing just that, a lot of people at the Federal level, the State level, and the local level running down any hint, any lead. Anytime somebody is thinking about something to do to America and we figure it out, we're going to move on them. We're going to absolutely do everything we can within the United States Constitution to protect the homeland of the American people.

I felt we could do a better job of protecting the homeland by moving a lot of these agencies involved with your protection into one Cabinet office. So I went to Congress and said, "Would you join me in creating a Department of Homeland Security so that we can set as the number one priority for these agencies the protection of the homeland and, if need be, change cultures within agencies so that we can protect you."

And that's what I asked them to do. I asked them quite a while ago. And the House of Representatives sanctioned the votes of Bass and Sununu, joined with the administration, and passed a really good bill. But it's stuck in the Senate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. It's stuck in the Senate because some Senators, not Senator Gregg and future Senator Sununu but some Senators want to extract a price from this President that's way too high. See, they want me to give up an important authority that every

President since John Kennedy has had. And that's the authority to suspend collective bargaining rules in certain cases for the sake of national security.

See, I need that capacity to be able to respond to the threats we face. I need the ability to suspend some rules if the rules inhibit our capacity to protect you. Under the vision of some in the Senate, I would have that authority for the Agriculture Department, but not for the Homeland Security Department. We are at war. The President—this President and future Presidents must have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America. And there's no doubt in my mind that soon-to-be-Senator Sununu supports me on this issue.

We'll do everything we can to protect you here at home, but the best way to protect our youngsters, the best way to defend our freedoms, is to find these killers no matter where they hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what America is going to do.

We passed a good defense bill. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. That bill should send two message. One is, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And two, we're sending a clear message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul, that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes. When it comes to making sure we fulfill our obligations as a generation for future generations of Americans, there's no calendar on my desk that says by such-and-such a date we're pulling in. No. See, I don't know what got in the enemy's mind. They must have thought our national religion was materialism, that we were so selfish, so self-absorbed, so interested only in ourselves that after 9/11/2001, oh, we might have filed a lawsuit or two. They don't know America like you and I know America. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes and how much it costs.

And we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in. And we've got people still helping us. See, the doctrine that

says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy"—that still stands. I remind people of it all the time, because I understand the task ahead. In the old days, we destroyed tanks, airplanes, ships, and we made progress. These people don't have tanks. They don't have ships. They hide in caves. They send suiciders out. They're willing to send youngsters out, and they, themselves, hide. That's the kind of people we face.

And so, therefore, we've got to be on them, got to get them on the run and keep them on the run. And we're making progress. We've hauled in about 2,000 or more. And that's good. And like number met their fate a different way—like number aren't around. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling this terrorist network, thanks to one of the greatest militaries ever, the United States military.

It's going to take a while. It's going to take a while to make America safe. It's going to take a while to do everything we can to fulfill our responsibilities and protect you. The American people understand that; they understand it's a new kind of war. They also understand there's a new reality we face, and that's important. The new reality is, oceans no longer protect us. After September the 11th, 2001, every threat that might be emerging overseas we need to take seriously. In the old days we could sit back and say, "Well, there's something emerging over there, and these oceans protect us, and we're safe, and we can decide whether or not we want to be involved in that theater. We can decide if we really think it's in our national interest, because our people aren't threatened."

We have a new day here in America. It's a sobering reality. It's one that—you better make sure your elected officials are clear-eyed about the threats that we face. And we face a threat in the form of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a man who has told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, and yet he deceived the world. He's got them.

Not only does he have them—remember, this is a guy who was a short while away from having a nuclear weapon. Then they dismantled it. Then he started deceiving the world again, and no telling how close he is to having one now. We know he's got chemical weapons, probably has biological weapons.

But more significantly, we know he uses them. He uses them not only on his neighbors; he uses them on his own people. That's the nature of this man. We know he's got ties with Al Qaida. A nightmare scenario, of course, is that he becomes the arsenal for a terrorist network, where they could attack America, and he'd leave no fingerprints behind. He is a problem.

I went to the United Nations a while ago because I wanted to remind them that they have a duty, it seems like to me, to bring the free nations together and call the man to account. After all, they passed resolution after resolution after resolution, 16 times that he's defied.

See, we want the United Nations to be successful. I believe it's in our interests that freedom-loving countries come together and help defeat the new threats of the 21st century. It's in our national interest they do so. It's in their interest they do so.

So I went there and said, "Show us whether or not you can achieve what you're supposed to do. Show us whether or not you've got the backbone necessary to hold the man to account in the name of peace. Show us whether or not you're going to be the United Nations or the League of Nations."

And my message to Saddam Hussein is just as clear: You said you would not have weapons of mass destruction. In the name of peace, get rid of your weapons of mass destruction. But my message to America, and it's supported by Republicans and Democrats alike: If the United Nations will not act, if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, the United States of America will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I believe that. I believe that because of the nature of our country. I believe that because of the American spirit. I know that we can achieve peace. I want you to assure your children that amongst all the talk that we can achieve a peaceful world. I believe it. If we remain strong and tough and determined, speak our mind clearly about good and evil, remember that freedom is not an American blessing, it's God-given for everybody who lives in the world, if we remember that, we can achieve peace.

We can achieve peace here at home. We can achieve peace in the Middle East. We have a chance to lead the world to peace. I can—I see clearly a peaceful world. And I see a more compassionate tomorrow here at home. Out of the evil done to America, we can have a better America.

You've got to remember, amongst our plenty are people who hurt, people who are lonely, people who are depressed, people who are addicted, people who say, "American Dream? What are you talking about? I don't know what you're talking about."

So long as any of us hurt, we all hurt, as far as I'm concerned. I've mentioned and told you that John and I will work together to do what Government can do. But what Government can't do is put love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when our fellow Americans put their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I make your life better? How can I do my part of being American?"

I met a guy out there at the airport today, Zack Dietrich, a 23-year-old fellow here in New Hampshire. He's a member of AmeriCorps. He's a guy who's working to help people find work by helping them with job training. He's a man who's helping save lives by helping people have dignity in their lives when it comes to work. He has decided, at the age of 23, to help a neighbor in need. He's decided to be a part of the army of compassion. He knows what I know, that through the great heart of America, we can change our country one soul, one person at a time.

And that's what's happening. American spirit is more than just being a patriot. The American spirit is more than just being strong militarily so we can keep the peace and promote freedom. The American spirit understands that being a patriot in this country means serving something greater than yourself. And that spirit is alive and well today.

It was certainly alive and well on Flight 93. People flying across our country realized that their plane was going to be used as a weapon. They said goodbye. They said, "I love you." They said a prayer, and ordinary citizens took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in

life. They represented the absolute best of America.

The American spirit is strong and alive today, which allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful tomorrow for everybody who lives in this country, because this is the finest country, full of the most decent, honorable, caring people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. at Pease International Tradeport Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Congressman John E. Sununu's parents, former Gov. John H. Sununu of New Hampshire and his wife, Nancy; Kitty Sununu, wife of Congressman Sununu; Lisa Bass, wife of Congressman Charles F. Bass; gubernatorial candidate Craig Benson and his wife, Denise Benson; Kathleen Gregg, wife of Senator Judd Gregg; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, to Los Cabos, Mexico, where the President began his participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum at the Las Ventanas al Paraiso Hotel.

Later in the morning, at the Westin Regina hotel, the President met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea concerning the situation in North Korea.

In the afternoon, at the Fiesta Americana Grand Hotel, the President participated in

APEC leaders' meetings, a photo opportunity, and a meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council. He also met with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia concerning the October 12 terrorist attack in Bali and cooperation against terrorism. He then participated in a meeting with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders.

In the evening, at the Fiesta Americana Grand Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner for APEC forum participants hosted by President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

October 27

In the morning, at the Westin Regina hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. Embassy personnel.

Later in the morning, at the Las Ventanas al Paraiso Hotel, the President participated in APEC leaders' meetings and then a photo opportunity. In the afternoon, he participated in the reading of the APEC Leaders' Declaration and then a lunch for APEC forum participants.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Phoenix, AZ.

October 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Alamogordo, NM. Upon arrival at Holloman Air Force Base, he met with 91-year-old Freedom Corps volunteer Ruth Berg.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, to congratulate him on his October 27 electoral victory. He also had telephone conversations with Bill Stoneman, vice president and general manager, Anaheim Angels Major League Baseball team, and Jackie Autry, widow of former Angels' owner Gene Autry, to congratulate them on their team's October 27 World Series victory. He also had a telephone conversation with Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, to congratulate him for breaking the National Football League's total yardage rushing record on October 27.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 29

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council. He also had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situations in the Middle East and Iraq.

October 30

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Hans Blix, executive chairman, United Nations Monitoring Verification and Inspections Commission (UNMOVIC), and Mohammed El Baradei, director-general, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to discuss plans for implementation of a proposed UN Security Council resolution concerning weapons inspections in Iraq.

October 31

In the morning, the President traveled to Aberdeen, SD. In the afternoon, he traveled to South Bend, IN, and later to Charleston, WV. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei to Washington, DC, on December 16 to discuss bilateral relations, including counterterrorism efforts and trade.

November 1

In the morning, the President traveled to Harrisburg, PA, where he met with volunteer Nancy Fierer, founder, Susquehanna Service Dogs Program, which provides service dogs to children and adults with disabilities. He then traveled to Portsmouth, NH, where he met with Americorps VISTA volunteer Zack Dietrich.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Louisville, KY, where he met with volunteer Ray Probus of the Jefferson County Police Department's Volunteers in Police Service program. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Los Cabos, Mexico

Fact sheet: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): Overview and Background

Fact sheet: APEC Leaders Meeting—Day One, U.S. Accomplishments

Fact sheet: Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative

Fact sheet: Secure Trade in the APEC Region (“STAR”)

Fact sheet: Better Health Care for All Americans

Released October 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: APEC Leaders’ Retreat #1: Counterterrorism

Fact sheet: APEC Leaders Meeting—Day Two, U.S. Accomplishments

Released October 28

Transcripts of press gaggles by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Election of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as President of Brazil

Released October 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released October 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that on October 29 the President signed H.R. 669, H.R. 670, H.R. 3034, H.R. 3738, H.R. 3739, H.R. 3740, H.R. 4102, H.R. 4717, H.R. 4755, H.R. 4794, H.R. 4797, and H.R. 4851

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 113, H.R. 2486, H.R. 5647, S. 1270, S. 1339, S. 1646, and S. 2558

Fact sheet: President Bush Announces His Plan To Ensure Timely Consideration of Judicial Nominees

Released October 31

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei

Released November 1

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the earthquake in Campobasso, Italy

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 26

H.R. 5651 / Public Law 107–250
Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002

S. 1533 / Public Law 107–251
Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002

Approved October 29

H.R. 3295 / Public Law 107–252
Help America Vote Act of 2002

H.R. 2486 / Public Law 107–253
Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002

H.R. 5647 / Public Law 107–254
To authorize the duration of the base contract of the Navy-Marine Corps Intranet contract to be more than five years but not more than seven years

H.J. Res. 113 / Public Law 107–255
Recognizing the contributions of Patsy Takemoto Mink

S. 1227 / Public Law 107–256
Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act

S. 1270 / Public Law 107–257
To designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at 8th Avenue and Mill Street in Eugene, Oregon, as the “Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse”

S. 1339 / Public Law 107–258
Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act of 2002

S. 1646 / Public Law 107–259
To identify certain routes in the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico as part of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, a high priority corridor on the National Highway System

S. 2558 / Public Law 107–260
Benign Brain Tumor Cancer Registries Amendment Act

Approved October 30

H.R. 669 / Public Law 107–261
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 Social Street in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, as the “Alphonse F. Auclair Post Office Building”

H.R. 670 / Public Law 107–262
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Street in Newport, Rhode Island, as the “Bruce F. Cotta Post Office Building”

H.R. 3034 / Public Law 107–263
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 89 River

Street in Hoboken, New Jersey, as the “Frank Sinatra Post Office Building”

H.R. 3738 / Public Law 107–264
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1299 North 7th Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Herbert Arlene Post Office Building”

H.R. 3739 / Public Law 107–265
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6150 North Broad Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Rev. Leon Sullivan Post Office Building”

H.R. 3740 / Public Law 107–266
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 925 Dickinson Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “William A. Cibotti Post Office Building”

H.R. 4102 / Public Law 107–267
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 North Maine Street in Fallon, Nevada, as the “Rollan D. Melton Post Office Building”

H.R. 4717 / Public Law 107–268
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, as the “Jim Fonteno Post Office Building”

H.R. 4755 / Public Law 107–269
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 204 South Broad Street in Lancaster, Ohio, as the “Clarence Miller Post Office Building”

H.R. 4794 / Public Law 107–270
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1895 Avenida Del Oro in Oceanside, California, as the “Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building”

H.R. 4797 / Public Law 107–271
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 265 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California, as the “Nat King Cole Post Office”

H.R. 4851 / Public Law 107–272
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6910 South Yorktown Avenue in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the “Robert Wayne Jenkins Station”

Week Ending Friday, November 8, 2002

Remarks in Louisville, Kentucky

November 1, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thank you all very much for coming tonight. I'm here to talk about the American spirit, and I'm here to remind the good folks of this part of the State of Kentucky that if you're interested in good Government, if you're interested in sending somebody to Congress who will represent all the people of the district, if you want somebody who can do the job, send Anne Northup back to the United States Congress.

I love traveling America because it gives me a chance to see firsthand and to feel the fact that the American spirit is alive and well. That's the spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedom. It's the spirit—the American spirit says to me that we'll serve something greater than ourselves here in this country. The American spirit means that we love freedom. And if you love freedom, you have a duty to participate in the democratic process.

I'm here to urge all the people of the great State of Kentucky to vote, Republican, Democrat, people who don't care about any kind of political party. You need to do your duty. But when you get in that poll, I've got a suggestion for you: Anne Northup is the right choice.

I wasn't Anne's first choice tonight. *[Laughter]* She wanted Laura. I saw on TV that Laura was campaigning with Elizabeth Dole. She got the long straw; you got the short straw. But she sends her love. She sends her best. She's as strong for Anne as I am.

I want to tell you how proud I am of Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. *[Applause]* I didn't realize there were so many public school librarians here in Louisville.

Audience member. *[Inaudible]*

The President. That's good. When I said, "Would you marry me," her state of mind was this: She didn't like politics, and she didn't care for politicians. *[Laughter]* And now she's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady.

I appreciate Anne's family. I appreciate Woody and all of their kids. Heck, if they just get the kids to vote, it would be a landslide. *[Laughter]*

I'm proud to be up here as well with a fine Kentucky couple, starting with a United States Senator who has done a fabulous job for the people of Kentucky, and that's Mitch McConnell. Like me, he married well—so well I put Elaine in the Cabinet. *[Laughter]* She's doing a really good job on behalf of the American people. I'm proud of Elaine.

I'm also honored to be up here with another great Senator from Kentucky, Jim Bunning. We need to make sure Mitch goes back to the Senate. We need him there for a lot of reasons. Some of the reasons I'll talk about later, but one of the key reasons why Senators McConnell and Bunning are important to our future is because they know what I know: We've got a problem on our Federal judiciary. There's too many vacancies. And there's too many vacancies because the current leadership in the Senate has done a lousy job on letting my people have a fair hearing when I nominate them. They don't like the kind of judges I nominate. I put good, honest, honorable people who understand their job is to interpret the Constitution, not use the bench from which to legislate. We don't need any more legislators. We need good, honorable judges on the bench.

I appreciate so very much Ernie Fletcher. Congressman Ernie Fletcher is with us today—he's one of the fine Members of the United States Congress—and Ron Lewis of the United States Congress, from Kentucky as well. These are two solid Members, Members with whom I can work for the good of everybody.

Also on the stage today we've got Geoff Davis, who's a candidate for the United States Congress. And if you're living in Geoff's district, give him your vote and give him your word. And Mike Sodrel is here. *[Applause]* Sounds like old Mike's got something going. We want both these good men in the Congress. We've got a lot to do to work together.

I'm here to thank the grassroots activists as well. I want to thank you for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do over the next couple of days. You need to go to your coffee shops and your houses of worship and your community centers and tell the people they need to go and vote, and tell the people that we've got some fine candidates. Tell the people that Anne Northup is as good as it gets in the United States Congress. Urge them to vote, and don't be afraid to talk about good, discerning Democrats—to talk to good, discerning Democrats and wise independents. These people want good Government as well, just like we do. And the best person to represent good Government is Anne Northup.

I know Anne well. I know her well. I respect her a lot. I value her advice. I appreciate the way she works hard in Washington to change the tone of politics. People who know Anne well know what I'm about to say. She's got a big heart. She cares for those who suffer. She doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell her what to think. She bases her decisions on a deep-seated philosophy. She's decency; she's great. She needs to be back in the Congress. She's an effective person. She can get things done.

She secured funding for the Ohio River bridges project. She worked hard to make sure transportation was effective in this part of the world. She worked closely with me on making sure that we could get a Faith-Based Initiative out of the United States Congress. Anne feels passionately about that because, as a Congresswoman, she has reached across the community divides to bring people together. She knows what I know, that there are people who hurt and people who suffer. And one of the ways to heal the broken heart is to unleash the great faith and compassion of the American people.

I've worked closely with Anne on issues like adoption. She and Woody are adoptive parents, which in my view is one of the greatest expressions of love. No, Anne Northup can get things done. She cares deeply about the citizens of this district. And she knows that we've got some hurdles to cross here in America, and I look forward to having her in Congress to work on—working to cross those hurdles.

One of the biggest problems we've got is our economy. It's just bumping along. It's not going like it should. There are too many people in America who want to work and cannot find a job. And so long as somebody is looking for work, that means we've got a problem. And I need people in the United States Congress who will join me in job creation.

But we understand the role of Government. It is not to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. It is to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business. Anne and I understand that 70 percent of new jobs are created by small-business owners.

If you're worried about job creation like we are, then you must put forth policy that encourages small-business growth. Most small businesses pay taxes at the individual income tax level. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. So when you open up your tax forms and see the individual rates, you've got to think of the fact that most small businesses pay those rates. And therefore, the tax relief plan that we passed was the best antidote to a slowing economy.

If you're interested in creating jobs, you let small businesses as well as consumers keep more of their own money. You see, when people have more money in their pocket, they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace, when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief we plan came at—passed came at the right time, and we need people in the United States Congress to make the tax cuts permanent.

I look forward to working with Anne and other Members of the Congress and working with Mitch to see if we can't get us a terrorism insurance bill, to get construction programs started, projects started, and get the hardhats working. We want our good hardhats in America building those buildings and building those projects which are stalled because people can't find insurance because of the terrorist attacks. But we'd better get us a bill that rewards the hardhats, not the trial lawyers here in America.

And we're going to work together to increase jobs so people can find work. I'm optimistic about our future when it comes to the economy. We've got—interest rates are low; inflation is low; productivity is high. We're the best workers, best farmers, best ranchers, best entrepreneurs in the world. There's a lot going right, but we are not going to rest until people can find a job.

And we're not going to rest until every child gets educated in this country, either. I worked closely with Anne. Anne Northup was a solid backer, strong advocate of the no child should be left behind legislation. To give you a sense of her perspective, let me tell you what that bill says. It says every child can learn in America. Everybody can learn. And therefore, we must set high standards.

If you have low expectations and low standards, you're going to get lousy results. Anne understands that we must challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations, must raise the bar.

But at the same time, we've got to trust the people of Kentucky to chart the path for excellence for every child in Kentucky. We believe in local control of schools. Thanks to Anne's hard work and Mitch's and Jim's hard work and other Members of Congress' hard work, the great State of Kentucky is going to receive \$650 million in Federal monies for schools this year. Those monies will be used to help disadvantaged children. Those monies will be applied to make sure every child can learn.

But for the first time in our history, we've asked the question, is the money being well spent? Show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can learn, then it makes sense to ask that question. Are we

teaching our children? And if we are, we'll praise the teachers. But if we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, we will demand something different, because no child should be left behind in the State of Kentucky.

I look forward to working with Anne to make sure our medical system works, to make sure that health care is available and affordable. We've got too many lawsuits here in America today, too many frivolous and junk lawsuits that are running up the cost of medicine and making it harder for our docs to practice medicine. We need medical liability reform, once and for all, so that medicine is affordable for the American consumers.

I look forward to working with Anne and the other Members of Congress up here to fulfill our promises to our seniors. We're going to make sure Social Security system works. And we're also going to make sure Medicare fulfills its promise. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern because of technologies and innovation. Medicare is stuck in the past. I'm going to work with Anne to make sure Medicare is modern, and that means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

No, there's a lot we can do to work together on behalf of all of the citizens of Kentucky and all of the citizens of America. But the biggest challenge we have, our most important responsibility, is to protect the homeland from further attack. That's our biggest job, because there's still an enemy out there that lurks, an enemy out there which hates America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We worship the fact that we have free elections. We love the fact we have a free press. We love everything about freedom, and we're not going to change.

And it's our fervent love of freedom, and the fact that we're not going to change, which really irritates the enemy. See, they don't like us. And there's something else that differentiates us between them, and that is, we value life. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious. Every life matters. And these people

are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who have hijacked a great religion and could care less about taking innocent life.

We've been warned. We've been warned. And now our most important job is to protect you. And there's a lot of good people doing this. We've got people at the Federal level and at the State level and the local level doing everything they can to disrupt and deny the enemy. I'm telling you, anytime we get any whisper, any hint, any idea that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're acting. We're going to do everything in our power to prevent the enemy from hitting us again.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join with me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. There's over 100 agencies in Washington involved with protecting you. It seemed like, to me, it made sense to put them under one Department so that we could set clear priority, so that if need be, we could change cultures so that our Government was functioning in concert to do everything we could to protect the homeland.

And the House of Representatives passed a good bill, and I'm honored that Anne and the other Members of the Congress supported that good bill. But it's stuck in the Senate. It couldn't get out of the Senate, because the Senate wanted to take powers away from the President of the United States.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. And here's what they wanted to do. For 40 years, since John Kennedy was the President, Presidents have had the capacity, the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in the name of national security. In other words, if there were certain rules which prevented the homeland security council department from doing its job, I couldn't suspend those rules. If the Senate had its way—not Senator McConnell or Senator Bunning but other Senators—if they had their way, I would have the capacity, the right to suspend certain rules at the Department of Agriculture but not at the Department of Homeland Security. I would have the flexibility necessary to do everything I could for the sake of national security at Agriculture, but not to protect you through the Department of Homeland Security.

I need the capacity to be able to move the right people at the right time to the right place to protect the American people. Mitch McConnell understands that, and so does Jim Bunning, and so does Anne Northup. They understand that.

They also understand what I'm about to tell you, that the best way to secure America, the best way to protect you, is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. It's not an easy task. It's not an easy task, because this is a different kind of army that we face, a different kind of enemy. In the old days—I see some guys who were probably involved with World War II or the Korean war. In the old days, if you knocked out a couple of tanks or knocked some airplanes out of the air or sunk a ship, you'd be able to determine whether or not you were making progress against the enemy. Those were the old days. Today, we're facing coldblooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths, and there is no cave deep enough for America.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important to see the world the way it is, not to see the way that we hope it is. It's important to be cold-eyed realists about the threats we face.

And we're making progress on this war against terror. We've hauled in over a couple thousand of them, and a couple thousand weren't quite as lucky. Slowly but surely, we're protecting the American people and defending our freedom by dismantling the terrorist network that came and unmercifully murdered American citizens. And so long as I'm the President of the United States, we're going to continue to hunt them down. We owe that to our children. We owe that to our children's children. History has called us into action, and this great Nation is going to stay steady and resolute and determined.

I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. And they did, and I want to thank the Members up here who voted with us on that bill. I did so for two reasons, two important reasons. One, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training,

and the best possible equipment. And secondly, we just sent a signal to the world, to friend and foe alike, we're in this deal for the long haul. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it costs. The United States of America will go after those terrorists and bring them to justice.

No, it's important to be open-eyed about the threats we face. After all, oceans no longer protect us. See, that's what's important for Americans to understand, that after September the 11th, the stakes changed. See, prior to September the 11th, we used to think that, if there was a conflict or a threat somewhere else in the world, we could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to deal with it, because oceans protected us. The homeland was secure by geography.

We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th, which means that, as we see threats, we must be prepared to deal with them. And I see a significant threat to the security of the United States in Iraq.

Saddam Hussein is a man who told the world he would not have weapons of mass destruction, but he does. He not only has them; he's used them. He has used them against his neighbors, and incredibly enough, he's used them against his own people. This is a man who was close to having a nuclear weapon a decade ago. No telling how close he is now.

I viewed him as a threat, not only to the American people, because he could become an arsenal to one of these shadow terrorist networks. He could use them as surrogates and not leave any fingerprints behind.

No, he's a threat. He's not only a threat to us. He's a threat to our close friends in the Middle East. Saddam Hussein is a man who has defied the United Nations not once, not twice, not 3 times, but 16 times they passed resolutions. So I went to that august body, and I said, "The time has come for you to show the world whether or not you've got the capacity to keep the peace, to defend freedom. The time has come for you to show whether or not your resolutions mean anything."

And I sent the same message to Saddam Hussein. "You said you would disarm. Disarm. For the sake of peace, disarm."

I took the debate to the United States Congress and, thanks to the Members on this stage and many others, the United States now speaks with one voice. And here it is: Either the United Nations will do its job, either the United Nations will show it is not the League of Nations, but a body with the capacity to keep the peace, and Saddam Hussein will disarm, or for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a mighty coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought the national religion of the United States was materialism, that we were so selfish, so self-absorbed, so shallow, that after September the 11th, 2001, we'd take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] That's probably what they thought. But they found out they are dealing with a different bunch, that we love our freedom, that we care deeply about our future, that we love peace.

The evil done to America has given this great nation to show the world that out of evil can come great good. I believe this. I believe that if we stay the course, if we're strong, if we fight terror, if we lead a coalition of freedom-loving countries, we can achieve peace.

I believe we can achieve peace if we remember that freedom is not bestowed on the world by the United States, but freedom is God-given for everybody. I believe that if we're strong and resolute, with a clear vision, that we see reality the way it is, that we can achieve peace not only for America, but because we value all life—everybody is precious—that we can achieve peace in parts of the world who have quit on peace. I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, not only abroad but incredible good here at home. See, I believe that the evildoers renew the American spirit, that sense of serving something greater than yourself in life. Government can help. We'll work—Members of Congress will work with the administration

to pass laws that will help people help themselves and improve lives. But you've got to remember that while Government can pass out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

And at the same time, we've got to remember, amongst all the plenty here in America, there are people who hurt. There's loneliness and addiction and despair. And so long as any of us hurts, we all hurt. And the best way to solve many of the seemingly intractable problems here in America is for a fellow American to put their arm around somebody who's lonely, and somebody who suffers, and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

No, the true strength of America lies in the hearts and the souls of our fellow citizens. All across this country there are fine and decent people who are helping America change, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. And it's happening.

They woke the great compassion of America when they attacked us. Perhaps the spirit is best reflected in small ways and large ways—small ways like Ray Probus, who I met. He was at the airport today. He works with the Jefferson County police department's Volunteers in Police Service program. That's one way people can help. I'm sure there's mentors here. I know there are people who worry about feeding the hungry, who worry about the homeless and do something about it. I know there's people involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops that are sending values to our children. I know there are people involved in schools here to make sure every child can learn. All of us can help make America a hopeful place.

Perhaps the biggest lesson of all of what I'm talking about, that great spirit of America, took place on Flight 93 that fateful day. We had people flying across the country. They heard the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon to kill Americans. They said goodbye to their loved ones. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. To me, that epitomized the greatest of the American spirit, which is alive and well in America.

No, the enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. Out

of the evil done to America is going to come peace. And out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful tomorrow. I predict this. I know it's going to happen, because America is the greatest nation, full of the finest, most compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:51 p.m. at the Kentucky International Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Anne Northup and her husband, Robert Wood "Woody" Northup; senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina; Geoff Davis, candidate for Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District; Mike Sodrel, candidate for Indiana's Ninth Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7619—National Adoption Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every year, thousands of American families are blessed by adoption. Whether through domestic or international adoption or through the adoption of children from foster care, the love of compassionate families embraces children of all ages and from every background. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the heartfelt commitment of these good citizens, and we renew our pledge to make adoption a more accessible and positive path for American families.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. We are making important progress in placing children in foster care with adoptive families; and the overall number of children being adopted continues to rise. In the past 5 years, adoptions have increased dramatically; and thus far in 2002, tens of thousands of children have already been adopted.

Twenty-three States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico received adoption incentive awards in FY 2001 for increasing the number of children they placed from foster

care into permanent adoptive homes. These recipients have reinvested their bonuses to help improve their respective adoption and child welfare programs. Americans also continue to welcome children from other countries into their homes through international adoptions. Last year, families in the United States adopted over 19,000 children from around the world.

Despite the progress we have made in increasing our adoption rate, we still have much work to do. More than 130,000 children, ranging from toddlers to teenagers, still remain in foster care awaiting adoption. While foster parents offer temporary essential care, the children for whom they care need the stability of a permanent family. It is often challenging to find families for older children and those children who have special needs. Yet they deserve a future with a nurturing family.

To help States promote adoption and support families who adopt, I signed a tax relief bill last year that permanently eases the financial burden on families that adopt children. And in January 2002, I signed into law a bill to extend and expand the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Through this legislation, we are strengthening families by promoting adoption, offering post-adoption services to families that adopt, and providing education and training vouchers to older adopted children and foster youth.

In July 2002, my Administration launched the AdoptUSKids national campaign to increase awareness about adoption and its role in helping all children reach their full potential. We have also created the first Federal adoption photo-listing web site devoted to children awaiting adoption and families who adopt, www.AdoptUSKids.org. During its first year, the web site will feature pictures and profiles of more than 6,500 children awaiting adoption, as well as a database of approved adoptive families. This unique web site will help to connect children from across the country with loving adoptive families, and it will also serve as a great resource for all adoptive families.

On November 23, dozens of communities will gather in courtrooms across the country to celebrate National Adoption Day. On this momentous day, thousands of adoptions will

be finalized and celebrated. These efforts demonstrate our Nation's dedication to ensuring that every child can thrive in a secure, loving, and stable home.

Through adoption, Americans can forever change not only a child's life but also their own. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them become confident, compassionate, and successful members of society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Adoption Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families, and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7620—National American Indian Heritage Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During American Indian Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich cultural traditions and proud ancestry of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and we recognize the vital contributions these groups have made to the strength and diversity of our society.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have played a central role in our history. In 1805 and 1806, Sakajawea, a Shoshone Indian woman, helped guide Lewis and Clark on their historic expedition to explore the uncharted West. This remarkable journey, known as the "Voyage of Discovery," would not have been possible without her efforts, and today she remains a proud symbol of American Indian courage and strength.

We are also grateful to the Navajo Codetalkers for their service during World War II. Participating in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942–1945, the Navajo Codetalkers relayed secret messages that helped our Nation and the allies secure victory. The Congress recognized these heroes by authorizing the President to award them Congressional Gold Medals, which I was honored to present last year. These examples of our true American spirit reflect our shared history and serve as reminders of the unique heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Upon its completion on the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian will help educate all Americans about the lives, contributions, and culture of our Native peoples.

Education is essential to the future success of tribal communities. We will work together to ensure that our Indian education programs offer high-quality instruction and job training that contribute to the vitality of our Native American communities. We will also work to maintain the legacy of American Indians and Alaska Natives by preserving irreplaceable languages and cultural traditions.

To enhance our efforts to help Indian nations be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-reliant, my Administration will continue to honor tribal sovereignty by working on a government-to-government basis with American Indians and Alaska Natives. We will honor the rights of Indian tribes and work to protect and enhance tribal resources.

My Administration is working to increase employment and expand economic opportunities for all Native Americans. Several Federal agencies recently participated in the National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies to help us accomplish this goal. In order to build upon this effort, my Administration

will work to promote cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies for the purpose of fostering greater economic development of tribal communities. By working together on important economic initiatives, we will strengthen America by building a future of hope and promise for all Native Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:46 a.m., November 5, 2002]

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Proclamation 7621—National Hospice Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Hospice organizations provide people who are near the end of their lives with family-centered, quality care, that emphasizes compassion, independence, respect, and dignity. During National Hospice Month, our Nation pays tribute to hospice care and the persons and organizations involved with it, by recognizing and honoring its value and importance for people who are dying, for their families and friends, and for our communities.

Hospice has emerged as a successful model of care that helps terminally ill individuals achieve practical, physical, psychological, and spiritual goals. According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), in 2001, an estimated 3,200 operating hospice programs in the United States admitted about 775,000 patients. Hospice care relies upon a team of committed physicians, nurses, medical social workers, therapists, counselors, and volunteers. This team provides medical services that are designed to improve the comfort of the patient, manage symptoms, provide proper nutrition, and deal with other difficulties such as emotional distress and grief. Hospice care also provides important emotional and spiritual support to families and friends as they cope with their impending loss.

While we have made great progress in encouraging hospice care, much work remains to be done to increase awareness of hospice and its benefits. The NHPCO reports that in 2000, 2.4 million people in our Nation died. It is estimated that one in four used hospice care and services. Also, many people at the end of life are referred to hospice only a few days before death. By strengthening and expanding hospice programs and working to promote, where appropriate, their services as a positive alternative for terminally ill patients, we can make a difference in the lives of countless Americans.

As we observe National Hospice Month, we applaud hospice organizations, health professionals, and other caregivers for their dedication to ensuring respect and quality of life for all. We also reaffirm our commitment as a Nation to honoring the dignity of every person and to promoting compassion and concern for our fellow citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Hospice Month. I encourage Americans to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice service and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the

year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

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Remarks in Blountville, Tennessee

November 2, 2002

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I'm honored to be here in East Tennessee. I've got a fond spot in my heart for Tennessee, if you know what I mean. I've got a good feeling about the people in this State, and I want to thank you for coming this morning. I'm—your Congressman, Bill Jenkins, is doing a fine job, by the way. He said, "You know, it's time to quit sermonizing, and it's time to pass the plate." [Laughter] I think what he meant was, "It's close to voting time, and it's time for you all to go out and vote for the next Governor of Tennessee, Van Hilleary."

See, we have a duty in this country to support our freedoms. And one of the ways we support freedom is to vote. We have an obligation as American citizens to vote. So as we're approaching election day, I'm traveling the country, reminding Republicans and Democrats and people who don't give a hoot about politics to do their duty and go to the polls. But I've got some suggestions once they get in the box. [Laughter]

For the good of Tennessee, for the good of the taxpayers of Tennessee, for the good of the schoolchildren in Tennessee, vote Van Hilleary as your Governor. And for the sake of making sure the United States Senate and its important seat stays in the hands of a good, honest, capable Senator, vote for Lamar Alexander.

I appreciate Meredith Hilleary working so hard with her husband. She's going to be a great first lady on behalf of the people of

Tennessee. I'm pretty good about understanding great First Ladies. The American people are beginning to see why I asked Laura to marry me. She's calm and steady under fire. She's got great, great vision about making sure every child gets educated. She's got a wonderful heart. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes. *[Laughter]* But she sends her best to the Hillearys and the Alexanders and the good people of Tennessee. She's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady, and I'm really proud of her.

I'm proud to be up here with two fine United States Senators. First, we're going to miss Fred Thompson. He's been a good friend, solid Senator. But we're not going to miss him nearly half enough when—half as much when Lamar Alexander takes his place. I know you join me in sending our best to Fred and expressing our deep appreciation for his great service to the country.

And you sent another good one up there, too, and that's Frist. He's a good man, a good, solid citizen. Both of these men are allies. Both of them are doing a great job for all the people of Tennessee. Bill Jenkins is doing a great job for this congressional district, too. He's a reliable voice who cares deeply about the people of East Tennessee. You ought to be proud of his service to you as well.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank you for what you have done, and I want to thank you for what you're going to do, what you're going to do for candidates such as Janice Bowling, who's going to get elected in the congressional district right next door to here. I appreciate Janice. She's a strong voice. She's a solid soul. She'll make a great Congresswoman.

I also want to thank my friend Darrell Waltrip. There he is. *[Laughter]* I've known him for quite a while. He's looking younger, and I'm looking older. *[Laughter]* He's asking me whether or not he can drive the Presidential limousine. *[Laughter]* No. *[Laughter]* He's a good, solid man. One of the reasons Hilleary is going to win is because he's going to win the NASCAR vote.

I also appreciate Law and Grace and the Singing Sheriffs group for being here. I'm sorry I didn't get here in time to hear you. Just leave your CD at the door. *[Laughter]*

But I really want to thank you all and remind you that not only do you have a duty to vote, but if you care about the quality of government in Nashville and in Washington, turn out to vote. Go to your houses of worship. Go to your coffee shops. When you get there Monday morning, instead of sitting around worrying about the weather, worry about who the next Governor is going to be. Worry about who the next Senator is going to be. Talk it up with people who may not pay attention to the politics as much as we do. And don't be afraid to talk up the story of Lamar and Van to Democrats. There's some discerning Democrats out there. They want good government, just like we do. They don't want higher taxes, just like we do. Find those independents that are open-minded and convince them that when you've got good ones, like Van and Lamar, we have a duty in America to support these good people.

We're going to win this election, come Tuesday, because of good, hard-working folks such as yourself, and I'm here to thank you for what you're going to do.

No, there's some reasons—you know, old Van, he's not what we call a show horse; he's a work horse. He can get the job done. He's a plain-spoken fellow. The good thing about him is, he doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think. He's well grounded in East Tennessee. He has those values of faith and family, the kind of man you can count on. He's not going to be swayed by the special interests. He's going to do what he thinks is right for all the people of Tennessee. And that's important.

We share a vision about the children of Tennessee too. It says that every child can learn. You've got to have you a Governor who believes every child can learn, somebody who's willing to set high standards and high expectations, somebody who is willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, when you have you a Governor who believes in not setting high standards, you're going to get lousy results. Van Hilleary worked with me and Members of the United States Congress to make sure that the Federal bill we passed did two things—provided plenty of money for Tennessee. There's \$760 million in Federal education money coming

your way, thanks to the hard work of your Senators and Van Hilleary.

But that bill that he worked on said two other things: One, we trust the people of Tennessee to chart the path for excellence for every child. We believe in local control of schools, and that's the way he'll be as your Governor. And secondly, in return for the money spent, we expect results, don't we. You see, we believe every child can learn. Therefore, we expect every child to learn. And therefore, we're going to use accountability to make sure your money is being spent wisely. We use accountability to praise those schools that are meeting expectations, so we can thank our teachers. We will use accountability, though, to make sure that no child, not one single child, gets trapped in a school which will not teach and will not change. Van Hilleary will work with us to make sure no child is left behind in the State of Tennessee.

Our economy is bumping along. It's not doing as well as it should. After all, we're coming out of a recession; then the enemy hit us. That created a problem which we're overcoming. Then we had another problem; some of our citizens thought they could fudge the numbers, thought it's okay, if they're in positions of responsibility, to not tell the truth. I want to thank the Senators. I want to thank Van Hilleary. I want to thank Bill Jenkins for joining me to pass the most comprehensive corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. See, our message today—my message today is, those who aren't responsible to shareholder and employee, no easy money in America, just hard time.

I want to thank these Members for understanding that confidence in our economy depends upon us holding people to account if they're not honest with the people. That's the kind of leadership you need in Nashville, and that's the kind of leadership you've got in Washington.

But we need to do more work on our economy. We need to understand, if somebody is looking for work and they can't find a job, we've got a problem. Anybody is looking for work and wants to put food on the table, and they can't find work, we need to make sure we've got people in the Federal office and

the State office who understand job creation. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small-business person can grow to be a big-business person.

That's why it's important you have somebody in Nashville who understands the role of the small-business owner. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small businesses, the entrepreneurs. And you better get you somebody as the Governor who understands that, who understands policy ought to be to encourage the growth of small business. And one way to do that is to let small-business owners and taxpayers keep more of your own money.

That tax relief bill we passed is going to give Tennessee people \$27 billion over the next 10 years. That's your money to begin with, by the way. That's not the Government's money. It's your money. And when you've got it in your pocket, you're going to demand a good or a service. If you demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

You see, if you listen to that other bunch, they're going to say we need to revisit the tax relief. That's Washington, DC, code for, "We're going to get back in your pocket." [Laughter] Tax relief was good for our economy. It's going to be good for our economy. It's going to be good for the working people, and we need to make tax relief permanent.

No, I look forward to working with Van to do a lot of things to help Tennessee—make sure that welfare system works. Part of the welfare reform that worked and something that needs to go forward is to have a Governor work with the Congress to help people find work. See, when you work, you find dignity. If you want to help people get off welfare, if you want to help them help themselves, you help them have the skills necessary to work. Work needs to be the central core of any good welfare policy.

And Van Hilleary understands that. No, when you put Van Hilleary in office, you're going to be putting a good man in office, a man who's going to work hard to represent all the people of Tennessee, a man who will make you proud as Governor, a man with

whom I can work, and a man who will represent that office, that high office, with class and dignity. I'm here to urge the good people of East Tennessee to turn out to vote next Tuesday and put Van Hilleary in as Governor of the great State.

And I need Lamar up there in Washington too, and so do you. He's got a great record for Tennessee. People know that he is what we call a class act. When given the responsibilities, he handled his business well. More importantly, he cares deeply about the all the citizens of this State. Lamar is going to make a great United States Senator. And there's a lot of things we can work together on, whether it be education—of course, he's an expert on that subject—or whether it would be making sure our economy grows. I know we'll have a strong ally, and the people will have a strong ally in Lamar Alexander.

Oh, there's some things we need to work on, like making sure the health care system works. We need his vote up there to make sure that you've got affordable and accessible health care. We need his vote up there to make sure the Medicare system works. There are too many lawsuits these days which are driving up the cost of medicine and driving doctors out of the practice of medicine. We want the system to work. We want our people to have access to the courts, of course, but these frivolous and junk lawsuits are running these docs out of business, running up your price of medicine. We need to have medical liability reform at the Federal level, and Lamar Alexander will vote that way.

And we've got to make sure Medicare works. Medicine is becoming modern. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries have changed medicine. But Medicare isn't modern. It's stuck in the past. Just ask our seniors. We need Lamar Alexander in the United States Senate to work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our senior citizens.

And I need him up there, along with Senator Frist, to make sure that our judiciary works properly. We can't get our judges through the United States Senate. There is a vacancy problem in our Federal courts. Too many of our benches have got vacancies, which means you can't get access to the courts. They're playing politics with the

judges in Washington, DC. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable, decent people who will not use the bench from which to legislate but from which to interpret the United States Constitution.

No, there's a lot of issues we can work on to make America better for everybody. The biggest issue we'll work together on is to secure our homeland, prevent the American people from coming under attack again by a bunch of coldblooded killers. These people hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom, and we're not going to change.

I asked Congress to join me in a creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I want all the agencies involved with protecting you to be under—to have as their priority protection of the American people, and if need be, change cultures so people get it in their head that there's still an enemy out there which lurks around, so we can coordinate better. The House of Representatives, thanks to Van and Jenkins, supported me on a good bill. The bill is stuck in the Senate. This bill is stuck in the Senate, in spite of the good efforts of Fred Thompson and Bill Frist. And the reason it is was because the Senate wants me to give up a power that Presidents since John Kennedy has had, which is the capacity to suspend certain work rules, certain collective bargaining rules, in the name of national security.

I won't accept a lousy bill out of the Senate. I need a bill to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. Under some Senators' vision, I would have the capacity to make national security decisions in Agriculture Department but not in the Department of Homeland Security. That don't make any sense to me, and I know it doesn't make any sense to you. We need Lamar Alexander, and we need to change the United States Senate.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, what America is going to do. We've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run. And one of the reasons we've got them on the run is, we've got a fantastic military.

I signed a good defense bill, thanks to the Senators and thanks to Van and Bill Jenkins,

a good defense bill that pays our people, equips our people, and trains our people the way you want them. We've got to get them the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to the loved ones. We owe that to our troops. But we're also sending a clear signal to friend and foe that we're in this deal for the long haul. We love freedom. It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend America and to protect our freedoms; we're going after them, one at a time.

And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes you'll see the fact that somebody got hauled in, and sometimes it's just not going to make it on to your radar screen. But make no mistake about it, there's no cave deep enough, no corner of the world dark enough to prevent the long arm of justice from the United States to reach them around the world.

And the reason I feel so strong about it is that I recognize we're living in a different world today than we were last—prior to September the 11th. It's a different world because no longer can we be content with the fact that two oceans protect us from danger. It used to be that we don't have to worry about some potential threat overseas because oceans protected us. It used to be we could pick or choose whether or not we wanted to be involved. But at home we were confident we were okay because of oceans, because of our geography. And that changed on that fateful day. Therefore, it's very important for you to elect people to office who are clear-eyed realists, people who see the world the way it is, not the way we would hope it to be.

And that's the reason why I started the debate in our Congress and amongst the American people, in fact, in the world community, about the threat to America and threat to our friends and allies from Mr. Saddam Hussein. He's a dangerous man. He told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction—11 years ago he said that. He's got them. We found out a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We dismantled that when he used to let inspectors in. We don't know where he stands today, but we know what's in his mind. We

know the implications of him having a nuclear weapon.

We know that this is a man who has chemical weapons, and we know he's used them. See, he's used them. He hasn't stockpiled them. He's used them in his neighborhood, and he's used them on his own people. We know he can't stand America. We know he can't stand some of our closest friends. We know that he has had contacts with terrorist networks like Al Qaida. And we know, clearly, that one of the dangers we face is him serving as a training ground and an arsenal for one of these shadowy terrorist networks, which could come home, could come home here. And so he's a danger.

I went to the United Nations because I want that body to be effective to help us keep the peace. I said to the United Nations, "This man has defied you 16 times. How long is it going to take for you to show some backbone so we can work together to keep the peace? You have a choice to be the United Nations, which is an effective body to keep the peace, or the League of Nations. That's your choice to make."

And Saddam Hussein has a choice. He can disarm like he said. He can get rid of his weapons of mass destruction. But if the United Nations won't act and if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, this country, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say that as a man who longs for peace. I say that as a man who knows the stakes. I say that as a man who's not going to forget September the 11th, 2001, or the attack on a French vessel recently or the attack in Bali, Indonesia. I say this as a man who is briefed on a daily basis about the threats we face in America. I say this as a man who is absolutely confident that out of the evil done to America can come some good, because I understand the nature of this country. I believe if we remain the course and stay strong and diligent and focused and remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to the world, that we can achieve peace, that we can have a peaceful world.

I believe out of the evil done to America, we can achieve peace if we're strong and diligent and focused, not only here at home

but—because we value each life; everybody counts—in parts of the world which have quit on peace. I believe peace is possible if we're tough and strong in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia. And I know at home, out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate and better country.

See, Government can help, and we will. We'll all work on laws to make things better. But what Government cannot do is put love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. And amongst our plenty we've got to remember there are some who hurt, some who are lonely, some who are addicted, some who are wondering whether the American Dream is meant for them. I'm optimistic that out of the evil done to this country can come a better day where everybody understands the great promise of this country, because I know the strength of America, and the strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. If you want to fight evil, if you want to be a patriot, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourselves.

Today I met Kathy Henderson. She's an active volunteer at Central Heights Elementary School. She decided she wanted to be part of the army of compassion; she wanted to make a difference in somebody's life. So she's helping young children learn to read. There's all kinds of ways where we can change America for the better, whether it be Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts or Boys and Girls Clubs or mentoring like Kathy. She asked me to say she needs volunteers, by the way, on the Read Along With Me program. You can do it by just telling somebody you love them, a shut-in, that you love them. You can help feed the hungry; you can house the homeless. There's all kinds of ways we can help.

No, the enemy had no idea who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't realize America like we know. The spirit of America is alive and well. It's the spirit which says, when it comes to the defense of our country, we'll be plenty tough. But the spirit also says that a patriot is somebody who is willing to serve something greater than themselves. A patriot is willing to help somebody who hurts.

No, I boldly predict to you that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America will become a more hopeful America, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. at the Tri-Cities Regional TN/VA Airport. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Van Hilleary and his wife, Meredith; senatorial candidate Lamar Alexander; Janice Bowling, candidate for Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District; NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The President's Radio Address

November 2, 2002

Good morning. The Federal courts play a central role in American justice, protecting the innocent, punishing the guilty, and upholding the rule of law. Yet, our Federal courts today are in crisis. The judicial confirmation process does not work as it should. Nominees are too often mistreated. Votes are delayed. Hearings are denied, and dozens of Federal judgeships sit empty, endangering the quality of justice in America.

Since coming into office, I have sent to the Senate 32 nominees for the Federal courts of appeals. These nominees are men and women with experience, intelligence, character, and bipartisan home-State support. They represent the mainstream of American law and American values. Yet the Senate has confirmed only 14 of these 32 nominees. As of this week, 15 of my appeals court nominees will have been forced to wait over a year for a hearing, which is more than under the previous nine Presidents combined.

There is no good reason why any nominee should endure a year, a year and a half, or more without the courtesy of an up-or-down floor vote. Whatever the explanation, we clearly have a poisoned atmosphere in which well-qualified nominees are neither voted up nor voted down; they're just left in limbo. If this situation persists and judicial vacancies

go unfulfilled, the Federal courts will be unable to act in a timely manner to enforce the criminal laws, the environmental laws, and the civil right laws that affect the lives of every American.

The judicial crisis is the result of a broken system, and we have a duty to repair it. I want to work with the Senate to fashion a new approach to filling Federal court vacancies, a bipartisan approach that would apply now and in the future. This week, I have offered four proposals to break the logjam in Washington and bring the Federal courts to full strength.

First, I call on Federal judges to notify the President of their intention to retire at least a year in advance, whenever possible. Because the nomination and confirmation of a Federal judge is a lengthy process, judges who retire without advance notice can unintentionally create a judicial vacancy for many months.

Second, I propose that Presidents submit a nomination to the Senate within 180 days of receiving notice of a Federal court vacancy or intended retirement. This will continue but speed up the process of obtaining recommendations and evaluations from home-State Senators and others, while leaving ample time for Presidents to choose nominees of the highest quality.

Third, I called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to commit to holding a hearing within 90 days of receiving a nomination. A firm deadline is the best way to ensure that judicial nominees are promptly considered. And 90 days is more than enough time for the committee to conduct necessary research before holding a hearing, as Democrat Senators have recognized in the past.

Finally, I called on the full Senate to commit to an up-or-down floor vote on each nominee no later than 180 days after the nomination is submitted. This is a very generous period of time that will allow all Senators to evaluate nominees and have their votes counted.

My proposals are fair to all parties and would apply regardless of who is President or which party controls the Senate.

The current state of affairs is not merely another round of political wrangling. It is a disturbing failure to meet a responsibility

under the Constitution, and it is harming the administration of justice in America. Our country deserves better. The process can work better, and we can make it better. The Constitution has given us a shared duty, and we must meet that duty together.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:52 p.m. on November 1 at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, KY, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Atlanta, Georgia

November 2, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Glad I came. So you're probably wondering what Sonny—I mean, what Saxby said. He said, "Keep it short. The Bulldogs are playing."

Really what he was saying is, "It's time to quit the sermons and start passing the plate." That means it's time to turn out the vote. I'm here in the great State of Georgia because I want all the citizens of this State to understand that we have a responsibility, as Americans in a land of freedom, to vote. See, we have a responsibility. If you believe in democracy, if you love freedom, then you have a responsibility to go to the polls next Tuesday. And I'm not talking about just a handful of Georgia citizens, I mean everybody. Republicans and Democrats and people who could care less about political parties need to do their duty.

But when you get inside that box, I've got some suggestions: For the good of Georgia and for the good of the country, Saxby Chambliss needs to be the U.S. Senator. For the good of the 11th, Phil Gingrey needs to be the U.S. Congressman. And for the good of the schoolchildren of Georgia and the taxpayers of Georgia, Sonny Perdue ought to be the next Governor.

I appreciate Sonny, I appreciate him being straightforward, down to earth, tells it like

it is. That's why he's going to be a fine Governor. I appreciate the fact that he set education as a priority. That's why he's going to be a fine Governor. I appreciate the fact that he has actually met a payroll before. *[Laughter]* That's why he's going to be a fine Governor.

No, I appreciate Sonny being here. And I appreciate the members of the mighty Georgia congressional delegation for being here as well, Mac Collins and Johnny Isakson and John Linder and Bob Barr. I appreciate their friendship, and I appreciate their service to our country.

I want to thank all the candidates who are here. I want to thank the grassroots activists who have come. And I want to thank you for accepting the fact that you drew the short straw today. Laura is in another State. *[Laughter]*

Audience members. *[Inaudible]*

The President. I understand. Yes, she was here yesterday; he's right. You got stuck with me. But I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is a big backer of Saxby and Sonny, everybody else running here in Georgia. She understands good government. How you get good government is you put good people in place. She sends her best. She sends her love. And I'm telling you, she's doing a great job as the First Lady of America.

I want to thank the grassroots activists who have worked so hard in the past for what you're about to do. Today and tomorrow and Monday and Tuesday, you need to do everything you can to turn out the vote. You need to go to your coffee shops and tell people they've got to vote and talk up these good candidates. You need to go to your houses of worship, remind people they have an obligation to vote.

And don't be afraid of taking this message to discerning Democrats. They want good government. They want the best candidates. And when they hear of the stories of these three candidates up there, they're going to support them. And don't be afraid of taking your message to independents. Take the message, work hard, turn out the vote, and when you do, we'll realize victory on November the 5th.

And there are reasons why, and there are important reasons why these good candidates

need to win. We've got some hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some big challenges ahead of us. One of the biggest challenges we have is the fact that our economy is just kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. There are people looking for work, and they can't find a job, which means we've got a problem. People want to put food on the table, and they're unable to find work, which means we've got to have people in the Senate and in the United States Congress who understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business.

Here's the page of the textbook we read from—the economics textbook, that is. We strongly believe that if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody in Georgia and around America is more likely to find work. The best way to make sure people can find work is to let people keep more of their own money. And the best way to do that is to make the tax cuts permanent.

The thing I like about Saxby and about Phil is they understand up in Washington we're not spending the Government's money. We're not giving you back the Government's money. It's the people's money.

No, there are some things we can do to work together to make the job base increase. We need to have us a terrorism insurance bill. That bill says that terrorists attack, we understand, we need the Government to underwrite insurance so that big construction projects can get going forward, so our hardhats can get back to work, so those hardworking Americans all across the country are able to put food on the table. I look forward to working with them and the Congress to get a good bill out, one by the way that rewards the hardhats and not America's trial lawyers.

So long as this economy is bumping along and so long as people can't find work, you've just got to know we're going to be doing everything we can to create jobs. And I need people up in the United States Congress who

will work with me to do just that. And the two best people to do just that is Saxby Chambliss for the Senate and Phil Gingrey for the United States House of Representatives.

We need people up there—we can work together to make sure our education system is strong. I want to thank Saxby for his strong support, unwavering support for an education bill which is going to really help the schoolchildren of the State of Georgia. He, along with the other Members up here on the stage, worked with me to get \$1.2 billion of Federal money for the schools of Georgia. That's a good sum of money for the people of Georgia.

But for the first time, we've got a new frame of mind when it comes to children, a frame of mind which shows that Saxby is an optimistic person about our future. See, it says, every child can learn. That's what we believe. Every child can learn. We believe in high standards and high expectations. We believe strongly in challenging what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. We understand if you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results.

In that bill we also understand that the people who care more about the children in Georgia are Georgian citizens, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC, so we passed power out of Washington. We believe in local control of schools.

But also in this bill, we finally started asking the question, when we spend that \$1.2 billion here, are we getting our money's worth? If you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning. If you believe every child can read, then you want to know. And that's why for the first time in our Nation's history, we're seeing a return for this money: "Why don't you show us. Show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract." And when we see they are, I promise you, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who are teachers out there, thank you for being involved in such a noble, important profession.

But it's also important to understand that if things aren't working, when we find children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change, it's important to have peo-

ple elected who are willing to challenge the status quo. No child, not one single child, should be left behind in the State of Georgia. I appreciate Saxby's strong support for the education bill and his clear vision for how to improve education for every child, not just a few but for every single child who lives in the great State of Georgia.

I also look forward to working with Saxby and Phil on the health issue. We've got a problem in health. One of the problems is, there's too many junk lawsuits, too many frivolous lawsuits which make it hard for people to have access to the courts. If you've got junk lawsuits clogging up the courts, you can't get access to the courts. But as importantly, these frivolous lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, and they're driving doctors out of the practice of medicine, which makes it harder for people to be able to find a professional help they need. For the sake of good health care, for the sake of affordable and accessible health care, we need medical liability reform at the Federal level.

And we need a Medicare system which works. Medicine is modern; it's evolving. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries are changing medicine. But Medicare is not changing. It's stuck in the past. For the sake of fulfilling our promises to our seniors, we need a Medicare system which is modernized, and that means prescription drugs for every senior in America. And Saxby Chambliss and Phil Gingrey will help me deliver that promise to the seniors.

There's one other—a lot of issues that are going to be important, and I need an ally there in the Senate. Saxby is an ally. Make no mistake about it, in this race, if you're interested in sending an ally to the President, that ally is Saxby Chambliss. It doesn't matter what they're putting on the TV screens. I know the definition of ally.

I need an ally in the Senate on judges. We've got a problem with our Federal judges. The Senate has done a lousy job in confirming my judges. They have done such a lousy job that there are too many vacancies around the country. Vacancies on the Federal benches mean people are denied justice, and that's not right. Part of the problem is, there's just too much bickering, too much

ugly politics. Part of the problem is, they don't like the nature of the people I'm nominating. See, the kind of people I've put up there are honest, honorable people, who will not use the bench from which to legislate but will use the bench from which to strictly interpret the Constitution. If the people of Georgia are interested in a sound judiciary, they need to send Saxby Chambliss to the United States Senate.

There's a lot of issues we'll work on together, but no bigger issue than protecting the American people from attack. That's still an issue because there's still an enemy lurking around which hates America, and they hate us for what we love. We love freedom, and we're not changing. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God freely in America. We love every aspect about freedom. And as long as we hold freedom dear, there's an enemy lurking around out there which will try to cause further harm on the American people. That's just the way it is. That's the clear reality we face.

So we have an awesome responsibility to do everything we can to protect you. You need to know there's a lot of really good people at the Federal, State, and local level working hard to protect you, running down every hint, every idea. Anytime we get a whisper that somebody is thinking about doing something or talking about doing something to the American people, we're moving on it; we're disrupting; we're denying. We understand the stakes.

But we can do a better job of protecting the American people. We can do a better job by creating a Department of Homeland Security, one which needs to be set up correctly so that it can function properly on behalf of the American people. As I was beginning to set up the Department of Homeland Security I knew one person I could turn to for good advice, somebody whose judgment I could trust, somebody from the State of Georgia who has a good vision, somebody who was put in a position as the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security, and that person I turned to advice was Saxby Chambliss.

And we got a good bill out of the House of Representatives, but they can't get it out of the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate. Here

we are with a threat to the United States people, and we can't get us a homeland security bill. And the reason why is, some in the Senate wanted to extract too high a price from this President and future Presidents. They asked me to give up a power Presidents have had for 40 years, since John Kennedy was the President, and that is the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department in the Federal Government when national security is at stake.

In other words, I need to be able to suspend rules that prevents us from doing everything in our power to protect you. If some of the Senators had their way, these rules would apply to the Department of Agriculture but not to the Homeland Security Department. These rules would be okay for a Department that deals with farmers but not with a Department dealing with your national security. I need to have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people, and Saxby Chambliss understands that.

I sure would like to have a Senator Chambliss. I wouldn't have to be worried about his vote. I wouldn't have to be worried about him being captured by special interests in Washington, DC. The only interest he has in mind is the interest I have in mind, which is the protection of the American people.

And the best way to protect the American people is to chase these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do. Therapy isn't going to work on them. *[Laughter]*

I asked the Congress to join me in passing the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, and they did. And it sends two messages, two messages I want to share with you today. One, any time we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, we're in this deal for the long haul. That increase in defense spending should say to friend and foe alike, there's no quit in the American people. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there's no artificial time; there's no calendar on my desk that says, well, time's up. Time isn't up until the United States is secure and we have done

our duty to future generations of Americans by defeating the agents of terror.

This is a different kind of war. In the old days you used to say, "Well, you destroyed so many tanks or airplanes. We're making progress." That's not the way this war is conducted. They don't have tanks. They've got caves, and they've got suiciders. And they're willing to send youngsters to their suicidal death. These people hijacked a great religion to murder in the name of that religion.

So we've just got to hunt them down. There's no cave dark enough, deep enough. There's no corner of the world shady enough for the long arm of justice of the United States and our friends and allies. You've got to understand, the doctrine that which says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," it still stands. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling them. We've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

This is a different kind of world we live in. September the 11th, 2001 changed the stakes, and it's important for all of us in America to understand that. It's important for us to see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it would be. It used to be that oceans could protect us from threats, that two vast oceans could protect the American people from a threat which was gathering abroad. And we really had the luxury, if you think about it, for picking and choosing if we were to be involved or not. September 11th changed that. All of a sudden, the battlefield is here at home. And therefore, we must deal with each threat seriously. We must see threats as they are.

And that's why I brought up the cause to Congress and the American people and the international community to fully debate the issue of Saddam Hussein. He's a threat to America. He's a threat to our close friends and allies. He's a man who has said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's got them. He's a man who at one time, we know for certain, was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, because he shut down his country. You know, not only does he have weapons of mass destruction, but incredibly enough, he has used weapons of mass destruction. And he's used weapons of mass destruction not only against people in his neigh-

borhood, but he's used them against his own people.

He hates America. He can't stand what we stand for. He's had connections with shadowy terrorist networks like Al Qaida. He would like nothing more than to use an Al Qaida-type network, if not Al Qaida itself, to be the advanced army to utilize his training and his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction on his most hated enemy, the American people.

Therefore, I felt it was important for us to understand the nature of the threat, to realize the changing circumstances of the American vulnerability requires us to be steadfast and strong when it comes to dealing with potential threats to the American people. It's my most important job.

I went to the United Nations because I wanted to make it clear to the United Nations that, one, we want them to succeed; we want them to be an effective organization in helping us keep the peace; we want them to have backbone. We want them to have the capacity to say to somebody who 16 times has defied resolution after resolution after resolution, "Enough is enough."

The message to that august body is: Be effective; be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. The Congress spoke with one voice, and here's what we said to the world: If the United Nations does not have the backbone to disarm Saddam Hussein like they said he should do, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm like he said he would, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, for the sake of a secure future, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

We have an obligation, all of us elected to office have an obligation to protect the American people. But you know what I believe? I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, because we're a great country. I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the enemy when they hit us. They probably assumed that materialism was the national religion, that we were so materialistic, that we were self-absorbed and selfish that after the attacks America would take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]*

They don't understand the country like we do. I believe that by being steadfast and strong, by remembering that this Nation never conquers but we liberate, by remembering that example of Afghanistan when our troops went in to liberate people—that young girls for the first time went to school, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies—by being diligent in our pursuit of terror, the pursuit of the terrorists, and remembering that freedom is not an American gift to the world, it is God-given, holding those values dear, that we can achieve peace, that we can achieve peace not only for America and Americans, but we can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace.

No, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And I know out of the evil done here at home can come a better world for all Americans. Anytime anybody hurts, we all hurt. And we've got to remember, amongst the plenty, there are pockets of despair and loneliness. Some communities, you say, "American Dream," and people go, "What the heck are you talking about—American Dream—I don't understand that."

And therefore, we must do everything we can at the Government level to pass laws necessary to help people help themselves, to make society work better. I talked about some today, education and health. But we've got to remember that Government can pass out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. It can't heal the hurt that we find in many of our neighborhoods.

A better America happens when we save souls, one person at a time. And that happens when an American puts their arm around somebody who needs help, and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourselves.

No, the spirit of America is strong. It's alive, and it's well. The spirit talks about making sure that democracy flourishes by going to do your duty. It talks about the willingness to defend freedom, no matter the cost. It also talks about serving something greater than yourself to make America the greatest country it can possibly be.

Today I met Frances Grove, of the Literacy Volunteers of America. She came out to Air Force One to say hello, probably because she's a part of my mother's army to fight illiteracy. But nevertheless, she's an example of what I'm talking about. See, each of us can make a difference to make sure that the evil done to America is—doesn't stand. Each of us can help, by helping people in need. It doesn't matter whether you work with Frances Grove or mentor a child or run a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. It doesn't matter whether you feed the homeless or make sure people who are—people are—people who have hurt find love. That's what matters in life, and that's what's happening.

Perhaps the most vivid example of the strength of the American spirit, of what I'm talking about, took place on Flight 93. You remember that horrible day, when the people were flying across the country. They learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. History will show they said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. They represented the absolute strength of the American spirit.

I'm going to tell you this: Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I can say that with certainty. It's going to be a peaceful world, a better world. I say it with certainty because I understand the American spirit is alive and well. And I also understand that this country is the greatest country, full of the finest, most decent, compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you for being a part of this great country. Thank you for doing your duty. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the Cobb Galleria Centre. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue; senatorial candidate Saxby Chambliss; Phil Gingrey, candidate for Georgia's 11th Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Savannah, Georgia

November 2, 2002

Thank you all. You all go ahead and be seated. So Saxby says to me, he says, "Thanks for coming. Thanks for speaking, but don't go on too long. There's a football game on pretty soon."

I want to thank you all for coming today. I'm here to remind you and our fellow citizens from Georgia and America that we have a duty. If you love freedom like I know you do, you have a duty to vote. If you're interested in making sure democracy is strong, you have a duty and an obligation as an American to go to the polls. And I'm not just talking about those who call themselves Republicans or Democrats. I'm talking about citizens who could care less about political parties. We all have a responsibility.

But I've got some suggestions for you when you get inside the box. *[Laughter]* What's best for Georgia and what is best for America is to send Saxby Chambliss to the U.S. Senate. What's best for Georgia and what's best for this district—put Max Burns in the U.S. Congress. And what is best for the State of Georgia, for your budget, for your public schools, is to put Sonny Perdue in as Governor of the State of Georgia.

Sonny is a down-to-earth fellow. You don't have to worry about him getting any fancy airs when he becomes your Governor. He's a fellow who's met a payroll. It seems to make sense to me to have somebody as Governor who knows what it's like to meet a payroll, particularly if you're interested about people finding jobs. He's a person that understands the importance of infrastructure in Georgia, not only infrastructure for the big cities but roads for those of you who live in rural and smalltown Georgia. He's a man who understands the most important priority for a State is the education of our children. There's no doubt in my mind Sonny Perdue is going to make a great Governor for the people of Georgia.

I appreciate the members of the congressional delegation who are here. Charlie Norwood is here with us today, and Charlie, thank you for your leadership and your friendship. And Congressman Jack Kingston is with us as well. I met Jack's mother at

the airport. She was down there at the foot of the stairs just as I came off the plane here. And I said, "Well, is Jack listening to you?" She said, "About half the time"—*[laughter]*—kind of like me and my mother. *[Laughter]*

Speaking about females with the last name of Bush, you drew the short straw today. See, I wasn't Saxby's first choice. He wanted Laura to be here, but she sends her best. She sends her best to the people of Georgia. Like me, she's urging you to go to the polls. Like me, she knows what's best for Georgia is that Saxby become the United States Senator. She's out there campaigning today. She's campaigning hard. I believe she's in Minnesota, and I know I'm going to meet her tomorrow in South Dakota.

It's pretty ironic that she is the lead campaigner for my family. After all, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. That in itself doesn't say much, except the truth is, she didn't like politics, and she certainly didn't like politicians. But thankfully, she said yes when I asked her to marry me. And the American people now know why I did. She's calm and steady during crisis. She's got a fabulous smile, a great heart. She's got a vision where every child can learn to read in America. And she's doing a wonderful job as our First Lady.

I'm here as well because I want to make sure that Denny Hastert remains the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It's in our—and so, therefore, I'm a strong supporter of Max Burns, and I urge you to support Max come Tuesday. He'll make you a fine United States Congressman. He's a proven leader, and he spent 20 years of his life in the classroom. That makes a lot of sense to have somebody in the Congress who's had the practical experience of being a teacher. I bet there's some good teachers here today. Teaching is a noble profession. It's an important profession. Why don't you send yourself a teacher up to Washington, DC, to represent you in the United States Congress.

We've got another fellow here who's seeking the vote that I hope wins, and that's Calder Clay. Calder Clay is running a good campaign, and if you're living in his district, give him all your support.

Today I'm proud to be up here with Nancy Coverdell, the widow of our great friend Paul Coverdell. She is a—she's cool. *[Laughter]* She's a great person. And with us as well is former Senator Mack Mattingly. And I'm honored that both of them have joined today to do what we need to do, which is to work hard to turn out the vote. I'm here not only to urge you to vote; I'm here to urge you to urge others to vote. If you're the grassroots types, people that understand politics, you know that turning to your neighbor and saying, "Let's go out and vote," is an important way to help these people get elected. You understand what I understand: Coffee shop chatter is just as effective as all those endless ads you see on TV.

So when you go to your coffee shops or your houses of worship over the next couple of days or your community centers, tell your neighbors it's not only important to vote but tell them to support these good candidates up here on the stage. And don't be afraid to talk to Democrats, by the way. There are a lot of Democrats in this part of the world that know the difference between a balanced budget and not. There are a lot of Democrats in this part of the world who want somebody who can stand strong for homeland security. There are a lot of good Democrats who understand that this President needs good support in Washington, DC. And so over the next couple of days, I urge you to man the phones, to turn out the vote, to energize the grassroots, to get people to do their duty, to support these good candidates. You can make a difference come Tuesday with your active energy.

And there are some reasons. We've got some big hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some big challenges ahead of us. I need people with whom I can work in the Senate and Congress to meet those challenges. One of the big challenges we have is to make sure people can find work in America. Our economy is bumping along. Our economy isn't good enough, as far as I'm concerned. Oh, there's some positive signs, but too many people can't find work in America. That's how I gauge whether or not we're doing fine in the economy. Anybody who wants to put food on the table and

can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem.

And therefore, we need people in the United States Congress who will work with me to expand the job base. And one of the best ways to expand the job base is understand how jobs are created. Small business creates 70 percent of the new jobs in America. Small-business owners—we've got to have plans and policies that encourage the growth of small business, but we've also got to understand this: If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. That's why the tax relief plan that Saxby Chambliss supported came at the right time in American history.

That tax relief plan, if it's permanent, means \$39 billion in your pocket over the next 10 years. After all, it's your money to begin with. It's not the Government's money. It's your money. But there's an issue of whether or not that tax relief is going to go away. See, it's not permanent. I need people in the United States Congress, like the candidates up here on this stage, who will join me in making the tax cuts permanent. For the sake of jobs, for the sake of people finding work, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

And let me give you fair warning; let me help you break the code of Washington, DC. When you hear them say, "Oh, we might need to revisit the tax cuts," that means they're fixing to get in your pocket. That's what that means. We don't need people from this part of the State or this part of the country who are going to get back in your pocket. We need people who understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses can grow to big businesses, in which people can find work because of growth.

No, there's a lot of issues we're going to be working on. We need to continue working on education. We passed a good bill, and Saxby Chambliss was involved in the passage of that bill. You tell your neighbors that when

it comes to passing good education reform legislation out of Washington, Saxby Chambliss took an active role. It says we trust the people of Georgia to chart the path for excellence for every child. See, we believe in local control of schools. It says we're going to have high standards for every child, all across the country. It says we believe every child can learn. It says we're going to spend some substantial money out of Washington, but in return for the money, we want to know whether or not every child is learning. We don't want children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change. We want to make sure no child in the State of Georgia gets left behind.

I look forward to working with these Members to make sure that health care works, particularly Medicare. Our medicine has changed for the better. New technologies, new discoveries have made medicine modern. Medicare isn't modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare has become a political football. We need people in Congress who will work with us to make sure Medicare is modern. And a modern Medicare system means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

I need people in the Senate with whom I can work to make sure our judiciary is full of judges who are honest and will not—[*ap- plause*]. Bunch up there running the Senate right now has done a lousy job when it comes to my nominees for the Federal bench. I say "lousy job" because we've got a vacancy problem on our benches. All across America there's too many vacancies, which means you don't get the justice you deserve. They're playing politics with the judges. They don't like the kind of people I'm nominating. You see, I'm putting the ones up there that not only can do the job, but they're not going to use the bench from which to legislate. They're going to use the bench from which to strictly interpret the U.S. Constitution. And make no mistake about it in this race, if you're interested in a judiciary which is going to work and represent your views, Saxby Chambliss is the right United States Senator.

No, there's a lot of issues we can work on together. But there's no more important issue than your protection. That's the biggest

issue we face in Washington, DC, is to protect innocent life, is to protect you from an enemy which still lurks out there. And you've just got to know, they're there, and they hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom. We love the fact that people can pray to an Almighty any way he or she sees fit. We love the freedom to speak our mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change.

And that enemy has put us on alert. See, we now understand. And therefore, there's a lot of good people doing everything they can to protect you, at all levels of government, the Federal level and the State level and the local level. We've got people running down any hint. Anytime we get any idea that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But I think we can do a better job of protecting you. That's why I suggested to the Congress that we come together to form a Department of Homeland Security, one that will allow the agencies involved with securing the homeland, like port security right over here, to be able to better coordinate, to be able to better prioritize, and if need be, change cultures so that you've got everybody in the Federal Government and the State Government and the local government working together.

And the House of Representatives responded. As a matter of fact, when it came time to create this Department, and the ideas about the Department, I turned to the man from Georgia, Saxby Chambliss, for ideas, because he understands the issue. After all, he is the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security. Not only do I trust his judgment, but Members of the Congress trust his judgment. And so we got us a good bill out of the House.

But it's stuck in the Senate. The Senate couldn't get the job done, and here's why. They wanted me to forfeit power which every President since John F. Kennedy has had. See, every President since Kennedy has had the capacity to suspend collective bargaining

rules in any Department of the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. In other words, if there's some work rules that prevent the Homeland Security Department from doing its job, I would have the capacity, for the sake of national security, to suspend those rules. And some Senators say, "You can't have that power." See, there's too much special interest in Washington, trying to make the decisions on behalf of the American people.

Let me give you what would happen if this went through. I would have the capacity to suspend work rules in the Department of Agriculture for the sake of national security, but not in the Department that is being created to secure you. It just doesn't make any sense. And therefore, I need a guy like Saxby Chambliss in the Senate who won't crater to the special interests in Washington, and join me in protecting the interests of the American people.

But the best way to protect America is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We have no choice, see. History has called us into action. We love our freedoms, and we're not going to give in to these terrorists. We owe it to our children and our children's children. That's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. And I want to thank the Members of Congress for agreeing to that request.

And the message is loud and clear: First, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, here's the message to friend and foe alike with this defense bill: We're in this deal for the long haul. There's no quit in America. There's not a calendar in the Oval Office that says, by such-and-such a date, haul them in, Mr. President. That's not the way we think, and that's certainly not the way I think. It doesn't matter how long it takes to hunt these killers down; we have an obligation to our future to secure freedom and to secure the country.

And we're making progress. This is a different kind of war. The old days you use to—could measure the number of tanks de-

stroyed or airplanes shot down or ships sunk, and you'd say, "Gosh, you're making progress." These people don't have tanks. They don't have airplanes. They're cold-blooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the way they think, and that's the way they fight, which means we've got to keep that coalition together.

So I'm here to tell you today, the doctrine which says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," it still stands. We're on an international manhunt, one at a time. A couple of thousand have been hauled in; a couple of thousand met their fate a different way. They're not a problem. A lot of them met their fate a different way because they dared challenge the United States and the greatest military in the history of the world.

Slowly but surely, we're bringing them to justice. It's going to take a while, but this country understands the stakes. See, it all changed on September the 11th, 2001. It used to be that oceans could protect us. It used to be that if there was a threat somewhere overseas, that we could determine whether or not we would deal with that threat, because we were pretty secure here at home. You just got to understand it's a different era. That's why it's essential we think about the world the way it is, not the way we would hope the world would be. My job is to be as realistic about the threats as possible and to deal with them. It's the job of Senators and Congressmen to be as realistic about the true threats we face and deal with them.

And therefore, I asked the country to debate an important issue, and that is Iraq and Saddam Hussein. I wanted there to be a honest and open debate in our Congress, reflecting the concerns of the American people. I wanted there to be a debate in international bodies, because I understand that Saddam Hussein is a threat to the American people; he's a threat to our friends; he's a threat to our allies. He said he would not have weapons of mass destruction. And after 11 years of deceit, he has them. He was close at one time to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, but a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon is a grave,

grave threat to America and our friends and allies.

He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He has them. But not only has he got them; I want you all to remember, he used them. He not only possesses; he has had a history of using them. And he's used them not only on his neighbors, but he's used them on his own people. This man is coldblooded. He can't stand America. He can't stand our friends. He can't stand freedom.

And so I went to the United Nations, and I reminded them, for 16 resolutions, resolution after resolution after resolution, Saddam Hussein has defied this international organization. And my point to the U.N. was, we want you to be effective. We want to be able to work with you to help keep the peace. We want you to be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. But if you're unable to act, if you're unable to have the backbone necessary to help us keep the peace by disarming Saddam Hussein, if you can't do it and if Saddam Hussein refuses to do it, then the United States, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say that because I want the world to be peaceful. I want there to be peace here at home. I want there to be peace around the world. See, the evil ones hit us, and they've given us an opportunity to do some good. Out of the evil done to America will do good because we're a great nation, full of decent and honorable people. I truly believe that if we hold the line, that if we stay steadfast in routing out terror, that if we're diligent and are willing to lead, that if we remember our values and that freedom isn't an American-given value, it is a God-given value for everybody, if we remember those values that make us unique, we're going to achieve peace. We can accomplish some real good out of the evil done to this country, not only abroad but here at home as well.

One of the things I believe is going to happen is that we will be a better America. Out of the evil done to America will come a more compassionate country. We've got to remember, in this land of plenty, there's a lot of people who hurt. People wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. There's addiction and hopelessness and lone-

liness. And Government can help solve those problems, and we're going to try to do so. But you've got to remember this: Even though Government can hand out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to help heal America, the best way to make sure good comes out of evil, is for our fellow Americans to put their arms around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you, brother," or, "I love you, sister."

And that's what's happening all across America. See, the American spirit is alive and well. It's the spirit that says when it comes to the defense of our freedom, we're plenty tough. It's also a spirit that says we're going to serve something greater than ourself in life, that part of being a patriot is to recognize service to your community is an integral part of being an American.

Today when I landed, I met Sharon Seng, who represents the Girl Scouts. I didn't realize it—I now know it—the Girl Scouts were founded right here in Savannah, Georgia. That's part of the soldiers in the armies of compassion. She is, and so are you. If you mentor a child, you're part of the army of compassion. If you feed the hungry or the homeless, you're a member of the army of compassion. If you help a shut-in, if you're a Boy Scout leader, if you go over to the Boys and Girls Clubs, if you help change America, one heart, one soul at a time, you're a part of this great movement to make America a more compassionate place.

No, the American spirit is alive and well, best exemplified by what took place on the fateful day that changed our history, and that was on Flight 93. Citizens were flying across the country. They learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye over modern devices, cell phones. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives.

The enemy didn't understand who they were hitting. They don't understand the country. The American spirit is strong. It's alive all throughout our land. People understand that serving this country by helping people in need is a part of the new patriotism, which allows me to boldly predict this: Out of the evil done to America is going to

come a more peaceful world. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful America, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest, most compassionate people on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the Executive Aviation Hangar at Savannah International Airport in Garden City, GA. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Saxby Chambliss; gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue; Max Burns, candidate for Georgia's 12th Congressional District; Calder Clay, candidate for Georgia's 3d Congressional District; Ann Kingston, mother of Representative Jack Kingston; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Tampa, Florida

November 2, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. Thank you all. Jeb and I are sure glad we came. You're lifting his spirits, and I appreciate that more than you know.

I want to thank you all for coming. I'm traveling the country, reminding people about the American spirit, the fact that no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedom; this American spirit that says to be a patriot, you've got to serve something greater than yourself; a spirit of America that says we love freedom, and if you love freedom, you have a duty to vote.

If you love our country, it doesn't matter what your political party is; you have an obligation to participate in democracy. I've come into this important State to urge people from all walks of life, from all political parties, to do your duty next Tuesday. But when you get in that voting booth, I've got a good suggestion for you. [Laughter] For the sake of the Florida taxpayers, for the sake of the Florida schoolchildren, for the sake of dignity and integrity in the office of Governor, send Jeb Bush back to Tallahassee. And you might as well send Frank Brogan back with him. They make a great team, on behalf of all the citizens of this State.

One of the things Jeb and I share in common, besides a fine mother who's still telling us what to do on a regular basis—[laugh-

ter]—is, we both married above ourselves. We both have got great wives. I'm honored to be here with the great first lady for Florida, Columba Bush and of course, a University of Texas law school student—Hollywood handsome, I might add—a great man, George P. Bush.

You drew the short straw tonight. You got me instead of Laura. [Laughter] She's campaigning up north, and you got stuck with the President. But she sends her love. She sends her love to Jeb and Columba. She sends her best to all our friends in Florida. And like me, she reminds you: Go to the polls, and take some friends to the polls so this good man can serve you for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. And that's another reason I've come today, is because I want to urge you to help Jeb. See, I want you to go to your houses of worship tomorrow, go to your coffee shops on Monday—go to your coffee shops, go to your community centers. Tell anybody who will listen what a good man you've got in your Governor. I want to remind you, make sure you don't ignore Democrats.

See, they don't want their taxes raised—a lot of them don't. Democrats in Florida know the difference between somebody who tells it like it is and somebody who just tells it any way he sees fit. [Laughter] Democrats in this State want good government. They want somebody to do what he says he's going to do in office. Independents want the same thing. So starting tomorrow, round up people and tell them to go to the polls on Tuesday. Jeb's counting on your help, and so am I.

And you won't be wasting your time. You watch and see what happens next Tuesday, thanks to your hard work, thanks to his good message, thanks to his great record. Not only are Republicans going to turn out in droves, but this man is going to get independent vote, discerning Democrat vote; wise Democrats are going to come his way. And you're going to have 4 more years of a great Governor in Jeb Bush.

I want to thank a couple of Members of Congress who are here. I know Bill Young is here. I call him "the Chairman." See, he runs the Appropriations Committee in the

House of Representatives. Not only do I call him “the Chairman,” I call him “sir.” [Laughter] He’s a powerful Member from Florida, and he’s a great Member from Florida. I’m proud to call him friend, and I’m proud he’s here.

Mike Bilirakis is here as well, a fine Member of the United States Congress. These are two of the good ones, and you’ve got a fine person running for Congress as well. Her name is Ginny Brown-Waite. We need to send her to the United States Congress. So when you’re out there rounding up the votes for Jeb, don’t forget Ginny.

I’m also to be up here with a member of my Cabinet. I wanted somebody to work with me to close the housing gap in America. Too many of them are minorities, don’t own their house; too many of them don’t own a home. We’re going to close that gap. It makes sense to encourage people to own something in the great country called America. We want all people—[applause]—there’s nothing more—there’s nothing better than owning your own home. Too many of our African Americans don’t own a home. Too many Hispanics in this country don’t own a home. And so I called upon a Floridian to help me close that homeownership gap.

I picked a solid American, a man of great success, a man who represents the best of the country. After all, his parents, when he was a little boy, put him on the boat to escape the clutches of Fidel Castro, so he could grow up in freedom, and now he’s a member of the President’s Cabinet, Mel Martinez.

I’m also proud to be up here with the great General Norman Schwarzkopf, the man who set the example.

Finally, I want to thank the good folks here at the University of South Florida, particularly President Judy Genshaft for her hospitality, and all the good folks who put up with us today. It’s a great place to celebrate the candidacy and the soon-to-be victory of Jeb Bush. We thank you for your hospitality.

The thing you’ve got to remember about this good man who’s your Governor is, he did in office what he said he would do. See, that’s important. We’ve got too many in the political process who just say things, just kind of float something out there and hope it sounds good, hope somebody might bite on

it, hope it convinces people, but have no intentions or capabilities of getting it done. That’s the exact opposite of your Governor. He said he was going to work to improve education for every child in the State of Florida, and he has fulfilled that promise.

See, he’s got the right mindset. He believes every child can learn; that’s what he believes. And therefore, he’s willing to ask the question: Can every child read; can every child write; can every child add and subtract? And if not, he’s willing to challenge the status quo. You have a Governor who will not be captured by special interests. You have a Governor with one interest in mind, to make sure that no child in the State of Florida is left behind.

We’re going through some tough economic times in America. We’re kind of bumping along, is how I describe it, just bumping. And that’s not good enough for this country. Anytime somebody who wants to work and can’t find a job, it says we’ve got a problem. But there are some bright spots in this Nation about job creation. And the brightest of all bright spots is right here in the State of Florida. This man, he just doesn’t talk about jobs. You’re creating them here.

He and I understand this: The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be big businesses. No, you’ve got the right man if you’re worried about the economic vitality of your State. You’ve got the right man if you’re worried about job creation. That man is Jeb Bush.

Been tough budget times for a lot of States. It’s tough economic times. Remember, we went through a recession. And then the enemy hit us. Then we had a little problem with some of our corporate executives. [Laughter] They forgot what it would mean to be a responsible leader. They forgot what it means to tell the truth. Some of them thought they could fudge the books, shade the numbers. Those days are over with.

Thanks to Members of Congress here, I had the ability to sign the toughest law, the corporate reform law, since Franklin Roosevelt. There’s not going to be any more easy money, just hard time when we catch you

fudging the numbers and not doing your responsibility.

But as a result of these tough times, revenues have dwindled in States, and it's been hard for some Governors to manage the budget—not the Governor of Florida. This man managed the budget during tough economic times. He took on the tough tasks to make sure your money was spent properly. He understands what I know: When you're talking about money in Tallahassee or money in Washington, it's not the Government's money; it's your money. And Jeb Bush is a good steward of your money.

It should be clear to the people of Florida from all political parties that the man knows what he's doing, that the man is a plain speaker, that the man cares deeply about the citizens of this State. When he hears of hurt, he doesn't go around and say, "Well, if you're hurting, I'll only try to help you if you're a Republican." He cries when anybody hurts. He's got deep compassion for the citizens of Florida, an honest man, who's brought integrity and dignity to the office. He's the kind of guy that will make you proud. He's the kind of guy that you need to send back to Tallahassee as a reelected Governor of Florida.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Jeb has handled tough problems in Tallahassee, and we're going to handle tough problems in Washington on your behalf. I talked about the economy. I'm worried about people not being able to find work. We'll do everything we can to make sure job creation is strong. And the best way to do that is to let you keep more of your own money. Those tax cuts we passed came at the right time in American history.

Now, when you hear them talking about in Washington up there, "Oh, we better revisit the tax cuts"—

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. —that just means they're fixing to try to get in your pocket. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of growth, and for the sake of jobs, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

No, there's a lot of issues we'll be working on. We'll be working on health care issues, of course. We've got to make sure Medicare

works. Medicine has changed. Medicine is modern. Technology has changed medicine. New discoveries have changed medicine. But Medicare is stuck in the past. It hasn't changed. For the sake of fulfilling our promise to seniors, I need to have people in Washington, DC, with whom I can work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for the seniors of the State of Florida.

No, there's a lot of issues we need to work on. But the biggest issue of all is to protect you. You see, there's still an enemy out there that lurks around. They hate us. They hate us because of what we love. We love the freedom to worship. We love the freedom to speak our mind. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not changing. And so long as we love, they hate. And so we've got a task ahead, and that is to protect you. That's why I went to Congress and said, in spite of the fact that a lot of good people are working hard—you see, anytime we get a hint, any piece of evidence that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on them. We're disrupting them. We're denying them.

But the threat is real. And therefore I went to Congress and said, "Give us a Homeland Security Department, so we can better coordinate the agencies involved with protecting you. Give us something to make sure that we can change cultures, so that people get the message that our number one responsibility in Washington, DC, is to protect the American people from further attack." The Members of the House responded, but it's stuck in the United States Senate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Yes, and it's stuck in the United States Senate, and you need to know why it's stuck in the United States Senate, and you might let some of your Senators know why it's stuck. It's because they want me to give up power that Presidents have had since John F. Kennedy.

See, Presidents since John F. Kennedy have had the capacity to suspend some collective bargaining rules, in any Department of the Federal Government, for the sake of national security. In other words, I'll have the capacity—I do have the capacity today, unless the Senate has its way, for me to take

some rules and set them aside so we can better protect you. And that's the issue, and I'm not giving up that power, for the sake of the American people.

But the best way to protect you is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Therapy won't work. [Laughter] I asked Congress for a big increase in defense spending. I want to thank Chairman Young for leading the way. I had the honor of signing a defense appropriations bill, which increased defense spending, the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President, and there's two reasons why. I want you to hear the reasons.

One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, you need to know and our friends need to know and our enemy needs to know, we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says on such-and-such a date, we're pulling them in. No matter how long it takes, no matter what the cost is, we will defend freedom. History has called us into action, and we're not going to tire. We're not going to quit until we have defeated the agents of terror and until America is safe and our friends are safe.

And we're making progress. This is a different kind of war. In the old days, you know, if you destroyed an enemy's tanks or sunk his ships or knocked down airplanes, you knew you were making progress. A lot of these folks don't have tanks. They hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. So therefore, the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," is just as important today as it was a year ago, and it still stands.

Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down. It's going to take awhile. You just have got to know it's going to take awhile. But the stakes are high. And they're really high, particularly on what happened on September the 11th. You see, a cold reality came—my job, by the way, is to see the world the way it is, not the way we hope—hope it is. And there's a cold reality. Oceans no longer pro-

tect us from threats. Oceans no longer protect us from gathering dangers across the—in other parts of the world.

It used to be, we could pick or choose. We learned a lesson that the battlefield is here at home, and we've got to be realistic about that. And that's why I started the debate on Iraq. You see, I view the man as a serious threat to America and our friends and allies. He's a man who has told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, yet he does. We know a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We have no idea today how close he is. If he has a nuclear weapon, it's a serious problem for America and our friends and allies.

We know he's got chemical weapons. He said he wouldn't have them, but we know he's got them. Not only does he have them, he used them. He used them in his neighborhood. He used them on his own people.

We know that he's had connections with Al Qaida. There would be nothing more pleasing to him to be able to use one of these shadowy terrorist networks. He could serve as the armory and the training grounds. They could be the deliverer of weapons, and we would never see his fingerprints.

We know he's a danger. And that's why I went to the United Nations, to take my explanation there. See, I want the United Nations to succeed. I think it's important in the new threats facing America that we have an international body that has got the backbone necessary to hold people to account. For 11 years, however, this guy has defied the United Nations. Not once, not twice, but 16 times he has said, "Forget it."

And therefore, I have said to the United Nations, "Show us whether you can be an effective body at keeping the peace or whether or not you'll be the League of Nations. Show us whether or not you'll be an effective—ability to hold people to account, or whether you're going to be an empty debating society"—their choice to make.

And Mr. Saddam Hussein has got a choice to make as well. He has said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. We expect him not to have weapons of mass destruction. But the Congress spoke with a voice that I hear, and I believe that, if they do not disarm Saddam Hussein, if the United Nations can't

act and he himself will not disarm, for the sake of peace and for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy. I can't imagine what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. They probably thought the national religion of America was materialism, that we were so materialistic and caught up in money that we were selfish and self-absorbed and shallow. Oh, they probably thought that after September the 11th, 2001, we'd file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]*

You see, they know something—they don't know something I know, that the spirit of America is strong, the American spirit is alive and well, that this great Nation, if we stay the course, if we remain strong, if we speak clearly, if we remember that freedom is not an American gift to the world, it is a God-given gift to the world, if we remain true to our principles and values, we can achieve peace. And that's the dream, to achieve peace. And that's one of the good that's going to come out of the incredible evil done to America.

And you know what else is going to happen in America? America is going to be a better country as a result of what happened to us. We still weep for the victims. We still mourn for those who lost life. But out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good.

It's because you've got people like Jeb Bush, who understand the true strength of the country lies not in the halls of Government but in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. He and I know that Government can hand out money, and we will do everything we can to try to help people help themselves and reform programs and make sure education works. But Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That does when—that happens when people put their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? Can I mentor you? Can I be the head of a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop or run a Boys or Girls Club?"

No, you see, the important thing to remember is that if you want to make a dif-

ference in America, you can help change this country one heart, one hurting soul, one conscience at a time. And although one of us can't do everything, each of us can do something to make an enormous difference.

No, the enemy hit us. They had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful and compassionate tomorrow, because the American spirit is alive and well. It is strong; it is vibrant.

I want to thank you all for coming tonight. I want to thank you for supporting my brother, Jeb. May God bless you. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. in the Sun Dome at the University of South Florida. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, his wife, Columba, and their son George P. Bush; Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan of Florida; Ginny Brown-Waite, candidate for Florida's Fifth Congressional District; Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret.), former commander of Operation Desert Storm; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Springfield, Illinois

November 3, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. It's such an honor to be here, and I'm glad I came. Jim said, "If you come over, you might be able to say hello to a few of my friends." *[Laughter]*

I do have the portrait of Abraham Lincoln on the wall of the Oval Office. I do so because I think he was our country's greatest President. I think he was our country's greatest President because he understood that a united country is one that can achieve big things. He had great faith in the American people. He was willing to stand by principle. He understood his duty to future generations of Americans. And that's what I'm here to talk about today, the American spirit.

The American spirit is alive and well in America. It's the spirit that says we're willing to defend our freedom no matter what the cost. The American spirit says that we must serve something greater than ourselves. The

American spirit says that if you love democracy, you've got to go to the polls. The American spirit says that there's obligations to our citizens—by our citizens to our country. And one of the most solemn obligations is to exercise your right as a citizen in the United States to vote.

I'm coming to Illinois to make sure that all people hear this message, Republicans and Democrats, people who could care less about political parties. But when you get in that poll, I've got a suggestion for you. [Laughter] For the sake of Illinois, for the sake of this congressional district, for the sake of the country, put John Shimkus back in the United States Congress.

I appreciate Karen and the Shimkus family; I appreciate their hard work on John's behalf. You drew the short straw today, speaking about wives. Pretty soon after a couple of stops, I'll be joining up with Laura in South Dakota. Shimkus really did want Laura as the speaker. [Laughter] Wise man. [Laughter] But she sends her best. She sends our love to our friends here in Illinois. Like me, she urges you to support this good man for the United States Congress.

And while you're in that voting booth, support a good man for Governor. His name is Jim Ryan. He's got a record you can be proud of. You've seen him in action. You know he can do the job. A lot of folks around this State have written him off. I think they spoke a little too soon, don't you?

And I'm proud to say I'm for Jim Durkin for the United States Senate. There's a lot of reasons why we need Jim in the Senate, but let me give you one good reason. I need somebody to help me fulfill one of my most awesome responsibilities, which is to pick good judges for our Federal benches. The current Senate has done a lousy job on the judges. We've got a vacancy crisis in America, which means Americans aren't getting justice, and that's not right. We have a vacancy crisis because they won't give a lot of my nominees a fair hearing. They won't give them a vote. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable people who will not use the bench from which to legislate, but will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States.

I'm also proud to be up here with Joe Birkett, who's running for the attorney general; Kristine Cohn for secretary of state; Thomas Ramsdell for comptroller; and Judy Topinka to be reelected for your treasurer.

I want to thank my friends Jim and Brenda Edgar for coming today. They're a class act. I'm proud to call him friend. I've known him for quite a while. I was going to say, "my old friend," but might offend him. [Laughter] I also appreciate the Springfield High Marching Jazz Band for being here today, and the Debby Ross Band for coming, too.

If you're 18 years old, you've got to vote. You make sure you go vote. And take my advice when you're in there. [Laughter]

I want to thank you all very much for—I want to thank you so much for being involved in the political process. See, grassroots politics decides who wins and who loses. I believe that. So much of this stuff is done on TV, and that's part of the process, but the person who's going to win, particularly in this race, is the one who can get their friends to the polls. So my call to you today is, take time out of your day tomorrow, this afternoon, and on election day, and get somebody to go to the polls with you. If you voted absentee, get somebody to go to the polls on election day on your behalf. [Laughter]

Don't be afraid of getting—of talking to Democrats. Democrats know a good Congressman when they see one. John Shimkus has done a good job as the United States Congress. Make sure you don't forget to talk to independents. They care about good government. My point to you is, is that turn out to vote. Do whatever it takes. Get on the phones. Grab your neighbor. Do whatever it takes to get people to the polls, because we're supporting a good slate of candidates for the different offices for which they're running. These are good people, and they need our help, and they deserve our support.

Let me talk about John a little bit. First of all, he's done in office what he said he would do. That's refreshing. He's a good, honest man. He's a hard-working fellow. He's represented this district with class and distinction. He's an ally of mine. I can count on him. I don't need somebody from this district where I have to look over my shoulder,

wondering where they're standing. I don't need somebody having to run a focus group decide whether or not the President's agenda makes any sense for the American people.

Not only has John done the job, not only do I call him friend, but it seems like it makes sense to me to send him back to the Congress so that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is from the State of Illinois. It makes practical sense to me. *[Laughter]* It seems like it should make sense to people who live in this district to understand that Denny Hastert is not only good for Illinois, he's really good for the country, and his leadership has made an important difference.

I need John up there because we've got some big hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some issues that we've got to work together on, got some problems to solve. One of the biggest problems we've got is, there's some people in this country that can't find work, and that troubles me. Our economy is kind of bouncing along; it's not as good as it should be. It needs to be stronger, because anytime somebody is looking for work and can't find a job means we've got a problem. I want people to be able to put food on the table. That's why it's so important to have Members of Congress who understand the role of Government. It's not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial spirit of America can flourish.

John understands that one way to create an environment in which there's job growth is to understand how important taxes are in the equation for creating jobs. See, if you let people keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find a job in America. Tax relief is good for small businesses. It's good for consumers, and it's good for job creation in America.

Over the next 10 years, if these tax cuts are permanent, you'll get \$81 billion of your own money to spend. That means jobs for the American people—that's what that means. And I want you to be wary. I've learned to decode some of the talk in Wash-

ington, DC. They say, "Let's revisit the tax relief." That means they're fixing to get in your pocket. That's what that means. *[Laughter]* John Shimkus and I understand, for the sake of jobs, for the sake of small-business growth, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

I appreciated his help on getting a trade bill through the Congress. Trade is good for this part of the State. Trade means people are going to be able to find work. Trade means, when we're selling those farm implement products overseas, somebody is going to be likely to have a job in this part of the world. Trade is good for job creation in America, and John Shimkus understands that.

Somebody told me Ray LaHood is here. I hope he is. He's a fine Congressman from up the next district over. Where is Big Ray? There he is. He knows what I'm talking about. He understands what trade means. It also is good for your farmers and your ranchers. When you're good at something, you want to be able to sell it. We're really good at growing crops. We're really good at raising cows and hogs and chickens, and we need to be selling our food all across the world. And that's what the trade bill will enable us to do.

No, there's a lot of things we can do together. One thing John did was join me in helping solve—we had a confidence problem. See, we were in recession, and then the enemy hit us, and that hurt. And then we had some of our citizens forget what it means to be responsible. They thought they could fudge the numbers on these corporate ledgers. They thought they could hide the truth. They thought it was okay not to—you know, not to be responsible in their positions of authority. I proposed a bill—John supported me strongly on it—that now says to those kinds of people in America, "We're going to hold you responsible; you need to be responsible to your employees and your shareholders."

No, there's a lot of work we can do to make sure people get back to work. I'm not going to pay attention to the numbers; what I'm going to pay attention to is whether or not the human being is working. That's what I

care about. And so long as somebody is struggling for a job, you can rest assured we're going to be doing everything we can to grow our economy.

John and I have worked together on some other key issues, one of which is to make sure every child gets educated. We passed a really good piece of legislation. I want to describe it to you right quick because it shows you his mind, his philosophy. It says, we believe every child can learn. See, we believe we want to set high standards and high expectations. We're going to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. And we also believe that the best way to achieve excellence for every child is to pass power out of Washington and trust the local folks. We believe in local control of schools.

But thanks to John's hard work, among others, we were able to get \$1.7 billion of Federal money for the Illinois schools, and that's important. But also what's important is, for the first time, we're asking the question whether or not the money is being well-spent. It's a fundamental change in attitude coming out of Washington, DC. See, we now believe every child can learn. Therefore, we want to know if every child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. For the first time, we're saying, "Why don't you show us whether or not the schools are working? We want every child to learn. We can believe every child can learn, so show us." And when we find success, we'll praise the teachers. And I bet there some teachers here, and we want to thank you for your hard work. But when we find children trapped in schools which won't teach and which won't change, for the good of Illinois, for the good of America, we're going to demand something else happens, because no child should be left behind in America.

There's a lot of issues we can work on together. One of the big issues that we need to work on is to make sure the Medicare system works. Medicine has changed. Medicine is becoming modern. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries are changing how we cure people. But Medicare is stuck in the past. See, medicine is changing for the better, and Medicare won't change at all. Therefore, I need somebody in Congress like John Shimkus who will join me in modernizing

Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

There's a lot of things we can do, working together, to make sure that America is a better place for everybody. But I need him in the Congress as well to work on the biggest issue which we face, which is to protect you. Homeland security is the biggest issue that this next Congress and Presidents down the road will face.

And the reason why I say that is because there's still an enemy out there which hates America. They just are. They can't stand—they cannot stand what we believe in. They hate the fact that we love freedom. We love the fact that in this great country you can worship an Almighty any way you see fit. We love that. We love the fact we have free elections, we have a free press. We love every single aspect of freedom, and we're not going to change.

And so long as that enemy is out there threatening the homeland, we need to protect you. And we've got a lot of good people working overtime to do so. We've got people at the Federal level and at the State level and at the local level, doing everything we can to run down any hint, any idea that somebody is thinking about hurting America—we're chasing it down. We're denying. We're disrupting. But I think we can do a better job on your behalf. And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join me in the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security, so we can better coordinate all the activities that are taking place at the Federal level, so we can change culture, if need be, so that people know that the number one priority is your protection, so there's no doubt in anybody's mind who are working on your behalf that this is the most important job we have.

Thanks to John and Members of the United States House of Representatives, we got a good bill. The problem is it's stuck in the United States Senate. It's stuck because they want to take away power from the President, and here's the power they want to take away. Presidents have had the ability, since John F. Kennedy was the President, to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of Government to make sure that when the national security is at stake—to

make sure that we're able to do our job. See, I need to be able to move the right people to the right place at the right time to protect you. Certain work rules prevent that from happening, and the Senate wants to keep those work rules in place.

To show you how shortsighted they are, as far as I'm concerned, I would have the ability to suspend certain rules in the Department of Agriculture. Yet at a time of war, I would not have that ability for the Homeland Security Department, and that doesn't make sense. And I'm here to tell you, I'm not going to accept a lousy bill out of the United States Senate. We can't let the special interests of Washington prevent us from doing what is necessary to protect the biggest interest we have, which is the American people.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down one at a time and bring them to justice. And therapy won't work. *[Laughter]* And we're making progress. See, I asked our Congress to support me on the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment.

We're also sending an important message to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul. There's no quit in America when it comes to the defense of our freedom. We understand our obligations. We understand our duty to future generations of Americans. No matter how long it takes, no matter how long the—how much the cost, we will defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

We're making some pretty good progress. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in. See, this is a different kind of battle we face. In the old days, you could destroy airplanes and ships and tanks, and you know you're making progress. These people don't have that kind of equipment. They hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. Therefore, it's important to make sure that doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. And the doctrine still stands.

We've hauled in a couple of thousand of them, and like number weren't as lucky. In either case, in either category, they're not a problem to the American people. We're doing our job.

It's important for us to be realistic about the threats we face. Some would like to see the world the way they would hope it would be. You can't have that in your President or elected Members of Congress. You've got to see the world the way it really is. And after September the 11th, 2001, after September the 11th, 2001, the world changed. It used to be that oceans could protect us from harm. We're in a different world now. There's a new reality that we have to deal with. Some may not like it, but you've got to deal with it in order to do the most solemn job you have, which is to protect the American people.

The reason I brought up the threat from Iraq is because I understand the new realities. I see the world the way it is. Saddam Hussein is a threat to America. He's a threat to our friends. He's a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, yet he has them. He's a man that not only has weapons of mass destruction; he's used them. He's used them in his neighborhood; he's used them on his own people. He can't stand America. He can't stand our friends and allies.

[At this point, there was a disruption in the audience.]

The President. He is a man who would likely team up with Al Qaida. He could provide the arsenal for one of these shadowy terrorist networks. He would love to use somebody else to attack us and not leave fingerprints behind.

So I went to the United Nations to say to that august body, "Why don't we join together and hold this man to account? Why don't we hold him to his word? Why don't you, instead of letting him defy you 16 times, why don't you hold Saddam Hussein to account and disarm him?" The United Nations can show us whether it's the United Nations or the League of Nations—their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein now has a choice to make. He said he would disarm. He said he

wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. Now the time is coming close where he must do what he says he should do—is going to do. But I'm going to tell you all something. And the Congress spoke with one voice, loud and clear, that if the United Nations cannot fulfill its duty, if it doesn't have the backbone necessary to work together to keep the peace, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought the national religion of America was materialism. They must have thought we were so self-centered and so shallow and so self-absorbed that after the attacks of September the 11th, we might take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* They don't understand our character. They don't understand the nature of this country. They don't understand the fact that when somebody attacks us, when somebody tries to take away our freedom, that we're going to react, that we'll be strong and diligent and focused. They don't understand that out of the evil done to America can come some great good because of the nature of our country.

I want you to understand that my vision is one of peace. I want the world to be peaceful, and I strongly believe that by being tough when we need to be tough, compassionate when we need to be compassionate, strong when we need to be strong, that we can not only make America a more peaceful place, we can bring peace to the world.

And here at home, we can be a better America. And that's important, that while we work hard to make our country more secure and more safe, that we can be a better country. You've got to understand in this world, in America, people hurt; people are lonely; people are addicted; people need help. John Shimkus and I and others in Congress will work to pass laws to help. But you've got to remember that Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Hurt can be healed when a loving America puts their arm around somebody and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

If you want to join the war against evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

You can help in any kind of way. You can mentor a child. You can make sure your school system works well. You can feed the hungry. You can run a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. There's all kinds of ways you can help. Today when I landed at your airport, I met the Swartz family, Larry, Linda, and Eric. They're involved with the Special Olympics. Eric is an athlete, and he's a spokesman for the Special Olympics. Larry volunteers as an assistant swim coach. Linda helps with the bowling tournaments. There are all kinds of ways. And they're here, by the way, with us. Where are the Swartzes? There they are. I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for coming.

There's all kinds of ways to help. You see, the spirit of America says that in order to be an American, you've got to serve something greater than yourself in life. Perhaps the best example came on Flight 93. These are average citizens flying across the country. They learned the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They said good-bye to their loved ones. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." And they took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

The American spirit is strong and alive. The enemy had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America, I promise you is going to happen, will be a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America will be a better country, a more hopeful country, a more optimistic country for every citizen who lives here, because this is the greatest nation, full of the most decent people on the face of the Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Thank you for coming. May God bless, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Illinois Police Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Representative John Shimkus, candidate for reelection in Illinois' 20th Congressional District, and his wife, Karen; gubernatorial candidate Jim Ryan; senatorial candidate Jim Durkin; former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and his wife, Brenda;

Representative Ray LaHood, candidate for reelection in Illinois' 18th Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in St. Paul, Minnesota

November 3, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Glad I came. Norm said, "If you come back, we might have a few of my friends over to say hello." [Laughter]

I want you to know I understand that Minnesota is going through a traumatic time. After all, just 9 days ago, you lost a principled Senator, along with his wife and daughter and five other fellow Americans. Paul Wellstone was respected by all who worked with him. He'll be missed by all who knew him.

Now a vote is coming on, in the middle of a State that is mourning. And even though your State is still in mourning, I'm here to remind people from all political parties that you have a duty to vote. In spite of the fact that people still mourn, Republicans and Democrats, independents, people who could care less about political parties, have an obligation in the land of the free to go to the polls and exercise your right as an American.

Now, once you get in that voting booth, I've got a suggestion. [Laughter] The best candidate for the future of Minnesota is your next United States Senator, Norm Coleman.

The best choice for Governor of Minnesota, the best choice for the taxpayers and the schoolchildren, is Tim Pawlenty. And the best choice in a contested race in this part of the world, the best choice for United States Congress, is Mr. John Kline.

It's great for—great to be able to see Laurie Coleman today. She is working hard, along with Norm and their entire family. Proud to meet Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, too. Ms. Coleman said she's a little nervous. [Laughter] I said, "Well, you watch and see what happens next Tuesday."

Norm married above himself, and so did I. [Laughter] Yesterday Laura was here. I want to thank you for such a warm reception she received. I don't blame Norman for bringing her in coming down the stretch. After all, she's done a fabulous job as our country's First Lady.

I'm proud to be up here with three fine Members of the United States Congress: Gil Gutknecht, Mark Kennedy, and Jim Ramstad. I appreciate their service to our country. I appreciate the fact that they're friends. I appreciate the fact they're willing to run.

Most of all, I'm here to thank you all for what you have done and what you're going to do. Many of you have been working hard over the last months, weeks, and days to support the Coleman candidacy. You've been putting up signs. You've been dialing the phones. You've been sending the brochures in the mail. Don't stop. I will promise you this, when you go to your coffee shops or your community centers and urge your fellow Minnesota citizens to go to the polls, you can make a huge impact on this election. You can decide who your next United States Senator and Governor and Members of Congress will be.

And when you go to those coffee shops and community centers, make sure you reach out to discerning Democrats and independent voters. There are a lot of good people who may not call themselves Republicans, who've been impressed, like I have, with the nature of the campaign that Norm Coleman has run. There's a lot of people who may not be Republicans, who've been impressed by the quality of service he gave to the citizens of St. Paul as the mayor of St. Paul.

They know him like I know him, somebody who's willing to get rid of the stale, old, tired name-calling in politics, somebody who's not interested in pitting one group of people against another to get ahead, somebody who's willing to work hard to bring people together for the common good. That's the Norm Coleman I know.

When he held office, he showed what he could do. He performed. He's the kind of fellow who does in office what he says he's going to do. That's refreshing. After all, we are in the house that Norm built.

He kept taxes down. He brought more than \$3 billion of new development into St. Paul. He performed in office. He did so with class. He did so with the one thing in mind: how to benefit all the people of St. Paul. He

understands that in order to create opportunity for all the citizens of this State, that the small-business owner and the entrepreneurs, the backbone of creativity and job growth, no matter where they are in this country—[*applause*].

Pat Boemer owns McGovern's Pub and Restaurant just down the street from here. He knows firsthand how Norm worked with small-business owners to cut the regulations that oftentimes make it hard for people to expand and/or exist. Norm understands the role of small businesses. Because of Norm's help, Pat was able to expand his restaurant, a project that employed 30 people during the expansion and added 35 new permanent jobs. Pat—let me tell you what Pat said about Norm Coleman. I want you to hear what one of your citizens said about this man. He said, "He's a breath of fresh air." And that's the kind of fresh air we need in the United States Senate.

Believe me when I say, we need fresh air in the United States Senate. The future of Minnesota rests with Norm Coleman. Not only do I like to promote somebody who is a good, honorable person; I'm looking for an ally. [*Laughter*] I want somebody from this great State with whom I can work, somebody with whom we can work to help all the people.

We've got some problems here in this country. See, our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. Anytime somebody is looking for a job and they can't find work means we've got a problem. And I'm not going to rest until people can find work, until people who want to put food on the table are able to do so.

But it's important to have somebody from this State who understands the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which this entrepreneurial spirit is strong.

There's a fundamental difference of attitudes in this race. See, Norm and I understand this, that when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to

produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

I need the United States Senator from Minnesota who not only supports tax relief, but is willing to stand with me to make tax relief permanent.

Norm and I understand in Washington, when you hear them talking about the Government's money, they don't understand. See, we're not talking about the Government's money in Washington. It's important to have a Senator understand whose money it is. It's your money. It's the people's money.

I look forward to working with Norm on a lot of issues. We need to get a terrorism insurance bill out that gets our hardhats working again. The terrorists hit us, and as a result, a lot of projects aren't going forward because they can't find insurance. And therefore, a lot of hardhats aren't working. We need to get somebody in the Senate with whom I can work to make sure we get us a terrorism insurance bill that rewards the hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

I look forward to working with a Norm Coleman to make sure that Medicare works. See, we made a solemn promise to our seniors. The problem is, medicine has changed. It's becoming modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. There's a lot of new technologies that have helped health care become modern, new discoveries that have changed the nature of health care. But Medicare hasn't changed. I look forward to working with Senator Norm Coleman to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for our seniors.

And let me give you another reason I need to work with him in the Senate. One of my most solemn obligations is to name good people to Federal benches. The Senate has done a lousy job. There are too many of my nominees that have been stalled, and therefore, we have a vacancy crisis on the Federal benches in America. And that hurts you. It hurts our citizens who need to have access to justice.

You see, they don't like my judges. They don't like the fact that I named good, honorable people who will not use the bench from

which to legislate but will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution. Norm and I understand we've got too many legislators in Washington. Let me say to you, we've got enough legislators in Washington. We need good, sound judges. I know I can count on his support when it comes to making sure the judiciary is strong and capable and not have any vacancies.

The biggest issue that Senator Coleman and I will be working on over the years is to protect you, is to protect the homeland, is to keep America safe from an enemy which still lurks out there, an enemy which hates because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America. We love the idea that people can speak their minds. We love a free press, and we're not going to change.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important to be cold-eyed realists about the world in which we live. We're on alert now in America. We understand the battlefield has come home. There's a lot of good people working on your behalf to deny the enemy. Anytime we get a hint, a scintilla of evidence, we're moving on it. That's our most important obligation.

We're doing it within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we're moving. We're disrupting. We're making sure people cannot get to the American people. We're doing everything we can. But I went to Congress because I think we can do more. And I asked them to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I want a Department where I've got the ability to be able to turn to the American people and say, "I've got the tools necessary to protect you."

There's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security. It seemed like to me they need to be coordinated better. They need to be under one umbrella so we can set priority and, if need be, change culture. And the House of Representatives, thanks to the Members up here, passed a good bill.

It takes two Chambers to get the bill to my desk, however. The bill is stuck in the Senate. I want to explain to you why it's stuck in the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate because some Senators are trying to extract too high

a price from the President. For 40 years, ever since John Kennedy has been the President, the President has had the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when the national security is at stake.

Let me tell you what that means. If a rule stands in the way of being able to better protect the homeland, I should be able to suspend that rule for national security purposes. The Senate, because of special interests in Washington, DC, refuses to—or are trying to strip me of that power. And if they were able to do so, I would have the ability to suspend some rules in, say, the Agricultural Department but not the Department of Homeland Security.

We're threat—we're under threats from an enemy which hates us, and yet they're trying to prevent me and future Presidents from being able to do the job. I need a Senator who will support me on homeland security. I refuse to accept a lousy bill from the U.S. Senate.

But the fact is—the fact of the matter is, we're going to do everything we can at home. But the best way to assure your freedom is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. We're making progress.

First, I want to thank the Senate and the House for passing the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I asked for that increase because I believe strongly, just like Norm Coleman believes strongly, that anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the other reason I asked for that increase is because I wanted to send a signal to friend and foe alike, that when it comes to the defense of our freedom and the defense of our homeland, we're in this deal for the long haul.

There's not a calendar on my desk that says by such-and-such a date, we're quitting. That's not how I think. That's not how I know you think. You see, we understand our obligations to future generations. That's why I'm continuing to insist to people around the world: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy.

And we're making progress. We're making progress, slowly but surely. We're finding them. We're hunting them down. It's a different kind of war, and it's important for you to know that. In the old days, you'd knock out a couple of tanks or shoot down an airplane or two, you're making progress. See, these folks, that's not the way they are. They hide in caves or in dark corners of the world and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths.

And so it's a different kind of war. It requires this network of people moving around, getting them on the run. Fortunately, we've got the finest military in the history of the world, and we've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

Norm knows what I know: It doesn't matter how long it takes; we have an obligation. It's important for us to be cold-eyed realists about the world. It's important to have a Senator and a President and people in Washington, DC, who see the world really the way it is, not the way we wish it would be.

And the world is changed after September the 11th. It's changed because we're no longer safe from potential threats overseas. It used to be that oceans could protect us. It used to be that we could sit back and say, "Well, we're a protected continent because of two vast oceans." We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th. We've got to remember that lesson as we go down the road. We must take every threat to the United States seriously. We must take threats to our friends seriously.

And there's a threat which looms in the form of Saddam Hussein. I want to remind you all that this is a man who for 11 years has said he wouldn't have any weapons of mass destruction, and for 11 years, he's deceived the world.

Audience member. Liar!

The President. And we found out that—a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today. This is a man who not only has got chemical weapons; I want you to remind your friends and neighbors that he has used chemical weapons. He has used them in his neighborhood, and incredibly enough, he has used them on his own people.

This is a man who can't stand America. He can't stand what we believe in. This is

a man who hates some of our closest friends in the Middle East.

This is a man who has had contacts with Al Qaida. This is a man who poses a serious threat in many forms, but catch this form: He's the kind of guy that would love nothing more than to train terrorists and provide arms to terrorists so they could attack his worst enemy and leave no fingerprints. This guy is a threat to the world.

I went to the United Nations because I wanted to tell this body, this august body, that I expect you to do your duty. For 16 resolutions, he's defied you. I went and said, "In the name of peace, show yourself to be effective. We want you to be an effective United Nations, not an ineffective organization like the League of Nations."

My message was to that body, I said, "Show some backbone. Disarm Saddam Hussein, just like he said he would do." But for the sake of peace and for the sake of freedom, the sake of fulfilling our obligations to future generations, if the United Nations can't act and won't act and if Saddam Hussein won't do what he said he would do, which is disarm, we will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I appreciate Norm Coleman's position. I appreciate the fact that he's a cold-eyed realist. I appreciate the fact that he sees the world the way it is, not the way we would hope it would be. I want you to know this about America, that if we stay tough, we stay strong, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace, not only for ourselves, but we can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. We're determined. We speak clearly. If we remember our values and remember that freedom is not an America's gift to the world, it is a God gift to the world, we can achieve peace.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy. They must have thought the national religion of America was materialism. Therefore, we're selfish and self-absorbed. We'd take a couple of steps back after September the 11th, 2001. * They probably said, "Oh, they'd file a lawsuit or two." [Laughter] They don't understand the nature of America. They don't understand the

* White House correction.

American spirit. They don't understand American spirit. They don't understand our soul.

You see, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. And part of that good is peace overseas, and part of that good here at home is a better tomorrow, a better America.

We must remember—and Norm understands this; that's why I'm passionate on his candidacy—he knows what I know, that amongst our plenty are people who hurt. There are people who are lonely, people addicted, people, when you say, "American Dream," they say, "What does that mean? I have no idea what the American Dream means," they say. Our attitude is, so long as any of us hurt, we all hurt, and therefore, Government must do everything it can to help. But Government is limited. See, it can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That help—that happens when a fellow American puts their arm around somebody who's crying and says, "I love you, brother. I love you, sister. What can I do to make your life a better life?"

I met a guy today named John Ernston. He's volunteered 13,000 hours for the Hennepin County sheriff. He's been on what they call water patrol. He is a person trying to make a difference in somebody's life. He's volunteering his time to make his community a better place.

Talk about the American spirit, the American spirit says we'll be tough when it comes to the defense of our freedom. But the American spirit also says the new patriotism for our country means we'll serve something greater than ourself. The call to you so far as I'm concerned is: Help somebody in need; mentor a child; feed the hungry; love the homeless. And you watch what happens when the great compassion of America comes forth.

We can change this country one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. No, the American spirit is alive and well in this country. The enemy hit us; they didn't know who they were hitting.

I'm reminded of the story of Flight 93. Flight 93 was—on that fateful day, we had citizens flying across the country. They

learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They said goodbye to their loved ones. History will show they said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. The spirit of this country is alive and well and strong.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I believe—I believe firmly that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I will boldly predict that we can achieve the peace, and we can achieve a more hopeful tomorrow for every citizen who lives in this country, because I understand America. We're the finest nation, full of the greatest people on the face of this entire Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Work hard for Norm. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at the Xcel Energy Center. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Norm Coleman, his wife, Laurie, and his parents, Norm Sr. and Beverly Coleman; gubernatorial candidate Tim Pawlenty; John Kline, candidate for Minnesota's Second Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The President also referred to Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who died in the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN.

Remarks in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

November 3, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. It just seems like the other day I was here in South Dakota. [Laughter] You know, your Governor is a good buddy of mine. He's got pretty good judgment. He said, "If you think it was good in Aberdeen, if you think the crowd was great in Aberdeen, if you think the enthusiasm was high in Aberdeen, wait until you get to Sioux Falls."

We did have a great crowd in Aberdeen; about 300 or 400 people couldn't get in the hall. [Laughter] A lot of them came down from Aberdeen tonight to be at this rally, and I want to thank you all for coming down. I want to thank you for your work. And right

after I finish speaking, you get home and turn out the vote.

Laura and I are here because the people of this important State have got some big decisions to make. You've got some decisions to make that will affect not only your State but our Nation. You've got some decisions that will make the future of this State and the future of our Nation different. And we've got some suggestions on what you ought to do when you get inside that voting booth.

We believe it's in the best interests of South Dakota and the best interests of America to elect John Thune to the United States Senate.

Audience members. John Thune! John Thune! John Thune!

The President. John is a wise man. He had Laura campaigning with him all day. And so the second reason I've come here is because I thought it would be wise to hook up with Laura the day before her birthday.

[At this point, the audience sang "Happy Birthday."]

The President. Honey, that's your birthday gift.

I'm also here because I'm seeking some allies, some people I can count on, some people who represent the good folks of this State. You've got a man running for the United States Congress who I call friend, because he is one, a man who understands this State well, a man who's served with distinction as your Governor, a man who will be a great United States Congressman. I hope you work hard and put Bill Janklow in the House of Representatives.

Audience members. We want Bill! We want Bill! We want Bill!

The President. I one time in this State described him as a "piece of work"—[laughter]—but he's your piece of work.

I'm also proud to be here with a man who will be good for the South Dakota taxpayers, the South Dakota schoolchildren, a man who's going to do a great job as your Governor, Mr. Mike Rounds.

Audience members. We like Mike! We like Mike! We like Mike!

The President. I'm also here to thank you for what you have done on behalf of these candidates but, more importantly, what

you're going to do. See, over the next 2 days, they're counting on you to turn out the vote.

They're counting on you starting tomorrow morning when you go to your coffee shops—and they've got some coffee shops here in South Dakota, I'm certain of that—[laughter]—sit around those tables and remind the people they have a duty in America to vote. You have an obligation as a citizen of this country to go to the polls. And as grassroots activists and as concerned citizens, remind them that with Thune and Janklow and Rounds, you've got some fine, fine people, that it's in the interests of this State—and just don't talk to Republicans, either. Run across an independent, they care about low taxes and good Government. And so do discerning Democrats.

No, they're counting on you. They've worked hard to earn your respect and your support, and you can make a difference come Tuesday. You can make a difference by getting people to the polls. You can make a difference by getting on those telephones. Everybody counts in this election, and we're counting on you to pull them across the finish line.

No, we're here because we want to, for this good State, to send people to Washington with whom I can work, people whose vote I can count on for the good of the country. But I'm also here because I believe in John Thune, the person. I believe in those South Dakota values which are deeply ingrained in his heart. I know how he was raised. He was raised by folks who loved him, and they brought some common sense to him.

Most importantly, he's never forgot where he came from. See, he was raised to believe in the value of family. He understands the importance of family. He's got a great family, Kimberley and Brittany and Larissa. When they came up to the White House to talk about making this race, John talked about his family with passion. See, he's not one of these types that puts politics ahead of his family. He keeps his priorities straight. I like that in the future United States Senator.

He was raised with that important South Dakota value that says education is important. You believe that in this State, and he does in his heart. Thanks to his hard work,

he helped secure \$185 million coming to the Federal schools this year—Federal money coming to your schools this year.

But also thanks to his hard work and his belief in education, we worked together to pass a really fine piece of reform, education reform. It says everybody can learn. It says we've got to raise the standards and raise the bar. It says we trust the people of South Dakota to chart the path for excellence for the children who live in South Dakota; we believe in local control of schools. But it also says for the first time, in return for that money, show us whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can read and write and add and subtract, you need to ask that question. And when you find children in schools that are learning, we'll praise the teachers. But when you find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, you need to demand something other than the status quo. No child should be left behind in the State of South Dakota.

John Thune understands and was raised with the value that you're supposed to keep your word. And we've given our word to the seniors in America that Medicare will work. And yet it's not working, because medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. I look forward to working with soon-to-be Senator John Thune to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for our seniors.

John Thune was raised to understand the value of the land. He understands farmers. He understands ranchers. He understands for the farmer and rancher, every day is Earth Day. He understands—he was raised on the value of hard work and that if you work hard, you should be able to get ahead in life. And that's why he was one of the strong supporters of mine in the United States Congress to reduce the taxes on the working people.

He knows what I know. He knows what I know, if people are having trouble finding work, the best way to increase jobs in America is to cut the taxes on the people who pay the bills. The more money you have in your pocket, the more you're going to demand something. And when you demand it, some-

body is going to provide it, and when somebody provides it, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief came at the right time. And you better have you a United States Senator who is willing to join President Bush and make the tax cuts permanent.

John also was raised by folks who said a person gets—has a grievance, they ought to have a fair chance in the courts, that justice is important in America.

But the Senate is doing a lousy job with my Federal judicial nominees, to the point where there is a vacancy problem in America. Too many of our benches are—have got vacancies. Not enough of my Federal judges are getting through the United States Senate. They're playing politics with the nominees. In some cases, they're distorting the records. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable people whose job it is not to write law but to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

There's no question in my mind that when it comes to making sure our benches are full of good and decent people, I can count on the support of Senator John Thune. And there should be no question in your mind, the judges I name will represent the values of the majority of citizens from South Dakota.

And finally, one of the values that I know John holds dear to his heart is the value that his World War II fighter pilot daddy taught him. And that is, sometimes you have to sacrifice for freedom; sometimes it's important to serve something greater than yourself to secure the freedom. And that means in the 21st century that we've got to sacrifice here in America to protect ourselves.

The most important responsibility John and I will have will be to work together to protect the homeland, to protect you from further attack, to prevent an enemy which hates America because we love freedom from hurting innocent life ever again.

There's a lot of good people working for you right now—the Federal level and the State level and the local level, a lot of really decent people are running down any hint. Anytime anybody kind of whispers that they may be thinking about doing something to America, you need to know we're moving on it. We're going to disrupt them and deny

them any chance they have to hurt the American people.

But in order to make our job go better—and, by the way, this isn't just something that's going to take place next year. We've been protecting the homeland for awhile. They're out there, and it's going to take awhile for us to rout them out. And therefore, I thought that it would be best to have a Department of Homeland Security so we could better coordinate the agencies involved with your protection, so we could change cultures if need be, so people got the message, their number one job in Washington is to protect you.

And I got a good bill out of the House of Representatives, thanks to John Thune. However, it is stuck in the United States Senate. And let me describe to you why it's stuck in the Senate. Because some Senators—

Audience member. Tom Daschle.

The President. Some Senators—[laughter]—because some Senators are trying to take power away from the President—a power that every President has had since John F. Kennedy was the President. And that is the capacity to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when national security is at stake.

In other words, if there are some work rules that stand in the way of us being able to protect the American people, for the sake of national security, I now have the right to suspend those rules for your protection. But because of special interests in Washington, some Senators are trying to take away this power. And I'm not going to let them. I refuse to stand for a lousy bill.

But the best way to secure our homeland is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. It's a different kind of war we fight. It's important for you to understand that. John understands that. You see, in the old days, if you destroyed tanks and airplanes, you knew you were making progress. These killers are hiding in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. The only way to deal with them is to treat them like they are, international criminals, and hunt them down, one person at a time.

I went to the Congress and said, "Why don't you give me a defense bill that shows our mettle, that speaks clearly about our intentions?" Thankfully, they did. They passed the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. And here's the message, the message that John Thune was taught by his daddy: Anytime you put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the other message is this: It doesn't matter how long it takes to secure our freedom; it doesn't matter how long it takes to secure the homeland, we're staying the course. There's no quit in America. There's not a calendar on my desk that says on such-and-such a date, bring them home. That's not how we think. That's not the lesson that John Thune learned from his dad or I learned from my dad or any of us learned from previous generations of people who sacrificed for our freedom.

No, we've been called into action, and we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network which attacked America. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in. See, that doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," it still stands. And there's a lot of people joining us in this international manhunt to bring them to justice.

What's important for us as we work to secure the homeland is to remember the stakes have changed. After September the 11th, the world changed. It changed for a lot of reasons. Perhaps the most profound reason, from a foreign policy perspective or from a homeland security perspective, is that we're no longer protected by two big oceans. Used to be if there was a threat overseas, we could deal with it if we chose to do so, but we didn't have to worry about something happening here at home. It used to be oceans could protect us from conflict and from threats. But that's changed, and it's important to have people in the Senate who are clear-eyed realists. It's important to have people who see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it is. And the world is a dangerous place, particularly with people like Saddam Hussein in power.

Saddam Hussein is a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's got them. He's a man a while ago who was close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine if this madman had a nuclear weapon. It's a man who not only has chemical weapons, but he's used chemical weapons. He's used chemical weapons against some of his neighbors. He used chemical weapons, incredibly enough, against his own people. He can't stand America. He can't stand some of our closest friends.

And not only that, he is—would like nothing better than to hook up with one of these shadowy terrorist networks like Al Qaida, provide some weapons and training to them, let them come and do his dirty work, and we wouldn't be able to see his fingerprints on his action.

No, he's a threat. And that's why I went to the United Nations. I went to the United Nations because—I said to that august body, "You need to hold this man to account. For 11 years, in resolution after resolution after resolution, he's defied you. For the sake of keeping the peace, we want you to be effective. For the sake of keeping the world free, we want you to be an effective body. It's up to you, however. You can show the world whether you've got the backbone necessary to enforce your edicts or whether you're going to turn out to be just like the League of Nations—your choice to make."

And my message to Saddam Hussein is that, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, you must disarm like you said you would do. But my message to you all and to the country is this: For the sake of our future freedoms and for the sake of world peace, if the United Nations can't act and if Saddam Hussein won't act, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. And that's the lesson John learned from his daddy, that this country sometimes must act and act decisively in the name of freedom and peace in order to keep the peace, that when we see a gathering threat, we shouldn't shirk our duty and responsibility, but we must deal with it.

I want you to know that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I truly believe that. I believe by being firm and strong, we can keep the peace. I know that if we remember our values, remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is a God-given gift to the world—if we remember that values—we remember our uniqueness and the values we hold dear, we can bring peace, and that's going to happen.

And here at home, we'll have a better America too—a better America. Out of the evil done to this country is going to come a society which is more hopeful. See, you and I know that amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There are people who are hopeless, addicted, people who wonder if there is such a thing as love, people when you say, "Gosh, the American Dream applies to you," they don't have any idea what you're talking about. My attitude is—and I know John shares this with me—anytime any of hurt, we all hurt. Anytime somebody suffers, society suffers.

And Government can help. We'll work on Medicare and health issues and education issues. But we've got to remember the limitations of Government. While Government can hand out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts; it can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to help people who hurt is to encourage our fellow American to put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you, brother. I love you, sister." We can help in all kinds of ways.

Today, Rick Huffman came out to the airport. Rick, stand up. I know—[*applause*]. I appreciate you coming. Let me tell you why I'm introducing Rick, because he understands society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. See, Rick is a mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters right here in Sioux Falls. Rick is doing his part. Rick is—and there's his little brother. Yes, sir. There is a young man who is headed for college. I can see it, as sure as I'm standing here. Rick is going to help him work hard, and he's going to go to college and realize the greatness of this country.

And Rick is what I'm talking about. See, all of us can be a soldier in the army of compassion here in America. Many of you are, and I want to thank you for what you're doing.

No, out of the evil done to this country is going to come some great good. And the American spirit is strong and alive. It's a spirit that says, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we'll defend them. It also says that being a patriot means you serve something greater than yourself.

Flight 93 comes to mind when I'm thinking about the American spirit. Citizens were flying across the country on that fateful day. They heard the airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They realized this plane was going to crash into the ground and kill. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. The American spirit is strong and alive in America today.

It is alive and well because of values such as those South Dakota values. It is alive and well. It allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will come peace in the world and a better, more hopeful America here at home.

And I can say that with certainty, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth. I'm honored you'd be here tonight. Thank you for supporting John. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative John R. Thune, senatorial candidate, his wife, Kimberley, and their daughters, Brittany and Larissa; Gov. Bill Janklow of South Dakota, candidate for Representative At Large from South Dakota; gubernatorial candidate Mike Rounds; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

**Statement on Signing the 21st
Century Department of Justice
Appropriations Authorization Act
November 2, 2002**

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2215, entitled the "21st Century Department of

Justice Appropriations Authorization Act." The Act grants and amends statutory authorities relating to Federal law enforcement activities and authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice.

Section 202 of the Act adds a new section 530D to title 28, United States Code, that purports to impose on the executive branch substantial obligations for reporting to the Congress activities of the Department of Justice involving challenges to or nonenforcement of law that conflicts with the Constitution. The executive branch shall construe section 530D of title 28, and related provisions in section 202 of the Act, in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. To implement section 202(b)(3) of the Act, the Attorney General, on my behalf, shall advise the heads of executive agencies of the enactment of section 202 and of this direction concerning construction of that section and section 530D of title 28. Furthermore, section 202(a) requires that the President report to the Congress the issuance of any "unclassified Executive Order or similar memorandum or order" that establishes or implements a policy of intra-circuit non-acquiescence or of refraining from enforcing, applying, or administering a Federal statute, rule, regulation, program, or policy on the ground that it is unconstitutional. Based upon the text and structure of this section, the executive branch shall construe this reporting obligation to cover only unclassified orders in writing that are officially promulgated and are not included in the reports of the Attorney General or other Federal officers to whom this section applies.

Section 205(b) of the Act amends section 1913 of title 18, United States Code, relating to use of Federal appropriated funds for certain advocacy activities. Section 1913, as amended, does not prohibit the making of any communication whose prohibition by section 1913 "might, in the opinion of the Attorney General, violate the Constitution or interfere with the conduct of foreign policy,

counter-intelligence, intelligence, or national security activities.” This provision will accordingly be interpreted to avoid applications that might violate the Constitution or interfere with foreign policy and other functions. Further, the executive branch shall construe section 1913 as amended in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs, to supervise the unitary executive branch, and to recommend to the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient. Finally, section 1913 states that “violations of this section shall constitute violations of section 1352(a) of title 31.” The only reasonable construction of this statutory language is that it makes applicable the penalties set forth in section 1352(a) to violations of section 1913, and the executive branch shall construe this provision accordingly.

Provisions in the Act, including sections 207(d), 309, and 11025(a), purport to require executive branch officials to submit to the Congress plans for internal executive branch activities or recommendations relating to legislation. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 402 of the Act adds sections 2002 and 2004 to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which purport to give “final authority” to a subordinate of the Attorney General over certain grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the subordinate’s office and to allow the Attorney General to act on behalf of the President to give the subordinate a role representing the U.S. Government at the United Nations and other international fora. The executive branch shall construe sections 2002 and 2004 in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs and, subject to those authorities, with the Secretary of State’s authority pursuant to 22 U.S.C. section 2672.

Section 2301(c) of the Act requires the Attorney General to “devise a plan to implement recommendations of the General Accounting Office to” accomplish goals specified in the statute. Consistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*, the executive branch shall construe section 2301(c) as referring only to recommendations of the GAO in existence at the time of enactment of the Act and as requiring the devising of a plan and submission of a report on the plan, but not implementation of the plan.

Section 2303(b) purports to give the Comptroller General, a legislative agent, a right of access to all relevant documents and information that the Comptroller General deems necessary in conducting a study required by the Act. The executive branch shall construe section 2303(b) in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties.

Section 2504 purports to require the Attorney General to conduct a prosecutor exchange program with a foreign country. The executive branch shall construe section 2504 in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authorities to conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 11015 of the Act purports to give U.S. Attorneys in certain circumstances “exclusive authority” to select an annuity broker for structured settlement purposes. The executive branch shall construe this section in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 11026(c) of the Act purports to require all Federal law enforcement agencies to comply with requests from the General Accounting Office for certain information in the course of GAO preparation of a report on crime statistics. The executive branch shall construe section 11026(c) in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities

of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 2, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2215, approved November 2, was assigned Public Law No. 107-273. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 4.

Remarks in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. So I couldn't think of a better place to roll over in my bed and—[*laughter*—and say to Laura, “Happy birthday.” Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a great place. I want to thank you all for coming. Old Jim Leach said, “If you come by, we may be able to get a couple of our friends over early in the morning before election day.” I said, “All right, I'll come.” [*Laughter*] He's always understated things. [*Laughter*]

I really do appreciate coming out so early in the morning. It shows your concern for our democracy. Laura and I are working our way home. I'll be voting in Crawford, Texas, tomorrow morning, and so will she. I'm not undecided. [*Laughter*] And I'm not undecided about what's best for Iowa, either. I'm here to urge the good folks of Iowa from all political parties to vote. See, we have a duty as Americans to support our democracy. We have an obligation as citizens of this free land to exercise our right to express ourselves in the voting booths. We have that obligation. I don't care whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or could care less about political party, you have an obligation to America. Part of the American spirit is the participation by our citizens.

But when you get in that voting booth here in Iowa, I've got some suggestions for you. Jim Leach is the right man for the United States Congress. Doug Gross is the right man

to be your Governor. Greg Ganske is the right man to represent you in the United States Senate.

We've got two other candidates—three other candidates here today, running for Congress, a good man named Jim Nussle, Tom Latham and Stan Thompson. They're all running, and they're good folks, good, honorable folks.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to say thanks to the senior Senator from Iowa, Mr. Chuck Grassley. I remember traveling the State with Chuck. He knows everybody. [*Laughter*] We're driving along, he says, “That's where the old Jones house is.” He said, “I shook their hand 10 years ago.” [*Laughter*] He not only does a great job here in Iowa; he does a fantastic job in Washington, DC. And it makes sense to send another Senator up there with whom he can work and with whom I can work, and that Senator is Greg Ganske.

Ganske is leading a lot of issues. He's leading on these medical issues that are going to make a big difference in people's lives. He's for Patients' Bill of Rights. He's for modernizing Medicare. He wants to make sure the Iowa seniors are treated fairly. He's a doctor. He's a compassionate soul. He's the kind of person with whom I can work. And there's a lot of issues I need to work on in the United States Senate.

Perhaps one of the most crucial issues is the judiciary. It's a defining issue, as far as I'm concerned. It's a fundamental issue, and we've got a problem because the leadership in the Senate has done a lousy job with my nominees. And the problem is, there's a vacancy gap in America. There's a problem on the bench. We can't get our nominees through the Senate. They're playing needless politics with them. And in some cases, they're distorting their records. They don't like my nominees because I'm putting good, honorable people up there who will not use the bench from which to legislate but will use the bench to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

I know I can count on Greg, just like I've been counting on Chuck Grassley's support. I hope you send him to the Senate. It's in the best interest of this State; it's in the best

interest of our country that Greg Ganske represent us in Washington, DC.

Congressional District 1 is represented by Jim Nussle. He's the chairman of the Budget Committee. I can't imagine anybody in their right mind getting rid of a chairman. It doesn't make any sense. Maybe I'm missing something when some Iowa citizens say it makes sense to get rid of powerful chairmen. That's not the politics I remember. It seems like to me that when you've got somebody in an important position that could help their district and help their State, you want to keep them there, particularly somebody like Nussle, who is doing a fantastic job.

See, Jim and I understand this. We're not spending the Government's money in Washington, DC. As the chairman of the Budget Committee, it's important to have somebody who understands, it's the people's money we spend. And we better have people watch the people's money. Nussle is a good man who deserves to be reelected to the United States Congress.

And then there's Tom Latham, out of the Fourth Congressional District. I know him well. I've worked closely with him on a lot key issues related to the citizens of Iowa. He's been strong about making sure our communities are drug-free and are safe. He understands that, like the other Members up here, we got to work together to keep the commitments of Social Security. He's the right man for Congressional District 4. He's done a fantastic job in the past. There's no doubt in my mind he'll continue that tradition of excellence. Tom Latham deserves to be reelected to the United States Congress.

Stan Thompson is running from the Third. He's with us today. Stan is a good, young, bright star of the Republican Party. He's got him an uphill climb. He's got a tough race. I walked on the stage; he looked me right in the eye; and he said, "Mr. President, if we turn out the vote, I'm going to the United States Congress." And I appreciate you being here, Stan. I'm honored that you're here. I appreciate the fact that you're running. And I'm going to take you for—your word for it. I look forward to working with you.

And then from the Fifth Congressional District is Steve King, State Senator Steve King. Nothing—you can't take anything for

granted in politics, but I'll bet—well, I shouldn't bet anything. *[Laughter]* I'm looking forward—let me put it to you this way: I'm looking forward to working with the man in the United States Congress. He's run a great campaign. I appreciate him coming.

One thing I certainly know something about is what it takes to be a good Governor. I understand the role of Governor in a State. The Governor must set some priorities. You can't try to be all things to all people—can't try to promise everybody everything with the people's money; otherwise, you can't control your budget. You got to have the courage to set priority. Doug Gross knows how to do that. He understands how to set clear priorities so that your money isn't wasted, so that your money is focused, so you don't have these kind of endless budget crises that you try to blame on somebody else. You need somebody who can manage the budget as your Governor.

You also got to have somebody who will set education as the number one priority. Iowa's got a good reputation in its schools. Better make sure you got a Governor who keeps that reputation strong by challenging the status quo when it needs to be challenged, by praising teachers when you find excellence. But demanding excellence for every single child in Iowa is absolutely essential with your next Governor. You've got to have a Governor who is not beholden to the special interests that tend to capture the statehouses. You've got to have a Governor, when it comes to education, who's got one interest in mind. And that's the school-children and their parents of the State of Iowa. And that person is Doug Gross. He'll make you a fine Governor for the State of Iowa. I look forward to working with him.

No, I appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here, the party chairman, Chuck, and all the people who are working hard to turn out the vote, all the people who are manning the phones and putting up the signs. See, these elections, they're kind of tight. And a tight election means you can have a tremendous influence on who wins. So Laura and I are here today to thank you for what you have done, and more importantly, thank you for what you're going to do, today and tomorrow, to get people to the

polls, to turn them out, to not only encourage them to vote but encourage them to vote for the right person.

And don't be afraid to—talking to Democrats. There's some discerning Democrats who know the difference between lousy Government and good Government, and they want good Government. Make sure you find those independent souls who are looking for good, honorable people.

And there's nobody more honorable in this race than Jim Leach. He's a breath of fresh air in Washington, DC. He's so honest, he squeaks. [*Laughter*] He's an independent thinker. But when he thinks, he's profound in thought. He's not the typical person that you think would be in politics. I can't imagine anybody in their right mind in Congressional District 2 putting this man out of office. I don't understand the thinking. Not only do I not understand the thinking about why you would turn back somebody who is full of integrity and decency and courage of his convictions but also turn back another chairman. This man has worked hard in the Congress to build up—put himself in a position where he can influence policy in a positive way. He's the kind of man you want representing you in Congress because you can turn to your kids and say, "I'm proud of Jim Leach. I'm proud of how he handles himself."

And so I hope you go turn out that vote in this Congressional District 2. It's important. And when he wins, you can take great satisfaction in knowing you had a big hand in influencing the outcome of this election.

And there's some reasons why I'm here. I want some allies in Congress to work with on key issues. Not only am I here because I understand the character of the people that are represented on this stage, but we've got some key issues ahead of us. Of course, we've got a—our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. It's bumping and bumping. And therefore, some people can't find work, and when they can't find work, it says to me we got a problem. The best way to help people find work—and this is a fundamental difference of philosophy—is to let people keep more of their own money.

See, when you have more money in your pocket, when more of your own money—I

want you to remember this fundamental economic fact, that when you've got more money in your own pocket, you're likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody in Iowa or somebody around America is more likely to find work. The best way to encourage job growth is to let you keep your own money. And therefore, I need people in the Senate and the House of Representatives who will make the tax cuts permanent.

I don't know what they're saying here in these campaigns, but I'm beginning to hear that echo around the country that says, "Well, we might ought to revisit the tax relief." That's code word; that's Washington, DC, speak for, "I'm fixing to get back into your pocket." The worst thing for economic vitality and jobs is to increase your taxes. And these Members up here on the stage are going to work with me to make sure that the tax relief is permanent and real, and you can plan on it.

Good economic policy means good farm policy. And I look forward to working with these Members on good farm policy. We took a step toward good farm policy by opening up markets for Iowa growers. Iowa farmers are the best in the world. They're the most productive in the world. And if you're the best in the world, you want to have a chance to sell your product all around the world. And I want to thank these Members up here, all the Members of Congress—and Ganske, soon to be in the Senate; of course, Chuck Grassley—for joining together to grant the President the capacity to open up markets for Iowa farmers. It's important to do that.

It's also important to continue to promote ethanol, which I will do, and work with these Members to promote ethanol. And there's another cutting-edge issue when it comes to farmers, people who own the land, and that's the death tax. See, people talking about the family farm—a lot of people have to give up their farms prematurely in order to pay the Government twice. First pay them if they ever make any money. Then they pay them on the value of their assets when they die.

It's bad for farmers. It's bad for the agriculture community. The death tax is running too many people off their farms too early. The death tax is bad for small-business owners who want to leave their assets to somebody they choose, not to the Federal Government. A key issue in this campaign is, are we going to get rid of the death tax once and for all? I'm for it. These Members are for it, and you should be for it.

I'm looking forward to working with these folks on good education policy. Thanks to the Members up here, we're sending a record amount of Federal money back to Iowa schools. And I want to thank them for that help. I want to thank Leach and Nussle and Latham and Greg Ganske and Chuck Grassley for working hard on behalf of the citizens of this State. But I want you to remember, for the first time in our State's history—our country's history and your State's history—we're saying, "We want something in return for the money." See, we're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe every child can learn. We're going to set high standards. We believe in local control of schools. But in return for excess—additional Federal money, we want us to—we want you to show us and to show everybody else whether or not every child in this State is learning. And when they are, we'll praise the teachers. But we refuse to accept schools which won't teach and won't change. No child should be left behind in the State of Iowa.

I look forward to working with these Members for good health policy. Make no mistake about it, they're leading the charge in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to make sure that the Medicare system works. Oh, the others talk a good game, but they haven't delivered. The House of Representatives, controlled—led by Denny Hastert, passed a prescription drug benefit, and yet it can't get out of the Senate. There's a lot of good talkers in Washington. We need doers.

The Medicare issue is an important issue. It's an important issue for Iowa for two reasons: One, the formulas need to be fair for the Iowa citizens, and these Members are working to make the formulas fair; and secondly, medicine has changed. Medicine is

modern. Things have changed in the medical world. Technology has changed. There's new discoveries which make it easier for people to become healthy. And yet, Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare hasn't changed. It's been so politically driven, nothing can get done. These Members can get it unstuck. They can help me modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our senior citizens.

And finally, I look forward to working with these Members, and it's—up there on the biggest issue we face, which is your protection. See, that's the number one issue. So long as there's an enemy out there lurking around, our biggest responsibility is to protect our homeland; it's to do everything we can to protect innocent life from nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, people who hate us because of what we love. See, we love freedom. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact people can speak their mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not changing.

They're out there, and they're out there moving around. But we got the message, and therefore, there's a lot of good people working hard to protect you. Anytime we get any lead, any hint of evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're working long hours to protect the American people. And that's the way it should be.

But we can do a better job. That's why I asked the Congress to join me in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, where we can get all the—bunch up these people that are involved with your protection into one agency, so there's one culture, one priority, and that's your protection; so that the good people at the Federal level understand what the new rules are—the rules of the game in our world. And the rules are, we got to do everything we can to protect you. It's changed. The nature of our life has changed, and we've got to change with it.

The House of Representatives, thanks to the Members up here, voted a good piece of legislation out, which I can say will give me the capacity to be able to manage this organization and protect you. The bill is stuck

in the Senate because the Senate wants me to give up power that Presidents have had for 40 years. And that power is the capacity for a President to suspend some collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security.

In other words, if there are rules involved that prevent me from putting the right people at the right place at the right time for your protection, I ought to be able to suspend those rules. I ought to be able to do what it takes to protect you. But the Senate has a lousy version. They're more interested in special interests, which dominate the dialog in Washington, DC, than they are in protecting the American people. I refuse to accept a lousy bill, and I need Senators like Grassley and Ganske to support the creation of a Department of Homeland Security which will work.

Now, there's a good, honest debate on this issue. But we can't have a big, thick of bureaucratic rules preventing this President and future Presidents from doing whatever it takes to keep the homeland secure. The best way to secure this homeland is to stay on the hunt, to get this enemy on the run, and to bring them to justice, which is exactly what this country is going to do.

You got to understand, it's a different kind of war. In the old days, we blew up tanks and airplanes, and everybody said, "Well, they're making progress." These folks we're after hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They don't value life like we do. See, in this country, we say, "Everybody matters. Everybody is precious. Everybody counts. Every life counts." These people are willing to take innocent life in the name of a great religion.

Not only do I want you to remember September the 11th, but I want you to think about Indonesia and the attack on our marines in Kuwait, the attack on a French freighter. I mean, they're out there. And the only way to deal with them—and by the way, I've come to the conclusion, and I hope you have, that therapy is not going to work. [Laughter] So we're chasing them down. We're chasing them down. We're making good progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling that terrorist network.

I went to the Congress and asked for the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. I want to thank the Members up here for their support. No question where they stand. No question where they—they believe that I believe that anytime we put our troops into harm's way, these youngsters deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And also, our message is real firm to friend and foe, alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend freedom; we're going to defend freedom. It just doesn't matter. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says, such-and-such a date, we're quitting. That's not how I think. That's not how these Members think. See, history has called us into action. We have an obligation to future generations of Americans, and we're not going to forsake that obligation. And it doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how deep the cave. The United States of America, with a great United States military and a strong alliance for freedom, will work hard all of the time to protect the homeland and protect our freedoms.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important—it is important for us to be realistic about the threats to our country. Times have changed. Used to be, oceans could protect us, and therefore, we could see a gathering threat and maybe deal with it or maybe not. Used to be, we could be quite confident in our capacity to protect our homeland because we never thought an enemy could make it to our shore. And we learned a tough lesson. We did. And therefore, it's important for all of us in elective office to be clear-eyed about the threats we face, to see the world exactly the way it is, not the way we wish it would be. In order to protect America from current threats and future threats, we've got to be cold-eyed realists, and that's why I brought up the issue of Saddam Hussein.

See, I view him as a serious threat to America. I see him as a threat to our country because I understand his hatred toward America and, equally important, his hatred toward our friends in the Middle East. This

is a man who has deceived the world for 11 long years. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He's got them. We know for a fact he was close to having a nuclear weapon at one time. We don't know how close he is today because he has stiff-armed the United Nations.

We not only know he's got chemical weapons, but incredibly enough he's used chemical weapons. He's used them in his neighborhood; he's used them on his own people. This is a man who has got terrorist connections, who would like nothing more than to provide—be the arsenal and the training grounds for these coldblooded killers. And they could attack us, and he would leave no fingerprints behind. He's a threat.

I went to the United Nations, I want to assure you, because I want the United Nations to be effective. I want it to work. I want this collection of body—this body of countries to work together to make the country free, to promote the peace. The United Nations can be effective. But for 11 years and 16 resolutions, this man has defied the United Nations. It's an historic moment, as far as I'm concerned, for the U.N. They can show the world whether or not they can work together to keep the peace, whether they be the United Nations, or whether they'll be the League of Nations, an ineffective debating society. And the choice is theirs.

And the choice is Saddam Hussein's as well. For the sake of peace, he must disarm. He said he would disarm. But if he doesn't disarm, and if the United Nations cannot find the backbone necessary to assume its responsibilities, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, for the sake of doing our obligations to our children, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I believe that. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They said this country must have a religion called materialism, that we were so selfish, so self-absorbed, probably looking at ourselves in the mirror all the time, that all we would do after 9/11/2001 is step back and maybe file a lawsuit. That's what they thought.

They don't understand the determination and drive. They don't understand the American spirit. I believe if we're—remain strong and firm in our conviction and clear in our thinking, if we don't forget our roots and remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to the world, if we stand true to our beliefs, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace.

That's the vision of this Government, is to achieve peace not only at home but in parts of the world. See, every life matters to Americans. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious, not just a few—everyone. And we want peace for people all around the world, and we can achieve it. By staying the course and remaining strong, we can have peace not only for America but for the Middle East and South Asia. It is possible. As a matter of fact, I believe it's going to happen.

And I know what's going to happen here at home. We'll be a better society as a result of what's happened. A lot of people have taken a step back and kind of taken an assessment, an inventory of their lives, and realized that the American spirit says we've got serve something greater than ourself in life. Government can help; we'll help people in need. Listen, there are people who hurt in Iowa, and they hurt all around America. There's addiction and loneliness and hopelessness in this country. And if any of us hurt, we all hurt. And we've got to do something about it. And Government will help. We'll all work together to try to help. But Government is limited in its capacity. And that's what we know up here on this stage. Government can't put hope in people's hearts or love in people's lives.

No, the best way to help bring light where there's darkness, to help people see a better tomorrow, is for the strength of the country to step forward. And the strength of the country is the heart and soul of American people. People are stepping around—coming around. They're saying, "What can I do to help?" And they're putting their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you." There are mentors in this audience who are making a difference. There are Boy Scout leaders and Girl Scout leaders who are making a difference, and Boys' and Girls' Club leaders—people who are working hard to

change America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. There's going to be peace in the world, and we'll have a better tomorrow, a hope—more hopeful America, an America where everybody understands the great promise of this country belongs to them just as much as to their neighbor.

You know, the American spirit means not only should we participate in the process, the democratic process; the American spirit says that when we're threatened, we respond. We defend our freedoms. We have an obligation to future generations. But the American spirit also says that we must serve something greater than ourself.

It was personified vividly to me—I want the youngsters here to remember the story of Flight 93, people flying across the country that fateful day. They heard the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. The spirit of this country is strong and alive and well, and it allows me to boldly predict that we'll have a more peaceful world, and a more—better America.

Thanks for coming. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Doug Gross; senatorial candidate Greg Ganske; Chuck Larson, Jr., chairman, Republican Party of Iowa; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in St. Louis, Missouri

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. And Laura and I are sure glad we came. We're wandering our way back to Texas. See, tomorrow is election day, and we intend to vote. And we're not undecided. [*Laughter*] And I'm not undecided who ought to be the next United States Senator from Missouri, and that ought to be Jim Talent.

It's good to be here in St. Charles County, and to be with a lot of our friends from the St. Louis area. We appreciate you taking this election seriously. See, that's part of the American spirit. It's the spirit which is strong today. It's the spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedoms. It's the spirit that says part of being a patriot is to serve something greater than yourself in life. It's the spirit that says, if you love freedom, then you have an obligation as a citizen of this country to participate in the elections. If you believe in freedom, then you have a responsibility to maintain that democratic system by doing your duty.

And so I'm here in the State of Missouri to urge all folks, Republicans and Democrats and independents, to go to the polls. And when you get in that box, I've got a suggestion: For the good of Missouri and for the good of the United States of America, Jim Talent is the man for Senate. Laura and I are really proud of the campaign he has run, and we're really proud of the fact that he and Brenda hold family values dear to their heart.

I'm also proud to be up here with a Senator who's done a fine job on behalf of all the citizens of Missouri, a man I'm proud to call friend, and that's Senator Kit Bond. I know we've got some Members of Congress here: Todd Akin and Jo Ann Emerson and Kenny Hulshof. They're fine members of the United States congressional delegation. I'm proud to call them friends. I'm proud to call them ally.

See, that's what I'm looking for, some allies, somebody who we can count on to do the right thing for America, somebody whose vote we can count on to do the right thing to make sure this country is strong and safe and a better place.

I want to thank John Lewis for running for the State senate. I wish John all the best. Particularly proud to have met Carole Buck, the wife of the great voice of the Cardinals, Jack Buck, a fine man and a fine American.

Thrilled to know that our family friend is here, the man who can really sing. I wish I'd have been here to hear him sing. I'm a country and western fan, and one of my favorites is Randy Travis. I'm proud that Randy is here, and Elizabeth is here—Randy is

here, and Elizabeth, and a friend, Jay Shields, is with them. I'm honored they're here. I appreciate them coming to support this good man.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for coming, the grassroots activists. I want to thank you for what you have done in the past, but more importantly, I want to thank you for what you're going to do today and tomorrow, and that is to turn out the vote. This man has been working hard all over this State, putting out a positive message, and now he needs your help to gather up Republicans and discerning Democrats—*[laughter]*—like-minded independents and get them to the polls. Tell them they have an obligation. They have an obligation to vote, and they have the obligation to support the best candidate. And that best candidate, without a doubt, for the sake of the future of this country, is Jim Talent.

He's shown on this campaign that he can bring dignity to a process that needs dignity, that he's not going to fall prey to the same old, tired politics of tearing somebody down to get ahead. He's treated his opponent with respect because he believes strongly in what he stands for. He stands on solid ground with ideology and principle. And therefore, he doesn't need to resort to the old-style politics. He is a breath of fresh air, and believe me, we need some breaths of fresh air in Washington, DC.

And he's got a record. He's an accomplished man. He served in the Congress, and when he did, he was the leader about promoting small business. And we need people up there who understand how jobs are created. The role of Government is not to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which a small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. And Jim Talent understands that. He understands the importance of entrepreneurship in our society.

And we need that kind of understanding in Washington because we got some problems with our economy. It's not strong like it should be. I like to say it's just bumping along. And therefore, there are too many people looking for a job who can't find work. I need to have allies in the United States Senate who understand growth and job cre-

ation. And one way to help people find work is to let people keep more of their own money.

See, when you've got more of your own money in your pocket, you're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, guess what happens? Somebody is more likely to find work. The best thing we did to help job creation was to cut your taxes. And we need to have a United States Senator from Missouri who will join Kit Bond in making the tax cuts permanent.

Jim's got a record on important legislation. He wrote the welfare reform bill, and that's an important piece of legislation. It's a great accomplishment because it helped a lot of people move from dependency upon Government to independence, moved people from being dependent upon the Government check to realizing their own worth because they were able to earn their own check. The core ingredient to successful welfare that he saw then—and I need his help to make sure we continue to see it in Washington—is to help people find work, is to train them for work, find work, and encourage them to work. And that's the best way to have welfare dependency reduced in America.

I look forward to working with Jim on some—a couple of other keys issues. On education—I have a passion for education, and he shares that passion. We've raised the standards in America. See, that's what we need to do. We've raised the bar because we want to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe every child can learn in America. We understand that if you have low standards and lousy—low standards are going to get lousy results. If you have low expectations, that's what you're going to get. And so we passed an education reform bill that sets the highest of high standards.

Inherent in that bill is the great trust in the citizens of Missouri. See, we believe in local control of schools. The people who care more about the children of Missouri are the citizens of Missouri, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. But what's important in this bill is that we're sending a lot of money back home, but we expect results for that

money. For the first time we started asking the fundamental question, can our children read and write and add and subtract—finally asking that question. If we believe they can, then it would make sense to ask the question.

And when we find children in schools that are doing well, we're going to praise the teachers and the principals and the parents. But we need allies in Washington who are not so beholden to special interests that when we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, that we do not accept the status quo. No child should be left behind in the State of Missouri.

I look forward to working with Jim Talent and Kit Bond to make sure our health care system works better. We've got too many lawsuits, too many junk lawsuits that are clogging our courts, so that if you've got a legitimate claim, you can't get in front of a judge. But those junk lawsuits are also running up the cost of medicine for you, and they're driving good docs out of business. We need medical liability reform in Washington, DC.

We need to make sure Medicare works. We made a promise to our seniors, and we need to keep that promise. Medicine has changed. It's modern. Technologies have changed. There's new discoveries which have made medicine more effective. Yet Medicare is stuck in the past. It's been used as a political football. We need to get people in the Senate with whom I can work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for every senior in the State of Missouri.

And I'll tell you another big issue and another big difference in this campaign, and that has to do with our Federal judiciary. I have a responsibility to name good people to the bench. I've named a lot of really good people to the bench, but the bunch running the Senate has done a lousy job on my nominees. You need to know the facts. The facts are, we've got too many vacancies on our Federal bench because they're playing politics. And sometimes they're distorting the record of these good people I've named. We need to get rid of all that stuff, for the sake of our solid judiciary. I've been naming good, honorable, honest people, but they don't like the fact that the people I named will not use the bench from which to legislate; they will use the bench to strictly interpret the United

States Constitution. And I know I'll be able to count on Senator Jim Talent's support for putting up judges that you'll be proud of, judges whose philosophy the vast majority of the people of this State of Missouri support.

But the biggest issue we'll be working on together is going to be to protect you from further attack. That's the biggest issue we face in America. And we face it because we haven't finished bringing the terrorists to justice. They're still out there, and they still hate. They hate because of what we love. They're motivated by hate. We're motivated by the love of freedom. We love our freedoms. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can speak their mind freely. We love a free press. We love every aspect of freedom, and we're not going to change.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. So long as there's an active enemy out there, we've got to be on alert here at home. Listen, we got notified; they put us on notice. And so, therefore, there's a lot of good people working on your behalf to protect you—people at the Federal level, the State level, people at the local level—a lot of really fine, fine American people doing everything they can to run down any hint, any piece of evidence that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But I went to Congress because I think there's a better way to even further our ability to protect the homeland, and that is to set up a Department of Homeland Security. I went there because I understand in Washington there's over 100 agencies involved with your protection, the protection of America. I felt, since this is the number one priority of our Government, that they ought to be under one agency to help set priority and, if need be, to change culture so people get the message that we're still under threat and we have to do everything we can to help you.

The House of Representatives responded quickly with a really good piece of legislation, which I can tell you will enable this President and future Presidents to better do a job of

protecting America. But the bill is stuck in the Senate. And I need Senators like Kit Bond and Jim Talent who will work with me to have a Department of Homeland Security which will meet your expectations.

The reason the bill is stuck in the Senate is because some of the Senators there want to take away power that every President has had for the last 40 years, which will allow a President to suspend certain collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. In other words, if there are work rules that stand in the way of our capacity to deal with an enemy which is trying to hit us, then I ought to be able to suspend those work rules. I ought to be able to do what is necessary to protect the American people. Unfortunately, they—some in the Senate have been captured by special interests. The main interest I have in mind is the security of the American people. I am not going to accept a lousy bill from the United States Senate. And one way to make sure I don't get a lousy bill is to send a man up there who understands what I'm talking about, and that man is Jim Talent.

But the best way to protect America, short-term and long-term, is to find these killers, no matter where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that is what we're doing. And that's what—sometimes you'll see, and sometimes you won't. But you just got to know that the United States is on the hunt.

And we're on the hunt after an enemy which is a little different from any enemy we've ever faced. See, in the old days, you would get their tanks and their airplanes, and you knew you were making progress. These folks hide in caves. They hide in kind of the dark corners of cities around the world, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. There's a difference of attitude, of course, because in America we value every life. We say, "Everybody is precious. Every life counts." And the enemy we face, they've hijacked a great religion. And they don't care about life. They murder. And they're tough, but they're not as tough as the United States of America.

And I know I'll be able to count on Jim's support, just like I could count on Kit's and the Members' of Congress support, to make

sure that our military has the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment. I signed the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President for that reason. But there's another reason why. I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says, by such-and-such a date, you've got to quit. That's not the way we think in America. It doesn't matter how long it takes. When it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we will stay the course.

And we're working with other nations. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. That doctrine still is relevant. And so there's a lot of folks joining in this hunt. And we got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run until we bring them to justice. That's what we owe this generation of Americans. That's what we owe future generations of Americans.

But as we're thinking about Al Qaida, we've also got to look at all threats. See, the world changed on September 11th this way. It used to be oceans could protect us, or at least we thought so—if we saw a gathering threat overseas, that we could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to deal with that threat because there was two oceans. By geography, America was safe, we assumed. The battlefields would be elsewhere. Sometimes we decided to deal with the threat to freedom and democracy; sometimes we didn't. But we were comfortable.

It's important, after September 11th, to realize that oceans no longer protect us. Therefore, every threat matters. And we've got to assess every threat. We've got to be cold-eyed realists about the world. We must have people in Congress and in Washington who see the world exactly the way it is, not the way we would hope it would be. If we're—if our number one priority is to protect to you, then we've got to take every threat seriously.

And that's why I started the dialog on Saddam Hussein. He's a threat. He's a threat to our country because of his—the nature of his regime and the nature of the man, himself. He's a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's denied

and deceived the world for 11 years. A while ago we discovered that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, but a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon is a true threat to America and our friends and allies.

He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He's got them, but even more amazingly, he's used them. And he's used them not only on his neighbors, but he's used them on his own people. This is a person who is willing to gas his own citizens. This is a man who can't stand America and what we believe in. This is a man who hates some of our closest allies. This is a man who has had Al Qaida connections. I want you to think about a scenario in which he becomes the arsenal and the training grounds for shadowy terrorists so that he can attack somebody he hates and not leave any fingerprints behind. He is a threat. He's also a threat to whether or not an international body can perform its duty to keep the peace.

I went to the United Nations and I said to the United Nations, "We want you to succeed. It will make it easier to keep the peace when nations are bound together. It will make it much easier for us to defend freedom if we need to, with the new threats we face in the 21st century. But for 16 resolutions, this man has defied you. Not one resolution, not five resolutions but resolution after resolution after resolution, he has defied you."

I said to the United Nations, and I'm saying it today, "You have a choice. You have a choice to show the world whether you have the capacity to work together to disarm Saddam Hussein for the sake of peace, whether you'll be an effective United Nations, or whether you'll be like one of your forerunners, the League of Nations, an empty debating society." It's their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein has a choice to make: For the sake of peace, he must disarm like he said he would do. But my fellow Americans, just as the Congress spoke the other day about my attitude, I want to share it with you: For the sake of our freedoms, for the sake of doing our duty to address serious threats in a serious way, and for the sake of world peace—and I mean that—for the sake of world peace, if the United Nations will not act, and if Saddam Hussein will not

disarm, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm him.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought that materialism was our national religion, that people were so self-absorbed and selfish in America, that after 9/11/2001, we might file a lawsuit or two—[laughter]—but that's about all we had in us, that's all we—they don't understand us. They don't realize what I know, that out of the evil they have done to America is going to come some good. Out of the evil done to this great country is going to come some good. And one of the good things that's going to happen, if we stay the course, if we're strong, if we speak clearly, if we're decisive, if we understand that freedom is not America's gift to the world but is God's gift to the world—if we understand those values, if we stay true to our beliefs and true to our responsibilities, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for our country; we can achieve peace for parts of the world that have quit on peace. I believe that. I believe that history has given us a chance, and this great country is going to seize the moment.

And here at home, it's important to realize that we have a chance to make America a better place, that while we work to make America a safer and stronger place, we can work to make America a better place as well.

And Government can help. We can pass law or we can work to make the public school systems work better or the welfare laws work better, make sure the health care systems function. But there's a lot of people that that's not going to matter to because they're hopeless, they're addicted, they're lost. You say, "American Dream," they have no idea what you're talking about. Amongst our plenty, there are pockets of loneliness and despair. And if any of us hurts, we all hurt, as far as I'm concerned.

And the best way to deal with those folks, the best way to help them is to remember that Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. The best way to help them is to rally the

true strength of America, the heart of America, and encourage people to put their arm around somebody who hurts and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I make your life a better life?" And that's part of the American spirit that is so strong and alive today, the fact that people all across this country understand that serving something greater than yourself is part of being an American patriot.

Today I met Tim Mosier from the USA Freedom Corps. He has been a law enforcement guy, been involved in emergency management. And he takes time now to volunteer, teaching citizens in Pettis County emergency response and preparedness skills. That's one way somebody can help, and we can help all kinds of ways. You can mentor a child, run a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. You can feed the hungry. You can find shelter for the homeless. There's all kinds of ways to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the spirit of America is alive and well in this country. People have taken a step back and have assessed their life, and they realize that service to a country, service to a cause, service to something greater than yourselves is part of that American experience.

I want the youngsters here to remember the story of Flight 93, one of most profound parts of this entire history—of the recent history we've been through, profound because it's a story of the American spirit. People flying across the country on an airplane, they learned that the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They were on the phones to their loved ones, said, "Goodbye. I love you." Somebody said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives, to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the enemy hit us. When the enemy hit us, they had no idea—they had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And I will boldly predict to you, out of the evil done to America will come a better country for all of us, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Thanks for helping Jim. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. at the Family Arena. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Jim Talent and his wife, Brenda; country and western entertainer Randy Travis, and his wife, Elizabeth; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Bentonville, Arkansas

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for coming today. Thanks for coming.

Audience members. We love you, 43! [Laughter]

The President. Well, first of all, we're working our way back to Texas because tomorrow is voting day. And I intend to cast my ballot in Crawford, and Laura is going to cast hers in Crawford, and we're not undecided. And I'm not undecided about what's best for Arkansas. The best thing that can happen to Arkansas, and the best thing that can happen to America is to put Tim Hutchinson back in the U.S. Senate.

And I know something about being a Governor, and you've got a good one. You not only have a good one, you've got a great one. The best thing for Arkansas, the best thing for the taxpayers of Arkansas, the best thing for the schoolchildren of Arkansas is to re-elect Mike Huckabee.

You know, the spirit of America is really strong. The American spirit, that's that spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our country. It's that spirit that says we love freedom. But part of loving freedom means you have a responsibility. You've got a responsibility to vote. You've got a responsibility to go to the polls.

I'm here in Arkansas asking all the good citizens of this State, Republicans and Democrats, independents, people who don't give a hoot about politics, to do your duty as Americans. You have an obligation. But when you get in that voting booth I do have some suggestions—[laughter]—Hutchinson and Huckabee.

No, I'm proud to call Mike Huckabee friend. I knew him—known him for a long while. We were both Governors together,

and I've watched his passion when it comes to education. See, education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's the most important responsibility of the State Government, I think. And Mike shares that point of view.

I was here a while ago to talk about advanced reading programs, States which had changed their curriculum to make sure that every child could learn to read. One of the first States that I came to was one of the first States that responded. This State of Arkansas, led by your Governor, stepped up to the plate to make sure that every child can learn how to read.

No, he's got a heart. He cares deeply about everybody in this State. See, the thing I like about Mike, he's not one of the fellows that travels around the State saying, "Well, I'll try to help these folks only because they agree with me politically." Mike Huckabee cares for everybody in Arkansas. And that's why, coming Tuesday, this good State is going to send this good man, with overwhelming numbers, back to the statehouse.

Make sure you don't forget about Win Rockefeller either. He's done a fine job. I want to thank all the candidates who are up here with us, people who have tossed their hat in the ring, are out seeking the vote, working hard to elevate the process. I hope you give them your help, as well.

I'm honored to be here with John Boozman, a fine United States Congressman from Arkansas. I'm proud to call John friend; I'm proud to call him ally. One of the things I like about a Congressman like John is he's an independent thinker, but when it comes down to doing the right thing for America, I don't have to worry about his vote.

I appreciate the Gatlin Boys being here. I've known them for a long time. They're good buddies of mine. And we've got a couple extra seats on Air Force One, and we're heading down home, if you want a ride. [Laughter] My problem is you in—the one in the yellow tie, I'm not sure you can pass the security clearance. [Laughter] It's great to see you.

I'm also, obviously, thrilled to be traveling with Laura today. Thanks for singing "Happy Birthday" to her. That's one of the prices you pay when you marry somebody in the polit-

ical process and your birthday is on election day; you have to spend it on the road. You know, when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. The truth is, she didn't like politics in those days and didn't care for politicians. [Laughter] Thankfully, she said yes when I asked her to marry me, and she has made a great First Lady for America.

No, we're enjoying ourselves traveling around our country. And what a magnificent country we have. It's a joy to travel America and to talk to our fellow Americans. One of the things that I'm urging you all to do is the same thing that your Governor just said: Round people up to vote. You see, not only do you have an obligation to vote yourself, but you can make a difference in this election. A lot of those political pundits, the big talkers have said to the world, Hutchinson can't win. Let's prove them wrong on Tuesday.

Sometimes that's where you want your opponent, half asleep. [Laughter] You can make a difference. Find good people. In this part of the world, don't be afraid to haul some of those Democrats to the polls. They care about a good United States Senator. They want somebody who's wise about their taxpayers' money. Independent voters care about Tim Hutchinson's point of view. Just tell them, Tim Hutchinson agrees with us. He thinks like the citizens of Arkansas think. And so does Mike Huckabee.

I'm here to thank you for what you've done in the past. I know how hard you worked for Laura and me and Dick Cheney. And I want to urge you, over the next—how many hours, Governor—24, 8 hours, or whatever it is—to get out the vote. Work hard, and you'll be surprised at what's going to happen come Tuesday. And I'm going to be proud of what you do on behalf of these good candidates.

Let me see if I can put it as plainly as I can: I need Tim Hutchinson in the United States Senate. Besides the fact he's a good fellow, and I like being around him, I need his help. See, we've got some problems in the country. We've got some hurdles we've got to cross. It's going to be good to have an ally from Arkansas up there with whom I can work in the Senate.

One of the problems we have is that enough people can't find work in America. We've got some people looking, and they can't find work. And that is a problem. My attitude is, anytime anybody wants to put food on the table and can't find work to do so says we've got to worry about creating more jobs in America. We've got to expand the job base.

But here's what Tim and I believe, how to do it—see, there's a debate in Washington about how to do it. I believe if you let a person keep more of their own money they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand an additional good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan that Senator Hutchinson strongly supported came at the right time. And we need to have a Senator from Arkansas who will join me, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of the entrepreneurial spirit, for the sake of small-business owners, to make the tax cut permanent.

I've seen Tim at work, and you're going to see the products of his work in a good education bill. He worked hard on the education reform, the most meaningful piece of education reform in a long, long time out of the Federal Government. A lot of times people hear, "Well, reform out of the Federal Government may not be the kind of reform I like." But let me describe to you what I'm talking about.

First of all, this bill says every child can learn. The premise of the bill is, is that everybody has got the capacity to learn; therefore, we must set high standards and high expectations. The way I like to put it is, we're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. That means when you lower the bar, you tend to get lousy results. And that's not good enough for America. Tim knows that, Governor Huckabee knows that, and I know that.

In the bill we also are passing power out of Washington because we strongly believe in local control of schools. This year we're sending a record amount of money out of Washington back to the Arkansas school system, \$440 million. And Tim Hutchinson—

you need to tell your friends and neighbors, Tim Hutchinson had a lot to do with that money coming back to Arkansas. See, he's working hard on behalf of the citizens of Arkansas.

But in return for that money, we're now asking this question, are you getting results? In return for the money, we're asking the question, can the children read and write and add and subtract? If you believe every child can do that, it's a legitimate question then to ask the question. And when we find out if the children are, I can assure you, George W. and Governor Huckabee and Senator Hutchinson will praise the teachers and principals and parents who have worked hard to make it happen. But if we find children trapped in schools which will not teach, trapped in schools which will not change, for the sake of a better tomorrow, we are going to challenge the status quo, because no child should be left behind in the State of Arkansas.

I look forward to working with Senator Hutchinson to make the Medicare system work better. We made that promise to our seniors, and it's a promise that we're going to have to work together to keep. Senator Hutchinson in the U.S. Senate will be easier to work with to get the job done. See, Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicine is changing. Medicine is becoming modern through technologies and new discoveries. Yet Medicare has been used as a political football and is just stuck. We need to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for every senior, and the best way to do that is to send Senator Hutchinson back to the United States Senate.

No, it's a lot of issues we're going to work on. But let me tell you a cutting-edge issue, and that is the issue of judges.

Audience members. Yeah!

The President. We have a got a—too many vacancies on our Federal bench, in spite of the fact that I have sent a lot of names to the United States Senate. The bunch running the Senate up there has done a lousy job with my nominees.

Audience members. Yeah!

The President. And I want to tell you something; the kind of judges I'm nominating are the kind of judges that you would expect

me to nominate and want me to nominate. These are good and honorable people who have got good records, whose records sometimes are being distorted in the Senate, and sometimes can't even get a hearing because they're playing petty politics. These are good, honorable people who will use the bench not to legislate from but to interpret the Constitution of the United States of America.

And this should be clear to the citizens—let me—I hope to make it clear to the citizens of this State that if you're interested in a solid judiciary, if you're interested in a judiciary that represents the majority opinion in Arkansas, put Tim Hutchinson back in the United States Senate.

There are a lot of issues we're going to work on, but there's no bigger issue than protecting you from attack. That's the biggest issue we've got. That's because there's still an enemy lurking around out there, an enemy which hates America because of what we love. And we love our freedoms. We love the freedom to worship any way you see fit. We love the freedom of our campaigns. We love the freedom of our press. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not going to change.

And so long as we hold strong to what we believe in and so long as that enemy is moving around out there, we've got a job to do, and that's to protect you. There's a lot of good folks working hard and long hours to protect the American people—there just are. See, we've been warned. We're now aware that they're out there. We're aware of how mean they are. See, we've discovered that they don't value life like we do in America. We say, "Every life matters. Everybody is precious. Everybody counts." This bunch of killers are willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

And so we've got to do everything we can, and we are. Anytime we get any kind of hint that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on them; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're fulfilling the obligation that you expect us to do, which is to protect you.

And that's why I went to Congress to figure out if we couldn't do it even better. So I've proposed a Department of Homeland Security. It says that we're going to take the

agencies involved with protecting America and better coordinate them, make sure that the good folks up there get the message that this is our top priority and, if need be, change cultures, so that people are all working in concert to face the new threats of the 21st century.

And the House of Representatives passed the bill, and I want to thank John for his vote. But it's stuck in the Senate, not because of Tim Hutchinson, I might add, but it's stuck there because some Senators want to take away the power that every President since John Kennedy has had. And that power is the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules, in any Department of the Federal Government, when the national security is at stake. In other words, if there are certain work rules that prevent me from putting the right people at the right place at the right time to protect you, I have had, up to now—and if the Senate, some Senators get their way, I won't have—the ability to suspend those rules. That's what you want. You want me to be able to move quickly and to defend America.

I'm not going to accept a lousy bill from the Senate. There is no question in my mind and there should be no question in the voters of Arkansas mind, that the man who understands this issue the best, the guy who's got the best vision for homeland security in this race is Senator Tim Hutchinson.

The best way to secure this homeland, short term and long term, is to find those killers one at a time and bring them to justice. See, this is a different kind of war. It's a kind of war instead of trying to knock down airplanes and sink ships, we're looking in caves. We're putting the spotlight on some of the dark corners of the world.

Their leaders kind of hide, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the way they do it. The only way to treat them is what they are, international killers. And the only way to find them is to be patient and steadfast and hunt them down, and the United States of America is doing just that.

I sent a defense bill up to the Congress and Senator Hutchinson and Congressman Boozman were strong supporters of this defense bill. It's the largest increase in defense

spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. The message is twofold. Anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training and the best possible equipment. Senator Hutchinson knows that. He also knows what I'm about to tell you. The size of this defense bill sends a clear message to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul.

It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend the freedom of the United States. We received the call. We know what our obligations are. There's no calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says by such-and-such a date we're hauling them home. That's not how we think in America. That's not how Americans want their Government to act. Freedom is essential. Security of America is essential, and it does not matter how long it takes. And that defense bill sent that message loud and clear.

So we're after them. Sometimes you'll see it on your TV screens, and sometimes you won't. But just know we're after them, and we're after them with one of the finest United States militaries ever assembled.

No, it's important for us in Washington to be clear-eyed about the threats we face in America. See, after September the 11th, the world changed when it came to the threats to our country. In the old days—the old days not all that long ago, I might add—oceans protected us. It's not all that long ago that we could kind of settle back and say, "Well, there's a gathering threat over here, but we don't have to worry about it at home because of our geography. Oceans can protect us." There may be a potential conflict, and we could pick and choose whether we wanted to be involved in it. But we didn't have to be involved in it, necessarily, because our own people at home weren't threatened. That changed. The battlefield is here. And that's why it's important for us to evaluate every single threat that we find and deal with them appropriately.

And that's why I started the dialog on Saddam Hussein. He's a threat to America. He's a true threat to our country. This is a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, promised he wouldn't have them. He's got them. When they had the inspectors go in there a while

ago, he was—some estimated—very close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine this guy having a nuclear weapon. Imagine what it would mean to America and our friends. He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He's got them. And not only does he have them, this is a man who used them. And he used them not only on people in his neighborhood; he used them on his own citizens. This is the kind of guy we're dealing with.

This is a man who hates America. He hates our friends. He can't stand what we believe in. He's had contacts with Al Qaida. Imagine a scenario where an Al Qaida-type organization uses Iraq as an arsenal, a place to get weapons, a place to be trained to use the weapons. Saddam Hussein could use surrogates to come and attack people he hates.

No, he's a threat, and that's why I went to the United Nations. I went to the United Nations because I want that august body to work to keep the peace. I want that august body to show whether it's got the backbone necessary to hold Mr. Saddam Hussein to account. See, after all, for 11 years, they've passed resolution after resolution after resolution. Sixteen times they've passed resolutions holding this man to account, and 16 times he ignored them.

My message to that body is, "For the sake of peace, we hope you're effective. We hope you've become an effective United Nations, not the League of Nations." Their choice to make—their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein has got a choice to make. It's his choice to make. He told the world that he would disarm. We're going to hold him to his word. We expect him to disarm. But for the sake of freedom, and for the sake of peace, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm and if the United Nations is incapable of doing its duty, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

And I want to thank Senator Hutchinson and Congressman Boozman for their strong support on that resolution that came out of the halls of the United States Congress that allows America to speak with one voice on this very important subject of peace.

I say speaking "with one voice" because I believe that if we remain strong and tough when we have to be tough, we can achieve peace. That's what I believe. That's what I

want you to tell your children or your grandchildren, that amongst the talk that they're hearing, that the drive and the aim and the vision is for peace, for the world to be a peaceful world.

No, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace if we stay the course, and we can achieve peace if we remember our values and remember that freedom is not an American gift to the world; freedom is God's gift to the world.

I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy. I just can't imagine. They must have thought our religion was materialism and that we were so self-absorbed and selfish that after 9/11/2001, we would take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* That must have what they thought.

But they're learning different about America. They understand when we love something, we love it to the core, and we love freedom. And they could have never imagined what I'm about to tell you, that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. Out of the evil done to this country, because of our nature and the fact that the American spirit is strong, is going to come a peaceful world. You mark my words: We're going to have peace at home. But we'll be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace. We have a chance, and this country is going to seize that opportunity to keep the peace.

And here at home, we can be a better tomorrow—better America, too, and that's important to realize. We have an opportunity to bring some good out of the evil. We have a chance to work together to eradicate pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness that exist right here in this country. Amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. And so long as some of us hurt, we all hurt.

But we've got a chance to change that, by starting with understanding the limitations of Government. No, Senator Hutchinson and Governor Huckabee and Congressman Boozman will all work to pass laws that will help. But we've got to remember that Government, while it can pass out money, it can never put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The solid truth of the matter is, when you find—if you want to help heal the hurt, if you want to hurt people and help people in pain, the best way to do so is to call upon the great strength of the country, which is the compassion of our fellow Americans. The best way to help fight evil is to do some good by putting your arm around somebody who hurts, and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I help make your life a better, hopeful place?"

No, a lot of good folks in this country took a step back after September the 11th, and took an inventory of that which is important. That's why I can tell you the American spirit is strong and alive, because people are beginning to understand that part of being a patriot is somebody willing to serve something greater than yourself in life. And you can do so all kinds of ways. You can do so by mentoring a child. You can do so by feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless. You can do so by running a Boy Scouts troop or a Girl Scout troop.

Today I met Cynthia Coughlin. She helped initiate the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County. She's worked for Rebuilding Together, with Christmas in April. That's a program to rehabilitate homes for people who hurt. There's all kinds of ways we can help. There's all kinds of ways to change America one conscience, one soul, one person at a time. And that's happening in this country; it just is. No, the American spirit is alive and well.

I want the youngsters to remember that story of Flight 93. It helps define what I'm talking about, about a spirit of sacrifice. Remember, those are the people flying across the plane that day—flying across the country that day on the plane. They learned that the plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. They saved lives because of their courage and their heroism.

No, our country is strong, and our country is great, which allows me to boldly predict that the evil done to America is going to yield a more peaceful world and a more hopeful country, because this is the greatest nation,

full of the finest, most caring, most compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee and Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller of Arkansas; country and western entertainers the Gatlin Brothers; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Dallas, Texas

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all. It's nice to be home. I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I are working our way across the country to get back to Texas so we can vote, and I want to tell you, we're not undecided. [Laughter] For the sake of Texas and for the sake of America, vote John Cornyn for the United States Senate. And for the sake of the taxpayers of Texas and for the sake of the schoolchildren of Texas, elect Rick Perry as the Governor of Texas.

No, we're looking forward to getting into that voting booth tomorrow morning, and I hope you are as well. I hope all of Texas takes their responsibility serious. You see, we live in a land of freedom, and therefore, we have an obligation to participate as free citizens. If you're eligible to vote, you should vote. I don't care whether you're a Democrat or Republican, independent, or could care less about a political party, you have an obligation in a free society.

You know, Laura went to SMU. They didn't have a course on how to be a First Lady when she went here. [Laughter] But if they had, she'd have gotten an A-plus. I'm really proud of the job she's done.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I'm proud to be up here with some fine public servants; really proud of the job that Senator Kay Hutchison is doing on behalf of all of Texas. She's a strong leader in the United States Senate. She's a strong leader. She's doing a fabulous job. I'm proud to call her friend, and I'm also—

Audience member. [Inaudible].

The President. I'm also here to honor Senator Phil Gramm, who has done a great job on behalf of Texas.

I appreciate so very much Congressman Henry Bonilla's hard work in the Texas Victory committee. That's the committee that is going to turn out the vote. See, that's what we're here to talk about. We're here to talk about how to turn out the vote, how to get people to the polls.

I want to thank you all for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is to find good Texans and get them to vote, turn them out to vote, and get them to vote for this ticket.

These are candidates we can be proud of. These are people that you can have confidence in. So work hard. And by the way, I'm pretty familiar with Texas politics. You know, there's a lot of discerning Democrats who are going to support this ticket. Don't be afraid to talk to those good Democrats. Don't be afraid to talk to independents. Our candidates can reach across party line, because they've got a positive vision for the future of this State and for the future of our country.

I'm proud to be up here with a great statewide ticket. I know them all well. I can vouch for their integrity and their talents: the next Lieutenant Governor, David Dewhurst; the next attorney general, Greg Abbott; a lady who has two sons working in my administration, that would be Carole Keeton Rylander; Jerry Patterson and Susan Combs and Michael Williams—all great candidates, all people you can trust.

I want to appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who are here today. We've got a great congressional delegation from the State of Texas, Sam Johnson and Pete Sessions, Joe Barton and Kay Granger. I'm proud to call them friends. I appreciate working with them. Anytime there's any doubt about my stance on some of these Texas Congressmen, if they're voting with me, I'm for them. [Laughter] And they're voting with me. They're solid friends. And we need Jeb Hensarling and the rest of the people running for the United States Congress in Washington, DC, too.

I want to thank the bands who are here tonight, the Waxahachie High School band.

Is the courthouse still standing? That's good. Lake Highlands High School band, I appreciate you all coming. If you're 18, you've got to vote now. If you're 18, you've got to vote.

The SMU band is here. I appreciate them coming. I know you're 18. *[Laughter]* Eric Orson Band, I appreciate them coming as well. I'm sorry we weren't here in time to hear the music. We had to stop in Arkansas on the way down. They're fixing to reelect a Governor, and you're fixing to elect a good man to Governor of Texas. That man is Rick Perry.

He knows what he's doing. He knows how to manage the budget. He understands public schools. He understands jobs. He is the absolute right man for the job of Governor of Texas. And like me, he married well. *[Laughter]* Anita is a great first lady for Texas.

I can't be any stronger for John Cornyn than this: It is the right thing to do for America, to put John Cornyn in the United States Senate. I know him. I trust him. And we can work together on some big issues on behalf of all of Texas and all of America. And there are some big hurdles facing this country.

First of all, this economy isn't doing as good as it should be doing. It's bumping along. And therefore, there are some people looking for work who can't find work. And anytime somebody is looking for work who can't find work, says to me that we've got to figure out how to continue to increase the job base of America. But there's a fundamental difference of opinion in Washington, DC, as to how to do that. The page of the economic textbook that we've read from says that if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're more than likely to demand an additional good or a service. They're likely to demand a good or a service, and when they do that, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, it's more likely somebody is going to be able to find a job.

And therefore, the tax cuts we pass in Washington came at the exact right time in economic history. And I need a Senator who will stand strong on this issue. I need a Senator with whom we can work to make the

tax cuts permanent, and that Senator is John Cornyn.

I look forward to working with John on a lot of issues, on education and on Medicare. Listen, medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't. Medicine has become modern. Technologies have changed. There's new discoveries. But Medicare is stuck in the past. I need to work with Kay Hutchison and John Cornyn and Members of the Congress to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

And we've got another problem with health care. There's too many lawsuits. There's too many junk lawsuits that are running up the cost of medicine. They're filing suits all over this country, which means good, honest people who have got a claim can't get to the judges, can't get into the courthouse. It means that people aren't going to have accessible and affordable health care. Excessive lawsuits run up the cost of medicine, and they're driving docs out of the practice of medicine. We need a Senate who will join me in passing Federal medical liability reform.

And I need a Senator from Texas with whom I can work to help fulfil one of my most serious responsibilities, and that is to put good people on the Federal bench. There is a vacancy on our benches. There is vacancies all around the country because the bunch that's running the Senate right now won't give my nominees a fair hearing. And when they do give them a hearing, some of them have their records distorted. I need a United States Senator who will stand strong for what most Texans want, and that is a judiciary full of honest and honorable people who will not use their bench from which to legislate but to interpret the Constitution of the United States.

You may remember what happened to one of our finest Texans, Priscilla Owen. I picked Priscilla to serve on one of our top benches. I did so because she's a brilliant lady. She's an honest person. She finished tops in her law school. She was ranked by the ABA as one of the top picks. She is backed by Republicans and Democrats from the State of Texas. She ran statewide and was overwhelmingly elected. I put her up there. Because these people are playing politics, petty

politics, with the nominees I've picked, her record was distorted, and she was denied a seat. She was grossly treated. I can assure you that with John Cornyn in the Senate, he would be a strong supporter of Priscilla Owen and my judges. There's a big difference in this race between the two running for the United States Senate. And that Priscilla Owen case is a clear example of what I'm talking about.

There's going to be a lot of issues we'll work on together. The biggest issue we've got is to protect America, to protect you from further attack, to do everything we can to prevent an enemy from hitting this country again. It's still a problem for us because there's an enemy lurking out there which hates us, and they hate us because of what we love. We love our freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can speak their mind in this country. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change.

So long as we take that stand, they're going to try to hurt us. And therefore, we've got to do everything we can to protect you. And there's a lot of good people doing that. I mean, listen, we're on notice. We remember—we remember, remember what happened. And therefore, there's a lot of good people working overtime to run down every hint, any idea, any suggestion that somebody is fixing to or thinking about doing something to America. We're moving on it. It is our most solemn obligation.

I think we can do a better job of protecting you, and that's why I went to the United States Congress, to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. It needs to be a Department that brings agencies together to focus their attention, to change culture if need be, so that people who are working hard on your behalf get the message that this is our number one job and number one priority.

And the House of Representatives responded. And I want to thank the House Members who are here. But the bill got stuck in the Senate. Here we are with an enemy lurking out there, and the bill got stuck in the Senate because some Senators want to take away power from the Presidency. They

want to take away what every President since John F. Kennedy has had, and that is the capacity to suspend certain collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security. In other words, if there's some rules that prevent me from putting the right place—people at the right place at the right time, to protect you, I ought to be able to suspend those rules. But not according to these people. No, the special interests have grabbed them up there. They want to micromanage the process. I need John Cornyn in the Senate to make sure we get us a good homeland security bill.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. That's what we have to do. And that is what we're going to do. And that is why I went to the Congress and asked for a substantial increase in defense spending, as a matter of fact, the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I want to thank Senator Hutchinson, and I want to thank the Members of Congress for backing me on that request.

And there's two messages in that bill that I want to share with you. One, anytime this country puts any of our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the second message is equally important. And that is, we're in this deal for the long haul. See, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes. We're going to do the job. We're going to defend freedom. We're going to do a responsibility so future generations of Americans will know we answered the call. It just doesn't matter how long it takes. There's not a calendar on my desk in that wonderful Oval Office that says, on such-and-such a date, haul them home. That's not the way I think.

And we're making progress in this different kind of war. In the old days, if you knocked down an airplane or sunk a ship, you could say you're making progress. This group we fight now hides in caves or kind of slithers around the dark corners of the world, and they send their youngsters to their suicidal deaths. We value life in America. We say everybody is precious. These folks have

hijacked a great religion and don't care who they kill. And that's the nature of the enemy. They're tough. We're tougher. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network.

It's important for us to be realistic here in America about the threats we face. It's essential we see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it would be, because the stakes changed dramatically after September the 11th, 2001. Prior to that date, we had oceans that we thought protected us, that if there was a gathering threat somewhere around the world, we could either deal with that threat or ignore it, because we were safe at home. Geography kept us safe. After September the 11th, 2001, geography doesn't keep us safe. And therefore, in my judgment, we've got to be cold-eyed realists about threats as they emerge and deal with each one of them according to the level of threat.

There is a threat to the United States, and our close friends and allies, in Iraq. The leader of Iraq is a man who for 11 years has deceived the world. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He has weapons of mass destruction. At one time we know for certain he was close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. Not only has he got chemical weapons, but I want you to remember, he's used chemical weapons. He's used weapons on people in his neighborhood. He's used weapons on people in his own country. This is a man who cannot stand America. He cannot stand what we stand for. He can't stand some of our closest friends and allies. This is a man who has got connections with Al Qaida. Imagine a terrorist network with Iraq as an arsenal and as a training ground, so that a Saddam Hussein could use his shadowy group of people to attack his enemy and leave no fingerprint behind. He's a threat.

I went to the United Nations to make clear a couple of things: One, he's a threat; and secondly, that this august body has a chance to keep the peace. And yet for 16 resolutions, resolution after resolution after resolution, Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations. It is now time for the United Nations to choose whether it's going to be an effective peacekeeping organization or whether it's going to be like one of its predecessors, the

League of Nations, an empty debating society. It is their choice to make.

It is Saddam Hussein's choice to make. He's told the world he would not have weapons of mass destruction, and in the name of peace, we expect him to honor that commitment. Should he choose not to honor the commitment, the U.N. is incapable of acting, the United States in the name of peace, in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say, "in the name of peace," because that's what's going to happen, in my judgment. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I don't know what got into the minds of the terrorists when they hit us. I guess they assumed our national religion was materialism, that we were so selfish, self-absorbed, that after 9/11/2001 we might take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand the nature of this great country. They don't understand the depth of our passion for freedom.

If we stay tough when we need to be tough, stay strong when we need to be strong, speak clearly about good and evil, if we remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world but God's gift to the world, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace here at home—we can achieve peace here at home. We can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. I believe it. I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come good abroad, in the form of peace. And I believe it's going to make America a better place.

I believe I know a lot of our citizens have taken a step back and taken an assessment about that which is important in their lives. A lot of people have asked that question, "How can I help?" Well, I've got some ideas for you. First, it's important to remember that in the land of plenty, there are people who hurt. There's pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction. People, when you say "the American Dream," they have absolutely no idea what you're talking about. We've got to remember in this country, when some of us hurt, we all hurt. And therefore, we've got to try to make a difference to improve the lot of everybody's lives. And Government can help. We'll work on Medicare,

and we'll work on education. And Government can pass out money. But I want you to remember what Government cannot do is to put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. People's lives change when somebody puts their arm around them and says, "I love you. Can I help you? What can I do to make your life a better life?"

And that's happening all across America. I'm sure there's mentors here, people who are saving one child's life at a time. I know there are people here who feed the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, or run a Boy Scouts troop or a Girl Scouts troop, or Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There's all kinds of ways that you can help change America, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. No, the spirit of America is strong. It's alive and well. It's a spirit that says, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes; we'll defend freedom.

It also says that a true American is somebody who serves a cause greater than themselves. I want the high school students and youngsters here to always remember the story of Flight 93. These are people flying across the country, what they thought was going to be just an average trip. They learned that the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer, asking for guidance from the Almighty. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives and to serve something greater than themselves.

The enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. They had no earthly idea who they were hitting. They didn't have any idea that the spirit of this country is strong and alive and vibrant, which allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world, and out of the evil done to America will come a more hopeful America, where the great sunshine of hope of this country shines its light into every corner of this land. And I can say that with confidence, because this is the greatest country, full of the most decent and honorable people on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:08 p.m. in Moody Coliseum at Southern Methodist University. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate John Cornyn; gubernatorial candidate Rick Perry and his wife, Anita; Carole Keeton Rylander, candidate for Texas comptroller; Jerry Patterson, candidate for Texas land commissioner; Susan Combs, candidate for Texas agricultural commissioner; Michael Williams, candidate for Texas railroad commissioner; Jeb Hensarling, candidate for Texas' Fifth Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Exchange With Reporters After Voting in Crawford, Texas

November 5, 2002

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, what do you think the party's chances are today, sir? Are you feeling good about the election?

The President. I hope people vote. I'm encouraging all people across this country to vote.

[At this point, the President greeted other voters.]

25th Wedding Anniversary/First Lady's Birthday

The President. I'm not telling what I gave the First Lady for our 25th anniversary. [Laughter]

The First Lady. I'm telling. [Laughter]

Q. What about for her birthday?

The President. What?

Q. What about for her birthday?

The President. Not telling. [Laughter] Let me just say that I remembered.

Q. Mr. President, do you think you're getting close to agreement on a U.N. resolution?

The First Lady. He did remember.

[At this point, the President greeted other voters.]

Q. Sir, what are you thinking about the Senate today? Have you got a chance?

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:10 a.m. outside the Crawford Fire House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Provide for Improvement of Federal Education Research, Statistics, Evaluation, Information, and Dissemination, and for Other Purposes

November 5, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3801, an Act to provide for improvement of Federal education research, statistics, evaluation, information, and dissemination, and for other purposes. This Act will substantially strengthen the scientific basis for the Department of Education's continuing efforts to help families, schools, and State and local governments with the education of America's children. This Act is an important complement to the No Child Left Behind Act enacted earlier this year.

The executive branch shall construe sections 115, 116(f), 117(d), 119, 156(b), and 186 of the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and shall construe section 116(f) in a manner consistent with the President's authority under the Recommendations Clause of the Constitution to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary or expedient. Also, in accordance with the President's constitutional power to select individuals for nomination, the executive branch shall construe section 116(c)(2) as advisory only. In addition, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall implement section 186(a) of the Act subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Education. Finally, the executive branch shall construe section 156(b) regarding the furnishing of compilations or surveys in a manner consistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*, which do not permit the Congress by law to authorize a congressional committee to direct an executive branch entity to create a compilation or survey.

The executive branch shall construe provisions of the Act that require taking account of race, culture, gender, age, region, socioeconomics, ideology, secularity and par-

tisan politics, including sections 111(b)(2)(B), 114(f)(7) and (8), 115(a)(1), 116(b)(8) and (10), 133(c)(7), and 151(b)(3), in a manner consistent with First Amendment freedoms and the requirements of equal protection and due process under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

The executive branch shall construe section 174 and title II of the Act as imposing duties on a State or its officials only when the duties are a condition of a Federal grant or contract accepted by or under the authority of a State, as is consistent with the principles governing Federal-State relations enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 in *Printz v. United States*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 5, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3801, approved November 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107-279.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

November 5, 2002

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world as you observe the holy month of Ramadan.

Islam is a peace-loving faith that is practiced by more than one billion people, including millions of American Muslims. These proud citizens contribute to the diversity that makes our country strong, and the United States is grateful for the friendship and support of many Muslim Nations that are vital partners in the global coalition to fight against terrorism.

The Qur'an teaches that Ramadan is a time for fasting, prayer, worship, and contemplation. Muslims observe this month by renewing their dedication to caring for those in need, doing good deeds, and strengthening family and community ties. These actions reflect many of the values that Muslims share with people of other faiths across our Nation and around the world, including courage, compassion, and service.

America remains committed to freedom, justice, and opportunity for all people. During this season of reverence and examination,

we continue to work together for a future of peace, tolerance, and understanding. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed time. May you be well during Ramadan and throughout the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7622—In Celebration of the Centennial of the West Wing of the White House, 2002

November 5, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For 100 years, the West Wing of the White House has served as the workplace of the President of the United States and his staff. Now housing the Oval Office, the Roosevelt Room, Cabinet Room, offices of the President's senior staff, and the James C. Brady Press Briefing Room, the West Wing has become the center of executive branch operation.

Prior to 1902, the President and his staff worked out of offices housed in the White House Residence, causing crowded staff conditions and a lack of privacy for the President's family. This overcrowding prompted planning for the construction of a new wing to serve as offices for the President and his staff. While plans were reviewed during several Administrations, construction did not begin until Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. The wing was completed in 1902, and the Presidential Offices were then moved from the Residence to the new addition. The wing underwent a major expansion in 1909, doubling its size, and further renovations were done in 1929, 1934, and 1969.

Following a Christmas Eve fire in 1929, renovations and restoration displaced Herbert Hoover for several months while new and improved facilities were built. In 1934

the Oval Office was moved to its current location on the southeast corner, overlooking the Rose Garden. In the 1940's, the building became known as the "West Wing."

For a century, the West Wing has served as the headquarters of White House staff members who work to address national and international concerns, advance democracy, and secure a future of opportunity for all. Government and military leaders, Olympic athletes, college champions, artists, entertainers, and citizens from around the world have been welcomed to the West Wing to attend briefings, meetings, bill signing ceremonies, and countless activities that have contributed to the prosperity and security of our Nation and the world. As we celebrate its 100th anniversary, I encourage all Americans to recognize the vital role the West Wing has played in the ongoing work to ensure that the United States of America remains a beacon of freedom, and symbol of hope.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 6, 2002, as West Wing Centennial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities, thereby celebrating this important part of our American heritage and the values it represents and upholds for our Nation and the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 7, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 8.

**Proclamation 7623—Veterans Day,
2002**

November 6, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America was founded on the principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all, and on Veterans Day we recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces who have valiantly defended these values throughout our Nation's history. These remarkable individuals have helped to make our Nation secure and to advance the cause of freedom worldwide. By answering the call of duty and risking their lives to protect their fellow countrymen, these patriots have inspired our Nation with their courage, compassion, and dedication.

There are currently more than 25 million living American veterans, many of whom put their lives on the line to preserve our freedoms. Our veterans served on the land, at sea, and in the air, from the shores of Omaha Beach and the jungles of Vietnam, to the sands of the Persian Gulf, the mountains of Afghanistan, and many other battlefields around the globe. Through each of these challenges, the members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have protected our country and liberated millions of people around the world from the threats of tyranny and terror.

Our proud veterans have also helped to shape the American character. They have given us an extraordinary legacy of patriotism and honor, and their service represents the highest form of citizenship. So that young Americans can better understand the commitment and sacrifice of these heroes in securing the blessings of liberty, I ask all schools to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage educators to invite veterans to teach our young people about their experiences. By sharing their knowledge on some of the most proud and dramatic moments in our history, they can help educate and inspire a new generation of Americans.

On the observance of Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called on all citizens to not only remember “the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly . . .” but also to rededicate themselves “to the task of promoting an enduring peace . . .” Today, almost 50 years later, we remember the dedication of our veterans, and resolve ourselves to upholding their legacy of justice, liberty, and opportunity for all.

In recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2002, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:29 a.m., November 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Military
and Civilian Personnel in Colombia
Supporting Plan Colombia**

November 6, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. The report provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of September 13, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 138 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 250 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during July, August, and September 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 7.

The President's News Conference

November 7, 2002

The President. Thank you. Good afternoon. Thanks for coming. This is an impor-

tant week for our country and for the world. The United Nations will vote tomorrow on a resolution bringing the civilized world together to disarm Saddam Hussein. Here at home, our citizens have voted in an election that I believe will strengthen our ability to make progress for all the American people.

I congratulate the men and women, Republicans and Democrats, who were elected this week to public office all across America. I appreciate their willingness to leave their private lives and to serve their communities and to serve our Nation.

I also commend the millions of voters across America and across the political spectrum who went to the polls. At a time when our freedoms are under attack, it is more important than ever that our citizens exercise the rights and responsibilities of our democracy.

Now that the voters have spoken, I urge the members of both political parties to come together to get things done for the American people. I've talked to leaders of both parties and assured them I want to work with them. I talked to Senator Daschle yesterday and said that, although the Republican Party now leads the Senate, I still want to work with him to get things done for the American people. I talked to Leader Gephardt as well.

I look forward to working with Members of the Congress and the newly elected Governors to make America's families safer in their homes and their communities, to make our economy stronger so people can find work, to make our country a better and more compassionate place. Members of the new Congress will take office in January, and they'll have a full agenda. The current Congress, however, will return in just a few days to take up some unfinished business.

We have a responsibility to protect the American people against threats from any source. I'm grateful to the Members of the Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, that came together to support the war against terror and authorize, if need be, the use of force to disarm Iraq. We must bring the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation to the urgent task of protecting our country from the ongoing threat of terrorist attack.

The single most important item of unfinished business on Capitol Hill is to create

a unified Department of Homeland Security that will vastly improve our ability to protect our coasts and our borders and our communities. The election may be over, but a terrorist threat is still real. The Senate must pass a bill that will strengthen our ability to protect the American people. And they must pass a bill that preserves the authority every President since John Kennedy has had to act in the interest of national security. It's imperative that the Congress send me a bill that I can sign before the 107th Congress ends.

We have a responsibility to strengthen the economy so people can find work. We're working to keep this economy moving. And one immediate thing Congress should do to help people put—back to work is to pass legislation so that construction projects can get insurance against terrorism. This will spur construction and create thousands of good hardhat jobs that are currently on hold because projects without insurance cannot be built.

Although it's late in the process, Congress must show fiscal discipline. At a time when we're at war and a time when we need to strengthen our economy, Congress must be wise with the people's money, fund the Nation's priorities, and control wasteful spending. The workers of America deserve our action on these important issues, which have been stalled, yet when approved, will strengthen our economy.

Many of the fundamental economic indicators are good. Interest rates are low, so Americans can buy more homes. Inflation is low, so paychecks go further in buying groceries and gas. The productivity of our workers is high. The economy has come out of a recession and is growing, but I'm not satisfied because I know we can do better. We must have an economy to grow at a faster and stronger pace so Americans can find a job. And so I'll work with new Congress to pass new growth and jobs packages early next year.

I look forward to welcoming a new Congress. And I look forward to working with the current Congress to finish some very important work. And now it's my privilege to take some of your questions, starting with Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

2002 Elections

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Do you believe that Tuesday's election gave you, personally, a mandate? And now that you have the Republican Congress, what will you do specifically, beyond terrorism insurance and Government spending restraints, to address the real anxieties—[inaudible]—of everyday Americans—[inaudible]?

The President. Yes. First, I think candidates win elections because they're good candidates, not because they may happen to have the President as a friend or a foe, for that matter. Races that were won were won because people were able to convince the voters they could trust their judgment, convince the voters they care deeply about their circumstances. I believe if there is a mandate in any election, at least in this one, it's that people want something to get done. They want people to work together in Washington, DC, to pass meaningful legislation which will improve their lives.

The best way to win an election is to—is to earn the trust of the voters, and that's what happened in State after State after State. We had some really good candidates who overcame some pretty tough odds. They were running against incumbents in a lot of cases, and they ran great races. And they were reassuring people. And I really attribute the successes to the nature of their candidacies and the hard-working people that turned out the vote. There were some really effective voter turnout organizations around the country.

And I think the way to look at this election is to say the people want something done. They see the risks are high, the risk of being able to find a job or the risk of keeping the homeland secure. And they want people to come together to work on it, and that's what I intend to do.

Helen [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers].

Legislative Agenda

Q. The specifics of your—

The President. Oh, sorry, yes. Well, I'll let you know at the right time. For right now, we got to get through a lameduck session. A lameduck session, for people who don't know what that means, it means the Senate

is coming and the House is coming back between now and Christmas, and they've got a few days to get some big things done. And the most important thing to get done, I want to emphasize, is get a Department of Homeland Security finished.

Some rumors moving around that we may not be too keen on getting that done. I want it done. It is a priority. We got a good bill out of the House, and they need to get a bill out of the Senate and to conference and to my desk. I don't know how much time that's going to take, but having watched the debate prior to the election, it may take some time. But it doesn't matter how long it takes, they need to get it done.

Secondly, they need to get a budget done. We need to get the bills, the appropriation bills, done. And I mentioned, they've got to get the terrorism insurance bill done.

Now, given the amount of time they're likely to be here, that's a pretty big agenda. And in terms of afterwards, I'll let you know. But there are some issues, of course, that I intend to work with the Congress on, and one of them is to get prescription drug benefits to our seniors. That's an important issue. It's an issue that I talked about at every speech. The candidates, I'm sure both political parties, talked about it. And that's something that we need to get done.

But let's get this—get out of this lameduck session first.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, how confident are you that the Security Council will approve the tough new resolution on Iraq? And if that happens, what happens next? What's the next step? Is war inevitable?

The President. Well, first of all, the resolution we put down is a tough new resolution. It talks about material breach and inspections and serious consequences if Saddam Hussein continues to defy the world and not disarm. So, one, I'm pleased with the resolution we put down. Otherwise, we wouldn't have put it down.

I just talked to Jacques Chirac, and earlier today I talked to Vladimir Putin. I characterize our conversation—I'm loathe to put words in somebody else's mouth. That's, evi-

dently, not the case with a lot of people in Washington, but nevertheless, I am. And I'm optimistic we'll get the resolution vote tomorrow, let me put it to you that way.

And Steve, the resolution is a disarmament resolution; that's what it is. It's a statement of intent to, once and for all, disarm Saddam Hussein. He's a threat. He's a threat to the country. He's a threat to people in his neighborhood. He's a real threat, and it's now time for the world to come together and disarm him. And when this resolution passes, I will—we'll be able to say that the United Nations has recognized the threat, and now we're going to work together to disarm him.

And he must be cooperative in the disarmament. So the job of inspectors is to determine his level of cooperation, see. He has got to be the agent of disarming. He's got to agree that what we're doing is what he said he we do. And just like the United Nations has agreed that it is important to disarm him, for the sake of peace, and so the next step will be to put an inspection regime in there to—after all the declarations and after all the preamble to inspections, that he's got to show the world he's disarming. And that's where we'll be next.

Let's see here. Helen.

Q. I have a followup—

The President. Yes, I have a list. [*Laughter*] I don't want to be so discriminatory that people will say that I haven't thought this through. After all, the new arrangement—and by the way, we're here in honor of Ari Fleischer. Otherwise, we'd be in his house. But since he's getting married this weekend, I thought it appropriate to leave the podium that he occupies empty, in honor of the fact that he's getting married. I hope you all have sent your gifts to him. [*Laughter*]

Ari, I did what you asked me to do. [*Laughter*] I'm sure he's on C-SPAN right now.

Helen.

Iraq and North Korea

Q. Mr. President, what is the logic of your insistence on invading Iraq at some point, which may someday have nuclear weapons, and not laying a glove on North Korea, which may have them or may produce them—both

of which, of course, would be against international law. And I have a followup. [Laughter]

The President. Well, I may decide to let you have that followup or not, depending upon—[laughter]—depending on whether I like my answer. [Laughter]

I am insistent upon one thing about Iraq, and that is that Saddam Hussein disarm. That's what I'm insistent on. He agreed to do that, by the way. Saddam Hussein said he would disarm, and he hasn't. And for the—

Q. And you don't—

The President. Is that the followup? [Laughter] Okay, that is the followup. I do care about North Korea. And as I said from the beginning of this new war in the 21st century, we'll deal with each threat differently. Each threat requires a different type of response. You've heard my strategy on dealing with Iraq. I've been very clear on the strategy all along, and tomorrow it looks like part of that strategy is coming to fruition.

With North Korea, we're taking a different strategy, initially, and it's this, that we're going to work with countries in the neighborhood to convince North Korea that it is not in the world's interests that they develop a nuclear weapon through highly enriched uranium.

We know they've got the capacity through plutonium. We have IAEA inspectors there watching carefully their plutonium stockpile. And then we discovered that, contrary to an agreement they had with the United States, they're enriching uranium, with the desire of developing a weapon. They admitted to this. And so, therefore, we have worked with our Japanese friends and South Korean friends, with the leadership in China—I will talk with Vladimir Putin about this after my trip to the NATO summit—to remind North Korea that if they expect to be a—welcomed into this family of peaceful nations, that they should not enrich uranium.

I thought it was a very interesting statement that Jiang Zemin made in Crawford, where he declared very clearly that he wants a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula. That was, in my judgment, an important clarification of Chinese policy that I hope the North Koreans listen to. I believe we can

achieve this objective, Helen, by working closely with this consortium of nations, which have got a valid interest in seeing to it that North Korea does not have nuclear weapons.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Q. Mr. President, can I have a followup—

The President. Of course, you can. Yes, it's fine. [Laughter] If the elections had gone a different way, I might not be so generous. [Laughter]

Q. You are leaving the impression that Iraqi lives, the human cost, doesn't mean anything—

The President. Say that again?

Q. You are leaving the impression that you wouldn't mind if you go to war against Iraq, but you deal with another nation which may have weapons in a different way. But there are two other impressions around: one, that you have an obsession with going after Saddam Hussein at any cost; and also that you covet the oil fields.

The President. Yes. Well, I'm—some people have the right impressions and some people have the wrong impressions.

Q. Can you—

The President. Well, those are the wrong impressions.

Q. Okay.

The President. I have a deep desire for peace. That's what I have a desire for, and freedom for the Iraqi people. See, I don't like a system where people are repressed through torture and murder in order to keep a dictator in place. It troubles me deeply. And so the Iraqi people must hear this loud and clear, that this country never has any intention to conquer anybody. That's not the intention of the American people or our Government. We believe in freedom, and we believe in peace. And we believe the Iraqi dictator is a threat to peace. And so that's why I made the decisions I made, in terms of Iraq.

Now, Terry Moran.

Consequences of Action/Inaction in Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. On Iraq, you've said many times that if Saddam Hussein does not disarm, he will be disarmed militarily, if necessary, by the U.N. or the U.S. and others. There's a school of thought that says that

going to war against Iraq would be a dangerous and misguided idea because it would generate a tremendous amount of anger and hatred at the United States, and out of that you'd essentially be creating many new terrorists who would want to kill Americans. What's wrong with that analysis?

The President. Well, that's like saying we should not go after Al Qaida because we might irritate somebody, and that would create a danger to Americans. My attitude is, you got to deal with terrorism in a firm way. And if they see threats, you deal with them in all different kinds of ways. The only way, in my judgment, to deal with Saddam Hussein is to bring the international community together to convince him to disarm.

But if he's not going to disarm, we'll disarm him, in order to make the world a more peaceful place. And some people aren't going to like that—I understand. But some people won't like it if he ends up with a nuclear weapon and uses it. We have an obligation to lead. And I intend to assume that obligation to make the world more peaceful.

Terry, listen, there's risk in all action we take, but the risk of inaction is not a choice, as far as I'm concerned. The inaction creates more risk than doing our duty to make the world more peaceful. And obviously, I weighed all the consequences about all the differences. Hopefully, we can do this peacefully—don't get me wrong. And if the world were to collectively come together to do so, and to put pressure on Saddam Hussein and convince him to disarm, there's a chance he may decide to do that.

And war is not my first choice, don't—it's my last choice. But nevertheless, it is a—it is an option in order to make the world a more peaceful place.

Let's see here. King. John King [Cable News Network], that is.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Sir, in referring to the elections, you're being quite humble about the results and your role. But many conservative lawmakers and many more conservative groups are saying, "Seize the moment." They say early in the new Congress, you should push your plan to partially privatize Social Security; you should push for new restrictions on abortion;

you should push and renominate the judges that were rejected by the Senate; and that you should push a total overhaul of the Tax Code. What are your views on that?

The President. Well, I appreciate all the advice I'm getting. [Laughter] One of the things about this job, if you listen carefully, you get a lot of advice. And I—it's important for a President to set priorities, and the two biggest priorities are the protection of the American people—that's why I wanted to get this Homeland Security Department done—and the other one is people being able to find jobs. And we'll work on those. And tax relief or tax reform, however you want to describe it, is part of, in my judgment, of creating economic vitality.

But there are other things we can work on. Obviously, I'd like to see some of my judges get a good—a fair hearing and get approved. And Medicare, prescription drugs is a very important issue, needs to get done. Terrorism insurance is an important issue. Energy bill is an important issue. I mean, there's a lot of things we can do and should do when they come back. And I can't remember the litany of things. Listen, there's going to be a huge laundry list of things people want to get done, and my job is to set priorities and get them done. And job creation and economic security—job creation and economic security, as well as homeland security, are the two most important priorities we face.

Q. Social Security and any new restrictions—

The President. No, I think the Social Security debate is an incredibly important debate. And we call them personal savings accounts, John, so that people have the option, at their choice, to manage their own money. That would be younger workers. Obviously, we've got to assure older workers that the promises we have made will be kept.

And the danger, really, is for young workers. That's the threat, as to whether Social Security will be around for young workers without some massive tax increase. And I still strongly believe that the best way to achieve security in Social Security for younger workers is to give them the option of managing their own money through a personal savings account. Yes, it's an important issue as well.

Listen, there's a lot of important issues. The budget is an important issue. The budget is an important issue coming out of the lame-duck session. And the budget, as you know—you're an old hand around here—is always an important issue in the next session. So that's always an issue, too. There are some practical matters as well that will occupy time here in Washington, DC.

Roberts. John Roberts [CBS News], that is.

Securities and Exchange Commission/ Economic Team

Q. I'm wondering, sir, is Harvey Pitt, the Chairman of the SEC, just the first member of your economic team to go? And a separate question: Will you ask William Webster to resign?

The President. Well, let's see, let me start with Pitt. Harvey Pitt did some very good things at the SEC, and it's important for the American people to know that. Right after 9/11, he did a lot to get the markets opened. He really was—played a major role in that and received good credit for that. And I want to thank Harvey Pitt for that, and the American people should as well.

He has done a lot to make it clear to corporate Americans that think they can—don't have to be responsible in their positions—a lot of enforcement, more so than ever in the history; he's enforced the corporate responsibility ethos. He has disbarred more people; more money has been disgorged as a result of illegal activity. And that's positive, what Harvey has done as well.

And under his watch, CEOs now must verify their returns, and that's good. All that's positive. He made the decision himself that he thought that he couldn't be as effective as he needed to be. I received his letter. I appreciate his service.

William Webster, the—there's a IG investigation going on there at the SEC. We'll see what that says. But I will tell you, William Webster is a fine man. He is a decent, honorable public servant who has served our country well.

Q. —with respect to—

The President. Is this a three-part question?

Q. No. I'm just kind of reiterating the first. He is just the first member of your economic team to go? The implication is—do you have—

The President. Listen, my economic team came in during very difficult times. There was a recession; there was a terrorist attack; there were corporate scandals. We have done a lot to return confidence and to provide a—provide stimulus through tax cuts. My economic team developed a tax cut package, sold the tax cut package, is implementing the tax cut package. And for that, they deserve a lot of credit. They made good—we're making good progress on the economy. There's still work to do. And I appreciate the hard work of the economic team.

Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News].

2002 Elections

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You were very gracious earlier, giving credit in this last election to the individual candidates. But a lot of those candidates say they have you to thank. Given the fact that your own election for President was so close it had to be decided by the Supreme Court, do you now feel personally reassured that these midterm elections validated your Presidency?

The President. Thank you for that loaded question. [Laughter] Look, sometimes you win them, and sometimes you lose elections. That's just the way it is. And I was pleased with the results. I was more particularly pleased for the candidates who worked so hard, and their families and their workers. That's how I feel about it. I really don't put this in personal terms.

I know people in Washington like to do that. You know, "George Bush won." "George Bush lost." That's the way they do it here, zero sum, in Washington. And I know that. But if you're really interested in what I think, I think the fact that Norm Coleman ran a very difficult race in difficult circumstances and won speaks volumes about Norm Coleman. The fact that John Thune ran a difficult race against difficult circumstances and at this point is still short, nevertheless, speaks volumes about his desire and his intention to serve the country.

There's case after case of people who have put their reputations on the line, who spent

a lot of time away from their homes and their families, shaking a lot of hands and putting their hearts and souls—in both parties. They deserve the credit. Thank you for trying to give it to me, but they deserve the credit.

I know what it's like to run for office. I know the strains it puts on families. I know the tired—the endless hours you spend campaigning and all the wonderful questions you have to answer as part of a campaign. I know all that, and these candidates deserve all the credit.

And I was proud to help some of them the best I could. But the way you win a race is, you convince the people of your State or your district that they can trust your judgment and they can trust your character and they can trust your values. And it takes a lot of work to do that, and these candidates get the credit. And I—I appreciate you pointing out that some people have given me credit. The credit belongs to people in the field.

Yes, sir, Wendell [Wendell Goler, Fox News].

Iraqi Compliance With U.N. Resolution

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much. You have put a lot of effort toward getting the United Nations to rally the world to disarm Saddam Hussein. And yet you and your aides have expressed a great deal of skepticism about whether Saddam Hussein will actually comply. Can you give us an idea, sir, how long you think it might take for the world to know whether Saddam Hussein actually intends to go along with the call of the world to disarm? Will it be a matter of days or weeks, months, or perhaps a year, sir?

The President. Well, Wendell, this much we know: It's so far taken him 11 years and 16 resolutions to do nothing. And so we've got some kind of history as to the man's behavior. We know he likes to try to deceive and deny, and that's why this inspection regime has got to be new and tough and different. The status quo is unacceptable, you know, kind of send a few people in there and hope maybe he's nice to them and open up the baby milk factory—it's unacceptable.

And so that's why you'll see us with a different inspection regime, one that works to see to it that Saddam Hussein disarms. It's

his responsibility to disarm. I don't put time-tables on anything. But for the sake of peace—sooner, better.

And we'll see. But you must know that I am serious—so are a lot of other countries—serious about holding the man to account. I was serious about holding the U.N. to account. And when they pass this resolution, which I hope they do tomorrow, it shows that the U.N. is beginning to assume its responsibilities to make sure that 11 years of defiance does not go unanswered. It's very important that the U.N. be a successful international body because the threats that we face now require more cooperation than ever. And we're still cooperating with a lot of nations. We're still sharing intelligence and cutting off money the best we can. And there's still law enforcement efforts taking place all around the world.

And that's why the international—this international body called the U.N. is an important body for keeping the peace. And it's very important that they're effective. And we'll see tomorrow—starting tomorrow.

And then the key on the resolution, I want to remind you, is that there are serious consequences. And that's one of the key elements to make sure that everybody gets the picture that we are serious about a process of disarming him in the name of peace. Hopefully, he'll choose to do so himself.

Sammons, Super Stretch [Bill Sammon, Washington Times].

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. [Laughter]
The President. You and I are eye-to-eye. Well, actually—[laughter]

2004 Election

Q. Now that the 2004 Presidential campaign has unofficially begun, can you tell us whether Vice President Cheney will be your running mate again? Or will you, instead, choose someone who might harbor greater Presidential ambitions to, perhaps, succeed you one day?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm still recovering from the '02 elections. [Laughter] And we got plenty of time to deal with this issue. But should I decide to run, Vice President Cheney will be my running mate. He's done an excellent job. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel. I appreciate his

friendship. He is a superb Vice President, and there's no reason for me to change.

I also want to thank him for all his hard work during the campaign. He was out there toiling along, working hard and turning out the vote, and I want to thank him for the hours he put out there as well.

Please, yes.

Q. If I may follow? Last time you had—

The President. Thank you for not standing up. You block the cameras. [Laughter]

Q. Last time you had to kind of convince him to take the job. Have you talked to him this time, whether he is interested in serving another term?

The President. I'm confident that he will serve another term.

Judy [Judy Keen, USA Today].

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You said this afternoon that the U.N. Security Council vote tomorrow would bring the civilized world together against Iraq. But broad opposition remains all over the world to your policy. Will you continue to try to build support? If so, how will you do that? Or do you think that a Security Council vote would be all the mandate you need?

The President. First of all, broad opposition around the world not in support of my policy on Iraq?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Well, I think most people around the world realize that Saddam Hussein is a threat. And they—no one likes war, but they also don't like the idea of Saddam Hussein having a nuclear weapon. Imagine what would happen. And by the way, we don't know how close he is to a nuclear weapon right now. We know he wants one. But we don't know. We know he was close to one at one point in time. We have no idea today. Imagine Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. Imagine how the Israeli citizens would feel. Imagine how the citizens in Saudi Arabia would feel. Imagine how the world would change, how he could alter diplomacy by the very presence of a nuclear weapon.

And so a lot of people—serious people around the world are beginning to think about that consideration. I think about it a

lot. I think about it particularly in the regard of making the world a more peaceful place.

And so it's very important for people to realize the consequences of us not taking the case to the U.N. Security Council. People need to think about what would happen if the United States had remained silent on this issue and just hoped for a change of his attitude or maybe hoped that he would not invade somebody again or just hoped that he wouldn't use gas on his own people when pressure at home began to mount.

I'm not willing to take those kind of risks. People understand that. I think a lot of people are saying, you know, "Gosh, we hope we don't have war." I feel the same way. I hope we don't have war. I hope this can be done peacefully. It's up to Saddam Hussein, however, to make that choice.

I also want to remind you that, should we have to use troops, should it become a necessity in order to disarm him, the United States, with friends, will move swiftly with force to do the job. You don't have to worry about that. We will do—we will do—we will do what it takes militarily to succeed.

I also want to say something else to people of Iraq, that the generals in Iraq must understand clearly there will be consequences for their behavior. Should they choose, if force is necessary, to behave in a way that endangers the lives of their own citizens, as well as citizens in the neighborhood, there will be a consequence. They will be held to account.

And as to the Iraqi people, what I said before—the Iraqi people can have a better life than the one they have now. They can have a—there are other alternatives to somebody who is willing to rape and mutilate and murder in order to stay in power. There's just a better life than the one they have to live now.

I think the people of the world understand that too, Judy. I don't take—I don't take—I don't spend a lot of time taking polls around the world to tell me what I think is the right way to act. I've just got to know how I feel. I feel strongly about freedom. I feel strongly about liberty. And I feel strongly about the obligation to make the world a more peaceful place. And I take those responsibilities really seriously.

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times].

President's Leadership

Q. Thank you, sir. You just said you've reached out to Democrats. Does this mean that you will be governing more from the center and taking fewer cues from the conservative arm of your party?

The President. I don't take cues from anybody. I just do what I think is right. That's just the way I lead. And what's right is to work to stimulate the economy. I strongly believe the tax relief was the right thing to do. If people are really interested in job creation, they ought to join me in my call to make the tax cuts permanent. It's an important part of sending a signal that there is certainty in the Tax Code, that all the benefits from tax relief don't go away after 10 years.

As I like to say—you might have heard me once or 10 times or 100 times—the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. That means there's uncertainty when that happens. And you've got to have certainty in a system that requires risk. And making the tax cuts permanent is an essential part. I mean—and so that is a commonsense drive to create jobs.

I will just tell people what I think about how to solve the problems we face. And I ran on a political philosophy; I'm not changing my political philosophy. I am who I am prior—the same guy after the election that I was prior to the election. That's just who I am and how I intend to lead this country.

Jean Cummings [Wall Street Journal]. I'm having such a good time. [Laughter] Jean Cummings—there she is, yes.

Securities and Exchange Commission

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Getting back to the question of Harvey Pitt.

The President. Pitt, yes.

Q. What kind of person are you looking for to fill that position now? And how quickly do you want to move on that? And then also, as much as you said that Mr. Webster is a well-respected and quality person, do you think that the Chairman, whoever that new Chairman is, should have a chance to select their own person and have a fresh start?

The President. Well, I think—that's kind of the double-whammy hypothetical there, Jean. I think that the—on Webster, first, let's find out what the facts are so that everybody knows. That's why they're doing this investigation. And it's—one fact is irrefutable: He's a decent man; he's served the country well. And I know he can do that job.

Secondly, as soon as possible, for the SEC nominee and somebody who is going to continue to fulfill the obligation that—of holding people to account. In other words, holding wrongdoers to account and making sure the numbers are fair and open and transparent and everybody understands the facts when it comes to—to accounting, so that we continue to regain confidence in our system; that people, when they invest based upon the numbers of a particular stock, are confident in that which they read. And that's an essential part of the SEC job, and I'm confident we can find somebody soon to be able to do that.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Consequences of Action/Inaction in Iraq

Q. Thank you. I wanted to go back to your earlier point about the risk of an action versus the risk of inaction.

The President. Where would that be, in the Congress or at the U.N.?

Q. With Iraq.

The President. Oh, okay.

Q. Your CIA Director told Congress just last month that it appears that Saddam Hussein “now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks against the United States.” But if we attacked him he would “probably become much less constrained.” Is he wrong about that?

The President. No. I think that—I think that if you would read the full—I'm sure he said other sentences. Let me just put it to you: I know George Tenet well; I meet with him every single day; he sees Saddam Hussein as a threat. I don't know what the context of that quote is. I'm telling you, the guy knows what I know, that he is a problem and we must deal with him.

And you know, it's like people say, “Oh, we must leave Saddam alone. Otherwise, if we did something against him, he might attack us.” Well, if we don't do something, he

might attack us, and he might attack us with a more serious weapon. The man is a threat, Hutch, I'm telling you. He's a threat not only with what he has; he's a threat with what he's done. He's a threat because he is dealing with Al Qaida. In my Cincinnati speech, I reminded the American people, a true threat facing our country is that an Al-Qaida-type network trained and armed by Saddam could attack America and leave not one fingerprint. That is a threat. And we're going to deal with it.

The debate about whether we're going to deal with Saddam Hussein is over. And now the question is, how do we deal with him? I made the decision to go to the United Nations because I want to try to do this peacefully. I want Saddam to disarm. The best way to convince him to disarm is to get the nations to come together through the U.N. and try to convince him to disarm.

We're going to work on that. We've been spending a lot of time—I wouldn't exactly call it gnashing of teeth, but working hard on the U.N. resolution. It took a while, but we've been grinding it out, trying to bring a consensus, trying to get people together, so that we can say to the world the international community has spoken through the Security Council of the United Nations, and now, once again, we expect Saddam to disarm.

This would be the 17th time that we expect Saddam to disarm. This time we mean it. See, that's the difference—I guess. This time it's for real. And I say it must not have been for real the last 16 times because nothing happened when he didn't. This time something happens. He knows—he's got to understand that. The members of the U.N. Security Council understand that. Saddam has got to understand it so he—so in the name of peace, for a peaceful resolution of this, we hope he disarms.

Jackson [David Jackson, Dallas Morning News], from Texas. You got anything—a Texas question?

Judicial Confirmation Process

Q. As a matter of fact, I do. [Laughter]

The President. Thank you.

Q. Do you intend to resuscitate the nomination of Priscilla Owen and Charles Pick-

ering? And also, how bloody do you think the next Supreme Court nomination will be?

The President. Well, first, I want the new chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to understand that I am very serious about the reforms that I suggested in the East Room, about how to get this process of nominating judges and approving judges on the right course, not only for this administration but future administrations, not only for this Senate but future Senates. And so step one on the judiciary process, I believe there needs to be reform. I would be glad to reprise the reforms if you can't remember them.

Q. Owen and Pickering, are they going to—

The President. I'll be there in a minute. [Laughter] I'm using this as an opportunity to make a point on judicial reform. And that is that if a judge thinks he's going to retire, give us a year's notice, if possible. And then we will act—"we," the administrative branch, will nominate somebody and clear them within 180 days. And then the Senate judiciary has got 90 days to go through the process and then get the person's name to the floor and 180 days for an up-or-down vote. To me, that would be a needed and necessary reform.

So step one on the nomination process is to work with Senator Hatch—and Senator Leahy—to put these reforms in place, is to convince Members of the Senate we're serious about a process that will get rid of the old bitterness of the judicial process.

This is probably not to your liking, by the way. You love those court fights. I'm confident it makes great covering and great stories.

I also said at the time of Priscilla Owen's being—not being put to the floor of the Senate that I would hope that the Judiciary Committee would let her name out to the Senate floor at some point in time. We don't have to recommit them. They never—they're there. Pickering and Owen are still there at the committee level. They just weren't ever—their names were never let to the floor for a vote.

By the way, if they had been let to the floor for a vote, we believe they would have won the vote—perhaps the reason why they

were never let to the floor for a vote. But—so, I hope that judiciary committee will let their names out and they get a fair hearing.

I thought you were going to talk about the Texas elections. But that's okay. [Laughter]

April [April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks], last question.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

Ryan Tyler James

The President. How's your child, April?

Q. She's wonderful.

The President. Georgia W? [Laughter]

Q. My husband is watching, and the name is Ryan Tyler James. [Laughter].

The President. You might as well turn to the camera when you say that. [Laughter]

Haitian Immigrants/Immigration Policy

Q. Well, Mr. President, some critics contend there is a racial disparity in how immigrants are handled here, and speaking of the Haitians versus immigrants, the other immigrants. Do you support the current law on the books about Haiti, and why, either way?

The President. April, first of all, the immigration laws ought to be the same for Haitians and everybody else, except for Cubans. And the difference, of course, is that we don't send people back to Cuba because they're going to be persecuted. And that's why we've got the special law on the books as regards to Cubans. But Haitians and everybody else ought to be treated the same way. And we're in the process of making sure that happens.

It's been an enjoyable experience.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 2 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; William Webster, Director, Security Review Commission; Norm Coleman, Senator-elect from Minnesota; and Representative John R. Thune, defeated senatorial candidate from South Dakota. The President also referred to Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen and Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., whose nominations to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit failed when the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to send them forward for a vote by the Senate.

Statement on Signing the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

November 7, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4685, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to expand the types of Federal agencies that are required to prepare audited financial statements.

The executive branch shall construe the terms "agency," "executive agency," and "covered executive agency" as used in the legislation in a manner consistent with the separation of powers principles recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992 in *Franklin v. Massachusetts*; the principle of construction relating to section 552 of title 5 set forth by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1993 in *Meyer v. Bush*; and the principle of construction relating to section 112 of title 3 set forth by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1995 in *Haddon v. Walters*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 7, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4685, approved November 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107-289.

Statement on Signing the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

November 7, 2002

Earlier today I signed into law H.R. 4685, the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act. I was pleased to sign this legislation, and I thank Congressman Pat Toomey for his hard work on this bill.

The American people deserve an efficient Government. Requiring agencies to provide accurate financial information helps ensure their accountability.

NOTE: H.R. 4685, approved November 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107-289.

Remarks at an Iftaar Dinner

November 7, 2002

Good evening. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored to welcome such a distinguished group of Ambassadors and American citizens to the White House to help usher in the holy month of Ramadan.

Islam is a religion that brings hope and comfort to more than a billion people around the world. It has made brothers and sisters of every race. It has given birth to a rich culture of learning and literature and science. Tonight we honor the traditions of a great faith by hosting this Iftaar at the White House.

I'm honored that our great Secretary of State is with us today. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. I appreciate Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Zayid of the United Arab Emirates for coming. I want to thank members of my administration who are here, in particular, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who's the Director of the National Institute of Health. I want to thank all the Ambassadors who are here. It's good to see you all again—the other representatives from the Organization of Islamic Conference. I appreciate so very much my fellow Americans here, many from the Muslim community.

Ramadan is a special time of prayer and fasting, contemplation of God's greatness, and service to those in need. According to Muslim teachings, this season commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Muhammad. Today, this word inspires faithful Muslims to lead lives of honesty and integrity and compassion.

In hosting tonight's Iftaar, I send a message to all the nations represented by their Ambassadors here tonight: America treasures your friendship; America honors your faith. We see in Islam a religion that traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham. We share your belief in God's justice and your insistence on man's moral responsibility. We thank the many Muslim nations who stand with us against terror, nations that are often victims of terror, themselves.

Tonight's Iftaar also sends a message to all Americans: Our Nation is waging a war on a radical network of terrorists, not on a

religion and not on a civilization. If we wage this war to defend our principles, we must live up to those principles, ourselves. And one of the deepest commitments of America is tolerance. No one should be treated unkindly because of the color of their skin or the content of their creed. No one should be unfairly judged by appearance or ethnic background or religious faith. We must uphold these values of progress and pluralism and tolerance.

George Washington said that America gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. This was our policy at our Nation's founding; this is our policy today. America rejects all forms of religious intolerance. America grieves with all the victims of religious bigotry. And America opposes all who commit evil in God's name.

Ramadan and the upcoming holiday seasons are a good time to remember the ties of friendship and respect that bind us together. Learning from each other, we can build bridges of mutual trust and understanding. Working together, we can create a better future for people of all faiths.

I thank you for coming to the White House this evening. I wish you all a blessed Ramadan. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamdan bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates.

Remarks on the Passage of a United Nations Security Council Resolution on Iraq

November 8, 2002

Good morning. With the resolution just passed, the United Nations Security Council has met important responsibilities, upheld its principles, and given clear and fair notice that Saddam Hussein must fully disclose and destroy his weapons of mass destruction. He must submit to any and all methods to verify his compliance. His cooperation must be prompt and unconditional, or he will face the severest consequences.

The world has now come together to say that the outlaw regime in Iraq will not be

permitted to build or possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. That is the judgment of the United States Congress. That is the judgment of the United Nations Security Council. Now the world must insist that that judgment be enforced.

Iraq's obligation to disarm is not new or even recent. To end the Persian Gulf war and ensure its own survival, Iraq's regime agreed to disarm in April of 1991. For over a decade the Iraqi regime has treated its own pledge with contempt. As today's resolution states, Iraq is already in material breach of past U.N. demands. Iraq has aggressively pursued weapons of mass destruction, even while inspectors were inside the country. Iraq has undermined the effectiveness of weapons inspectors with ploys, delays, and threats, making their work impossible and leading to 4 years of no inspections at all.

The world has learned from this experience an essential lesson: Inspections will not result in a disarmed Iraq unless the Iraqi regime fully cooperates. Inspectors do not have the power to disarm an unwilling regime. They can only confirm that a government has decided to disarm itself. History has shown that when Iraq's leaders stall inspections and impede the progress, it means they have something to hide.

The resolution approved today presents the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test. Iraq must now, without delay or negotiations, fully disarm, welcome full inspections, and fundamentally change the approach it has taken for more than a decade.

The regime must allow immediate and unrestricted access to every site, every document, and every person identified by inspectors. Iraq can be certain that the old game of cheat-and-retreat, tolerated at other times, will no longer be tolerated. Any act of delay or defiance will be an additional breach of Iraq's international obligations and a clear signal that the Iraqi regime has once again abandoned the path of voluntary compliance.

With the passage of this resolution, the world must not lapse into unproductive debates over whether specific instances of Iraqi noncompliance are serious. Any Iraqi noncompliance is serious because such bad faith will show that Iraq has no intention of disarming. If we're to avert war, all nations must

continue to pressure Saddam Hussein to accept this resolution and to comply with its obligations and his obligations.

America will be making only one determination: Is Iraq meeting the terms of the Security Council resolution or not? The United States has agreed to discuss any material breach with the Security Council, but without jeopardizing our freedom of action to defend our country. If Iraq fails to fully comply, the United States and other nations will disarm Saddam Hussein.

I've already met with the head of the U.N. inspections program and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has responsibility for nuclear matters. I've assured them that the United States will fully support their efforts, including a request for information that can help identify illegal activities and materials in Iraq. I encourage every member of the United Nations to strongly support the inspection teams. And now the inspectors have an important responsibility to make full use of the tools we have given them in this resolution.

All patriotic Iraqis should embrace this resolution as an opportunity for Iraq to avoid war and end its isolation. Saddam Hussein cannot hide his weapons of mass destruction from international inspectors without the cooperation of hundreds and thousands of Iraqis, those who work in the weapons program and those who are responsible for concealing the weapons. We call on those Iraqis to convey whatever information they have to inspectors, the United States, or other countries, in whatever manner they can. By helping the process of disarmament, they help their country.

Americans recognize what is at stake. In fighting a war on terror, we are determined to oppose every source of catastrophic harm that threatens our country, our friends, and our allies. We are actively pursuing dangerous terror networks across the world. And we oppose a uniquely dangerous regime, a regime that has harbored terrorists and can supply terrorists with weapons of mass destruction, a regime that has built such terrible weapons and has used them to kill thousands, a brutal regime with a history of both reckless ambition and reckless miscalculation.

The United States of America will not live at the mercy of any group or regime that has the motive and seeks the power to murder Americans on a massive scale. The threat to America also threatens peace and security in the Middle East and far beyond. If Iraq's dictator is permitted to acquire nuclear weapons, he could resume his pattern of intimidation and conquest and dictate the future of a vital region.

In confronting this threat, America seeks the support of the world. If action becomes necessary, we will act in the interests of the world. And America expects Iraqi compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

The time has come for the Iraqi people to escape oppression, find freedom, and live in hope.

I want to thank the Secretary of State Colin Powell for his leadership, his good work, and his determination over the past 2 months. He's worked tirelessly and successfully for a resolution that recognizes important concerns of our Security Council partners and makes Iraq's responsibilities clear. I also thank our Ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, and his team at our U.N. mission in New York for their hard work and outstanding service to our country. Secretary of State Powell's team has done a fine job.

The American people are grateful to the Security Council for passing this historic resolution. Members of the Council acted with courage and took a principled stand. The United Nations has shown the kind of international leadership promised by its charter and required by our times. Now comes the hard part. The Security Council must maintain its unity and sense of purpose so that the Iraq regime cannot revert to the strategies of obstruction and deception it used so successfully in the past.

The outcome of the current crisis is already determined: The full disarmament of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq will occur. The only question for the Iraqi regime is to decide how. The United States prefers that Iraq meet its obligations voluntarily, yet we are prepared for the alternative. In either case, the just demands of the world will be met.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission; and Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency.

Remarks Honoring the 2002 Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings *November 8, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. Gosh, we're honored you're here. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the White House.

I am honored to be greeting the mighty Detroit hockey team, winners of the Stanley Cup 3 out of the last 6 years, 10 times winners of the Stanley Cup and the team that made Detroit "Hockeytown."

It's an honor to be with the Ilitches. Mike and Marian are the—who do a really good job of setting the right tone for this club. I knew Mike when he was a Detroit Tiger owner. And this goes to prove it's easier to win in hockey than in baseball, I guess. *[Laughter]*

We're glad you all are here. Mr. Commissioner, thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here. It's an honor also to be on the stage with a great coach, a man whose name appears on the Stanley Cup 10 times—9 times as a coach. Obviously, he knows what he's doing. *[Laughter]* He gets all these ruffians skating in the same direction, is a pretty good—*[laughter]*.

But I'm real proud of you, Scotty. I know the people of Detroit love you, and they're going to miss your leadership.

If I hadn't already asked—announced that yesterday the Vice President was going to be my running mate, I was going to—*[laughter]*—I was thinking about you, anyway. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate Dave Lewis, Scotty's replacement, being here. And I wish you all the best, Dave, for coming. It's an honor as well to be with the—obviously, one of the true leaders of any sport, the team captain of the—of the Detroit team, captain for 17 years, which is pretty remarkable that Steve could keep the respect of a group of highly skilled professionals for that long a period of time.

And I am honored to be able to meet you, and I appreciate the character you've displayed as a real leader.

I'm also pleased to welcome some of Detroit's biggest fans here, including some of the elected officials who are the biggest fans, starting with our Secretary of Energy, Spence Abraham—Mr. Secretary. And we've got the Levin boys here from Michigan, Senator Carl and Congressman Sander. Thank you all for coming. Congressman Mike Rogers and, of course, Congressman Conyers is here as well. We're honored that you all have come, and I know the team is grateful that you've taken time to come and express your support.

Somebody said, "Well, the roster looks like the Hall of Fame ballot." It doesn't look like the Hall of Fame ballot to me; it looks like the United Nations. *[Laughter]*

We're proud to welcome the team members from all around the globe. It is a remarkable sport that is able to attract star athletes from a lot of different countries and bring them together to play on one team. I think that's a pretty good example for the world to see. I think it is a remarkable feat that you've got all these stars from different parts of the world all aiming in the same direction.

Darren McCarty put it this way. He said, "A lot of us were"—when I say the word "it," it's talking about the Stanley Cup—"A lot of us were fighting to get it back; some guys were fighting to do it for the first time. The bottom line is, we're all fighting to do it together." And I appreciate that spirit. I think it's a good example for a lot of people who live in America, doing something to serve something greater than yourself, in this case, the team. We appreciate that spirit. I don't think you'd have won without the team concept.

I also am appreciative of what you do with the Stanley Cup, the traditions of not only putting the players' names on the cup but taking the cup to different players' hometowns. I think that's a pretty neat idea. And so this cup has been all across the U.S.; of course, it's been all across Canada. *[Laughter]* It seems like you've got quite a few Canadians on the team there. *[Laughter]* But it's been to Sweden and Russia and the Czech Republic. I'm fixing to go to the Czech Re-

public. The cup goes, and then the President goes. *[Laughter]*

It rode on the back of a Harley with Darren McCarty, went to Wrigley Field with Kris, got a bagpipe reception at Kris Draper's Stanley Cup party, and here it is at the White House. The cup has seen a lot, because the players are people that were proud to show off their accomplishments.

But let me tell you what I'm most impressed with, about how the players and the owners have used this championship victory. It brightened a lot of people's lives. See, that's the most important thing about this championship, as far as I'm concerned.

One afternoon, Steve Yzerman brought the cup to children in three different hospitals across the State of Michigan. The Ilitch family used the cup to raise a lot of money for a local emergency room. The coach made a dream come true for a child with leukemia, who just simply wanted to touch the Stanley Cup.

See, it's one thing to be the champion on the ice; it's another thing to be a champion in living your lives. I think there's a huge responsibility that comes with being a champion. It's a huge responsibility when people put the spotlight on you. You have a responsibility to set the right example and to use your position to help not only serve something greater than yourself, the team, but to serve a society and help heal the hurt and help people who need a little special care.

So not only has this great team proven themselves to be champs on the ice, you've proven yourself to be champs off the ice. And for that, we are really grateful. Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:16 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Bettman, commissioner, National Hockey League; Red Wings owners Mike and Marian Ilitch; and Red Wings retired coach Scotty Bowman, coach Dave Lewis, right wing Darren McCarty, and centers Kris Draper and Steve Yzerman. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Bowman.

**Proclamation 7624—National
Employer Support of the Guard and
Reserve Week, 2002**

November 8, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our National Guard and Reserve units comprise 38 percent of America's military forces, and we are grateful for the commitment of these brave men and women. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we pay tribute to those serving our Nation in the National Guard and Reserve, and to the civilian employers whose continued support enables our Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen to defend our country with honor and distinction.

Through their service, National Guard and Reserve personnel play an important role in our efforts to advance democracy, peace, and freedom across our Nation and around the world. These dedicated men and women train vigorously and work closely with our active-duty forces, serving as equal partners in our integrated Armed Forces. As our need for their efforts expands, these citizen-soldiers will spend more time away from their families, homes, and workplaces protecting our Nation and the ideals that make us strong.

As we face new challenges and welcome new opportunities, the continued support of patriotic employers remains vital to the success of our National Guard and Reserve. Our volunteer National Guardsmen and Reservists rely on their employers for essential support and encouragement that often come at the employer's expense. These employers reflect the spirit of our Nation, and during this week I join with members of our Armed Forces and all our citizens in recognizing those who serve in our National Guard and Reserve and all who support them, and all Americans whose contributions and sacrifices help our military remain the finest fighting force in the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:49 a.m., November 12, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 2

In the morning, the President traveled to Blountville, TN, and then to Atlanta, GA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Savannah, GA, and then to Tampa, FL.

November 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Springfield, IL. In the afternoon, he traveled to St. Paul, MN, and then to Sioux Falls, SD, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA.

November 4

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico to discuss the proposed United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Louis, MO. In the afternoon, they traveled to Bentonville, AR, and then to Dallas, TX. In the evening, they traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 5

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the day's national and State elections.

In the evening, in the White House Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner and watched election returns with Republican leaders, including Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, Representative Tom Davis of Virginia, Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee, and Republican National Committee chairman Marc Racicot, and their spouses.

Also in the evening, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the day's elections, including Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, whom he congratulated on his projected reelection. He also had telephone conversations with Vice President Dick Cheney and Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove.

November 6

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the previous day's elections, including Democrat Senator-elect Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on October 24 and continuing.

November 7

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir

Putin of Russia to discuss the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq. He also met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other members of the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The President announced his intention to nominate Karen Johnson to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Legislation and Congressional Affairs.

November 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, and separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to discuss the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq, and other bilateral issues.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott to discuss the legislative agenda. Later, he met with Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary. He then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to designate Cornelius Williams Ruth to be U.S. Representative and Chairman of the Rio Grande Compact Commission for Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Thomas C. Foley, Brenda LaGrange Johnson, James A. Johnson, and Marlene A. Malek.

The President announced his intention to appoint Frank E. Fowler II and Margaret Robson as members of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mary Elizabeth Child and Torrey Westrom as members of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrew Ly Thanh Buhr as a member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2215, H.R. 4967, H.R. 5542, and H.R. 5596

Released November 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2245, H.R. 2733, and H.R. 3656

Released November 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4013, H.R. 4014, H.R. 5200, H.R. 5308, H.R. 5333, H.R. 5336, and H.R. 5340

Released November 7

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3253, H.R. 4015, H.R. 5205, and H.R. 5574

Transcript of remarks by Mrs. Laura Bush in a telephone conversation with Ms. Effie Hobby, a Connecticut resident who has voted in every election since 1920, when women gained voting rights

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 2

H.R. 2215 / Public Law 107-273
21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act

H.R. 4967 / Public Law 107-274
Border Commuter Student Act of 2002

H.R. 5542 / Public Law 107-275
Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibility Act

H.R. 5596 / Public Law 107-276
To amend section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate notification and return requirements for State and local party committees and candidate committees and avoid duplicate reporting by certain State and local political committees of information required to be reported and made publicly available under State law, and for other purposes

Approved November 5

H.R. 2733 / Public Law 107-277
Enterprise Integration Act of 2002

H.R. 3656 / Public Law 107-278
To amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the European Central Bank

H.R. 3801 / Public Law 107-279
To provide for improvement of Federal education research, statistics, evaluation, information, and dissemination, and for other purposes

H.R. 2245 / Private Law 107-5
For the relief of Anisha Goveas Foti

Approved November 6

H.R. 4013 / Public Law 107-280
Rare Diseases Act of 2002

H.R. 4014 / Public Law 107-281
Rare Diseases Orphan Product Development Act of 2002

H.R. 5200 / Public Law 107-282
Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002

H.R. 5308 / Public Law 107-283
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Howes Street in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the “Barney Apodaca Post Office”

H.R. 5333 / Public Law 107-284
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 East Central Street in Worcester, Massachusetts, as the “Joseph D. Early Post Office Building”

H.R. 5336 / Public Law 107-285
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 380 Main Street in

Farmingdale, New York, as the “Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Post Office Building”

H.R. 5340 / Public Law 107-286
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5805 White Oak Avenue in Encino, California, as the “Francis Dayle ‘Chick’ Hearn Post Office”

Approved November 7

H.R. 3253 / Public Law 107-287
Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002

H.R. 4015 / Public Law 107-288
Jobs for Veterans Act

H.R. 4685 / Public Law 107-289
Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

H.R. 5205 / Public Law 107-290
To amend the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to use estimated amounts in determining the service longevity component of the Federal benefit payment required to be paid under such Act to certain retirees of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5574 / Public Law 107-291
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 South Main Street in Glennville, Georgia, as the “Michael Lee Woodcock Post Office”

Week Ending Friday, November 15, 2002

Proclamation 7625—World Freedom Day, 2002

November 8, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On World Freedom Day, the United States joins with the nations of the world that are dedicated to liberty and democratic values in commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall, which occurred on November 9, 1989. As we remember this historic event, we renew our commitment to advancing democracy, peace, and freedom for all throughout the world.

The fall of the Berlin Wall ushered in a new era of liberty and self-determination in Central and Eastern Europe. In the years that followed this remarkable event, the citizens of formerly Communist states participated in open elections, secured their common rights to free speech, and claimed other fundamental freedoms. This triumph for democracy demonstrated that tyranny is temporary, and that liberty is the universal and guiding goal for all mankind.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, we have made great progress in encouraging free and open societies on every continent. But challenges remain. Today, too many people still suffer at the hands of dictators who deny liberty and support activities and organizations that aim to disrupt the freedom of other countries.

On World Freedom Day, we celebrate freedom and its capacity to improve lives around the world. We also honor the people of the former Soviet bloc countries who fought against tyranny, and we recognize those who continue the struggle for freedom worldwide. As we face new challenges and welcome new opportunities, we remain committed to protecting our freedom and helping others realize their dreams of liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2002, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their dedication to freedom and democracy for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 13, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 14.

The President's Radio Address

November 9, 2002

Good morning. This was an important week for our country and for the world. The United Nations Security Council voted for a resolution requiring the Iraqi regime to declare and destroy all weapons of mass destruction or face the consequences. Here at home, our citizens voted in an election I believe will strengthen our ability to get things done for the American people.

With the United Nations Security Council resolution passed yesterday, the world has now come together to say that the outlaw regime in Iraq will not be permitted to build or possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. That is the judgment of the United Nations Security Council. That is the judgment of the United States Congress. And my

administration will see to it that the world's judgment is enforced.

The resolution presents the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test. Iraq must now, without delay or negotiations, give up its weapons of mass destruction, welcome full inspections, and fundamentally change the approach it has taken for more than a decade. The regime must allow immediate and unrestricted access to every site, every document, and every person identified by inspectors. Iraq can be certain that the old game of cheat-and-retreat, tolerated at other times, will no longer be tolerated.

Any act of delay or defiance will be an additional breach of Iraq's international obligations and a clear signal that the Iraqi regime has once again abandoned the path of voluntary compliance. If Iraq fails to fully comply with the U.N. resolution, the United States, in coalition with other nations, will disarm Saddam Hussein.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress are strongly supporting our war against terror. As the current Congress returns to Washington this week, I hope we can act in the same spirit of unity to complete some unfinished business.

The single most important item of unfinished business on Capitol Hill is to create a unified Department of Homeland Security that will vastly improve our ability to protect our borders, our coasts, and our communities. The Senate must pass a bill that will strengthen our ability to protect the American people and preserve the authority every President since John Kennedy has had to act in the interests of national security. Congress needs to send me a bill I can sign before it adjourns this year.

We also have a responsibility to strengthen the economy so that people can find jobs. One immediate thing Congress can do to help put people to work is to pass legislation so that construction projects can get insurance against terrorism at a reasonable price. This will spur construction and create thousands of good hardhat jobs that are now on hold because projects without insurance cannot be built.

Congress must also show fiscal discipline as it passes the appropriations bills. At a time when we're at war, at a time when we need

to strengthen our economy, Congress must control wasteful spending while funding the Nation's priorities.

American workers deserve action on these important economic issues. Our economy has come out of a recession and is growing. But I'm not satisfied, because I know we can do better. I want the economy to grow at a faster and stronger pace, so more Americans can find jobs. So I will work with our new Congress to pass a growth-and-jobs package early next year.

Our Nation has important challenges ahead, at home and abroad. And we're determined to build the security and prosperity of America. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:35 a.m. on November 8 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a White House Reception for Veterans

November 11, 2002

Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Thank you for joining us in observing Veterans Day. On this holiday, the 11th day of the 11th month, Americans reflect on the great sacrifices of military service. And we honor every man and every woman who has accepted those sacrifices.

In Veterans Day gatherings across America, we think first of those who fell and never lived to be called veterans. We remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We look around us to all the veterans and retired members of the military with admiration and with respect.

Especially in this time of war, we see in our veterans an example of courage and selfless sacrifice and service that inspires a new generation and will lead this country to victory. I want to thank Tony Principi and Elizabeth for their service to our country.

Our veterans have had no better friend and no more able administrator than Tony Principi as the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs for joining us, General Richard Myers. Thank you. I appreciate members of the mighty Virginia delegation for being here—[laughter]—anchored by two incredibly able United States Senators, John Warner and George Allen—the chairman.

I appreciate Congressman Jim Moran for joining us as well. Thank you for being here, Jim. We're honored you're here. Congressman Chris Smith from New Jersey is with us as well. Thank you for coming, Chris.

I want to thank our Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, for joining us. Mr. Secretary, we're honored you're here. Leo Mackay, who is the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, is with us today. I thank you for coming, Leo—appreciate you being here.

Members of our Joint Chiefs are here: General John Jumper and General Eric Shinseki. Thank you all for coming. Major General James Jackson, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, is here with his wife. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank the sergeant majors who are here, representing the fine enlisted folks all around our country. Thank you guys for coming.

I appreciate the Medal of Honor recipients who are with us today: Nick Bacon and David Dolby, Wesley Fox and Howard V. Lee. We're honored you're here. Thank you all for coming.

I want to thank the leadership of the national veterans service organizations who are with us today. I appreciate your hard work and concern for our veterans all across the country. Thank you for coming.

I'm honored—so honored to welcome to the White House World War II Allied forces veterans from one of our strongest friends, Great Britain. I'm honored you guys are here. Thank you for coming.

We've got veterans from the United States who are in this fantastic room as well as veterans from Great Britain. And we're honored you all are here. It's my pleasure to welcome you to the people's house.

The veterans in this room are among 25 million living men and women who have served this country in uniform. Certain experiences bind veterans from every branch of the service. All have known the life of answering to superiors, following orders, and observing a code.

From the hour you repeated the oath to the day of your honorable discharge, your time belonged to America and your country came before all else. There are still veterans among us who marched to the orders of General Pershing, served in the army of Eisenhower, sailed in the fleet of Nimitz. Many more served with honor during the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and throughout the vigil of the cold war.

For some veterans, service in the military fulfilled a dream. For others, military service was an unexpected honor. For most veterans will tell you that it was the defining experience in their lives. A veteran named Jim Shenton writes, returning home from service in Europe at the age of 20, here's what he had to write.

He'd been in the army for nearly 3 years, and he saw action from Normandy to the liberation of Buchenwald. When he arrived home, he said, "It has been a long journey home. I was a thousand years older." Many war veterans share in that experience. You carry memories of great heroism and great suffering. You've seen the worst that men can do to one another and the best that men can do for one another. And whether their service came abroad or at home, every veteran has shared the responsibility of keeping America strong.

On Veterans Day, the American people take pride in every citizen who has defended America, in times of calm and in times of danger. We live today in a time of danger. War has come once again to America. Our Nation is called to meet great challenges, and our military is called to the defense of our people and to the defense of our freedoms.

The enemies of America have killed thousands of our citizens, and they desire to kill thousands more. They're discovering, as others before them, the fierce resolve of this great Nation. We will not forget the harm that was done to us. We will not be distracted from the task before us. No enemy that

threatens our security or endangers our people will escape the patient justice and the overwhelming power of the United States of America.

That justice and that power have been demonstrated in Afghanistan. And our work in that country goes on. More than a year after the campaign began, our troops remain engaged in a difficult and dangerous mission. We must not permit Afghanistan ever again to become a base for the training of terrorists and for the export of murder.

The people of Afghanistan still face many hardships. Yet they are free from tyranny. And as a result, more than 2 million Afghan refugees have returned home to a free land. The Afghan people with a new Government are building a future of hope, and they have a committed friend in the American people. We are helping to build roads and bridges, sharing the methods of modern agriculture. We're providing textbooks for classrooms. We're building clinics and bringing medicine to the sick.

Recently, Afghan children were dying of whooping cough. Yet they were in a region so remote that the vaccine would lose potency before it could arrive by horse. So the United States acted. We sent helicopters to deliver those vaccines and, as a result, save more than 100 children every week.

Defeating our enemy and defending our freedoms is the best tradition of our military, and so is helping the innocent. We're making good progress in this, the first war of the 21st century. For years, the terrorists trained in the camps of Afghanistan. Those camps no longer exist. Some of the terrorists met their fate in caves and mountains of that country. Others were a little luckier, and they're now in custody, answering questions. Yet many trained killers are still scattered amongst 60 nations.

And ridding the world of this threat requires a different kind of strategy. We're in a different kind of war. The global terrorist threat is not met on a single conventional battlefield. The terrorists find allies in outlaw regimes but themselves have no land or capital or standing army to defend. They send other people's children on missions of suicide and murder. That's how they operate. They accept no rule of morality or law of war.

But we now know the nature of this enemy. We know what they're all about. And they will be pursued, and they will be found, and they will be defeated, no matter where they hide.

Shortly after September the 11th, 2001, I announced a doctrine that said, "Either you're with the United States and those of us who love freedom, or you're with the enemy." And that doctrine still stands today. And today, more than 90 other Governments are actively cooperating with us in the war on terrorism.

Justice has been brought to terrorists in countries from Spain to the Philippines to Pakistan to Indonesia. And we're still on the hunt. Sometimes you'll see successes, and sometimes you won't. But one thing is certain, an enemy that conspires in the shadows will not be safe in the shadows. Terrorists who plot to kill Americans and our friends should know this: No matter how long it takes, their day of justice will come.

Success in the war on terror is measured in the safety of innocent people from sudden and catastrophic violence. And we must oppose the threat of such violence from any source. We oppose the terror network and all who harbor and support terrorists.

And we oppose a uniquely dangerous regime that possesses the weapons of mass murder, has used the weapons of mass murder, and could supply those weapons to terror groups. The dictator in Iraq has had a long history of aggression and a deep hatred of America. The United States Government, and once again the United Nations Security Council, share a determination: The Iraqi regime must not produce or possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. Iraq pledged to disarm more than a decade ago. It's been a decade of systematic deception, unmet obligations, unpunished violations.

Those games are now over. Saddam Hussein will fully disarm and prove that he has done so, or America will lead a coalition to disarm him.

This is an urgent task for America and the world, because the events of September the 11th clearly demonstrate that a threat that gathers on the other side of the Earth can bring suffering to the American homeland.

The danger from Iraq is clear, and it's multiplied a thousand times over by the possibility of a chemical or biological or nuclear attack. The time to confront this threat is before it arrives, not the day after.

I have no greater responsibility than protecting the American people. Should military action become necessary for our own security, I will commit the full force and might of the United States military, and we will prevail.

In whatever lies ahead, the United States will remain a friend to the Iraqi people. They have suffered years of brutal repression, years of domestic terror from their own rulers. A new regime would bring deliverance for them.

Iraqi resources are abundant; its culture is rich; its citizens are talent—talented. And given a chance, there is no limit to what the Iraqi people can achieve. Their hopes are the same as all people in every land, to lead lives of dignity in a nation at peace. And America will help them.

As many veterans have seen in countries around the world, captive people have greeted American soldiers as liberators, and there is good reason. We have no territorial ambitions. We don't seek an empire. Our Nation is committed to freedom for ourselves and for others. We and our allies have fought evil regimes and left in their place self-governing and prosperous nations.

And in every conflict, the character of our Nation has been demonstrated in the conduct of the United States military. Where they have served, America's veterans are remembered by civilians with affection, not fear.

One veteran recalls the closing days of the Second World War. In the spring of 1945, he said, "Around the world, the sight of a 12-man squad of teenage boys armed in uniform brought terror to people's hearts. But there was an exception, a squad of GIs, a sight that brought the biggest smiles you ever saw to people's lips and joy to their hearts. GIs meant candy and cigarettes, C-rations and freedom." "America," he said, "has sent the best of her young men around the world, not to conquer but to liberate, not to terrorize but to help."

As the Commander in Chief of Veterans Day, 2002, I see that same spirit in our military. These men and women are still the best of America. They are prepared for every mission we give them, and they are worthy of the standards set for them by America's veterans. Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our everlasting gratitude.

May God bless America's veterans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:54 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Ann Principi, wife of Secretary Anthony J. Principi; Nancy Jackson, wife of Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, USA; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Veterans Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

November 11, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you for that warm welcome. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your leadership. Members of my Cabinet who are here, distinguished Members of Congress, members of the United States military, Joe Burns, veterans organizations which are represented here, our veterans, my fellow Americans, thank you for coming.

We gather this morning to show our gratitude to the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Here and across the Nation, Americans are marking this day with expressions of respect for all who have worn the uniform of our country.

This is a day of honor. Yet every day in this National Cemetery, family members visit the graves of loved ones, and veterans come to honor their lost friends. And nearly every day, in solemn ceremony, another veteran is laid to rest at Arlington. This is a place of national mourning and national memory. We remember those who served America by fighting and dying on the field of battle, and we remember those veterans who lived on for many decades to serve America in many ways.

Not every marker in this cemetery bears a name. Near us are the graves of Americans from three wars, men known only to God

but honored by their country and by the guards who stand watch. If you're a veteran, you also stand watch over the memory of great events and of brave young Americans. You're witnesses to what was gained in our wars and what was lost. You carry the fine traditions and values of our military, and you share them by example. You have a special place in the life of America, and America is proud of you.

One veteran, a company commander in the Normandy invasion, returned many decades later to the cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. He said, "Standing there in appreciation and sadness and long-postponed grief, I could only wonder, why not me?" Millions of veterans have asked themselves that same question, and it has helped to shape the course of their lives.

Veterans do not take life for granted. They know that duty and sacrifice are more than words. And they love America deeply because they know the cost of freedom, and they know the names and faces of men and women who paid for it.

The term "veteran" conveys more than a rank held in the past. Military service forms priorities and commitments that last for a lifetime. Every person who has put on the uniform, whether in time of war or in time of peace, has also felt a new sense of responsibility.

Dwight Eisenhower once recalled the day he began his military career. "The feeling came over me," he said, "that the expression 'the United States of America' would now and henceforth mean something different than it had ever before. From here on, it would be the Nation I would be serving, not myself."

Long after their honorable discharge, our veterans still symbolize what it means to be a citizen. Go to any community in this country, and you will find veterans in positions of service and leadership. In so many ways, veterans live out the meaning of patriotism and idealism and concern for others. Those of us who are the children and grandchildren of veterans have seen those qualities up close. Each of us is better because of the influence of a veteran, and so is America.

America must and will keep its word to those men and women who have given us

so much. Veterans have been promised good health care when they are sick and disabled. They must be treated with fairness and respect. And to families across this land with loved ones whose fate is still undetermined, America owes the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Every veteran once stood ready to give all for our country, and they know that a true soldier never welcomes war. This Nation loves peace. We work and sacrifice for peace. Yet America must always be prepared to confront and defeat the enemies of human freedom. And when war is forced upon us, we will see it through to victory.

At this hour, members of our military are serving on the scattered battlefields of a new kind of war. In Afghanistan and beyond, they're on the trail of killers who brought death to the innocent and war to our country. That mission will go on until the terrorists who struck America are fully and finally defeated.

This new kind of war also requires us to confront outlaw regimes that seek and possess the tools of mass murder. We will not permit a dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction to threaten America with chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. This great Nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign plot or power. The dictator of Iraq will fully disarm, or the United States will lead a coalition and disarm him.

Over the generations, Americans in uniform have defended this Nation without seeking to dominate any nation. American troops do not come as conquerors but as liberators. We believe in self-government for every land, and we believe that freedom is the hope of people of all cultures.

By standing for freedom today, our military follows in a great tradition of courage and faithful service. Free nations are in debt to the long, distinguished line of American veterans, and all Americans owe our veterans our liberty.

On this Veterans Day, we honor veterans, and we honor their families, and we offer the thanks of a grateful nation. May God bless our veterans, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Joe Burns, president, Blinded Veterans Association; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 8, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 12, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 6, 2002

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, President Clinton declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. On July 28, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13094 to amend Executive Order 12938 to more effectively respond to the worldwide threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities. Because the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency first declared on November 14, 1994, and extended on November 14, 1995, November 12, 1996, November 13, 1997, November 12, 1998, November 10, 1999, November 12, 2000, and November 9, 2001, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 6, 2002.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 6, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems declared by Executive Order 12938 on November 14, 1994, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2001 (66 FR 56965).

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined the national emergency previously declared must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 12.

Exchange With Reporters at District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters

November 12, 2002

Department of Homeland Security Legislation

Q. —looking for a compromise homeland bill?

The President. I'm looking for a good homeland bill. That's what I want.

Q. Are you going to press for it today?

The President. Pardon me?

Q. Are you going to press people, lawmakers?

The President. I'm going to press people right now, in a very gentle way, and say let's get homeland security bill done, one that enables this country to be able to respond to threats, one that enables the President to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time.

Iraqi Response to the U.N. Resolution

Q. Mr. President, the Iraqi Parliament, sir, has rejected the U.N. resolution.

The President. Let's see what Saddam—

Q. What happens if he follows through?

The President. Then if Saddam Hussein does not comply with the—to the detail of the resolution, we will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Q. Does that start—

The President. It's over. We're through negotiations. There's no more time. The man must disarm. He said he would disarm. He now must disarm. And you know, this kind of deception and delay—all that is over with. The country is committed to making the world more peaceful by disarming Saddam Hussein. It's just as simple as that. There's a zero-tolerance policy now. The last 11 years have been a period of time when this guy tried to deceive the world, and we're through with it. It's as simple as that.

Q. Friday is the first test.

The President. There's no test. This man must disarm. There must be a willingness in his administration to disarm.

Q. The Iraqi Parliament has recommended the other way.

The President. Well, the Iraqi Parliament is nothing but a rubber stamp for Saddam Hussein. There's no democracy. This guy is a dictator, so we'll have to see what he says.

DC Security Cameras

Q. Mr. President, these cameras have become controversial in this city—

The President. Well, then you can talk to the Mayor about that.

Turkey and Iraq

Q. Thank you. Any response to reports about Turkey selling antinerve antidotes to Iraq?

The President. No response right now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:33 a.m., following a tour of the Synchronized Operations Command Complex. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks Following a Visit to District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters

November 12, 2002

Thanks a lot. I want you to note, the Mayor said I made him a senior adviser. *[Laughter]* Mr. Mayor, you're doing a great job for the city of Washington, DC. I'm honored that I'm living in your neighborhood. And as I told a lot of the folks who I had the honor of meeting just a while ago at the Emergency Operations Center, I feel safe living here. And so does my family. And so do a lot of families, thanks to the dedication and hard work of people on the frontline of making sure that this city is buttoned up, dealing with the threats we face. I'm here to thank you all for your hard work.

I'm here as well to tell all the first-responders across the District as well as around the country how much our country is grateful for your service, your dedication, and remind you that we have not only a duty to prepare for emergencies, we have a duty in this country to prevent them from happening in the first place.

It's a new charge. It's a new charge because we learned on that fateful day that America is now a battlefield. It used to be that oceans would protect us. We didn't have to take certain threats seriously. We could say, "Well, we can deal if we want to deal with them." But we learned a tough lesson, that the old ways are gone, that the enemy can strike us here at home, and we all have new responsibilities. And I'm confident we can meet those responsibilities because I understand the nature of the people who wear the uniform all across America, fine, dedicated, honorable public servants who are willing to serve something greater than themselves. So, thank you for what you do.

And the Federal Government has got a job as well. Our job—our Government's greatest responsibility is to protect the American people. That's our most important job, and this requires Congress to create a new Department of Homeland Security so we can better do our job. I think this work can be done soon. The Congress is coming back for a brief period of time, and in that period of time, they can get the job done. If they put their mind to it, they can get a job done on behalf of the American people. And I urge them to do so.

I'm honored to be here with Eleanor Holmes Norton. Thank you for coming, Madam Congresswoman. I appreciate your service.

I appreciate being up here with Tom Ridge, my buddy who was a Governor. I said, "Look, we've got a new issue we've got to deal with here in America. We've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland, so you need to leave Pennsylvania and come and join us." And fortunately, he did, and he is doing a fabulous job inside the White House of laying the groundwork for what I hope will soon be a Department of Homeland Security. And I appreciate you coming, Tom.

Mr. Mayor, thanks again. Margret Kellems, it's good to have met you. It's an honor to be in the presence of the Deputy Mayor, as well.

I'm impressed with Chief Ramsey. I don't know if this helps you or hurts you, Chief. [Laughter] He does a fine job. I got to know him at the inauguration, and I've been watch-

ing him ever since. This is a city with a lot of complex issues. It's a city where a lot of people come to exercise their right as Americans, and we appreciate that. And I'm proud that this city is able to allow people to express themselves and, at the same time, maintain order. Mr. Chief, you and your troops do a fabulous job here.

I want to thank Chief Adrian Thompson for coming as well. I appreciate you being here, Chief. This is—the fire and emergency teams have got just as an important role to play as our police officers do.

I want to thank Peter LaPorte, who is the director of the Washington, DC, Emergency Management Agency, for coming. I appreciate Jim Buford, who is the acting director of the Washington, DC, Department of Health. I want to thank Linda Cropp for coming as well.

On September the 11th, 2001, our Nation was confronted by a new kind of war. See, we're at war. This is a war. This isn't a single isolated incident. We are now in the first war of the 21st century, and it's a different kind of war than we're used to. I explained part of the difference is the fact that the battlefield is now here at home. It's also a war where the enemy doesn't show up with airplanes that they own or tanks or ships. These are suiciders. These are coldblooded killers. That's all they are. The new kind of war has now placed our police and firefighters and rescue workers on the frontlines. You're already on the frontlines. Now you got another line. There's another front to do our duty to the American people.

For the courageous individuals on September the 11th, it was a day of great loss. But it was also a grave—day of great—great honor. It reminded the American people of the sacrifices that the people who wear the uniform go through on a daily basis and the risks that you take every day.

We still weep and mourn for those who lost lives to save others. But we also recognize there's a renewal in America of appreciation for what you do. The entire Nation appreciated the calm determination, the steady hand, the ability to respond under severe circumstances. And like our military, which is also on the front line of the war against terror, you deserve all the tools and

resources to do your work. This country is going to support you because we now understand the stakes.

Since September the 11th, every level of government has taken important steps to better prepare against terrorism. We've now been notified. We understand that history has called us into action. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind the nature of the enemy. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that we must do everything we can to protect the homeland.

For the first time ever, customs agents are now at overseas ports inspecting containers before they come close to the United States. In other words, we're adjusting to the new world we're in. We've put more marshals now on airplanes. Everybody's aware of that. We've stepped up security at our powerplants and our ports and, as importantly, at our border crossings. We need to know who's coming into the country, what they're bringing into the country, and if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. We need to know that for the sake of the homeland.

We've deployed detection equipment to look for weapons of mass destruction. Whoever would have thought that this country needed to use technologies to prevent people from smuggling in weapons of mass destruction? But we needed to have that technology in place, so we can better protect the American people. There's a real threat that somebody might smuggle in one of these weapons that would create incredible havoc here at home. So we're on alert. We're stockpiling enough small pox vaccine for every man, woman, and child in America.

The U.S. PATRIOT Act has helped us detect and disrupt terrorist activity in this country. What I'm telling you there is, anytime we get a hint that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. Anytime we get an inkling that somebody is planning to hurt the American people, to take innocent life, we're using every tool we can to disrupt and deny. And we're doing that at the local level and at the State level and at the Federal level. That's what the American people expect, and that's what's going to happen.

We act decisively in the clearest areas of vulnerability. We're moving. And this is only the beginning of our effort to protect our country from a global threat. The threats to the homeland are growing threats. These people aren't going away anytime soon. And so the need for action is important.

And one of my jobs is to make sure nobody gets complacent. One of my jobs is to remind people of the stark realities that we face. See, every morning I go into that great Oval Office and read threats to our country—every morning. As a matter of fact, there hasn't a morning that hasn't gone by that I haven't saw—seen or read threats. Some of them are blowhards, but we take every one of them seriously. It's the new reality.

The Congress is in session today, and the House and the Senate have pressing responsibilities to work with us for our security. And I'm confident they'll meet those responsibilities. And the single most important business before Congress is the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. Certain Members of the Senate and the House have got all kinds of agendas they'd like to discuss; the single most important one is to get this bill done.

The importance of the Homeland Security means that we'll be able to better coordinate and organize and that there be clear lines of authority. One reason this department works so well and one reason the center we just saw works well is, there's great coordination with clear lines of authority. And that's important. That's what you do here in Washington, and that's what we ought to do at the Federal level as well in this new Department.

The responsibility for protecting the homeland here in Washington, at least at the Federal level, is spread out among more than 100 different organizations, and not one organization has the primary responsibility. Each agency operates separately, sometimes completely unaware of what others are doing. The result is duplication that we cannot afford and inefficiencies which create problems. So I set out to do something about it, for the good of the country. And that is to call for a single Cabinet-level Department of Government, staffed by dedicated professionals who wake up every single day with

one overriding duty, to protect the American people. That's their duty. That's their most important responsibility.

The new Department will work, of course, with our State and local authorities to avert attacks, to plan for emergencies, and to respond. That's the functions of the new Department. We've got to make sure our first-responders are well equipped and trained and organized for their duties. You do a fine job here in Washington. There are some places that need help, and the new Department will help first-responders.

The new Department will control our borders. I mentioned the border—we need to know who's coming in, we need—but there's three agencies on the border right now, and they're all full of fine people. They wear different uniforms. They have different strategies. Sometimes they talk; sometimes they don't. There is a better way to enforce our border here in America.

It will bring together scientists who develop technologies that detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons and discover drugs and treatments to protect our citizens. So there will be a scientific component in this new Department.

For the first time in our history, information on the threats to America will be gathered and analyzed, together with information on our vulnerabilities, in one place. We've got a lot of good people working hard to collect intelligence. This new agency will analyze the intelligence to address vulnerabilities here in America.

Establishing the new Department will require the latest reorganization of the Federal—the largest reorganization of the Federal Government since 1940. In other words, it's not going to be easy. But I think Congress understands the need to do that. And I think Congress is willing to take the task. I want to thank very much the House of Representatives for passing a good bill, one that gives me the authority and the flexibility to work hard to defend America.

The Senate—it got stuck in the Senate. But it looks like it's going to come out of the Senate, I hope. And we're working hard to bring it forth in a way that will enable this President and future Presidents to meet the needs of the United States. To meet the

threats, I must be able—and future Presidents—must be able to move people and resources where they're needed and to do it quickly, without being forced to comply with a thick book of rules.

The enemy moves quickly, and America must move quickly. We cannot have bureaucratic rules preventing this President and future Presidents from meeting the needs of the American people. To meet the threats to our country, a President must have the authority, as every President since John F. Kennedy has had, to waive certain rights for national security purposes. It makes no sense in a time of war to diminish the capacity of the President to be able to put the right people at the right time at the right place.

This debate is often misunderstood. The rights of Federal workers should be and will fully be protected in the Department of Homeland Security. Every employee will be treated fairly and protected from discrimination. The men and women who work in that Department will need and want leadership that can act quickly and decisively, without getting bogged down in endless disputes. When the Department is created, we've got to do it right. It is our chance to do it right. And I will not give up national security authority at the price for creating a Department we badly need to secure America.

Fortunately, I'm encouraged by the ongoing discussions. I believe we can get this done. I believe Congress can show the country that they can finish their work on a high note of achievement. That's what the people want. The people want us to come together and work together and do what's right. And I think Congress can show that's possible to do.

Securing our homeland means not only a great—a new Department of Homeland Security, it means hunting these killers down one at a time. It means staying on task. It means holding—make sure that the doctrines still exist. And there's one out there that says, "If you—you're either with us or with the enemy." That was true right after September the 11th, and it's very true today. We're calling on all these nations that love freedom to join us in an international manhunt. There's no cave deep enough for these people to hide in, as far as I'm concerned.

There's no shadow of the world dark enough for them to kind of slither around in. We're after them, and it's going to take a while. It can take a while. We're after them one person at a time. We owe that to the American people. We owe that to our children.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind when they hit us. They must have thought we'd just file a lawsuit. They just don't understand America, do they? They don't understand our love for freedom. They don't understand that when it comes to our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes, nor the cost, we will do our duty.

The world's going to be more peaceful as a result of America being strong and resolved. Peace is going to happen. You see, the enemy hit us, and out of the evil done to this country is going to come some incredible good, a more secure America, a more peaceful world.

People will look back—your kids and your grandkids will look back and say, “You know, my dad or my mother was involved, actively involved in one of the most dramatic periods in our country's history.” And I'm confident they'll look back and say, “I'm proud of their service because America became a better place as a result of their sacrifices.”

I'm honored you had me here. May God bless you and your families. May God bless your work. And may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. in the Old Council Chambers at One Judiciary Square, NW, following a tour of the Synchronized Operations Command Complex at Metropolitan Police Department headquarters at 300 Indiana Ave., NW. In his remarks, he referred to District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Margaret Kellems, Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey, and Fire and Emergency Medical Services Interim Chief Adrian H. Thompson; and Linda Cropp, chairman, Council of the District of Columbia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 12, 2002

On November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the situation in Iran. Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year this national emergency with respect to Iran.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:58 p.m., November 12, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date

of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2001, (66 FR 56966).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

November 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Inter-American Convention
Against Terrorism**

November 12, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith, the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, adopted at the Thirty-Second Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 3, 2002, and opened for signature on that date. At that time it was signed by 30 of the 33 members attending the meeting, including the United States. It has subsequently been signed by another two member states, leaving only two states that have not yet signed. In addition, I transmit herewith, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State.

The negotiation of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism (the "Convention") was a direct response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. At that time, the OAS was meeting in Lima, Peru, to adopt a Democratic Charter uniting all 34 democracies in the hemisphere. The OAS member states expressed their strong commitment to assist the United States in preventing such incidents from occurring again anywhere in our hemisphere. Within 10 days, the foreign ministers of the OAS member states, meeting in Washington, D.C., endorsed the idea of drafting a regional convention against terrorism. Argentina, Peru, Chile, and Mexico played particularly important roles in the development and negotiation of the Convention.

The Convention will advance important United States Government interests and enhance hemispheric security by improving regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The forms of enhanced cooperation include exchanges of information, exchanges of experience and training, technical cooperation, and mutual legal assistance. The Convention is consistent with, and builds upon, previous counterterrorism instruments and U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which mandates certain measures to combat terrorism.

The Convention provides for regional use of a variety of legal tools that have proven effective against terrorism and transnational organized crime in recent years. Since fighting terrorist financing has been identified as an essential part of the fight against terrorism, the Convention addresses crucial financial regulatory, as well as criminal law, aspects. Existing Federal authority is sufficient to discharge the obligations of the United States under this Convention, and therefore no implementing legislation will be required.

In particular, the Convention mandates the establishment of financial intelligence units for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of terrorist financing information and the establishment and enhancement of channels of communication between law enforcement authorities for secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of terrorist offenses; the exchange of information to improve border and customs control measures to detect and prevent movement of terrorists and terrorist-related materials; and technical cooperation and training programs.

The Convention also provides measures relating to the denial of refugee or asylum status. In addition, the Convention provides that terrorist acts may not be considered “political” offenses for which extradition or mutual legal assistance requests can be denied, and provides for other mechanisms to facilitate mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

In sum, the Convention is in the interests of the United States and represents an important step in the fight against terrorism. I therefore recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention, subject to the understandings that are described in the accompanying report of the Department of State, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

November 13, 2002

The President. We just had a very productive Cabinet meeting. I want to thank all those who serve in my Cabinet for their service to the country. We talked about issues facing the country. We talked about the need to secure the homeland. We talked about our economy. We talked about making sure that we lead, particularly when it comes to being wise with the taxpayers’ money.

We have a responsibility to spend people’s money wisely. And so we had a little budget session here, to make sure that, as we come back to deal with the ’03 budget as well as the ’04 budget, we do so in a way that resists the temptation in Washington to overspend. We feel strongly that we can meet our Nation’s priorities and be wise with the people’s money at the same time.

I’ll be glad to answer some questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Usama bin Laden/Radio Message

Q. Sir, is bin Laden alive? And whether or not he is, does the recording signal the potential for an imminent terrorist attack?

The President. We are looking at this latest tape. Our experts are analyzing the voice content, and we’ll let them speak about whether it’s him or not. Nevertheless, the contents of the tape—the message is a serious message. And it reminds—should remind all of America and remind our friends and allies that there is an active enemy that continues to hate, is willing to use murder as a way to achieve their goals.

Whoever put this tape out has put the world on notice yet again that we’re at war and that we need to take these messages very seriously. And we will. We’ll take them seriously here at home by working with the appropriate authorities to deal with threats. And we’ll take them seriously abroad by continuing our hunt. We’ll chase these people down, one at a time. It doesn’t matter how long it takes, we’ll find them and bring them to justice.

Q. Shouldn’t we have found him sooner though, looking back on Tora Bora?

The President. We're making great progress in the war on terror. Slowly but surely, we are dismantling the terrorist network. We're finding their sanctuaries. We're holding people to account. Our coalition of freedom-loving nations is up to 90 now. There is an international manhunt on. I warned the American people that this is going to take time to achieve our objective. We're in a different kind of war. It's a war that requires international cooperation. We've got to cut off their money. We've got to share intelligence. And we're on a manhunt, and we're not quitting. Slowly but surely, we're achieving our objective.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Iraqi Response to U.N. Resolution

Q. Sir, what happens on Friday if Iraq fails to say it will comply? Do you go back to the U.N. or immediately move into a military posture?

The President. I have told the United Nations we'll be glad to consult with them. But the resolution does not prevent us from doing what needs to be done, which is to hold Saddam Hussein into account. We hope that he disarms. We hope that he will listen to the world. The world has spoken. A diverse group of nations in the Security Council spoke with one voice. The United States Congress spoke with one voice. And that is, in the name of peace, he must disarm. If he chooses not to disarm, we will disarm him. That should be clear to Saddam Hussein and everybody else. And if he chooses not to disarm, we will have a coalition of the willing with us. A lot of nations understand that in order to keep the peace, Saddam Hussein must be disarmed—decisions he makes.

There's no negotiations with Mr. Saddam Hussein. Those days are long gone. And so are the days of deceit and denial. And now it's up to him. And I want to remind you all that inspectors are there to determine whether or not Saddam Hussein is willing to disarm. It's his choice to make. And should he choose not to disarm, we will disarm him.

Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Zero Tolerance Policy

Q. Mr. President, following on that, could you give us in as plain words as possible what

you believe will constitute a material breach of his obligations?

The President. Zero tolerance—that's about as plain as I can make it. We will not tolerate any deception, denial, or deceit, period.

Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Q. Sir, good morning.

The President. You're looking beautiful today, by the way. [Laughter]

Q. Why, thank you. So are you. [Laughter]

The President. You don't qualify. [Laughter]

National Economy/Terrorism Insurance Legislation

Q. Sir, Alan Greenspan said today that the economy has hit a soft patch. He also said that households have become more cautious in their purchases while business spending is not showing substantial vigor. What do you plan to do about this? Do you think this is an indictment of your tax cut, or do you take this as a call that a new round of such tax relief is necessary?

The President. I think that, first of all, I appreciate the wisdom of Chairman Greenspan. He uses the word "soft spot." I use the words "bumping along." Both of us understand that our economy is not nearly as strong as it's going to be. And our job here in Washington is to create the environment necessary for people to feel confident about risking capital and to create an environment amongst our consumers where they're confident about the future.

And one way that we have addressed this problem up to now is to insist that Congress allow people to keep more of their own money. And it seemed to have worked well during the first three quarters of this year. And to the extent that we need to continue doing that, I'm willing to listen to ideas. And I want to work with Congress. I sent a signal to Congress that I believe that we need to have further discussions how to best stimulate the economy, and I'm very serious about that.

And so when the Congress comes back from the—when the new Congress comes back, we will have some ideas to discuss with them. We've always—in Washington, we've got to be constantly on alert about people

not being able to find jobs. And we've got to be working together to put the environment in place so they can find jobs. Like the Chairman, I am not satisfied with the economic growth of the country. Like the Chairman, I am worried when people can't find work.

And we've been active in the past on economic vitality. We will continue to be. One way Congress can help immediately, in terms of the job picture, is to pass a terrorism insurance bill so that the hardhats can find work. People complain about the cost of a terrorism insurance bill. There is no cost if there's no terrorist attack, and if there's a terrorist attack, a terrorism insurance bill will mitigate the damage of a terrorist attack. It makes eminent sense from a—to have a terrorism insurance bill. And I hope the Congress can get it done before they go home.

Q. But what about the deficit though, in this context?

The President. Well, we have a deficit because tax revenues are down. Make no mistake about it, the tax relief package that we passed—that should be permanent, by the way—has helped the economy and that the deficit would have been bigger without the tax relief package.

The deficit is caused by the fact that revenues have not come in. And there's two things we can do about it: One, stimulate the economy to create more revenues; and two, hold down spending. And today we spent time here at the Cabinet talking about how we hold down spending. And we hope the Congress gets that message as well.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations

November 13, 2002

President Bush. The Secretary-General and I are going to have some opening statements, only statements. First, I do want to

welcome the Secretary-General here. I'm grateful for your leadership at the United Nations. A while ago, the United Nations Security Council made a very strong statement that we, the world, expects Saddam Hussein to disarm for the sake of peace. And the U.N. stepped up to its responsibilities, and I want to thank you for that, Mr. Secretary-General. I appreciate your leadership.

I'm looking forward to our discussion. Of course, I'll remind the Secretary-General that our war against terror is a war against individuals whose hearts are full of hate. We do not fight a religion. As a matter of fact, by far the vast majority of American citizens respect the Islamic people and the Muslim faith. After all, there are millions of peaceful, loving Muslim Americans.

Some of the comments that have been uttered about Islam do not reflect the sentiments of my Government or the sentiments of most Americans. Islam, as practiced by the vast majority of people, is a peaceful religion, a religion that respects others. Ours is a country based upon tolerance, Mr. Secretary-General, and we respect the faith, and we welcome people of all faiths in America. And we're not going to let the war on terror or terrorists cause us to change our values.

And so, Mr. Secretary-General, I'm honored that you're here at the Oval Office. I'm proud to call you friend, and welcome.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President. If I may comment on the last point you raised, I share your view entirely that every region and people of every faith have also been victims of terrorists. This is a scourge that affects all of us, regardless of region or religion. And we need to stand together to defeat terrorism.

And this is where the work of the United Nations and effective implementation of this Resolution 1373 is absolutely crucial. We need to work to deprive terrorists of the opportunities by not giving them haven, by not giving them financial and logistical support. And I think the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council is doing a good job in trying to make sure we all work together on that.

With regards to the Iraq decision, I want to thank you, Mr. President, for working with the United Nations and the Council and

working through the Council. And I remember when you came to the U.N. on the 12th of September, nobody knew which way you were going to go. And in my own speech before yours, I was pleading that we go the multilateral route. And I think we were all relieved that we did—you did.

And I would want to say that the Council decision, which was unanimous, sent a powerful message that the entire international community would like to see the Security Council resolutions implemented.

Today I received a letter from the Iraqi Government accepting the resolution, saying that they would work with the resolution. And Mr. Blix and his team will go back. We expect them to get there on the 18th and actively begin their work. This is a Chapter 7 resolution, and it must be implemented.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Secretary-General Annan referred to Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for the Department of Justice and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

November 13, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Department of Justice and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

In total, these amendments would not affect the budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 Budget.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Proclamation 7626—To Implement Modifications to the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and the African Growth and Opportunity Act

November 13, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 3107 of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–210) amended the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (Title II of the Trade Act of 2000, Public Law 106–200) (CBERA) to modify the type and quantity of textile and apparel articles eligible for the preferential tariff treatment now accorded to designated beneficiary Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) countries.

2. Section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002 amended the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade Act of 2000, Public Law 106–200) (AGOA) to modify the type and quantity of textile and apparel articles eligible for the preferential tariff treatment now accorded to designated beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

3. In order to implement the tariff treatment provided under sections 3107 and 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002, it is necessary to modify the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2483) (1974 Trade Act) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 604 of the 1974 Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide the preferential treatment provided for in section 213(b)(2)(A) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(2)(A)), as amended by section 3107(a) of the Trade Act of 2002, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to provide for the preferential treatment provided for in section 112(b) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)), as amended by section 3108(a) of the Trade Act of 2002, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex II to this proclamation.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) This proclamation is effective with respect to eligible articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after August 6, 2002; except that section I of Annex I to this proclamation relating to the dyeing, printing, and finishing of fabrics shall be effective with respect to eligible articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after September 1, 2002; and except that section II of Annex I and Annex II relating to increases in the amount of certain articles eligible for duty-free treatment shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates provided in such annex sections.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 15, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 18.

Memorandum on Notification to Congress of Trade Negotiation

November 13, 2002

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Notification to Congress of Trade Negotiation

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress, consistent with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804(a)(1)), of my intention to enter into negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with Australia.

You are also authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 15, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 18.

Statement on Elections in Bahrain

November 14, 2002

The United States welcomes Bahrain's first parliamentary elections in nearly 30 years. Bahrain is a close friend and an important example of a nation making the transition to democracy.

The national elections recently concluded promise to strengthen the establishment of representative institutions in Bahrain and to help meet the political aspirations of all its citizens, including women who fully participated in the electoral process.

I strongly support the efforts that King Hamad and the people of Bahrain have undertaken to uphold democratic principles and the rule of law. The United States will continue to support Bahrain as it pursues these goals.

**Proclamation 7627—America
Recycles Day, 2002**

November 14, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans are dedicated to protecting our land, ensuring that our air is clean, and preserving the purity of our water. To help fulfill these responsibilities, government, businesses, community organizations, and every citizen must work together to serve as good stewards of all of our natural resources. On America Recycles Day, we renew our commitment to preserving our resources by recycling and using products made with recycled materials.

Recycling has become one of the most successful environmental initiatives in our Nation's history. In 1990, Americans recycled or composted 34 million tons of material. In the following decade, this number more than doubled to nearly 70 million tons. These efforts are helping to safeguard our environment by reducing the need for landfills and incinerators. Last year, the Federal Government contributed to these important goals by purchasing paper, retread tires, re-refined oil, concrete, insulation, and other products containing recycled materials.

Our Nation also continues to develop innovative ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle our waste. Although we have made significant progress, much work still remains. Americans generate more than 230 million tons of solid waste each year. Simple measures can help communities, businesses, and individuals decrease waste and extend the use of our natural resources. Individuals and families can participate in the recycling programs offered in their neighborhoods.

At home and in school, parents and teachers can educate children about the benefits of recycling and the importance of caring for our environment. By purchasing products made from recycled materials, American consumers provide economic incentives for businesses to collect, produce, and market more products that are recycled and recyclable. Our recycling and reuse industry provides approximately 1.4 million jobs, pro-

ducing billions of dollars in annual revenues that contribute to the prosperity of our country. By recycling, we conserve our valuable resources, protect our air and water from harmful pollutants, and strengthen our economy.

On America Recycles Day, I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to using our resources more wisely by reusing and recycling the materials they purchase. Through these efforts, we help make our communities more livable, our businesses more competitive, and our Nation a healthier place for future generations to enjoy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2002, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
a Protocol Amending the Australia-
United States Taxation Convention**
November 14, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Canberra on September 27, 2001 (the "Protocol"). I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the

Department of State concerning the Protocol.

The Convention, as amended by the Protocol, would be similar to recent tax treaties between the United States and other developed nations. It provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Convention, as amended by the Protocol, also provides for resolution of disputes and sets forth rules making its benefits unavailable to residents that are engaged in treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol, and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 14, 2002.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the United Kingdom-United States
Taxation Convention**

November 14, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains, signed at London on July 24, 2001, together with an exchange of notes, as amended by the Protocol signed at Washington on July 19, 2002 (the "Convention"). I also transmit the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

The proposed Convention transmitted herewith would replace the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, signed at London on December 31, 1975, as modified by a subsequent agreement and protocols.

This Convention, which is similar to tax treaties between the United States and other developed nations, provides for maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income, protection from double taxation of income, and for the exchange of information. The Convention also contains rules making its benefits unavailable to persons who are engaged in treaty shopping. The proposed Convention is the first U.S. income tax convention to provide a zero rate of withholding on certain direct investment dividends.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention, and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 14, 2002.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Convention on Supplementary
Compensation for Nuclear Damage**

November 14, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, with a declaration, the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage done at Vienna on September 12, 1997. This Convention was adopted by a Diplomatic Conference convened by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was opened for signature at Vienna on September 29, 1997, during the IAEA General Conference. Then-Secretary of Energy Federico Peña signed the Convention for the United States on that date, subject to ratification. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

The Convention establishes a legal framework for defining, adjudicating, and compensating civil liability for nuclear damage that results from an incident in the territory of a Party, or in certain circumstances in international waters, and creates a contingent international supplementary compensation fund. This fund would be activated in the

event of an incident with damage so extensive that it exhausts the compensation funds that the Party where the incident occurs is obligated under the Convention to make available.

The international supplementary fund would be made up largely of contributions from Parties that operate nuclear power plants. The improved legal certainty and uniformity provided under the Convention combined with the availability of additional resources provided by the international supplementary fund create a balanced package appealing both to countries that operate nuclear power plants and those that do not. The Convention thus creates for the first time the potential for a nuclear civil liability convention with global application.

Prompt U.S. ratification of the Convention is important for two reasons. First, U.S. suppliers of nuclear technology now face potentially unlimited third-party civil liability arising from their activities in foreign markets because the United States is not currently party to any international nuclear civil liability convention. In addition to limiting commercial opportunities, lack of liability protection afforded by treaty obligations has limited the scope of participation by major U.S. companies in the provision of safety assistance to Soviet-designed nuclear power plants, increasing the risk of future accidents in these plants. Once widely applied, the Convention will create for suppliers of U.S. nuclear equipment and technology substantially the same legal environment in foreign markets that they now experience domestically under the Price-Anderson Act. It will level the playing field on which they meet foreign competitors and eliminate the liability concerns that have inhibited them from providing the fullest range of safety assistance.

Second, under existing nuclear liability conventions many potential victims outside the United States generally have no assurance that they will be adequately or promptly compensated in the event they are harmed by a civil nuclear incident, especially if that incident occurs outside their borders or damages their environment. The Convention, once widely accepted, will provide that assurance.

United States leadership is essential in order to bring the Convention into force soon. With the United States as an initial Party, other countries will find the Convention attractive and the number of Parties is likely to grow quickly. Without U.S. leadership, the Convention could take many years to enter into force. The creation of a global civil liability regime will play a critical role in allowing nuclear power to achieve its full potential in the diverse and environmentally responsible world energy structure we need to build in the coming decades.

The Convention is consistent with the primary existing U.S. statute governing nuclear civil liability, the Price-Anderson Act of 1957. Adoption of the Convention would require virtually no substantive changes in that Act. Moreover, under legislation that is being submitted separately to implement the Convention, the U.S. contingent liability to contribute to the international supplementary fund would be completely covered, either by funds generated under the Price-Anderson Act in the event of an accident covered by both that Act and the Convention, or by funds contributed to a retrospective pool by U.S. suppliers of nuclear equipment and technology in the event of an accident covered by the Convention but falling outside the Price-Anderson system. In either case, U.S. taxpayers would not have to bear the burden of the U.S. contribution to the international supplementary fund.

The Convention allows nations that are party to existing nuclear liability conventions to join the new global regime easily, without giving up their participation in those conventions. It also permits nations that do not belong to an existing convention to join the new regime easily and rapidly. The United States in particular benefits from a grandfather clause that allows it to join the Convention without being required to change certain aspects of the Price-Anderson system that would otherwise be inconsistent with its requirements.

The Convention, without relying on taxpayer funds, will increase the compensation available to potential victims of a civil nuclear

incident, strengthen the position of U.S. exporters of nuclear equipment and technology, and permit us to provide safety assistance to the world's least-safe reactors more effectively.

I urge the Senate to act expeditiously in giving its advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with a declaration as set forth in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 14, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 15. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Statement on the North Korean Nuclear Weapons Program

November 15, 2002

I welcome yesterday's strong statement by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) on the need for North Korea to eliminate its nuclear weapons program and its decision to suspend further shipment of fuel oil to North Korea beginning in December. We are working closely with our partners in KEDO and our friends around the world to address this shared challenge.

North Korea has acknowledged that it is actively pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on enriched uranium. This program undermines regional and international security and the international nonproliferation regime. North Korea is also in direct violation of the North's commitments under the Agreed Framework, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement, and the Joint North-South Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. North Korea's clear violation of its international commitments will not be ignored.

The United States hopes for a different future with North Korea. As I made clear during my visit to South Korea in February,

the United States has no intention of invading North Korea. This remains the case today. The United States seeks friendship with the people of North Korea.

In June 2001, we offered to pursue a comprehensive dialog with North Korea. We developed a bold approach under which, if the North addressed our longstanding concerns, the United States was prepared to take important steps that would have significantly improved the lives of the North Korean people. Now that North Korea's covert nuclear weapons program has come to light, we are unable to pursue this approach.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a challenge to all responsible nations. The leaders of the Asia-Pacific region made clear in a unanimous statement in October that North Korea's potential to benefit from participation in the international community rests upon the prompt and visible dismantlement of this program. We are united in our desire for a peaceful resolution of this situation. We are also united in our resolve that the only option for addressing this situation is for North Korea to completely and visibly eliminate its nuclear weapons program.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 10

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

November 11

In the morning, the President visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on The Mall. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

November 12

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with Republican House and Senate leaders to discuss the legislative agenda. He then met with the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to discuss efforts to strengthen the economy and the legislative agenda. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with newly appointed interim Senator Dean Barkley of Minnesota. He then attended a reception for newly elected Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Elizabeth Hoffman to be a member of the National Science Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond T. Wagner, Jr., to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Adm. James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.), as Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Security at the Transportation Security Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on November 3 and continuing.

November 13

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt to discuss counterterrorism efforts, the situation in Iraq, and proposed homeland security and terrorism insurance legislation. He then had intelligence and national security briefings.

In the evening, the President attended a reception for the White House Symposium on the West Wing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the West Wing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil to the White House on December 10.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Chambers (Vice Chairman) and

Albert J. Edmonds as members of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Robert Timken, Jr. (Chairman), Thomas Waters Grant, and Noe Hinojosa, Jr., to be members of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terrence A. Duffy to be a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Florentino Subia to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

November 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. He also had separate telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, to discuss the United Nations resolution on Iraq and the November 21–22 NATO summit in Prague, and with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, to discuss cooperation against terrorism.

Later in the morning, the President made remarks to the Global Women Business Leaders Partnership concerning their mentoring efforts in the Baltic region and other economic issues.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada Bustamante of Bolivia. He then met with Members of Congress to discuss his trip to Prague for the November 21–22 NATO summit.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brig. Gen. Mark V. Rosenker, AFRC, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 5–12.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 10–11.

The President declared a major disaster in Tennessee and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a series of storms and tornadoes November 11.

November 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. He also had separate telephone conversations with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, to discuss the upcoming NATO summit in Prague, and with Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis of Greece, to discuss issues relating to Turkey and Cyprus and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, ranking member, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Representative C.W. Bill Young of Florida, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, to discuss proposed appropriations legislation. He then went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to designate R. Hewitt Pate as Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, at the Department of Justice.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 12

Elizabeth Hoffman,
of Colorado, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Stanley Vincent Jaskolski, term expired.

Raymond T. Wagner, Jr.,
of Missouri, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring September 14, 2004, vice George L. Farr.

Submitted November 14

James M. Loy,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security for a term of 5 years, vice John Magaw, resigned.

Daniel Pearson,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2011, vice Lynn M. Bragg, term expired.

Harlon Eugene Costner,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina, vice Becky Jane Wallace.

Richard Zenos Winget,
of Nevada, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Nevada, vice Jose Gerardo Troncoso.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 10

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the start of construction of the Kabul-Kandahar-Herat highway in Afghanistan

Released November 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska

Released November 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Meeting With President-Elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1210 and S. 2690

Released November 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Tennessee

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission Holds Wide-Ranging Discussions on Economic Reform

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Marshals for the District of Nevada and the Middle District of North Carolina

Released November 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming trip to the NATO summit

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 13

S. 1210 / Public Law 107–292
Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2002

S. 2690 / Public Law 107–293
To reaffirm the reference to one Nation under God in the Pledge of Allegiance

Week Ending Friday, November 22, 2002

Executive Order 13276—Delegation of Responsibilities Concerning Undocumented Aliens Interdicted or Intercepted in the Caribbean Region
November 15, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to delegate appropriate responsibilities to Federal agencies for responding to migration of undocumented aliens in the Caribbean region, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Duties and Authorities of Agency Heads. Consistent with applicable law,

(a)(i) The Attorney General may maintain custody, at any location he deems appropriate, of any undocumented aliens he has reason to believe are seeking to enter the United States and who are interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region. In this regard, the Attorney General shall provide and operate a facility, or facilities, to house and provide for the needs of any such aliens. Such a facility may be located at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base or any other appropriate location.

(ii) The Attorney General may conduct any screening of such aliens that he deems appropriate, including screening to determine whether such aliens should be returned to their country of origin or transit, or whether they are persons in need of protection who should not be returned without their consent. If the Attorney General institutes such screening, then until a determination is made, the Attorney General shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens. The Attorney General shall continue to provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of aliens who are determined not to be per-

sons in need of protection until such time as they are returned to their country of origin or transit.

(b) The Secretary of State shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region whom the Attorney General has identified as persons in need of protection. The Secretary of State shall provide for and execute a process for resettling such persons in need of protection, as appropriate, in countries other than their country of origin, and shall also undertake such diplomatic efforts as may be necessary to address the problem of illegal migration of aliens in the Caribbean region and to facilitate the return of those aliens who are determined not to be persons in need of protection.

(c)(i) The Secretary of Defense shall make available to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, for the housing and care of any undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region and taken into their custody, any facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base that are excess to current military needs and the provision of which does not interfere with the operation and security of the base. The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for providing access to such facilities and perimeter security. The Attorney General and the Secretary of State, respectively, shall be responsible for reimbursement for necessary supporting utilities.

(ii) In the event of a mass migration in the Caribbean region, the Secretary of Defense shall provide support to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State in carrying out the duties described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section regarding the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens, and shall assume primary responsibility for these duties on a non-reimbursable basis as necessary to contain the threat to national security posed by the

migration. The Secretary of Defense shall also provide support to the Coast Guard in carrying out the duties described in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, regarding interdiction of migrants.

Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this order, the term “mass migration” means a migration of undocumented aliens that is of such magnitude and duration that it poses a threat to the national security of the United States, as determined by the President.

Sec. 3. Scope.

(a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authorities and responsibilities set forth in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to make reviewable in any judicial or administrative proceeding, or otherwise, any action, omission, or matter that otherwise would not be reviewable.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the management of the executive branch. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity or otherwise against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person.

(d) Any agency assigned any duties by this order may use the provisions of the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535 and 1536, to carry out such duties, to the extent permitted by such Act.

(e) This order shall not be construed to require any procedure to determine whether a person is a refugee or otherwise in need of protection.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 15, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:24 a.m., November 18, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Military Personnel as Part of the Kosovo International Security Force

November 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress dated May 17, 2002, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of combat equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report prepared by my Administration, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide a military presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is approximately 4,350 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 15 percent of KFOR's total strength. An additional 266 U.S. military personnel are deployed as the National Support Element in Macedonia, with an occasional presence in Albania and Greece. In the past 6 months, 19 non-NATO contributing countries have joined NATO forces in providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR.

The U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered upon Gnjilane in the eastern portion of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR

forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 60 percent of KFOR personnel are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, including a President, Prime Minister, and Kosovo Assembly, have been in place since March 2002, and municipal elections were successfully held for a second time on October 26, 2002. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Intensified, robust KFOR patrolling on the Macedonia/Kosovo border was a key factor in reducing violence in Macedonia and ensuring successful elections. At the same time, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operational Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The KFOR has transferred full responsibility for public safety and policing to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns. The UNMIK international police and local police forces have also begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 16, 2002

Good morning. This was a productive week in the war against terror, both at home and abroad. Congress returned to Washington with renewed energy and a commitment to make progress on key issues. Members of the House and Senate reached a crucial agreement to create a new Department of Homeland Security. With Congress' vote on the final legislation, America will have a single agency with the full-time duty of protecting our people against attack.

This new Department will focus and unify responsibilities that are now spread among dozens of Government agencies. The Customs Service, the INS, the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, and many others will report to the new Secretary of Homeland Security.

The Department will significantly improve our ability to protect our borders, our coasts, and our communities. It will pool together the best intelligence information and coordinate our response. The new Department will help develop the technology America needs to detect and defeat chemical, biological, and nuclear threats. And under the agreement reached this week, I will have the authority and flexibility to move people and resources to where they are needed without bureaucratic rules and lengthy labor negotiations.

This compromise is the result of months of hard work and negotiation, and it will take additional time to put the agreement into place. The threat of terror will be with us

for years to come, and we remain resolved to see this conflict through to its end.

In the Department of Homeland Security, we'll have good people, well-organized and well-equipped, working day and night to oppose the serious dangers of our time. Now that we have reached broad agreement on a homeland security bill, I look forward to signing it into law as soon as possible.

We're committed to defending the Nation. Yet wars are not won on the defensive. The best way to keep America safe from terrorism is to go after terrorists where they plan and hide. And that work goes on around the world.

The United States is working with more than 90 countries to disrupt and defeat terror networks. So far we have frozen more than \$113 million in terrorist assets, denying them the means to finance their murder. We've cracked down on charities that were exploiting American compassion to fund terrorists. We have captured and interrogated thousands of terrorists, while others have met their fate in caves and mountains in Afghanistan. We've deployed troops to train forces in the Philippines and Yemen, the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, and other nations where terrorists have gathered. We're sending a clear message to the enemies of freedom: No terrorist will escape the patient justice of America.

To win the war on terror, we're also opposing the growing threat of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of outlaw regimes. This week, the dictator of Iraq told the U.N. he would give weapons inspectors unrestricted access to his country. We've heard such pledges before, and they have been uniformly betrayed. America and the world are now watching Saddam Hussein closely. Any act of defiance or delay will indicate that he is taking the path of deception once again, and this time the consequences would be severe.

Our goal is not merely the return of inspectors to Iraq; our goal is the disarmament of Iraq. The dictator of Iraq will give up his weapons of mass destruction, or the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Our war against terrorists and their supporters is advancing on all fronts. We're moving aggressively to protect our people and

to oppose a great threat to the peace of the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:10 a.m. on November 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Contributions of European Nations
and Organizations to the
Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo**
November 15, 2002

Dear _____:

As required by the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 106-398, section 1213, I transmit herewith a report on the contributions of European nations and organizations to the peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

This report, prepared by the Department of State, concludes that the Europeans have carried a significant portion of the aid-sharing burden in the region and that their commitment to reconstruction, humanitarian relief, and institution and peace-building has been a strong one. Continued attention and commitments of assistance from all donors remain crucial for medium- and long-term development in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Carl Levin, chairman, and John W. Warner, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; and Bob

Stump, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 18.

Interview With European Journalists November 18, 2002

The President. So here's what we're going to do. I'll say a few comments, and we'll kind of do the loop until we run out of time.

First, I'm really looking forward to this trip. I think it's going to be historic. You'll ask me who I'm voting for, for expansion; I'm not going to tell you. You'll find out on Thursday. I say that because that's what we've all agreed to.

But if you're interested in knowing my philosophy toward the Prague summit, then you need only look as far as the speech I gave in Warsaw, Poland, that talked about a Europe whole, free, and at peace. I believe NATO expansion—and in that speech, you'd see that I talked about NATO expansion as good for America, because a Europe whole, free, and at peace is good for America.

I am—believe in the spirit of the countries that we're talking about. I believe in their spirit. These are countries that have lived under totalitarianism, and they understand the value of freedom. And they love freedom, and I love that spirit. I think that's going to be a very important part of invigorating the Alliance.

The Alliance is a crucial alliance. It's a strong alliance. We're going into a new period. And the idea of having members that are willing to shoulder their share of the burden of keeping the peace with the new threats is good, but—and this spirit of understanding what totalitarianism can mean and understanding the responsibilities of being free nations—that come with being a free nation is very important at this summit.

So I'm really looking forward to it. It's—I'm excited to go to countries that have invited me to come. I look forward to the events. And so, with that, I'll answer some questions. Why don't we start here? You are from?

President's Upcoming Visit to Romania

Q. Yes, sir. I am from Romania.

The President. That's good.

Q. Sir, the Romanian people waited for the Americans after the World War II. We've waited for you almost 60 years. You know, the farmers were raising the corn in such a way that the American planes could land. That happened in '45 and the fifties. Now, for my parents, it might be a little bit late, but for my 11-years daughter, it might have a chance. You're coming to Bucharest next Saturday. This time are the Americans really coming to Romania?

The President. Great question. No more Munichs. No more Yaltas. America—I come to your country because I believe that Romania is an important part of a Europe which is whole and free and at peace. The story of Romania is a powerful story, of people taking charge of their own lives, of—

[At this point, a tape recorder stopped.]

The President. We had a click here, in case anybody is interested. This one right here. Poor planning? [Laughter] Nobody claims it? Shouldn't have said poor planning. This is nobody's?

Q. Might be mine.

The President. It's yours?

Q. Yes. If it's out, it's out. That's okay. [Laughter]

The President. You don't want—if you've got to, turn it over. Getting quite articulate there. [Laughter]

A lot of us watched the story of your country ridding yourselves of a totalitarian dictator, and it was a powerful story. But the story didn't end there. The story ended with a desire for freedom and democracy and open markets.

And the answer to your question is: Absolutely. That's what the whole Prague summit is about: All for one, and one for all. We remember here in our country when, after the attacks of September the 11th, NATO stood up and said, "An attack on the United States is an attack on us." I will say the same thing about Romania and Lithuania and the Czech Republic, and anybody else that might be a member of NATO. And that's what I feel.

I appreciate that question. That's—your question is one of the reasons I look so forward to going to Romania—

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. —to be able to provide that assurance in what is going to be a, as I understand it, magnificent event where, on the one hand, I will be able to point to statues of heroic liberators, people who believed in freedom, that freedom was ingrained in their soul, and on the other hand, point to a balcony where the dictator had his—he realized reality. It's—as a matter of fact, I was looking at my speech last night.

End of the Cold War

Q. I'm from Lithuania, and Lithuania was recognized 11 years ago by your father, President Bush—

The President. Forty-one, we call him.

Q. —who took an active role in managing the collapse of the Soviet Union. How do you recall these times?

The President. Yes. Well, first, I want—I remember that, in terms of the Baltic states, that our country always viewed the Baltics as independent. During the Soviet era, we viewed the Baltics as independent. Secondly, I recall the times leading up to the collapse of the Soviet leadership, not only with my dad's actions as President but those of Ronald Reagan as well, where there was clarity of thought, that there was no equivocation when it came to issues such as freedom.

And I keep saying that word because it is an issue that we face collectively today in other parts of the world. Freedom is essentially a human condition. It's not an American gift. It is God's gift to the world. I believe that. I believe that everybody—the Almighty recognizes, through His mercy and grace, that people are—the freedom of each individual. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious.

It was exciting times for Americans to watch the change in the Soviet Union, because it meant that the days of significant animosity could be ending. A lot of us grew up when the two big countries were fierce enemies, and the rest of the world watched to see whether or not there would be war and watched many times in horror as to whether or not there would be war, because the consequences of war between the Soviet Union and America would have been devastating for a lot of people. It looked like

that, to us, that the collapse of the Soviet Union would provide an opportunity for peace. That's the most significant—that's the most exciting thing for me, that the relationship would be changed.

I'm honored to be in a position to help further the change of the relationship. I'll answer the Russian journalist's question in a minute—I'm not going to anticipate it—but I am going, after Prague, immediately to Russia for a reason.

And anyway, it was exciting times for us. But the exciting—the true excitement is going to come when the people of the Baltics realize the world has changed dramatically, and it finally has changed dramatically in many ways, that Russia is not an enemy, that the United States is not an enemy of Russia, that the United States is still a friend of the Baltics. But most importantly, the Baltic people have got an opportunity now to realize their full potential. And that was what was 11 years ago we first saw, and it's an honor to be a continuing part of that history.

Yes, sir.

Chechnya/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, I would like to ask you a question regarding Chechnya.

The President. Sure.

Q. I guess it will be one of the topics you will discuss with Mr. Putin—

The President. Absolutely.

Q. Do you believe that after the latest events—mainly, after hostage in Moscow and after the statements made by Usama bin Laden raising the terrorist acts in Bali and Moscow, do you believe, Mr. President, that you can understand better this red—terrorists pose to Russia? And would you agree—would you agree with President Putin, who says that the Chechen kind of terrorism vis-a-vis Russia is of the same nature as the Al Qaida terrorism to the United States?

The President. Right. You didn't ask the question I thought you were going to ask. I'm going to Russia to make it clear to the Russians and to Vladimir Putin, they have nothing to fear from NATO expansion, that a Baltic—the Baltics in NATO are positive for Russia.

Now, my answer to your question—I thought you were going to ask why I'm going

to St. Petersburg. Anyway—[laughter]—and I'm going—I didn't hesitate when Vladimir and I talked about my trip to St. Petersburg, that it was very important for me to go there. And it was important for me say—explain why I think it's a positive development.

Terrorism—first of all, I've got a good friend in the fight against terrorism in Vladimir Putin. He understands the stakes. And so do I. He understands that as you embrace freedom and embrace change and—that there will be people who resent that and want to impose their will.

Secondly, I thought that at the theater that he was confronted with a very difficult situation. Eight hundred people were—were going to lose their lives. Clearly, these people were killers, just like the killers that came to America. There's a common—a common thread, that anytime anybody is willing to take innocent life for a so-called cause, they must be dealt with. And he made some very tough decisions. And people tried to blame Vladimir; they ought to blame the terrorists. They're the ones who caused the situation, not President Putin.

Thirdly, I believe Chechnya can—I hope that Chechnya can be solved peacefully, that there's ways to discuss the political dialog in such a way that this issue can be solved peacefully. Thirdly, to the extent that there are Al Qaida members infiltrating Russia, they need to be dealt with; they need to be brought to justice. And I—you know, when Usama, praising these—the Muslim attacks in Chechnya, it's clear that there is an Al Qaida interest.

That's why we're working so hard in Georgia with the Georgians to, one, encourage a dialog between Shevardnadze and President Putin, and two, develop a joint strategy to deal with the Al Qaida members which may be in the Pankisi Gorge. And so—but I will continue to talk to Vladimir about the need to protect and recognize the rights of minorities within any country and at the same time deal with terrorism. And I hope he can find that balance. I think he can.

Czech Republic and NATO

Q. Mr. President, how do you assess the performance of the Czech Republic in NATO in preparation for this summit?

The President. Yes, well, first of all, they've been valuable members of NATO. I was able to express that to your President in his recent visit—who, by the way, is an outstanding human being and is highly respected and highly regarded in all of America. NATO has been—I mean, the Czech Republic has been a—was unhesitating in its support of Article 5 in NATO, for which I am grateful. Every conversation I've had with the President, he has been nothing more than anxious for the Czech Republic to perform its role within NATO.

The interesting thing—let me give you kind of a broader statement about what you'll see at the Prague summit—is that everybody has got something to contribute in the military capacities of NATO to deal with the new threats. And the Czech Republic, certainly, is such a country. There's going to be—I guess, the best word will be specialization—there needs to be a specialization as we develop the military capacity to deal with the true threat.

Russia is not a threat, and therefore, the military strategies of NATO need to be changed to recognize that new reality. Russia is—Russia is a friend, not an enemy. NATO was formed because of the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact doesn't exist and, therefore, now—but there is a threat to all of us. And that is the threat in the form of international and global terrorism, which we must be able to deal with. The Czech Republic understands that. They're willing to help specialize. And it's up to the Czech Republic to determine that—along with Lord Robertson and his strategy—to determine how best to meet with the threats we face.

Obviously, we've had good relations with the intelligence service of the Czech Republic, which is one of the key ingredients in order to fight terror. If you know somebody is thinking about doing something to us or we know somebody is thinking about doing something to you, we share intelligence. We've got good intelligence-sharing with Russia, by the way, now, because of the joint threat of global terror.

It's a key ingredient in order to make sure we're able to find the new enemy. The enemy doesn't travel in army formations. They're killers. They take theaters. They

crash airplanes into buildings. They bomb resorts. And we must know as much about their whereabouts and their plans as possible, in order to find them and bring them to justice. And therefore, there needs to be a different attitude about the threats we face.

In terms of the Prague summit, I am mindful of what happens when the U.S. President shows up at times. I mean, it is—you know, there is going to be a lot of noise and clamor. But I'm actually confident that the Czech Republic will do a fine job. It is a big deal that this city of Prague hosts this, and nations from all over Europe coming and—plus the Canadians and ourselves. I'm sure there's going to be people who are willing to express their voices, that maybe perhaps think NATO—something about NATO is not the way they like it, or whatever it may be. We believe in free speech. Hopefully, they'll have an opportunity to speak freely in a way that's not—that doesn't promote violence.

But the thing that impresses me most about the Czech Republic and its Government is, in spite of the terrible flood, devastating floods, that this Government and these people are anxious to host this meeting and will be able to do so in a great way. And it shows the great character of the people, to rise above the devastation to be able to host this summit. So I'm really looking forward to it. I can't wait to get there and will be there soon.

Romania and NATO

Q. Mr. President, what symbol would you associate to Romania on the new NATO map? I mean, where is the place of Romania in this new NATO map?

The President. How do you mean, what's the place? What do you mean—well, first of all, you're getting me caught—if these countries get in—[*laughter*]. But the fact that I'm going to your country I guess says something. [*Laughter*]

Q. We hope so.

The President. Right now I'm off the record. Anyway—[*laughter*—first of all, the map is more than just countries on a piece of paper; the map is an attitude. It's an attitude that says that we want to work toward open markets and open societies and transparency and fight corruption. We want to

participate in the global war against terror in a way that we're capable of doing so.

Physically, of course, Romania will be the leading edge of Europe extending its reach into Eastern Europe. And it's a significant reach. It is—today, it's interesting, the Vice President and I were being briefed on an issue, and we looked at the map, and the Vice President said, "I have trouble adjusting to the actual map of NATO." In other words, the point was that NATO now—NATO's reach is far east. And Romania represents that eastern reach. So physically it's a significant statement of the power of an alliance and the willingness of a people to adopt the habits necessary to have a free society.

It's—I think that's probably the most significant thing about the NATO map. It's an attitude. It's the soul of NATO, like I described earlier. But it's the presence of Romania—really recognizes the change. And it's a significant change. It's an historic—this will be an historic day, our meeting on one day—Thursday, I think is the day—in which the decision will be actually announced.

Lithuania

Q. Although—Mr. President, although, yes—recognize the annexation and occupation of Lithuanian, to most Americans our country was unknown territory for a long time. And can you recall, when did you first and what hear about Lithuania? And what did you think of Lithuania at that time? And what do you think now?

The President. Well, there's a lot of Lithuanian Americans who kept the hope alive of a free and independent Lithuania in America, not so much in my home State of Texas, mainly in the Midwest. And I think a lot of people took pity on the people of Lithuania, given the circumstances. And the Government took its position. But there was a patience by our leadership that eventually freedom would prevail.

Lithuania is kind of a—it's got kind of a—all the Baltics, for that matter—have got an interesting kind of romance because it's a small country. It's totally overwhelmed, divided up. It's kind of handed out as pieces of a—pieces of a settlement that saddened a lot of Americans. But nobody ever gave up hope, I think. Most Americans never gave

up hope that the Baltics would some day be able to realize their vast potential.

I'm going to tell you an interesting story. This is from another Baltic country. It's from the Prime Minister of Estonia, came to see me. I'm very hesitant to put words into another leader's mouth. They tend to do it to me, and I don't like it. So I would paraphrase, loosely paraphrase. He was there at the time when—and one of the things I do is welcome a lot of leaders to America; it's an interesting experience. I have done so with the Lithuanian leadership as well.

And I said—this is the day where I told our Congress we were going to encourage a national debate and dialog on Iraq. And I started to give him my rationale as to why I was thinking about Iraq. He said, "You don't need to talk to me"—this is paraphrasing now—about Iraq. He said, "Our country has watched democracies go soft in the face of totalitarianism, and we lived in slavery for 50 years."

Now, that's a paraphrase for the American press. But the point I want to make to you is that he was clear about obligations we have. That's what I think about the Baltics. The spirit—and Romania, for that matter, and the Czech Republic as embodied in the works and thoughts of Vaclav Havel. That's what I think about your country. You know, I firmly believe that—again, I keep repeating myself, but it's on my mind because this is exactly what we're dealing with at the NATO expansion. And this is the concept of how precious freedom is for people. It is a—and it has a lot to do, frankly, with my thinking about Iraq too.

The fact that people are tortured and subjugated, aren't free to realize their potential, really bothers me. I think we have an obligation to work to free people. There's all kinds of ways to do it, but we have that obligation. It doesn't happen as quickly sometimes as we would like. But that's an obligation of all of us who have got—who live in free countries. You have that obligation. But there's no doubt you'll recognize that obligation because you're freshly free from subjugation. And that's what I was talking about, about the invigoration of the soul of NATO. That's what I think about when I think about the Baltics.

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned Iraq.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think—do you believe that Russian support of the U.N. resolution on Iraq has promoted any kind of reconciliation between the position of Russia and America on this matter? And what would you like to tell to President Putin in regard to—

The President. Oh, yes. Well, first, I appreciate them working together with us on the resolution. The U.N. Security Council sent a clear signal to Iraq and the world. We expect them to disarm, is what the signal said. And actually, the U.N. Security Council sent a signal about themselves, that they want to be relevant.

You see, if you send out 16 resolutions and all 16 resolutions were ignored, at some point in time, somebody has got to tell the truth and say, "You're not relevant. Why pass a resolution unless you really mean it?" And so we got together, and we said, "Fine, let's pass this significant resolution." And the Russians were helpful and voted for it. And now the word is out, that the U.N. Security Council will be a relevant body. In other words, we intend to enforce the serious consequences if there's not disarmament, and that we're able to work with our friends. I thought that was a very positive thing.

And I will tell this to Vladimir Putin. It's probably better for me to tell him, but not through your newspapers, but I'll try anyway. The issue is not inspectors. The issue is disarmament. That's the issue. And the question is, will Saddam Hussein disarm? That's what the U.N. Security Council has said, once again, with Russian support, along with other—a lot of other countries. And so he must show us whether or not he'll disarm, for the sake of peace.

And if he doesn't, then we, of course, will consult, like we said we would do—we'd hold a meeting. But the interesting thing about the U.N. Security Council resolution is, all countries are free to act. And that was explained to Vladimir what my sentiments—I'm very strong about. This is not a—this isn't a free pass for Saddam, now that the resolution has been passed. Quite the contrary. We expect him to disarm. And we expect him to do everything he can to disarm. And we

expect him to be cooperating in his disarmament for the sake of peace.

And that's what the U.N. Security Council said to me, that people now have finally come to the conclusion that it's time now to deal with the issue. Hopefully, this can get done peacefully. But it's up to Mr. Saddam Hussein, and we'll see. It's time for him to declare if he's got any weapons. And we'll proceed from there.

NATO and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, will you ask the allies in Prague to contribute to military action if such action becomes necessary?

The President. I will—first of all, I believe that the NATO Alliance understands the issue. The countries there would like to see a disarmed Saddam Hussein. They—a peaceful country, they believe in peace, just like I believe in peace. And a Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is—particularly since he's used them in the past, and he clearly can't stand America and many of our friends, would mean it would be likely for us not to have peace.

Imagine a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. It's certainly not an ingredient for peace, quite the contrary. And so the NATO countries understand that. And if, in fact, military action is needed, we'll consult with them, and everybody will be able to make a decision that they're comfortable with. But I wouldn't preclude a peaceful settlement. I hope it happens peacefully. But if it doesn't, just—people will know that our intent is to lead a coalition of like-minded, freedom-loving countries, a coalition of the willing to disarm Saddam Hussein. And one way or the other, he's going to be disarmed, and it's in everybody's interest that that be the case.

So we'll talk about that. All right? Thank you for your time. Now, are you going on these trips? You're going to go to the NATO summit? That's going to be exciting. How many journalists will be there?

NATO Summit in Prague

Q. Two thousand seven hundred—that was the last figure I note from Prague before I came here.

The President. Two thousand seven hundred.

Q. Including TV crews.

The President. Wow. Well, I can't wait for my press conference. I'm going to have about a 2-hour press conference there in front of 2,700. [Laughter]

Q. Two days.

The President. Two days. [Laughter] Just kidding, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Can't wait for that.

The President. You're going?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. It's going to be exciting. It's going to be a very exciting time. And so you have just come from Prague?

Q. Yes.

The President. So you tell me what the feeling is like there in the city.

Q. Well, the city is almost evacuated, in expecting the summit, because—

The President. The city is evacuated?

Q. No, I'm joking, but the area around the conference center is almost evacuated. And the kids, they have holiday, and the shops are going to be closed, and the center of the city, Wenceslas Square where the demonstrations usually take place, is under police surveillance. So Prague is getting ready, so everyone is expecting how to get to work in—they are making arrangements.

The President. Yes. And how many people are coming, just total? Do they have an estimate? From outside the Czech Republic.

Q. More than 2,000 people—I mean, delegations and—

The President. Oh, it's got to be way more than that.

Q. —with the staff and everything.

The President. Well, the press is 2,700 alone. I bet there's—our mighty delegation—[laughter].

Q. But only two hotels were affected by the floods. Only two of the number of the hotels that are ready for—to accommodate the delegations and—

The President. They're ready?

Q. —only two hotels were badly affected by the floods. Otherwise—

The President. How is the recovery from the floods?

Q. It was bad. It was tough, and now it's getting better. There are some neighborhoods in Prague where people cannot return to their homes because of the—

The President. Still?

Q. —and it's not only Prague. It's the whole country, going into Germany.

The President. So sad.

Q. So it's very bad. No chronicle—no person ever remembers such a disaster.

The President. It's a 500-year flood.

Q. A thousand.

The President. A thousand-year flood. Wow, that's too bad.

Q. But as we say, Charles did it—from the 14th century. [*Laughter*]

President's Visits to Europe

The President. Well, I'm glad the country is recovering. We're really looking forward to it and looking forward to our trips, too. They're going to be magnificent.

Q. We expect more people than for the Pope in 1999.

The President. Really? It's going to be exciting. I'm looking forward to it. I better make sure my speech is—I think they'll like it.

All right. We'll see you there. Thanks. Thanks for coming. I'm looking forward to going to St. Petersburg again.

Q. Yes, sure. Thank you very much.

The President. The second time in one year. Maybe a third time.

Q. Did you like it?

The President. Yes, it was spectacular. Remember, we went out on the boat, Vladimir, myself, Sergey Ivanov, floated a—White Nights. Fantastic. It won't be White Nights this time, though. Will be white days, right, snowing?

Q. Yes, snowing. [*Laughter*]

The President. We'll see you all there. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:45 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for later broadcast, and the transcript was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 6:30 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia; President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty

November 18, 2002

Coalition Against Iraq

Q. Mr. President, this week NATO will be celebrating an historic expansion as well as focusing on transforming the Alliance to meet new threats, such as Iraq. You have spoken about the possibility of leading a coalition of the willing against Iraq. Why not speak about using NATO forces against Iraq, since under NATO's charter all members are supposed to come to the aid of any member under direct threat?

The President. Well, first of all, I hope we can do this peacefully. And by doing it peacefully, that means I hope Saddam Hussein disarms. Of course, we've hoped that for 11 years. We've hoped that for 16 resolutions. We now have a 17th resolution, and this time I intend to work with nations that love freedom and peace, make sure the resolution stands. And if he doesn't disarm, you're right, I'll lead a coalition of the willing to disarm him. And there's all kinds of ways for that coalition to be formed. It could be formed with NATO, if they choose. I have said to the U.N. Security Council, "We'll go back and discuss the matter with you." But Mr. Saddam Hussein must understand he'll be disarmed one way or the other. I hope it's done peacefully.

NATO and the War on Terror

Q. The new members of NATO are quite small. Do you see them as contributing something significant militarily to the Alliance?

The President. I was hoping you'd ask, do I see them contributing something to the Alliance, so I'm going to answer it that way. First, I'll answer it militarily, because I do believe they can contribute something really important, and that is, they can contribute their love for freedom. These are countries which have lived in totalitarian states. They haven't been free. And now they've seen freedom and they love freedom, just like

America loves freedom. And that's going to be a really important—it will add some vigor to the relationship in NATO that's healthy and wholesome.

And I think they will. The key is to—I think they will help militarily—but the key is to change the military strategy of NATO. Lord Robertson understands this. It starts with the understanding that Russia is not our enemy. NATO doesn't need to be constructed to prevent the Warsaw Pact from invading Europe. After all, the Warsaw Pact doesn't exist. As a matter of fact, the Warsaw Pact is becoming NATO, slowly but surely. We don't need that type of mentality, and we've got to have a military strategy that addresses the true threats.

The threats we face are global terrorist attacks. That's the threat. And the more you love freedom, the more likely it is you'll be attacked. And therefore, the Article 5 that you referred to for NATO becomes very relevant in this war against terror. The war against terror will not only be defeated—the terrorists will not only be defeated militarily, but the terrorists will be defeated as we share intelligence and as we cut off money and as we deny access and as we stiffen up border requirements in order to make sure that people can't go from one spot to another with plots and/or messages to attack.

And so it's a different kind of war. And it's going to be an interesting meeting, because not only is the meeting going to expand, but the meeting is going to address how best to achieve this common objective. I'm absolutely convinced that the so-called military gap between America and all countries can be addressed with a good strategy. And that will be interesting for observers to watch. I think it's going to happen. I know that Lord Robertson, who runs NATO, is committed to developing a relevant strategy and one that will work.

Chechnya/War on Terror

Q. Russian President Vladimir Putin has equated his war in Chechnya with the U.S. war on terrorism. Do you agree with that equation, or do you still feel, as was stated during your election campaign, that Russian

forces are committing brutalities against innocent Chechen civilians?

The President. I think that Russia should be able to—or hope that Russia should be able to solve their issue with Chechnya peacefully. That's not to say that Vladimir shouldn't do what it takes to protect his people from individual terrorist attacks. But this is a different kind of war that we face. This is a war where we're dealing with people who hide in caves and kind of shadowy corners of the world and send people to their suicidal deaths. It's a war that I believe can lend itself both to chasing those people down and, at the same time, solving issues in a peaceful way, with respect for the human rights of minorities within countries. I said that in the campaign. I also say it to Mr. Putin every time I see him.

NATO-Russia Partnership

Q. Do you envision Russia ever becoming a full-fledged member of NATO?

The President. I think the partnership between NATO and Russia is going to be a very constructive partnership. We'll see. Time will tell. The key thing is to make sure the relationship works the way it should, which really says to Russia that an expanded NATO on your border is not a threat to you or your future. As a matter of fact, it should enable you to grow peacefully.

I'm going from Prague to St. Petersburg precisely to deliver that message to the Russian people, that even though NATO will have been expanded on your border, particularly in sensitive areas like the Baltics, you should not fear expansion, you should welcome expansion, because you've now got a neighborhood that is much more peaceful for you to—in which to realize your vast potential. And that's important for Russia to hear.

Q. Russia now has a special counsel with NATO—

The President. Are we getting the hook already?

Q. Does that mean we're running out of time? Let me ask you another question—

The President. It's hard to see on radio.

Freedom and the War on Terror

Q. Central Asia—we broadcast to Central Asia. And many experts say that the authoritarian regimes in that region are actually fueling terrorism because their people feel helpless and unable to effect change. Do you think there are any dangers in the U.S. allying itself closely with those governments that are——

The President. I think anytime the United States allies itself with a government, that we never forget the basic premises of our existence, and that is: Freedom is important; the human condition for all are important; we value every life; everybody counts. And in my judgment, the more people relate to the United States and work with the United States, the more likely it is they will work to improve the human condition. And that's what we spend a lot of time doing. That's one of the great things about our country is that we embrace freedom, first and foremost.

It's one of my concerns about Iraq. Listen, we've got people living in Iraq that are tortured and brutalized in order to keep this man in power. I weep for those who suffer.

And so the great cause of the United States is freedom. I tell these countries—they talk about freedom—I say, “Freedom isn't America's gift to the world. It's God-given. Everybody counts.” And it is with—that spirit of recognizing the values of freedom I think will help improve people, no matter where. And you're right, there's some leaders there that need work with, and we're prepared to work with them.

But I will tell you, people—poverty is a tool for recruitment amongst these global terrorists. It's a way for them to recruit, perhaps. But poverty doesn't cause killers to exist. And it's an important distinction to make. These global terrorists are—some of them are rich, monetarily. They're obviously poor in spirit. They have no regard for human life. They claim they're religious, and they kill in the name of religion. And there are some breeding grounds, no question about it. And therefore, we hope that prosperity spreads out from central government to help people. But I hope people don't confuse the mentality of the terrorist leaders and economic plight, because these people are plenty comfortable. They just kill. And we're

going to get them before they get us. And that's what the world needs to know about the United States.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Usama bin Laden still seems to be alive. Are you——

The President. Could be.

Q. ——worried that he's plotting another major attack on the United States?

The President. Whether it's him or somebody else, they're plotting an attack, no question about it. That's why we've got to get them. But this issue is bigger than one person. If—the war on terror is a group of fanatics. They hate America because of what we stand for. They hate us because we love freedom. And that's why we're on the hunt. And slowly but surely, we're dismantling them.

I told the people of this country it's going to take a while. I said it's going to be patient—the farther we get away from September the 11th, 2001, the more people are going to tend to forget what took place in this country. And it's normal reaction for people to just kind of try to settle back and hope that something doesn't exist. But my job is to remind people of the threats we face, based upon facts, and to find these killers. And that's exactly what we're going to do. As I tell people in America, there's no cave dark enough to hide from the justice of America and our friends.

And my speech I'm going to give in Prague to the youngsters there, I'm going to remind them there is a coalition of the willing in place right now, chasing down terror. We've got 90 nations—90 different nations—all teamed up, doing everything we can to bring these people to justice. And we'll prevail. Make no mistake about it. We'll prevail.

Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Is there any doubt in your mind we'll prevail?

Q. Not anymore. [Laughter]

NOTE: The interview was recorded at 1:45 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Usama bin

Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A portion of this interview could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks in a Meeting With Nobel Laureates

November 18, 2002

It's my honor to welcome this year's Nobel laureates to the Oval Office. Of course, I welcome somebody who spent a lot of quality time here. President Carter and Mrs. Carter, we're so honored to have you as well as the other distinguished Americans who are here with us.

These Americans are a great honor to their fields and a great honor to our country. And we're proud to have you here. We're proud for what you've done, for not only America but the world. And we're proud for your contributions.

And I want to thank the Ambassadors from Sweden and Norway for coming here as well. Mr. Ambassadors, thank you for being here. All Americans take great pride in the accomplishments of these good folks. We'll be watching the news clips of the ceremonies. We will be with you there in spirit.

And once again, we thank you and your families for your dedication to the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And may God bless your work, and may God bless your further endeavors. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassadors to the U.S. Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Knut Vollebaek of Norway.

Interview With Czech Television

November 18, 2002

NATO's Role in the 21st Century

Q. Mr. President, this week in Prague, NATO will invite seven countries to join the Alliance. But there are other topics on the agenda, and the future of NATO is one of them. What do you see NATO will be doing in the 21st century? What is its role?

The President. Well, I think—first of all, I'm excited about going to Prague, and I want

to thank the citizens of that important city and the great country for their hard work in recovering from the floods and preparing Prague for our arrival.

This is going to be a historic meeting because, as you said, we're expanding NATO. The most important alliance America has is NATO, and the expansion of NATO is something that I think is very important.

The role of NATO is different as we go into the 21st century. NATO used to be a way to defend Europe from the Warsaw Pact. But the Warsaw Pact no longer exists. Russia is not an enemy. And we face new threats, and the new threats are global terror. And so one way to make sure NATO is relevant is to focus on the true threats to freedom, address those threats, and figure out ways that we can work together to accomplish what we want, which is a peaceful world, which means better intelligence-sharing, the capacity to cut off money, and a military operation that reflects the nature of the wars we'll be fighting. And that's going to be one of the most important discussions we face there in Prague.

Cooperation in the War on Terror

Q. Well, there are really big gaps between the war-fighting capabilities of NATO—of the United States, on one hand, and the European countries, on the other hand. And Lord Robertson is saying that the Americans are not always willing to share the technology necessary for NATO. Are you ready to participate on organization of European forces?

The President. Well, I think what has to happen is there first be a strategy that recognizes that the Czech Republic can provide a certain contribution or the French or the British—not the French but the Germans or the British can provide certain kind of capabilities—and that we dovetail each capability to an overall strategy. In which case, of course, America is willing to work with our friends and allies to make sure the NATO Alliance works properly.

In other words, everybody can contribute something. But it all has got to be done within the strategy of the true threats we face in the 21st century, which is global terrorism. That's the biggest threat to freedom right now.

NATO and Iraq

Q. You will certainly talk about Iraq. Will the United States, if it decides to go to war with Iraq, seek the support of NATO as an alliance?

The President. Well, first, I hope we don't have to go to war with Iraq. I mean, my first choice is not to commit our troops to regime change. I hope that Saddam Hussein does what he said he would do, and that is disarm. For the sake of peace, he must disarm. Most nations understand that—most nations in NATO understand that. They want Saddam to disarm. The U.N. Security Council has spoken and says he must disarm. So it's his choice to make.

If he refuses to disarm, then we will lead a coalition of the willing and disarm him. And of course, I hope our NATO friends come with us. I think they will realize it's in the interest of peace and stability that that happen. But we're not close to that decision point yet because we're just beginning the process of allowing Saddam the chance to show the world whether or not he will disarm.

And that's an important distinction the people of the Czech Republic must know. It's not up to me. It's up to him. He said he would disarm, and the inspectors are not the issue. The inspectors are simply a means to determine his willingness. And we'll see. He's had a bad history. He's had 11 years of lying and deceiving, and now it's time to bring him to account, one way or the other.

NATO-U.S. Shared Values

Q. Some critics now see NATO as a toolbox, and the United States just goes and picks whatever it needs when it needs it. Do you agree?

The President. No, of course not. I mean, I think we view this as an alliance of nations with whom we share common values, the common values of freedom and individual rights and democracy. This is an opportunity for us to combine our values with our deep desire to have a peaceful world. And we will work in concert with each other, not in opposition to each other. And by working in concert we can really address those threats.

See, that's the interesting thing that people have got to know. There's threats to your

freedom. If you embrace freedom and love freedom and willing to stand strong against global terrorism, you will be threatened. And we can't let that happen. It's just a different type of threat that we face, but it's a true threat.

We face it here in America today. There's still an enemy that wants to hit us. There's still an enemy that wants to hit our friends. And the NATO Charter says, "If you attack one, you attack us all." And that's a very important alliance, a very important statement of commonality to keep the peace.

I think NATO is a good thing, and I look forward to working with our friends in NATO.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for the interview.

The President. Thank you. I'm so looking forward to going to Prague. It's going to be an exciting time for Laura and me to go. Thank you. Good job.

NOTE: The interview was videotaped at 1:20 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The interviewer referred to Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 19. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Teleconference Remarks With Senate Republican Leaders

November 19, 2002

Senator Trent Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, I appreciate that, Trent. And I want to thank you all for working hard. We're making great progress in the war on terror. Part of that progress will be the ability for us to protect the American people at home. This is a very important piece of legislation. It is landmark in its scope, and it ends a session which has been 2 years' worth of legislative work, which has been very productive for the American people.

Senator Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, I want to thank you all. It is an honor to be representing the greatest country on the face of the Earth over

in Europe. And we're going to have an historic day on Thursday when we go to expand NATO. The people of Europe appreciate America. They appreciate our strength, and most importantly, they appreciate our compassion and our love for freedom. And I know you all share that side of America with me.

Again, I want to thank all the Senators in the room there for your hard work and look forward to seeing you when I get back.

Senator Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. All right, well thank—

Senator Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. I think that's important. Trent, that piece of legislation will help put hardhats back to work, and that's going to be good, and I appreciate you working on that as well.

Senator Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. I need to hear a Texas voice.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. [Inaudible]

Senator Don Nickles. [Inaudible]

The President. Oh, that's good news. Well, thanks. Thanks for your good work, and I certainly appreciate it all.

Senator Lott. [Inaudible]

The President. Okay, sir. Thank you all very much. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 1:23 p.m. The President spoke aboard Air Force One en route to Prague, Czech Republic. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Action on Legislation To Establish the Department of Homeland Security

November 19, 2002

The United States Congress has taken an historic and bold step forward to protect the American people by passing legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security. This landmark legislation, the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s, will help our Na-

tion meet the emerging threats of terrorism in the 21st century.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter weapons of mass destruction, and creating a comprehensive response and recovery division.

I commend the employees who will move into this new Department for their hard work and dedication to the war on terrorism. Setting up this new Department will take time, but I know we will meet the challenge together.

I look forward to signing this important legislation.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

November 19, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for passing terrorism insurance legislation. Terrorism insurance will help get America's hardhats back on the job, create new jobs for America's workers, and spur billions in new investment in construction projects all across the country. This bill comes at a critical time, as commercial construction is at a 6-year low.

The legislation provides a Federal backstop for costs associated with acts of terrorism, ensures meaningful industry participation in any losses resulting from terrorist acts, fully consolidates lawsuits in a single Federal court, and provides fair and certain resolution of claims. While I supported even stronger liability measures to strengthen our economy and believe that further reforms need to be pursued, this bill significantly improves the legal system to prevent abusive lawsuits.

I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Sudan**

October 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives Transmitting a
Subsidy Budget Authority Request
for American Trans Air, Inc.**

November 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$168 million Federal credit instrument for American Trans Air, Inc.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$16.2 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20.

**Executive Order 13277—Delegation
of Certain Authorities and
Assignment of Certain Functions
Under the Trade Act of 2002**

November 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including the Trade Act of 2002 (the “Act”) (Public Law 107-210) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Trade Promotion. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the authorities granted to and functions specifically assigned to the President under Division B of the Act are delegated and assigned, respectively, to the United States Trade Representative (U.S. Trade Representative).

(b) The exercise of the following authorities of, and functions specifically assigned to the President, under Division B of the Act are reserved to the President:

(1) Section 2102(c)(1), (c)(6), (c)(10) and (e) of the Act;

(2) Section 2103(a)(1), (a)(4), (a)(6), b(1), (c)(1)(B)(i), and (c)(2) of the Act;

(3) Section 2105(a)(1) of the Act; and

(4) Section 2108(b) of the Act.

(c) (i) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions of section 2102(c)(2) of the Act with respect to establishing consultative mechanisms. The U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Labor, shall carry out the reporting function under section 2102(c)(2).

(ii) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(3) of the Act with respect to establishing consultative mechanisms, with the advice and assistance of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of

Commerce and, as the Secretary of State determines appropriate, the heads of such other departments and agencies. The U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall carry out the reporting function under section 2103(c)(3).

(iii) The U.S. Trade Representative shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(5) of the Act. The U.S. Trade Representative shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, carry out the reporting function and the function of making a report available under section 2102(c)(5).

(iv) The Secretary of Labor shall carry out section 2102(c)(7) of the Act, in consultation with the Secretary of State.

(v) The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(8) and (c)(9).

(vi) The Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out section 2102(c)(12) of the Act, including any appropriate consultations with the Congress relating thereto.

Sec. 2. Andean Trade. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the authorities granted and the functions specifically assigned to the President under Division C of the Act are delegated and assigned respectively, to the U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretaries of State, Commerce, the Treasury, and Labor.

(b) The exercise of the following authorities of, and functions specifically assigned to, the President under Division C of the Act are reserved to the President:

(i) The authority to proclaim under sections 204(b)(1) and 204(b)(3)(B)(ii), and the authority to designate beneficiary countries under section 204(b)(6)(B), of the Andean Trade Preference Act as amended by section 3103(a)(2) of the Act; and

(ii) The authority to make determinations under section 203(e)(1)(B) of the Andean Trade Preference Act as amended by section 3103(b) of the Act.

(c) The head of the executive department of which the United States Customs Service is a part shall take such actions to carry out determinations and actions pursuant to the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended, as directed pursuant to the authority dele-

gated to the U.S. Trade Representative under this order.

Sec. 3. Guidance for Exercising Authority and Performing Duties. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) In exercising authority delegated by, or performing functions assigned in, this order, and in performing duties related to the trade agreements program as defined in Executive Order 11846, officers of the United States:

(i) Shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the President's constitutional authority to (A) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States, including the commencement, conduct, and termination of negotiations with foreign countries and international organizations, (B) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties, (C) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary or expedient, and (D) supervise the unitary executive branch;

(ii) May redelegate authority delegated by this order and may further assign functions assigned by this order to officers of any other department or agency within the executive branch to the extent permitted by law and such redelegation or further assignment shall be published in the *Federal Register*; and

(iii) Shall consult the Attorney General as appropriate in implementing this subsection.

Sec. 4. Amendment to Executive Order 11846. Section 1 of Executive Order 11846 of March 27, 1975, as amended, is further amended by inserting “, Divisions B and C of the Trade Act of 2002,” after “Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended”.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies,

instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., November 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

**The President's News Conference
With President Vaclav Havel of the
Czech Republic in Prague, Czech
Republic**

November 20, 2002

President Havel. I am very grateful to President Bush for coming to the present NATO summit one day earlier in order to pay some kind of a working visit to the Czech Republic. He is the third President of the United States who has come to visit us in the 13 years since the collapse of the Iron Curtain, and I believe that this is a telling feature of the quality of our relationship.

In our first conversation that has just ended, we have touched upon several issues, although, of course, not on all the issues that we would like to discuss. President Bush explained the position of the United States on Iraq, and I made it clear that I believe that if this issue is discussed within the NATO deliberations, as it obviously will be, that I would deem it desirable if the outcome of this discussion was reflected in some way in the final documents. We also raised the subject of transformation of the North Atlantic Alliance, and I believe that there was full agreement between us on this matter.

I have made every effort to extend a truly cordial welcome to President Bush, and I will extend an equally cordial reception to all of the prominent guests coming for this summit. Perhaps the heart that is now shining above Prague Castle may represent a sign of this cordiality with which the Czech Republic and me, personally, receive for the distinguished guests coming to the summit meeting.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank you, and I want to thank the Czech people for welcoming not only me and our delegation but welcoming many of the leaders of the world to a city which is recovering from devastating floods. The fact that you were able to host us in such fine fashion speaks to the great character of the Czech people.

And speaking about character, your life has shown that a person who dedicates himself to freedom can literally change the course of a nation and change the course of history. And I'm honored to be in your presence again. The people of the Czech Republic must understand that your President is greatly admired in America. I'm proud to call you friend.

Before I make a few comments, I do want to say something for domestic consumption, if that's all right with you. Yesterday, the United States Senate voted overwhelmingly to better protect America and voted overwhelmingly to help people find work. And I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate for working with this administration to do the right thing for the American people.

And tomorrow, we vote on whether or not to expand NATO. I strongly support a Europe which is whole, free, and at peace. I welcome the idea of countries joining NATO whose history has taught them the need to protect freedom at all costs, countries whose admission to NATO will invigorate our Alliance. The admission of these countries will not only help us militarily achieve peace, but the admission of these countries will affect the soul of this most important Alliance.

We did talk about Iraq. There is universal recognition that Saddam Hussein is a threat to world peace. There's clear understanding that he must disarm in the name of peace. And we hope he chooses to do so. Tomorrow we'll discuss the issue. We'll consider what happens if he chooses not to disarm. But one thing is certain: He'll be disarmed, one way or the other, in the name of peace.

We also talked about NATO capabilities. We recognize it's a hard task to change the military strategy of this important Alliance. As I explained to the President, I've tried eliminating some weapons systems in the

United States. It is a difficult job. But it is a necessary job to transform our strategy, our military strategy to meet the true threats we face. The enemy is not Russia. The enemy is global terrorists who hate freedom. And together we can work to defeat that enemy, in the name of freedom.

Mr. President, thank you for having us. This is an historic meeting, an historic city, an historic country, led by an historic figure.

We'll answer some questions.

Czech-U.S. Relations/Iraq

Moderator. The first one. Czech Radio.

Q. I have one question for President Bush, and a second question for President Havel.

President Bush, you have said some lofty words here. The Czech Republic—

President Bush. I said some what?

Q. Lofty words. *[Laughter]*

President Bush. No one has ever accused me of being a poet before, but thank you. *[Laughter]*

Q. The Czech Republic has been a member of NATO for 3 years now. For 3 years, we have been an ally of the United States. Are we, to your mind, a good ally, and do you count on us in a war with Iraq?

And the question for President Havel, 12 years ago you met in these halls with the father of the President of the United States, President George Bush, the elder. Now you are meeting with his son. The situation both in the Czech Republic and in the United States has changed fairly substantially in those 12 years. Have the relations between the two countries changed as well?

President Bush. Well, first, the Czech Republic is not only a good ally; it's a great ally. I can say that with confidence because I have heard the President speak about this country's commitment to freedom and peace. And the first test of that friendship came right after September the 11th. The world for our country changed on September the 11th, and the Czech Republic responded quickly.

Secondly, as to Iraq, it's very important for our nations, as well as all free nations, to work collectively to see to it that Saddam Hussein disarms. If the collective will of the world is strong, we can achieve disarmament peacefully. However, should he choose not to disarm, the United States will lead a coalition

of the willing to disarm him. And at that point in time, all our nations—we will consult with our friends, and all nations will be able to choose whether or not they want to participate.

President Havel. President Bush, the elder, and I met during very dramatic times, and we have forged a lasting bond of friendship. In fact, I twice visited him at Kennebunkport after he left office. And I trust that after I leave office, which will be quite soon, my friendship with George Bush, the younger, will continue just as well.

As for the relationship between our two states, I believe that they have not only been gradually improved and have grown stronger, but they have developed into something that is actually taken for granted now, especially by the younger generation. And I believe that we do share a great deal of mutual confidence.

NATO/Iraq/Germany

President Bush. Ron.

Moderator. Ron Fournier of the Associated Press.

Q. Mr. President, you just talked about the collective will of the world, and I'm wondering—*[inaudible]*—you said you hope NATO comes along—

President Bush. You hope what?

Q. You said that you hope NATO comes along with you and Saddam Hussein will disarm one way or another. And yet, I don't hear any discussion about NATO collectively taking up arms against Iraq should war be necessary. Why is that? Why settle for just niche contributions from individual allies? And also, what role do you see Germany—

President Bush. What role do I see—

Q. What role do you see Germany taking in a war against Iraq?

President Bush. Well, first, thank you for the "if we should go to war against Iraq." War is my last choice, my last option. I hope we can do this peacefully.

It is possible that Saddam Hussein gets the message that we're serious about disarmament and he should fully disarm. That's possible. The possibility becomes more real if he understands that there is a true consequence for his failure to disarm. And there

is a true consequence. There's a serious consequence, as the U.N. resolution addresses.

Now, you asked about two different parts of NATO. First, by "niche" I mean that in order for there to be an effective NATO, some countries can specialize and provide excellence. And the classic example is the Czech Republic's ability to deal with biological weapons, the aftermath of a biological weapon attack. The Czech Republic is one of the very best in the world at a chemical and biological response capability. And that's what I was referring to when I talked about the capacity of each country to contribute a part of an effective strategy, a military strategy, as we head into the 21st century. It's a vision which is yet to be implemented, but it's a vision which will be discussed here in Prague.

Of course, the key reason we're here is to talk about NATO expansion and the benefits of NATO expansion, not only to encourage the spread of freedom in Europe but also to be able to deal with the true threats we face in order to defend our freedoms. And my answer, as far as Iraq goes, is exactly what I've said previously: If the decision is made to use military force, we will consult with our friends, and we hope that our friends will join us.

And as to Germany's role, it's a decision Germany will make, just like it's a decision the Czech Republic will make, just like it's a decision Great Britain will make. It's a decision that each country must decide as to how, if, and when they want to participate and how they choose to participate. The point is, is that we will have plenty of consultations with our friends.

Future of NATO/Action Against Iraq

Moderator. [Inaudible]

Q. Again, one question for President Bush; the next question for President Havel.

President Bush, what do you expect will change after the Prague NATO summit in the Euro-Atlantic relationship? What will be—the United States expecting from NATO? And on the other hand, what do you think that the NATO Allies will expect from the United States?

And a question for President Havel. Do you think that a clear commitment to take

an action against Iraq will be expressed at this NATO summit? And will you support such as that?

President Bush. Well, first, I think our NATO partners should expect a continued positive and active presence in this most important Alliance from the United States. Our country is committed to NATO. A strong and vibrant NATO is in the best interest of America, so we'll be active and good partners.

And we expect the same from our NATO friends. But it's very important for us to recognize that in order for NATO to be relevant as we go into the future, the military capacities of NATO must be altered to meet the true threats we face. NATO must transition from an organization that was formed to meet the threats from a Warsaw Pact to a military organization meant—structured to meet the threats from global terrorists.

And the people of the Czech Republic should understand that the threat from global terrorists is real. These people hate freedom. They are coldblooded killers who will take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

Ours is a war not against a religion, not against the Muslim faith, but ours is a war against individuals who absolutely hate what America stands for and hate the freedom of the Czech Republic. And therefore, we must work together to defend ourselves. And by remaining strong and united and tough, we'll prevail.

President Havel. I share the opinion of President Bush, and of all reasonable people, that it would be better to achieve Iraq's disarmament without using force. If, however, the need to use force does arise, I believe that NATO should give an honest and speedy consideration to its engagement as an alliance.

Let us realize that it is not the United States but the European part of the Alliance that directly borders on that country, and I believe that this kind of a test of its attitude, of its capability to reach agreement, and of its operative capabilities might be, at the same time, a test of its new identity and of its meaning in the world of today.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Moderator. Final question. Steve Holland, Reuters.

Q. Mr. President, you've said that you have a zero tolerance attitude toward Iraqi violations. Secretary Rumsfeld and Kofi Annan say they're looking for a pattern of behavior over time. Which is right? How do you reconcile these two?

President Bush. Well, I think there is—we were talking about whether or not Saddam Hussein, you know, shooting at our airplanes, what that means—we'll deal with that. The United States will take appropriate action.

The thing that's important to—for people to understand is what we want to see is whether or not he's going to cooperate, whether or not he's heard what the world has said—whether or not he's heard what the world has said through the U.N. Security Council resolution.

See, what happens is people tend to focus on the inspectors as if the inspectors are the end. The final—the thing that's important, the final point of determination is whether or not he is disarmed.

So, what we're going to be looking for, and I hope the world joins us, is whether or not this man is cooperating with the will of the world. See, the world has recognized—many members of NATO have recognized that a Saddam Hussein and Iraq which possesses weapons of mass destruction is dangerous. Imagine a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. It's important for the Czech people to understand this is guy who has poisoned his own people. He's got such hate in his heart he's willing to use a weapon of mass destruction not only on his neighborhood but on the people of his country.

He is a danger. And so, therefore, what we're looking for is to determine whether or not he is willing to cooperate, whether or not he has got the message that he must disarm.

The United Nations has said 16 different times, "You must disarm." And 16 times, he's said, "Oh, of course, I will," but never did. And so, the game's over with. We're through with that. And now he's going to disarm, one way or the other. In the name of peace, he will be disarmed.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 9:35 a.m. at Prague Castle. President Havel spoke in Czech, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Some reporters asked their questions in Czech, and the questions were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

Remarks to the Prague Atlantic Student Summit in Prague

November 20, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be here in Prague, home to so much of Europe's history and culture and the scene of so much courage in the service of freedom. After the recent floods, I know it's been tough on the citizens of the Czech Republic to not only recover, but to host this important gathering. So, on behalf of all the American delegation and all the Americans who are here, I express our gratitude for the fantastic hospitality we received. We thank the Czech people and their leadership for working hard to make sure this summit is a successful summit, and we wish them all the very best.

I want to thank Jimmy for his kind words. Really proud of Jimmy, and we're proud to have him at West Point. He's a credit to the Academy; he's a credit to the people of Lithuania. And we wish him all the very best.

I want to thank Alan Lee Williams, Antonio Borges Carvalho, for their tremendous work at the Atlantic Treaty Association. I'm grateful to Christopher Makins, who's the president of the Atlantic Council of the United States, for organizing this event. I want to thank Tom Dine, president of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, for joining us. I want to thank all the good folks who work there for joining us as well. I appreciate your service.

Dwight Eisenhower said this of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty: "The simplest and clearest charter in the world is what you have, which is to tell the truth." And for more than 50 years, the charter has been

faithfully executed, and it's the truth that sets this continent free.

I'm honored to be traveling with members of my senior staff: the Secretary of State of the United States Colin Powell, who's done such a fantastic job for our country and for world peace; Condoleezza Rice, who's my National Security Advisor, is here; Chief of Staff Andy Card, Ambassador Nick Burns to NATO; a few others who I don't particularly want to recognize for fear of damaging my reputation—[*laughter*]*—*but all of them doing a great job. Thank you all for coming.

I also want to recognize Members of the Congress who are here. I'm thrilled to see Members of the Senate. I thought you were voting. [*Laughter*] But Senators Frist and Voinovich and their wives are with us. I see Lantos—yes—Gallegly—Elton, good to see you, buddy, from California. Who else? That's it—two Members of the House, two members of the Senate. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

This NATO summit that convenes tomorrow will be the first ever held at the capital of a Warsaw Pact. The days of the Warsaw Pact seem distant—they must seem to you. After all, the Warsaw Pact ended a half a lifetime ago for you. It was a dark and distant era. The years since have brought great challenge and great hope to all of the countries on this continent. And tomorrow in Prague we will have reached a decisive moment, an historic moment, for tomorrow we will invite new members into our Alliance. It's a bold decision, to guarantee the freedom of millions of people.

At the summit, we'll make the most significant reforms in NATO since 1949, reforms which will allow our Alliance to effectively confront new dangers. And in the years to come, all of the nations of Europe will determine their place in world events. They will take up global responsibilities or choose to live in isolation from the challenges of our time.

As for America, we made our choice. We are committed to work toward world peace, and we're committed to a close and permanent partnership with the nations of Europe. The Atlantic Alliance is America's most important global relationship. We're tied to Europe by history. We are tied to Europe by

the wars of liberty we have fought and won together. We're joined by broad ties of trade. And America is bound to Europe by the deepest convictions of our common culture, our belief in the dignity of every life and our belief in the power of conscience to move history.

In this city and town squares across the Czech Republic are monuments to Jan Hus who said this: "Stand in the truth you have learned, for it conquers all and is mighty to eternity." That ideal has given life to the Czech Republic, and it is shared by the Republic I lead.

America believes that a strong, confident Europe is good for the world. We welcome the economic integration of Europe. We believe that integration will extend prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. We welcome a democratic Russia as part of this new Europe, because a free and peaceful Russia will add to the security of this continent. We welcome the growing unity of Europe in commerce and currency and military cooperation, which is closing a long history of rivalry and violence. This continent, wounded by nazism and communism, is becoming peaceful and secure and democratic for the first time. And now that the countries of Europe are united in freedom, they will no longer fight each other and bring war to the rest of the world.

Because America supports a more united Europe, we strongly support the enlargement of NATO, now and in the future. Every European democracy that seeks NATO membership and is ready to share in NATO's responsibilities should be welcome in our Alliance. The enlargement of NATO is good for all who join us. The standards for membership are high, and they encourage the hard work of political and economic and military reform.

And nations in the family of NATO, old or new, know this: Anyone who would choose you for an enemy also chooses us for an enemy. Never again in the face of aggression will you stand alone.

A larger NATO is good for Russia as well. Later this week I will visit St. Petersburg. I will tell my friend Vladimir Putin and the Russian people that they too will gain from

the security and stability of nations to Russia's west. Russia does not require a buffer zone of protection. It needs peaceful and prosperous neighbors who are also friends. We need a strong and democratic Russia as our friend and partner to face the next century's new challenges. Through the NATO-Russia Council we must increase our co-operation with Russia for the security of all of us.

Expansion of NATO also brings many advantages to the Alliance, itself. Every new member contributes military capabilities that add to our common security. We see this already in Afghanistan, for forces from Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and others have joined with 16 NATO Allies to help defeat global terror.

And every new member of our Alliance makes a contribution of character. Tomorrow NATO grows larger. Tomorrow the soul of Europe grows stronger. Members recently added to NATO and those invited to join bring greater clarity to purposes of our Alliance, because they understand the lessons of the last century. Those with fresh memories of tyranny know the value of freedom. Those who have lived through a struggle of good against evil are never neutral between them. Czechs and Slovaks learned through the harsh experience of 1938 that when great democracies fail to confront danger, greater dangers follow. And the people of the Baltics learned that aggression left unchecked by the great democracies can rob millions of their liberty and their lives.

In Central and Eastern Europe the courage and moral vision of prisoners and exiles and priests and playwrights caused tyrants to fall. This spirit now sustains these nations through difficult reforms. And this spirit is needed in the councils of a new Europe.

Our NATO Alliance faces dangers very different from those it was formed to confront, yet never has our need for collective defense been more urgent. The Soviet Union is gone, but freedom still has enemies. We're threatened by terrorism. Bred within failed states, it's present within our own cities. We're threatened by the spread of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons which are produced by outlaw regimes and could be delivered either by missile or terrorist cell. For

terrorists and terrorist states, every free nation—every free nation—is a potential target, including the free nations of Europe.

We're making progress on this, the first war of the 21st century. Today, more than 90 nations are joined in a global coalition to defeat terror. We're sharing intelligence. We're freezing the assets of terror groups. We're pursuing the terrorists wherever they plot and train. And we're finding them and bringing them to justice, one person at a time.

Today, the world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq. A dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own people must not be allowed to produce or possess those weapons. We will not permit Saddam Hussein to blackmail and/or terrorize nations which love freedom.

Last week Saddam Hussein accepted U.N. inspectors. We've heard those pledges before and seen them violated time and time again. We now call an end to that game of deception and deceit and denial. Saddam Hussein has been given a very short time to declare completely and truthfully his arsenal of terror. Should he again deny that this arsenal exists, he will have entered his final stage with a lie. And deception this time will not be tolerated. Delay and defiance will invite the severest of consequences.

America's goal, the world's goal is more than the return of inspectors to Iraq. Our goal is to secure the peace through the comprehensive and verified disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Voluntary or by force, that goal will be achieved.

To meet all of this century's emerging threats, from terror camps in remote regions to hidden laboratories of outlaw regimes, NATO must develop new military capabilities. NATO forces must become better able to fight side by side. Those forces must be more mobile and more swiftly deployed. The Allies need more special operations forces, better precision strike capabilities, and more modern command structures.

Few NATO members will have state-of-the-art capabilities in all of these areas. I recognize that. But every nation should develop some. Ours is a military alliance, and every member must make a military contribution

to that alliance. For some Allies, this will require higher defense spending. For all of us, it will require more effective defense spending, with each nation adding the tools and technologies to fight and win a new kind of war.

And because many threats to the NATO members come from outside of Europe, NATO forces must be organized to operate outside of Europe. When forces were needed quickly in Afghanistan, NATO's options were limited. We must build new capabilities, and we must strengthen our will to use those capabilities.

The United States proposes the creation of a NATO response force that will bring together well-equipped, highly ready air, ground, and sea forces from NATO Allies, old and new. This force will be prepared to deploy on short notice wherever it is needed. A NATO response force will take time to create, and we should begin that effort here in Prague.

Yet, security against new threats requires more than just new capabilities. Free nations must accept our shared obligations to keep the peace. The world needs the nations of this continent to be active in the defense of freedom, not inward-looking or isolated by indifference. Ignoring dangers or excusing aggression may temporarily avert conflict, but they don't bring true peace.

International stability must be actively defended, and all nations that benefit from that stability have a duty to help. In this noble work, America and the strong democracies of Europe need each other, each playing our full and responsible role. The good we can do together is far greater than the good we can do apart.

Great evil is stirring in the world. Many of the young here are coming up in a different world, different era, a different time, a different series of threats. We face perils we've never thought about, perils we've never seen before. But they're dangerous. They're just as dangerous as those perils that your fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers faced.

The hopes of all mankind depend on the courage and the unity of great democracies. In this hour of challenge, NATO will do what

it has done before: We will stand firm against the enemies of freedom, and we'll prevail.

The transatlantic ties of Europe and America have met every test of history, and we intend to again. U-boats could not divide us. The threats and standoffs of the cold war did not make us weary. The commitment of my Nation to Europe is found in the carefully tended graves of young Americans who died for this continent's freedom. That commitment is shown by the thousands in uniforms still serving here, from the Balkans to Bavaria, still willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this continent's future.

For 100 years, place names of Europe have often stood for conflict and tragedy and loss. Single words evoke sad and bitter experience: Verdun, Munich, Stalingrad, Dresden, Nuremberg, and Yalta. We have no power to rewrite history. We do have the power to write a different story for our time.

When future generations look back at this moment and speak of Prague and what we did here, that name will stand for hope. In Prague, young democracies will gain new security; a grand alliance will gather its strength and find new purpose. And America and Europe will renew the historic friendship that still keeps the peace of the world.

Thank you for your interest. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. at the Hilton Prague. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Military Academy cadet Gedrimas "Jimmy" Jaglinskis, who introduced the President; Alan Lee Williams, chairman, and Antonio Borges Carvalho, secretary general, Atlantic Treaty Association; Karen Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist; Janet Voinovich, wife of Senator George V. Voinovich; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Interview With Russia's NTV

November 18, 2002

Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, did the October hostage crisis in Moscow change the U.S. position on Chechnya?

The President. No, our position on Chechnya is, we hope this can get solved peacefully, that this is an issue within Russia,

and that I will continue to work with Vladimir Putin as best as I can to encourage him for there to be a peaceful resolution with the Chechnyan issue, the larger issue.

On the other hand, I recognize that any-time terrorists come to take life, a leader must step forward. And the fact that 800 citizens could have been killed by terrorists put my friend Vladimir Putin in a very difficult situation. And he handled it as best he could. He did what he had to do to save life. And people—I heard somebody the other day blame Russia. No, the people to blame are the terrorists. They need to be held account. I believe you can do both. I believe you can hold terrorists to account, killers to account, and at the same time solve difficult situations in a peaceful way.

Former President Aslan Maskhadov of Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, you say the leader has to come forward. So President Putin said that the leader of the Chechen group that took hostages, he was linked with former President Maskhadov of Chechnya, and that actually Maskhadov was aware of it. And therefore, President Putin said Maskhadov is an international terrorist.

The President. Well, I haven't had a chance to talk to Vladimir Putin about these connections. But I am aware of the fact that there are killers moving around the world interested in holding people hostage, Governments hostage, and that we must work together to bring people to justice. It's one of the reasons why I'm working very closely with the Georgians, and I'm pleased to see Vladimir Putin is working with Mr. Shevardnadze to come up with a common strategy to route out the killers, the Al-Qaida-type killers, which may be hiding in the Pankisi Gorge with one thing in mind, to bring instability to Russia. And so we're working together as best as we possibly can to bring people to justice.

Q. But in the West people very often, in the United States in particular, say that one of the partners is Mr. Maskhadov in that political solution. After the October crisis, is that still an issue?

The President. Well, I haven't had a chance to talk to Vladimir and see the facts

that he's talking about. He obviously knows—you know, has got some information that we can talk about in St. Petersburg, and I look forward to discussing it with him.

Pankisi Gorge Terrorists/Russia-U.S. Cooperation in the War on Terror

Q. Well, Mr. President, you mentioned Georgia. President Putin immediately after the October crisis said that, from now on Russia is going to hit every terrorist target wherever it is; that means even abroad. Is that all right?

The President. Well, it depends on what you mean by "hit every target"—depending abroad. I mean, you know, I think what he's saying is, we're going to redouble our efforts to work together to bring people to justice. And that's what we're doing in Georgia. I have told Mr. Shevardnadze that if—you know, it's very important for him to be collaborative and to be prepared to bring people to justice if there are killers hiding in the Pankisi Gorge with the intent upon bringing—wreaking havoc in Russia or anywhere else, for that matter. They must be brought to justice. And slowly but surely, we're finding these people around the world.

This is a different kind of war, see; that's what's unique. In the old days, we would fight armies that had tanks and airplanes and ships. These people are the kind of people that hide in caves and send people to their suicidal deaths. And so it requires a different kind of effort. It requires sharing of intelligence, cutting off money, having specially trained troops to go into dark caves or the dark corners of the world and bring these people to justice. You speak in the language of the old war. This is a war that requires a precise understanding of where these people hide, and the willingness to discuss intelligence like we've never discussed before to hunt them down.

And that's what we're doing with Russia. I mean, our intelligence sharing is much better than it ever has been before. And it's going to be good for both our peoples. And I keep reminding the American people that Russia is our friend and we're working in collaboration to hunt down those who would kind of hide in the shadowy corners and bring them to justice.

Russian Interests in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, one question on Iraq—

The President. Sure.

Q. —which is now very sort of hot issue. If push comes to shove and a military solution is necessary, and if the current regime, Saddam Hussein's regime, is going to be toppled, are Russian economic interests going to be considered?

The President. Well, first, I hope that all the ifs don't happen. I mean, I hope that Mr. Saddam Hussein disarms, like he said he would do. But the problem is, he said he would do it for 11 years, and he hasn't done anything for 11 years. I mean, in the name of peace he should disarm. And so we're working with Russia and other members of the United Nations Security Council to send a clear message to Mr. Saddam Hussein that we expect you to disarm.

If he doesn't disarm, then we'll disarm him in the name of peace. And of course, we'll be interested in all interests. We have no desire to run the show, to run the country. We will work to encourage the development of new leadership, should this happen, that will recognize the rights of all citizens that live in this country, that will keep the territorial integrity of Iraq intact. And we understand Russia has got interests there, as do other countries. And of course, those interests will be honored.

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. I'm glad you're here.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:25 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With LNK TV of Lithuania

November 18, 2002

President's Upcoming Visit to Lithuania

Q. Mr. President, you are the first President of the United States to visit Lithuania. What is your message to Lithuania's people?

The President. Well, first, I'm honored to be invited. Secondly, I'm really looking forward to it. And my message is: You're free. Freedom is precious, and we welcome our friends the Lithuanians into the—as a free nation into the brotherhood of nations.

I'll also say to the world that the Baltic countries know what it means to live under fear and the lack of freedom, and to have these countries be allied with the United States and other nations is important to our soul. It's important to have that sense of freedom as a source of vigor and strength, and a very important alliance. That's what I want to say.

War on Terror

Q. What are America and Lithuania going to do after the Prague, together?

The President. Well, we're going to work to fight terror. That's the new threat we face. It's most evident here in America because we've been under attack, and we're still under attack. People still want to hurt us because of what we stand for. But countries which love freedom are not immune from these people. These are coldblooded killers, and we've got a charge to keep for a long time coming. And the best way to do that is work together.

So the NATO mission is one of defending freedom by fighting against those who would try to defeat freedom, which means we've got to share intelligence, work together militarily in a way that complements everybody, cut off the money of the terrorists. I mean, there's a lot to do. But that's the true threat that we face.

Russia is no longer a threat. After Prague, I'm going to Russia. And I'm going to say to the Russian people, "You shouldn't fear

expansion of NATO to your border. These are peace-loving people. These are freedom-loving people that are now on your border. You ought to welcome them. It should help Russian security”—that the cold war is over, that the United States doesn’t view Russia as a threat and neither does NATO. So we’ve got to address our sights to the new threats.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Relationship between Western democracies and Russia seems to be very friendly. But do you really trust President Putin?

The President. Sure, of course. I press any leader that doesn’t believe 100 percent in freedom, and of course I do—I’m—freedom of the press or Chechnya or issues that indicate that there might not be a whole-hearted commitment to freedom of the people. I do it in a way that’s a friendly way. I believe the best way to work together is to do it in a spirit of cooperation. I believe the best way to make sure we’ve got good relations is to make it clear that there’s no animosity. But of course I do. I work very closely with him. Russia is an important country.

And we want Russia to be a country based upon the values which we share, because we believe those values are the best values for the human condition of everybody. I like to tell people, freedom is not an American gift; freedom is a gift from the almighty God. And I firmly believe that. And freedom is important in any country in the world.

Lithuania

Q. Some people wonder why the United States, the superpower of the world, pays so much attention to the small Baltic state Lithuania. What could you tell those people?

The President. Well, I can tell those people everybody matters. See, our country believes in the worth of every individual. We believe everybody is precious; everybody counts; and that we are rooted, our whole history and our very being is rooted, on the notion of people being able to realize their dreams. And that’s what we believe.

That’s why we never recognized the Soviet domination of the Baltics. We called Lithuania independent for all those years. And now we can say Lithuania is independent,

and Lithuania is forever free. And that’s our commitment.

Future of NATO

Q. How do you imagine the future of NATO Alliance after new members will join?

The President. Better—better because the—NATO will have this new spirit. Listen, if you lived under slavery and subjugation and you’re free, there’s a spirit. There’s a strength of purpose. There’s a remembrance of what it’s like. There’s no gray areas between good and evil. That’s an important spirit in NATO. Lithuania brings a wonderful spirit of strength of purpose, of endurance.

Secondly, as we change the military strategy to reflect the new threat—see, Russia is not a threat militarily. The threats that we now face come from a global terror network. And we’ll change our military capabilities to meet the strategies necessary to defeat terrorism. And Lithuania will have an important contribution to make, as will all countries in NATO. So the expansion of NATO will make it easier for us to defend the peace.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much, indeed. It was a great pleasure to talk to you.

The President. We’ll see you in Vilnius.

Q. Thank you.

The President. It’s going to be exciting for me.

Q. For us, too. We’re waiting for that.

The President. I can’t wait. Thanks. Make sure the weather is good, will you? [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes, we’ll do our best. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was videotaped at 1:32 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters in Prague

November 21, 2002

President Bush. I’m really looking forward to visiting with the Prime Minister of

Great Britain, Tony Blair. He's a friend; he's a strong leader. He and I are bound by the strong conviction that freedom belongs to everybody, and we're going to work together to make the world a more peaceful place.

I'm greatly disturbed by the news from the Middle East today. There's been yet another suicide bombing. It is clear that those who want to use terror to stop any process for peace are still active. In order to achieve peace, all countries in that region must be responsible for—take responsibility, do their best to fight off terror.

And I know the Prime Minister joins me as we mourn the loss of life. But we are going to continue to work toward peace in the Middle East. Two states living side by side in peace is the vision. And we will continue to work with those who share that vision—for the sake of the Israeli people, for the sake of the Palestinians.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Mr. President, first of all, we're pleased to see you again and exchange views on a range of issues that confront us at the moment. And I agree with what you said a moment ago. Our thoughts are obviously with the victims of the latest terrorist outrage in Israel.

And the two things that are so clear is that, first of all, we need the action on security and action against terrorism, and secondly, to make progress in building a lasting peace in that region, based, as you say, on the two-state solution. It's an issue that I think—what is interesting is that the whole world wants to see us now, having—take this very firm stand against terrorism, against issues of weapons of mass destruction, but also try and make sure that we provide the secure future with lasting peace in the Middle East. And I think those issues are all very much linked together.

President Bush. We'll take a question apiece. Greg [David Gregory, NBC News].

Germany-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us if you've had a chance this week to speak with German Chancellor Schroeder yet?

President Bush. I did. I had a cordial meeting at that meeting last night. We greeted each other cordially.

Q. Can you give us an assessment of the state of U.S.-German relations in light of the recent election?

President Bush. It's a—Germany is an important friend of the United States. And we've got a relationship to maintain, and we will maintain it.

Iraqi Cooperation on Disarmament

Q. Mr. President, you put a formal request to Britain and other countries to supply troops for a possible conflict in Iraq.

President Bush. Is that a question, have we, or an asserted statement?

Q. I understood you had—

President Bush. Oh, I see.

Q. —and I wonder what your expectation was for what Britain might do.

President Bush. Well, my expectation is, is that we can do this peacefully, if Saddam Hussein disarms. That's my expectation. This is—Saddam Hussein has got a decision to make: Will he uphold the agreement that he has made? And if he chooses to do so by disarming peacefully, the world will be better off for it. If he chooses not to disarm, we will work with our close friends, the closest of which is Great Britain, and we will disarm him. But our first choice is not to use the military option. Our first choice is for Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. And that's where we'll be devoting a lot of our energies.

Q. And Prime Minister, you have this request now. You also seem to have a prospect of another fire strike as well. Do you believe that many British troops and reserves are going to have to prepare for a Christmas away from their family celebrations in either fighting fires or fighting Saddam Hussein?

Prime Minister Blair. We will do what's necessary, both to secure ourselves at home and to make sure that the will of the United Nations is enforced abroad. And I think what you will find here at this NATO summit is a totally united determination on behalf of the international community, reflected in the unanimous United Nations resolution, that Saddam Hussein has to disarm himself of all weapons of mass destruction. And how that happens is a choice for him.

We hope, and want it to happen, through the United Nations inspectors mandated by the whole of the international community.

But if he fails to cooperate with them, if he fails to do all he can—and it is within his power—to help that process of disarmament through the United Nations, then he will be disarmed by force. And that is the clear will of the international community. And I think you will find now that there is a consensus for that position virtually right across the civilized world.

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Sure. I'm glad to answer your every request. [*Laughter*]

Q. How about our every question?

President Bush. I don't want you to get used to asking too many questions. I've been answering them all the whole time I've been here, question after question after question. If you were to ask a question, Stretch, what would it have been, so I can think about it for tomorrow? I won't answer it now.

Usama bin Laden

Q. What's your reaction to the confirmation of bin Laden being alive on the tape?

President Bush. Thank you. I've got a formulated answer. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. at the Prague Congress Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the North Atlantic Council Summit in Prague

November 21, 2002

America is very pleased by today's decision. We believe it strengthens our Nation's most important alliance, NATO. By welcoming seven members, we will not only add to our military capabilities; we will refresh the spirit of this great democratic Alliance.

We believe today's decision reaffirms our commitment to freedom and our commitment to a Europe which is whole and free and at peace.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. at the Prague Congress Center.

Proclamation 7628—Thanksgiving Day, 2002

November 21, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In celebration of Thanksgiving Day 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "Rarely has any people enjoyed greater prosperity than we are now enjoying. For this we render heartfelt and solemn thanks to the Giver of Good; and we seek to praise Him—not by words only—but by deeds, by the way in which we do our duty to ourselves and to our fellow men." President Roosevelt's words gracefully remind us that, as citizens of this great Nation, we have much for which to be thankful; and his timeless call inspires us to meet our responsibilities to help those in need and to promote greater understanding at home and abroad.

As the Pilgrims did almost four centuries ago, we gratefully give thanks this year for the beauty, abundance, and opportunity this great land offers. We also thank God for the blessings of freedom and prosperity; and, with gratitude and humility, we acknowledge the importance of faith in our lives.

Throughout the Thanksgiving holiday, let us renew our commitment to make our country and our world better. As we welcome new opportunities and face new challenges, we are thankful for the resolve and generosity of so many of our people who are touching countless hearts and souls through thoughtful acts of kindness. By answering the call to serve others, Americans are building a culture of service that strengthens our Nation. We also honor and salute the selfless sacrifice of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who are defending our lives and liberty at home and abroad with skill, honor, and dedication.

This Thanksgiving, we recognize the ties of friendship and respect that bind us together. And we renew our pledge to uphold the timeless principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity that have made our country into a great Nation. By working together, we will continue to build mutual trust, peace,

and hope for all across this land and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 2002, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage Americans to gather in their homes, places of worship, and community centers to share the spirit of understanding and unity, and of prayer, as we express our thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. I also encourage Americans to reach out in friendship to the larger family of humankind.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., November 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 26.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters in St. Petersburg, Russia

November 22, 2002

President Putin. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. In your presence may I once again cordially welcome the President of the United States and his team to Russia.

We are very pleased that Mr. President accepted our invitation. And let me say that our conversations—and this is exactly the way I'd like to quote this meeting—our conversation on the whole range of our bilateral issues and our cooperation in the international arena have been very productive and very, very frank.

And we discussed practically everything between the sky and the Earth. We discussed our cooperation in the energy sector, our en-

ergy dialog. We discussed our cooperation in the high technology sector. We also—[*inaudible*]*—*the problem of NATO expansion and the development of relations between Russia and NATO. And of course, we also addressed the problem of terrorism. And of course, we also discussed the prospects for our cooperation on the matters of strategic stability.

I think that Mr. President will agree with me—and he'll have an opportunity to say what he thinks on this—but I think he'll agree with me that our meeting, in this point a very frank meeting, without prepared statements, has been very productive and has been very fruitful.

President Bush. Yes, it has. I consider Vladimir Putin one of my good friends.

Are you going to translate?

Like other good friends I've had throughout my life, we don't agree 100 percent of the time. But we always agree to discuss things in a frank and—in a frank way.

Every time I come to St. Petersburg, he keeps showing me more and more beautiful rooms. So I'm coming back next May. I always enjoy our conversations.

I have just come from NATO. My visit with Vladimir was my first stop after Prague. The mood of the NATO countries is this: Russia is our friend; we've got a lot of interests together; we must continue our cooperation in the war on terror; and the expansion of NATO should be welcomed by the Russian people. After all, there are new nations on our border that are members of—nations that are new members of NATO but nations pledged to peace and pledged to freedom.

But the President was right, we had a—we discussed a lot of issues. And I would define our bilateral relations as very good.

We might answer a couple of questions.

Q. This is a question to both Presidents.

President Bush. Okay, fine. Fire away.

Russia-U.S. Relations/NATO

[At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and no translation was provided.]

President Putin. As regards partnership, it is on a very high level. And it is very pleasant for me to note that we not only have lost nothing of what has been generated, has been produced by the previous generations

of politicians, but we keep going on further. We keep achieving new results, and we are moving ahead very expeditiously and very productively.

And I'd like to stress—and this is a very important point—that the interests of Russia and the United States coincide not only in many economic fields but they are also identical in many strategic areas.

As regards our relations with NATO, let me say the following: As regards the expansion, you know our position well. We do not believe that this has been necessitated by the existing pact, but we take note of the position taken by the President of the United States, and we hope to have positive development of our relations with all NATO countries.

As regards our relationship with the Alliance as a whole, as the Alliance keeps transforming—and this is something that Mr. President talked about recently—we do not rule out the possibility of deepening our relations with the Alliance. Of course, in the case if the activities of the Alliance are in accord with Russia's national security interests. At least within the Group of 20, we are interacting, are cooperating in a very well way, in a very good way.

President Bush. Yes, the Russian-NATO Council is very important. But the strategy of NATO is going to be based upon the fact that the cold war is over; Russia is a friend; Russia is not an enemy. And I told the President, as I was leaving the NATO summit, a lot of leaders came up and asked me to send their personal regards to him.

And in terms of our bilateral relations, we'll continue to work to make them as strong as they can possibly be, and there's a lot of areas—in trade, in commerce, in energy—that we're working together to make progress.

I think it's only fair we ask one American. Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Jim's his name.

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri/Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. The public now knows that the U.S. has in its custody a terrorist who has the blood of many Americans on his hands, Mr. al-Nashiri. How significant is his arrest?

And since we see President Putin so rarely, Mr. President, I hope you won't object if I ask President Putin a question as well. And that is, sir, has the U.S. asked you to participate or contribute to any military action in Iraq if it becomes necessary, and what is your view on that?

President Bush. A couple of points. First, I want to thank Vladimir and his foreign policy team for working together to pass a strong resolution out of the United Nations on Iraq.

Secondly, we did bring to justice a killer. And the message is, we're making war on the—we're making progress on the war against terrorists, that we're going to hunt them down one at a time, that it doesn't matter where they hide. As we work with our friends, we will find them and bring them to justice. And America and Russia and people who love freedom are one person safer as a result of us finding this guy.

President Putin. I'm very pleased to see the mood the President of the United States is in. It is what we needed. Let me assure you that we will work together, and our work will be effective.

Now there is something I would like to draw your attention to. And we ultimately discussed this matter with our U.S. colleagues. We should not give a chance to anyone who is either engaged in terror or is supporting terror.

As I understood the second part of your question, concern was—has to do with Iraq. We should not forget about those who finance terrorism. Of the 19 terrorists who committed the main attacks on September 11th against the United States, 16 are citizens of Saudi Arabia, and we should not forget about that.

Now, where has Usama bin Laden taken refuge? They say that somewhere between Afghanistan and Pakistan. We know what Mr. Musharraf is doing to achieve stability in his country, and we are supporting him. But what can happen with armies armed with weapons that exist in Pakistan, including weapons of mass destruction—we are not sure on that aspect, and we should not forget about that. And we agree with the President of the United States and his colleagues who say that we have to make sure that Iraq has

no weapons of mass destruction in its possession.

Diplomats have carried out a very difficult, a very complex work. And we do believe that we have to stay within the framework of the work being carried out by the Security Council of the United Nations. And we do believe that, together with the United States, we can achieve a positive result. As you know, our recent past gives us—we have an example of that kind, and the level achieved in our bilateral relations between Russia and the United States gives us hope that we can achieve such results.

President Bush. Thank you all. We've got a plane to catch. Don't keep us waiting. Thank you all. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. at Catherine's Palace. In his remarks, President Putin referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on Development of the U.S.-Russian Energy Dialogue

November 22, 2002

Last May, we launched an energy dialogue to strengthen the overall relationship between our countries, and to enhance global energy security, international strategic stability, and regional cooperation. Already we can see important benefits from this new aspect of our relations.

A key success in this new dialogue was the first-ever U.S.-Russia Commercial Energy Summit held in Houston in the beginning of October with the participation of both countries' governmental, business and scientific circles. The Houston Summit created new avenues for dialogue and cooperation on energy issues and led to decisions on concrete new investment projects and programs and business arrangements. We thank the more than 70 companies that contributed to

its success and look forward to the next energy summit, to be hosted in Russia in 2003.

We also support the further strengthening of relations between the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Ministry of Energy of Russia, and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Russia. We welcome as well the activities of the intergovernmental American-Russian Working Group on Energy Cooperation. We note our Ministers' commitment to educational initiatives to promote best technical and managerial practices.

Commercial cooperation plays the key role in the U.S.-Russia Energy Dialogue. One of the most important results of the Houston Summit was the establishment of the Commercial Energy Working Group. We strongly support the efforts of the American and Russian companies involved to identify new and mutually beneficial commercial opportunities and to take down barriers to trade and investment.

At present, American and Russian companies are working hard to further connect the American and Russian energy markets. We welcome the first delivery to the United States of Russian crude oil in July; the establishment of enterprises that will market Russian energy in the U.S.; and the proposal to build a deep-water port in Russia for energy exports. As a symbolic example of our deepening energy relationship, we note that for the first-time ever Russian crude oil was delivered to the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Investment is necessary to ensure the further development of Russia's energy and energy transportation sectors. To that end, we welcome several memoranda of understanding recently signed by Russian companies with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, as well as agreements signed with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint U.S.-Russia Statement on Iraq *November 22, 2002*

We have expressed our serious concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this context, we pledge our full support for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1441. We call on Iraq to comply fully and immediately with this and all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, which were adopted as a necessary step to secure international peace and security.

We firmly support the efforts of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission Chairman and the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General to fulfill their responsibilities under UN Security Council resolutions.

We call on Iraq, in strict compliance with UNSC resolution 1441, to cooperate fully and unconditionally in its disarmament obligations or face serious consequences.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Proclamation 7629—National Farm-City Week, 2002

November 22, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of our Nation's way of life. As wise stewards and innovative entrepreneurs, our dedicated farmers and ranchers improve our well-being by working to ensure a healthy and abundant agricultural supply. To succeed in this important enterprise, our farmers rely on essential partnerships with urban communities to supply, sell, and deliver finished products across the country and around the world. During National Farm-City Week, we recognize the importance of this cooperative network to the success of America's agricultural industry.

Farming was America's first industry. Today, this industry provides us with many of the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and, increasingly, fuel for our energy

needs. Agriculture employs more than 24 million workers including farmers, shippers, processors, marketers, grocers, truck drivers, inspectors, and others who annually contribute more than \$1.3 trillion to our gross domestic product. In the international market, our farmers export more than \$50 billion in products that help feed people in countries around the world. As we welcome new opportunities for trade, the hard work and successful cooperation between farmers and city workers will continue to play a vital role in our Nation's success and will continue to be a critical resource for countless people here at home and around the globe.

My Administration remains committed to helping the millions of Americans who work in the agricultural industry. Earlier this year, I signed the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support these important workers and to strengthen the farm economy. This Act will help our farmers and ranchers by providing financial assistance that encourages sound conservation and environmental practices, and promotes open trade. And to expand opportunities for our farmers to compete in the international marketplace and encourage further economic growth, my Administration is committed to opening international markets and reducing tariffs and other barriers to food distribution throughout the world.

Farm-city collaborations help maintain and improve our Nation's food supply and contribute to a better quality of life for countless citizens. With this Farm-City Week observance, we commend the many Americans whose hard work and ingenuity reflect the true spirit of America and help ensure a prosperous future for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 22 through November 28, 2002, as National Farm-City Week. I call upon all Americans, in rural and urban communities, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of all those who work together to produce and promote

America's agricultural abundance. I also encourage citizens to strengthen our understanding of the American farm-city partnership by participating in appropriate community events and celebrations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., November 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 26.

Proclamation 7630—National Family Week, 2002

November 22, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Families provide a loving environment where children can flourish; and they help ensure that cultural traditions and timeless values are passed on to future generations. During National Family Week, we reaffirm the importance of families as a vital source of strength, confidence, and compassion for all of our citizens.

Strong families play a critical role in developing the character of our Nation. They teach children important standards of conduct such as accepting responsibility, respecting others, and distinguishing the difference between right and wrong. By helping America's youth to grow into mature, thoughtful, and caring citizens, families help make our communities and our Nation safer and more civilized.

Raising a child requires sacrifice, commitment, and time; and we must expand our efforts to strengthen and empower families so that they can prepare children more effectively for the challenges of adulthood. We know that by helping couples to build and sustain strong, two-parent families, we will contribute to the well-being of our children

and the strength of our society. Many single parents, grandparents, and others also raise their children in difficult circumstances, and these dedicated individuals deserve our respect and support.

My Administration is firmly committed to helping our Nation's youth reach their full potential; and one of the most important ways to do this is by strengthening America's families. Earlier this year, I signed bipartisan legislation to expand the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which provides States with vital resources to help families stay together and to promote adoption. The Program seeks to prevent child abuse and neglect, avoid removing children from their homes, support family reunification services, and help those children who are unable to return home by providing crucial adoption and post-adoptive services. These important resources benefit families across our Nation and hold the promise of a bright future for countless young people.

My welfare reform agenda also will strengthen families. We plan on continuing to provide historically high levels of support for childcare and child support enforcement. And we will continue to encourage strong marriages and two-parent married families as a worthy policy goal.

No marriage or family is perfect. But through education and counseling programs that our faith-based, charitable, and government communities can provide, we will support couples as they work to build and sustain healthy marriages and strive to provide a better quality of life for their children. By promoting responsible child-rearing and strong families, my Administration will work towards the goal that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home.

As families come together to celebrate this Thanksgiving, I encourage every member of a family in America to recognize the important role every other family member plays in making their lives whole and more complete. And as we give thanks for the love, commitment, and encouragement our families provide, we must recommit ourselves to strengthen our Nation by strengthening our families in ways that government never can.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,
President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 24 through November 30, 2002, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and people of the United States to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., November 26, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 27.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings at Camp David, MD.

November 17

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

November 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss the November 21–22 NATO Summit in Prague, Czech Republic, the European Union Summit to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December, and implementation of the United Nations resolution concerning weapons inspections in Iraq. He then

had intelligence and national security briefings.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon to discuss economic issues, including Lebanon's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, and peace efforts in the Middle East.

The White House announced the appointment of Barry Jackson as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy to the Senior Advisor.

The White House announced the appointment of Peter Wehner as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Strategic Initiatives.

The White House announced the appointment of Israel Hernandez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Assistant to the Senior Advisor.

The White House announced the appointment of Adam Goldman as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

The White House announced the appointment of Julieanne Thomas as Associate Director at the Office of Public Liaison.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 10.

November 19

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen L. Weintraub to be a member of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gerald Alan Barnhart as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Harold Craig Manson as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Official of the U.S. Government).

The President announced his intention to appoint William W. Taylor as Alternate Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

November 20

In the morning, the President was greeted by President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic at Prague Castle. Later, at Hrzansky Palace, the President met with Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla of the Czech Republic.

In the afternoon, at the Hilton Prague, the President met with U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, he had separate meetings with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in Iraq, and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, to discuss the upcoming NATO Summit.

In the evening, at Prague Castle, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a gift presentation followed by a dinner for NATO leaders.

November 21

During the day, at the Prague Congress Center, the President participated in North Atlantic Council Summit meetings and photo opportunities. He also met with President Jacques Chirac of France.

In the evening, at Prague Castle, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a ballet performance and a dinner with NATO and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) leaders.

November 22

In the morning, at the Prague Congress Center, the President participated in EAPC Summit meetings and photo opportunities. Later, he was joined by Mrs. Bush, and they traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his appointment of Grover Whitehurst as Director of the Institute of Education Sciences at the Department of Education.

The President announced his designation of Eugene Scalia as Acting Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert A. Sturgell to be Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 19

Humberto S. Garcia,
of Puerto Rico, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel F. Lopez Romo, resigned.

Leonardo M. Rapadas,
of Guam, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and concurrently U.S. Attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of 4 years, vice K. William O'Connor, resigned.

Ellen L. Weintraub,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007, vice Karl J. Sandstrom, term expired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 16

Fact sheet: News About the War Against Terror

Released November 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Released November 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorneys for the District of Guam, the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Puerto Rico

Released November 21

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the NATO Summit in Prague, Czech Republic

Fact sheet: Czech Republic: Military Deployments Abroad

Fact sheet: Bush Administration Review of Defense Trade Export Policy and National Security

Fact sheet: NATO: Building New Capabilities for New Challenges

Fact sheet: NATO-Russia Relations

Released November 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Week Ending Friday, November 29, 2002

Interview With TVR of Romania

November 18, 2002

Q. So, first of all, may I remark, sir, that you are the first President of the United States who grants an interview to the public television. And I thank you very much for that.

The President. Well, I'm honored. Thank you. And I'm so looking forward to coming to Romania. It's going to be an exciting trip for Laura and me.

Romania's Role in NATO

Q. To what extent, sir, Romania's candidacy has helped to implement your vision of a broad, robust NATO expansion?

The President. Well, first of all, I believe in the concept of Europe, free, whole, and at peace. And I think the fact that Romania will be a part of NATO recognizes that vision.

Secondly, Romania will be an active participant in the war against terror. And as we change the NATO strategy to reflect the true threats we face, Romania will work alongside the United States and other nations to make the world more peaceful.

Thirdly, I think it's very important for us to recognize that new countries that—admitted countries which had lived under a totalitarian state will bring a breath of fresh air, a vigor to the relationship because you remember the difference between freedom and a non-free state. You remember the difference between—you've seen the difference between good and evil. And that spirit, that strong determination for freedom is important in this Alliance.

Romanian Popular Support for NATO

Q. Sir, more than 80 percent of Romania's population supports NATO membership of my country. How important is this popular support in promoting America's policy towards a world of freedom and prosperity?

The President. Well, first of all, you got to understand some of my view on freedom. It's not American's gift to the world. See, freedom is God—is God-given. And—but we believe so strongly in freedom that we believe that when people have a taste of freedom, they will demand the institutions necessary to make sure freedom lasts.

And the Romanian people want to be free. People everywhere want to be free if they've seen the other side. And so the fact that Romania is a strong supporter of NATO really reflects more about Romania than it does reflect about us. What we want to do is we want to have an Alliance that is strong enough and capable enough to meet the true threats that we all face. And global terror is a threat. Believe me, it is a threat.

It is a threat not only to the United States, but it's a threat to any country which embraces freedom. No one is immune from global terror. And therefore—but we're more likely to succeed if we work together, which means work to cut off money, work to cut off access, work to share intelligence, and if need be, work together in the military way to defeat terror.

Romanian Economy

Q. What are the challenges facing the common people, the taxpayers, once Romania is a part of NATO?

The President. Well, the biggest problem that is going to face the taxpayers is to make sure the economy grows. But that's the problem we all face. I mean, we want to make sure people work. The most important criterion for success of any country, NATO or otherwise, is: Can people find a job? Will the economies flourish? Will open markets be able to yield the fruits of the labor for the common person? And the answer is, yes.

Romania is on its way to reform. We've got to be patient with Romania because Romania has come from a history of state-dominated—state-dominated industry, which

failed. And it failed to provide for the people. And so the reforms to the marketplace are going to take time. But the reforms will yield—will yield great prosperity, in my judgment. And it's a matter of time for that to happen.

Expectations of New NATO Members

Q. What do the United States expect from their new Allies, from Romania and the others?

The President. Well, we expect friendship. We expect that concept that says, if one of us is attacked, we're all attacked. That works both ways. If Romania is attacked, the Alliance comes to Romania's defense. If another country is attacked, we all go to that country's defense. That common defense will help make the world more peaceful.

Secondly, as we develop a new strategy as to how to face the new threats of the 21st century, a new military strategy, Romania will be called upon to do its part, as will the United States. And together, the sum of our parts will be significant in terms of keeping the peace.

President's Upcoming Visit to Romania

Q. What is going to be the message you will deliver to the Romanian people when you meet some of the inhabitants in the city of Bucharest?

The President. The message is: For a long time you struggled; you're now free. And you've got a great friend in the United States of America.

Q. Mr. President, it's been a great honor and privilege to interview you. Thank you very much for sharing your views with our public.

The President. Well, I am so looking forward to coming. It's going to be an honor to be there. I have—I'm working on my speech to the Romanian people. It's going to be a powerful moment for me and my wife, to see the people and to be in the famous square and to look at the statues of people who represent freedom. And it's going to be one of the highlights of my Presidency.

Q. You'll be most welcome, sir.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Good to meet you.

Q. Good to meet you, sir, and I hope you'll have a very good and successful trip.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:39 p.m. in the Library at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks on Receiving the Order of Vytautas the Great in Vilnius, Lithuania

November 23, 2002

Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor to receive this award. And it's an honor to be the first United States President to come to Lithuania. Laura and I are honored to be here.

I want to thank the members of the Government who are here as well, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, other members of your Cabinet.

This is a great day for Lithuania. It shows the Lithuanians' commitment to freedom, to religious tolerance. It shows the Lithuanians' courage is being rewarded by membership in one of the greatest alliances ever formed.

The NATO Alliance will be stronger with Lithuania's presence. Not only will you help militarily, but as importantly, your presence will help lift, invigorate the spirit of the European North Atlantic Alliance. After all, Lithuania represents to me the courage of people standing in the face of tyranny and demanding freedom.

There are thousands of Americans today who rejoice at the fact that Lithuania will be joining with America in the NATO Alliance. I'm proud of your accomplishments, and my country is proud to call you friend. May God bless the people of Lithuania.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:24 a.m. at the Prezidentura. In his remarks, he referred to President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas of Lithuania. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

November 23, 2002

Good morning. I'm speaking to you from Europe where, this week, I am meeting with NATO Allies and friends to discuss terrorism and other threats to our shared security.

It has also been an important week at home on Capitol Hill. After 2 years of achievements, which included tax relief and education reform, the last days of this session of Congress brought additional historic progress. Soon after I return from Europe, I will sign several important new laws that help secure the homeland and create jobs.

Republicans and Democrats approved a Department of Homeland Security that will unite dozens of Federal agencies and nearly 170,000 Federal workers behind a single, overriding mission, keeping Americans safe. This new Department will coordinate our response to any future emergency. It will help us know who's coming into our country and who's going out. This new Department will bring together the best intelligence information about our vulnerabilities to terrorist attack so that we can act quickly to protect America. I appreciate the Congress listening to my concerns and retaining the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in defense of our country.

Congress also acted to protect the Nation's ports and coasts by passing port security legislation. With this law, we will add port security agents, restrict access to sensitive areas, and require ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew, and passengers they carry. These measures will help keep terrorists and their weapons out of America.

In addition, Congress passed terrorism insurance legislation to help protect our economy from any future terrorist attack. This new important law will lower insurance premiums and get many real estate and construction projects that had been put on hold moving again, creating thousands of hardhat jobs.

On my trip this week here in Europe, I'm consulting with our friends and NATO Allies about the new threats to freedom that we face together. Today, the United States is joined by more than 90 nations in a global

coalition against terrorism, sharing intelligence, cutting off terrorist finance, and pursuing the terrorists where they plot and train. The world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq, whose dictator has already used weapons of mass destruction to kill thousands. We must not and will not permit either terrorists or tyrants to blackmail freedom-loving nations.

Our NATO Allies are making important contributions. Sixteen NATO countries have sent military forces to the fight against terror in Afghanistan, and at this week's summit, NATO committed to build a new military response force with strong, ready forces that are prepared to deploy on short notice wherever they are needed.

NATO members also voted to invite seven of Europe's newest democracies to join our Alliance. The addition of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia will increase NATO's military strength. These nations will also bring greater clarity to NATO's purposes because they know, from the hard experience of the 20th century, that threats to freedom must be opposed, not ignored or appeased.

This week, we saw the historic expansion of NATO and historic progress by Congress. Both will make America more secure.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:05 p.m. on November 21 at the Ambassador's Residence in Prague, Czech Republic, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the People of Lithuania in Vilnius

November 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for your friendship, and thank you for your leadership.

I'm also honored to be here with the Presidents of Latvia and Estonia. I want to thank them for coming as well. Laura and I are

honored to be here with you. Thank you for coming out to say hello.

This is a great day in the history of Lithuania, in the history of the Baltics, in the history of NATO, and in the history of freedom. The countries of NATO have opened the doors of our Alliance to Lithuania and six other European democracies. And I have the honor of sharing this message with you: We proudly invite Lithuania to join us in NATO, the great Atlantic Alliance.

Many doubted that freedom would come to this country, but the United States always recognized an independent Lithuania. We knew that this continent would not remain divided. We knew that arbitrary lines drawn by dictators would be erased, and those lines are now gone. No more Munichs. No more Yaltas. The long night of fear, uncertainty, and loneliness is over. You're joining the strong and growing family of NATO. Our Alliance has made a solemn pledge of protection, and anyone who would choose Lithuania as an enemy has also made an enemy of the United States of America. In the face of aggression, the brave people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia will never again stand alone.

Audience members. *Aciu! Aciu! Aciu!*

The President. You're welcome. [*Laughter*] You are needed in the NATO Alliance. You will contribute to our common security. Yet the strength of NATO does not only depend on the might of armies but on the character of men and women.

We must be willing to stand in the face of evil, to have the courage to always face danger. The people of the Baltic states have shown these qualities to the world. You have known cruel oppression and withstood it. You were held captive by an empire, and you outlived it. And because you have paid its cost, you know the value of human freedom.

Lithuania today is true to its best traditions of democracy and tolerance and religious liberty, and you have earned the respect of my Nation and all nations.

Our Alliance of freedom is being tested again by new and terrible dangers. Like the Nazis and the Communists before them, the terrorists seek to end lives and control all life. And like the Nazis and the Communists be-

fore them, they will be opposed by free nations, and the terrorists will be defeated.

Over a decade ago, hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians joined hands, from Talin to Vilnius, to show your love for freedom. Near Cathedral Square is a stone commemorating that struggle. Inscribed on that stone is one word: Miracle. The recent history of the Baltic states truly is a miracle. You've gained your freedom. You have won your independence. You now join a great Alliance, and your miracle goes on.

Today on this great day, may God bless the memory of Lithuanian patriots and freedom fighters who did not live to see this moment. And may God always bless the brave and the free people of Lithuania.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless freedom.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Rotuse Square. In his remarks, he referred to President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania, who introduced the President; President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia.

Remarks on Receiving the Star of Romania in Bucharest, Romania

November 23, 2002

Mr. President, thank you so much for this honor. I accept the Star of Romania on behalf of my country, and I appreciate the spirit of friendship that this award represents.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and members of your Government for such fine hospitality.

Laura and I are honored to be here, and so is my Cabinet—members of my Cabinet, as well as senior members of my staff. We're here because America and the nations of the world have seen the courage and character of the Romanian people. You have liberated yourselves from tyranny. You're building a vibrant democracy. And you're preparing to join NATO. In all these events of history, America has been your friend, and we'll be proud to call you Ally.

Mr. President, Romania and America share common values and common challenges. We will join together to open markets, to build a new relationship with Russia, to confront global terrorism, and to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Europe and America face unprecedented dangers to our security, and we will face these dangers together.

The Romanian people have made a great effort to meet the standards of NATO membership. That effort is succeeding. America respects all that you have done and all that you will do in the cause of freedom. And America will be your partner in continuing the work of reform.

On behalf of the American people, I proudly affirm the close relationship between our countries, and I thank you for the honor of this award. May God bless Romania.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:47 p.m. at Cotroceni Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania.

Remarks to the People of Romania in Bucharest

November 23, 2002

Salut! Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for being out here in the rain. Thank you for such a warm welcome. Laura and I are honored to be in this great country. As we started speaking, a rainbow appeared. God is smiling on us today.

I'm proud to stand in this great square and to bring the good wishes of the American people. Today we reaffirm the friendship between your country and mine. I'm honored to carry a message to the people of Romania: We proudly invite you to join NATO, the great alliance of freedom.

All around us are reminders of Romania's history and the culture we share. Close by is a church, three centuries old, a symbol of the faith that overcomes all oppression. In this square we see monuments of Romanian patriots who lost their lives in liberty—for the liberty of your nation. And here, in December of 1989, you broke the silence of your captivity. From that balcony, the dictator heard your voices and faltered and fled.

Two generations of bitter tyranny ended, and all the world witnessed the courage of Romania, the courage that set you free.

Since those days of liberation, Romania has made an historic journey. Instead of hatred, you have chosen tolerance. Instead of destructive rivalry with your neighbors, you have chosen reconciliation. Instead of state control, you have chosen free markets and rule of law. And instead of dictatorship, you have built a proud and working democracy.

The path of freedom you've chosen is not easy, but it's the only path worth taking. I know that your hardship did not end with your oppression. America respects your labor, your patience, your daily determination to find a better life. Your effort has been recognized by an offer to NATO membership. We welcome Romania into NATO.

NATO's invitation to join was also a vote of confidence that you will continue the hard work of political, economic, and military reform. And as you do, you will have partners in all the nations of NATO. The promises of our Alliance are sacred, and we will keep our pledges to all the nations that join us. Should any danger threaten Romania—should any nation threaten Romania, the United States of America and NATO will be by your side. As a NATO Ally, you can have this confidence: No one will be able to take away the freedom of your country.

NATO membership will make Romania more secure, and Romania will add to the strength of the NATO Alliance as we face unprecedented new dangers. Already, our troops are serving side by side in Afghanistan. Already, Romania has joined the global coalition against terror. And we thank you very much.

The world has suffered enough from fanatics who seek to impose their will through fear and murder. The NATO Alliance and the civilized world are confronting the new enemies of freedom, and we will prevail.

Your country also brings moral clarity to our NATO Alliance. You value freedom because you have lived without it. You know the difference between good and evil because you have seen evil's face. The people of Romania understand that aggressive dictators cannot be appeased or ignored; they must always be opposed.

An aggressive dictator now rules in Iraq. By his search for terrible weapons, by his ties to terror groups, by his development of prohibited ballistic missiles, the dictator of Iraq threatens the security of every free nation, including the free nations of Europe. The United Nations Security Council and now NATO have spoken with one voice: The Iraqi regime will completely disarm itself of weapons of mass murder, or we, the United States, will lead a coalition of willing nations and disarm that regime in the name of peace.

Every nation must confront danger. Every free nation has a responsibility to play its full and responsible role. And together, Mr. President, we will preserve our freedoms, and we will work together to keep the peace.

In the peaceful future we're building, Romania will strengthen our lives in another way, as a bridge to a new Russia. For centuries, Romania's geography was a source of danger. Now, you can help our Alliance to extend a hand of cooperation across the Black Sea. Russia has nothing to fear from the growth of NATO, because Russia needs peaceful, stable neighbors, like Romania. As I told President Putin yesterday, a Russia that is fully part of Europe needs no buffer zone separating it from Europe. America and Romania are friends to the Russian people, and so is the NATO Alliance.

Mr. President, citizens of Romania, Laura and my visit to your beautiful country has been short, but the friendship, and soon the Alliance, between our countries will endure.

On this historic square, among the monuments to Romania's greatness, there's also a building left in ruins, the former offices of the secret police. It is a fitting reminder of all the cruelties done there and the justice that rose up against oppression. That grim monument also recalls the many brave Romanians who did not live to see this day. Our prayers are for them and their families. Yet, today, their hopes are being fulfilled. The nation they love is rising. Romania has won its freedom. Romania is resolute in difficulty and moving toward greater prosperity. And Romania is finding its place in the greatest—history's greatest alliance for freedom.

I have come to tell you that the world and my country knows the character of the people of this great country. We respect your

country. We love the fact that you love freedom. May God bless you and your families. May God bless Romania. And may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:35 p.m. at the Piața Revoluției. In his remarks, he referred to President Ion Iliescu of Romania, who introduced the President; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the West Coast Ports Agreement

November 24, 2002

"I am very pleased that labor and management have reached an agreement concerning the West Coast ports. This agreement is good for workers, good for employers, and it's good for America's economy. I congratulate labor and management for working together to successfully resolve their disagreements, and I also commend the efforts of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Peter Hurtgen, for their tireless efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion."

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

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George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

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**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Small Business**

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

This report documents the state of small business at the end of the 20th century. Small businesses have always been the backbone of our economy. They perennially account for most innovation and job creation. Small businesses have sustained the economy when it is robust and growing as well as in weaker times when small businesses have put the economy back on the track to long-term growth.

We must work together to give small businesses an environment in which they can thrive. Small businesses are disproportionately affected by Government regulations and paperwork, and I am committed to reducing this burden. We should regulate only where there is a real need, fully justified through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and clear legal authority. And when Government must regulate, it must adopt commonsense approaches. Regulations work best when agencies anticipate and analyze the effects of their proposals on small firms. Rules need to reflect the ability of small businesses to comply.

Another barrier to unleashing the full potential of small business is our tax code. I am committed to reducing taxes for all Americans—especially small businesses. We must eliminate permanently the estate tax, which so often has spelled the death of the business and the jobs of its employees after the death of its founder. Our tax code should encourage investment in small businesses, and particularly in new and growing businesses. Because the innovations that drive tomorrow's economy come from entrepreneurial small businesses today, we must help them enter the marketplace, not impede them before they get there. Above all, small businesses need a tax code that is understandable and stable. Fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability should be our goals, and I am committed to this end.

Small business embodies so much of what America is all about. Self-reliance, hard work, innovation, the courage to take risks for fu-

ture growth: these are values that have served our Nation well since its very beginning. They are values to be passed on from generation to generation. We must ensure that our small businesses continue to thrive and prosper, not just for their own sakes, but for all of us.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

**Remarks on Presenting the
Presidential Awards for Management
Excellence**

November 25, 2002

Thanks a lot. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for coming today. I'm honored to be here to present the Presidential Awards for Management Excellence. I guess that's Washington, DC, talk for people doing the job the taxpayers expect. *[Laughter]* These awards recognize the best management practices in Government. This year's recipients have met high standards and, as a result, have earned the respect of the White House and our country.

Kay, I want to thank you for your leadership in this issue. I appreciate you making sure that the awards ceremonies reflect the desires of this administration to provide excellence for every taxpayer, to make sure the services we provide are relevant and necessary, that people who put their heart into their work are able to say that we're doing the job that the people expect. Kay is doing a great job for our country, and I'm glad she's on my team.

And so is our Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta. He has performed brilliantly as a Cabinet Secretary. He has taken on some tough jobs. I'll never forget, on 9/11, knowing the fact that Norm was in charge of making sure that our airspace was cleared. He did a fantastic job, and from that point on, he's been just as magnificent in making sure our airports are secure. I want to thank you for your service, Norm. He represents one of the award winners, the FAA Logistics Center.

And thank you for being here, Mr. Secretary, and thanks for the note on our anniversary.

I appreciate David Chu being here as well. He represents the Defense Department. There are two award winners from the Defense Department here today, the National Imaging and Mapping Agency and the 55th Wing of Offutt Air Force Base.

I want to thank Lt. Gen. James Clapper from the National Imaging and Mapping Agency for being here. And I want to thank Norman Bowles, who is the FAA Administration Logistics Center, for being here, and I want to thank Timothy Jones, the Commander of the 55th Wing, for coming as well. Congratulations for a job well done.

There were runner-ups for this award, and three of the finalists have representatives here today, starting with another member of my Cabinet, Christie Todd Whitman, who runs the Environmental Protection Agency. Christie Todd, thanks for being here. Pat Pizzella is the Assistant Secretary for Labor for Administration and Management. Pat, I appreciate you coming, and thank the good folks who almost won for their hard work. [Laughter] Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget, of the Interior, thank you for being here, Lynn. I appreciate your hard work as well. Give Gale Norton my best.

I want to thank the members of the President's Management Council and the Human Resources Management Council for helping on this project. I want to thank the President's Quality Awards evaluators, those who looked around all our Government to find out who deserved this award. I want to appreciate you for your hard work. I want to thank the judges for picking the winners. Better you pick them than me, I might add. [Laughter] I want to thank the Director of the Ronald Reagan Building and his staff for putting up with a Presidential trip. Again, I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to thank you for serving your country.

Public service is a high, high calling. And I'm proud of the men and women who devote their lives to our great Nation. You put in long hours. You watch every penny in the budget—or you should watch every penny in the budget. [Laughter] You know who the boss is: The boss is the taxpayer. That's who

we work for. You do your job right, and a lot of times, you don't get much attention. Today, we're here to pay attention to the people who are doing the job really well, to honor excellence, to reward success.

This award is like what we call the Malcolm Baldrige Award. The Malcolm Baldrige Award recognizes excellence in the private sector. This award recognizes excellence in the public sector. It honors really high management quality.

The President's Award also recognizes that our Government has got unique challenges. I mean, we've got challenges in dealing with bureaucracies that have been around a long time. We've got challenges in fighting inertia. We've got challenges in setting new goals and high standards in agencies that sometimes aren't anxious to change. It's different than the private sector, obviously. But nevertheless, it doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to try and overcome any obstacles to excellence.

The award criteria are based on my management agenda. Kay James explained that agenda to you earlier. We take it very seriously, and we're going to continue to push the agenda, because we think it is best for our country and best for the people we serve.

There have been dozens of excellent nominees who were considered, but three stood out. Today we're here to honor the three. They stood out because they set clear goals and they reached the goals. Each identified a critical challenge. Each considered solutions. Each drew up a plan and a strategy. And then, as importantly, they carried it out. These organizations did more than just make promises; they made good on their promises.

The first recipient is the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Bethesda, Maryland. And for all of you who work there, I want to congratulate you for winning this award. General Clapper, you might stand up and give everybody a wave. Thank you very much, General. Congratulations to you and your team. [Applause]

This agency deals with a complex technology. And one of the things they need to do is to work to keep the workforce. It's hard to keep a workforce in the Government, particularly when the workforce is specialized and talented like—like the General needs.

There's a lot of competition for good and skilled Federal workers. And so therefore, it requires—in the private sector—we compete with the private sector to keep good people in place. And so therefore, it requires imaginative ways to attract and retain the very best, and I appreciate you for doing that. You've excelled at high retention to make sure this critical agency has got the expertise needed to help America.

Secondly, we honor—is the Federal—FAA Logistics Center in Oklahoma City. If anybody works for the FAA Logistics Center in Oklahoma City that's here, please stand up so we can recognize you. Thank you all. [Applause] Congratulations. Congratulations to you all.

The center supports America's entire system of air traffic safety and provides everything from electronic repair to inventory management. That's a big job. And yet for a while, the system was backwards. Because of a preset fee arrangement, the customers had little incentive to save money. And the system was prone to be overloaded with what they call rush orders. In other words, the system was designed backwards. And these good folks recognized that and put in place new accounting procedures which now make sure that every customer has got information based upon the cost of each order, which in itself provides incentive for budget control. I want to congratulate you on taking a very complex assignment and making it work on behalf of the American people. Good job.

And finally, the third winner is the largest wing in America's Air Combat Command, the 55th, at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. I had the—I was there on September 11th, 2001, at Offutt. I remember their motto. It says, "The Sun Never Sets on the Fighting 55th." And that's good for the defense of the country, by the way.

I want to thank the good folks at—at Offutt for recognizing that outsourcing is an important part of efficiency in our Government. They identified the best and most cost-effective approaches for hundreds of different tasks on the base. They work closely with contractors, opened the process to employee feedback and concerns, and have saved our taxpayers millions of dollars. They made sure that the system was efficient and

effective. They recognize that there are different ways to meet goals, and they encourage the entrepreneurial spirit as a part of meeting the goals that we expect. General—thank you all for coming. Congratulations. Please thank all the folks at the 55th for doing a fine job. Please stand up. [Applause] Good job.

These are examples of what can happen when people put their mind to delivering excellence on behalf of the taxpayers. There's creativity and flexibility, people willing to think outside of the proverbial box. And as a result, our country is better off.

One of the reasons why we have these awards is to hold up your example for other people in Government. Other people should recognize that if they make the right decisions, set high goals, are creative about achieving those goals, they too can receive this award, which is an important award.

When you get back to your offices, make sure your fellow employees know how proud we are of the work they—that you've done, how proud we are of their service to our country, what a credit they are to the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

And so we're here to congratulate three fine agencies, three fine groups of our fellow Americans, all working together to do our job.

I recently came back from Europe. I had an excellent trip on behalf of the citizens of our country. But there's no question in my mind, no question in my mind, I represent and you represent the finest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. I hope you feel that way every day when you go to work. I do.

And so, on behalf of a grateful nation, congratulations. Thanks for what you do. Keep doing what you do. And I hope to see you back here next year. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:11 a.m. in the Amphitheater at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Norman Bowles, Program Director, Federal Aviation Administration Logistics Center; Brig. Gen. Timothy Jones, USAF, Commander, 55th Wing, Air Combat Command, Offutt Air Force Base; and Robert Schall, director, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Remarks on Signing the Homeland Security Act of 2002*November 25, 2002*

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome, and welcome to the White House.

Today we are taking historic action to defend the United States and protect our citizens against the dangers of a new era. With my signature, this act of Congress will create a new Department of Homeland Security, ensuring that our efforts to defend this country are comprehensive and united.

The new Department will analyze threats, will guard our borders and airports, protect our critical infrastructure, and coordinate the response of our Nation to future emergencies. The Department of Homeland Security will focus the full resources of the American Government on the safety of the American people. This essential reform was carefully considered by Congress and enacted with strong bipartisan majorities.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security Adviser, for his hard work on this initiative. I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet who are here for their work. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us today, particularly those Members of Congress who were essential to the passage, many of whom stand up here on the stage with me. One Member not with us is our mutual friend from Texas, Phil Gramm. I appreciate his hard work. I thank the work of Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Joe Lieberman. I appreciate Zell Miller and Don Nickles' hard work as well. We've got a lot of Members from the House here, and I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to pay homage to Dick Armey, who shepherded the bill to the floor of the House of Representatives. I'll miss him. I'm not so sure everybody will. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate your time here. I thank Tom DeLay for making sure the bill got passed. I thank Rob Portman for his hard work. And I want to thank Ellen Tauscher as well for her leadership on this issue.

I appreciate Kay James of the Office of Personnel Management, who worked so hard to make sure this effort was understood by everybody in our Government. And I want to thank the other administration officials

who are here, many of whom are going to be responsible for seeing to it this new Department functions well.

I want to thank all the local and State officials who are here with us today—I see Governors and county judges, mayors—for coming. My own mayor, the Mayor of Washington, DC, I appreciate you coming, Mr. Mayor. I want to thank the local and State law enforcement officials who are here, the chiefs of police and fire chiefs who are with us today. I see the chief of my city now is here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chief, for coming.

I want to thank the union representatives who are here. We look forward to working with you to make sure that your people are treated fairly in this new Department. I want to thank the Federal workers who are here. You're charged with being on the front line of protecting America. I understand your job. We look forward to working with you to make sure you get your job done. I want to thank the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council as well, and thank you all for coming.

From the morning of September the 11th, 2001, to this hour, America has been engaged in an unprecedented effort to defend our freedom and our security. We're fighting a war against terror with all our resources, and we're determined to win.

With the help of many nations, with the help of 90 nations, we're tracking terrorist activity; we're freezing terrorist finances; we're disrupting terrorist plots; we're shutting down terrorist camps; we're on the hunt one person at a time. Many terrorists are now being interrogated. Many terrorists have been killed. We've liberated a country.

We recognize our greatest security is found in the relentless pursuit of these cold-blooded killers. Yet, because terrorists are targeting America, the front of the new war is here in America. Our life changed and changed in dramatic fashion on September the 11th, 2001.

In the last 14 months, every level of our Government has taken steps to be better prepared against a terrorist attack. We understand the nature of the enemy. We understand they hate us because of what we love. We're doing everything we can to enhance security at our airports and powerplants and

border crossings. We've deployed detection equipment to look for weapons of mass destruction. We've given law enforcement better tools to detect and disrupt terrorist cells which might be hiding in our own country.

And through separate legislation I signed earlier today, we will strengthen security at our Nation's 361 seaports, adding port security agents, requiring ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew, and passengers they carry. And I want to thank the Members of Congress for working hard on this important piece of legislation as well.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 takes the next critical steps in defending our country. The continuing threat of terrorism, the threat of mass murder on our own soil, will be met with a unified, effective response. Dozens of agencies charged with homeland security will now be located within one Cabinet Department with the mandate and legal authority to protect our people. America will be better able to respond to any future attacks, to reduce our vulnerability and, most important, prevent the terrorists from taking innocent American lives.

The Department of Homeland Security will have nearly 170,000 employees, dedicated professionals who will wake up each morning with the overriding duty of protecting their fellow citizens. As Federal workers, they have rights, and those rights will be fully protected. And I'm grateful that the Congress listened to my concerns and retained the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in the defense of our country.

I've great confidence in the men and women who will serve in this Department and in the man I've asked to lead it. As I prepare to sign this bill into law, I am pleased to announce that I will nominate Governor Tom Ridge as our Nation's first Secretary of Homeland Security. Americans know Tom as an experienced public servant and as the leader of our homeland security efforts since last year. Tom accepted that assignment in urgent circumstances, resigning as the Governor of Pennsylvania to organize the White House Office of Homeland Security and to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect the American people. He's done a superb

job. He's the right man for this new and great responsibility.

We're going to put together a fine team to work with Tom. The Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, will be nominated for the post of Deputy Secretary. And Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, now the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, will be nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security.

The Secretary-designate and his team have an immense task ahead of them. Setting up the Department of Homeland Security will involve the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. To succeed in their mission, leaders of the new Department must change the culture of many diverse agencies, directing all of them toward the principal objective of protecting the American people. The effort will take time and focus and steady resolve. It will also require full support from both the administration and the Congress. Adjustments will be needed along the way. Yet this is pressing business, and the hard work of building a new Department begins today.

When the Department of Homeland Security is fully operational, it will enhance the safety of our people in very practical ways. First, this new Department will analyze intelligence information on terror threats collected by the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and others. The Department will match this intelligence against the Nation's vulnerabilities and work with other agencies and the private sector and State and local governments to harden America's defenses against terror.

Second, the Department will gather and focus all our efforts to face the challenge of cyberterrorism and the even worse danger of nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. This Department will be charged with encouraging research on new technologies that can detect these threats in time to prevent an attack.

Third, State and local governments will be able to turn for help and information to one Federal domestic security agency, instead of more than 20 agencies that currently divide these responsibilities. This will help our local

governments work in concert with the Federal Government for the sake of all the people of America.

Fourth, the new Department will bring together the agencies responsible for border, coastline, and transportation security. There will be a coordinated effort to safeguard our transportation systems and to secure the border so that we're better able to protect our citizens and welcome our friends.

Fifth, the Department will work with State and local officials to prepare our response to any future terrorist attack that may come. We have found that the first hours and even the first minutes after the attack can be crucial in saving lives, and our first-responders need the carefully planned and drilled strategies that will make their work effective.

The Department of Homeland Security will also end a great deal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities. Our objective is to spend less on administrators in offices and more on working agents in the field, less on overhead and more on protecting our neighborhoods and borders and waters and skies from terrorists.

With a vast nation to defend, we can neither predict nor prevent every conceivable attack. And in a free and open society, no Department of Government can completely guarantee our safety against ruthless killers who move and plot in shadows. Yet our Government will take every possible measure to safeguard our country and our people.

We're fighting a new kind of war against determined enemies. And public servants long into the future will bear the responsibility to defend Americans against terror. This administration and this Congress have the duty of putting that system into place. We will fulfill that duty. With the Homeland Security Act, we're doing everything we can to protect America. We're showing the resolve of this great Nation to defend our freedom, our security, and our way of life.

It's now my privilege to sign the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey. H.R. 5005, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107-296.

Statement on Signing the Homeland Security Act of 2002

November 25, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5005, the "Homeland Security Act of 2002." The Act restructures and strengthens the executive branch of the Federal Government to better meet the threat to our homeland posed by terrorism. In establishing a new Department of Homeland Security, the Act for the first time creates a Federal department whose primary mission will be to help prevent, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism on our soil.

Section 103(a)(8) of the Act provides for 12 Assistant Secretary positions without defined titles or duties in the new Department that are to be "appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." Sections 201(b)(1) and 201(b)(2) of the Act provide for two Assistant Secretary positions with defined titles and duties that are to be "appointed by the President." The text and structure of the Act make clear that these two presidentially appointed Assistant Secretary positions were created in addition to the 12 unspecified Assistant Secretary positions, and the executive branch shall construe the relevant provisions accordingly.

With respect to section 201(h), upon the recommendations of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and other appropriate executive branch officials, I will determine which elements of the Department of Homeland Security are concerned with the analysis of foreign intelligence information.

Section 214(a)(1)(D)(ii) provides that voluntarily shared critical infrastructure information shall not be used or disclosed by any Federal employee without the written consent of the person or entity submitting the information, except when disclosure of the information would be to the Congress or the Comptroller General. The executive branch does not construe this provision to impose any independent or affirmative requirement to share such information with the Congress or the Comptroller General and shall construe it in any event in a manner consistent

with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Section 231 establishes an "Office of Science and Technology" within the National Institute of Justice, and under the general authority of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. According to subsection 231(b), "[t]he Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall be an individual appointed based on approval by the Office of Personnel Management of the executive qualifications of the individual." The executive branch will construe this provision in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of Article II of the Constitution. Because the Director would exercise significant governmental authority and thus be an "officer" whose appointment must be made in conformity with the Appointments Clause, I hereby direct the Attorney General to appoint the Director.

Section 232(e) of the Act provides that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology within the Department of Justice shall have sole authority over decisions relating to publications issued by the Office. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 306(a) of the Act provides that research conducted by the Department shall be unclassified "to the greatest extent practicable." In addition, section 425 adds section 44901(d)(3) to title 49 of the United States Code, requiring the submission of classified reports concerning the screening of checked baggage for explosives in the aviation system to certain committees of Congress. The executive branch shall construe and carry out these provisions, as well as other provisions of the Act, including those in title II of the Act, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional and statutory authorities to control access to and protect classified information, intelligence sources and methods, sensitive law enforcement information, and information the disclosure of which could

otherwise harm the foreign relations or national security of the United States.

Section 311(h) of the Act provides for the preparation and transmittal to the Congress of reports prepared by the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Several sections of the Act, including section 414, 476, and 873(c), purport to require the submission of budget requests for the new Department to the Congress and to require such requests to be in a particular form. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 452(c)(2) of the Act prohibits various officers of the Department or the Office of Management and Budget from reviewing reports and other material prepared by the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman. The executive branch shall construe this section in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 473(f) of the Act purports to require the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to comply with requests from the General Accounting Office (GAO) for certain information in the course of GAO preparation of reports on demonstration projects relating to disciplinary action. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Provisions in the Act, including sections 418(b), 428(e)(7)(B), 460, 477(c)(2)(F),

882(c)(3), and 893(a) purport to require executive branch officials to submit to the Congress plans for internal executive branch activities or recommendations relating to legislation. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 507 describes some of the functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, specifically referencing "the functions and authorities prescribed by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*)." Because section 503(1) transfers all functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Department of Homeland Security, including those existing pursuant to laws other than the Stafford Act, the executive branch shall not construe the specification of the Stafford Act in section 507 as limiting in any way the transfer of the other authorities currently belonging to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Section 812(a) authorizes Inspectors General and their assistants and agents to make criminal arrests without warrants for any Federal felony if they have "reasonable grounds to believe" that the subject committed or is committing the offense. Because the Supreme Court has held that the standard of probable cause applies to all arrests, regardless of circumstances, the grounds for making an arrest under this standard are only "reasonable" if they include probable cause to believe that the subject has committed or is committing a crime. The Inspectors General, their assistants, and agents must accordingly have probable cause before making an arrest pursuant to this section. The authority to make criminal arrests and to exercise other law enforcement authorities conveyed by this section is to be exercised in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Attorney General, as provided by section 6(e)(4) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as added by section 812(a).

Section 873(b) describes conditions under which gifts or donations of services or property of the Department may be accepted,

used, or disposed of by third parties. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with existing legal authorities being transferred to the Department of Homeland Security and shall not construe it to effect an implied repeal of any such authority.

Section 878 provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall appoint a senior official in the Department to assume primary responsibility for certain counternarcotics efforts and to serve as the United States Interdiction Coordinator for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In making this appointment, the Secretary of Homeland Security will consult with and seek recommendations from the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Section 879 establishes an Office of International Affairs with responsibilities to promote information and education exchange with foreign nations with respect to best practices and technologies relating to homeland security. This Office will carry out these functions in close coordination with the Department of State and other relevant Government agencies.

Section 886 recites a series of findings and provides the sense of the Congress concerning aspects of section 1385 of title 18, United States Code, commonly known as the Posse Comitatus Act. This provision does not purport to alter, modify, or otherwise affect the Posse Comitatus Act or judicial interpretations of that Act, and the executive branch shall construe this provision accordingly.

Section 895 of the Act purports to amend Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by expanding the permissible scope of grand jury information that may be shared by prosecutors. On April 29, 2002, however, the Supreme Court proposed a set of amendments to Rule 6 that, under section 2074 of title 28, are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2002. There is no indication that the Congress' different amendments to Rule 6(e) were intended to reject the Supreme Court's pending proposal, and my Administration will construe the Act so that the Supreme Court's proposed amendments to Rule 6 will still go into effect, without alteration, on December 1, 2002. As a result of those intervening amendments, when section

895 becomes effective in 60 days, its directions for amendment will no longer correspond to the underlying text of Rule 6(e). In the next Congress, technical amendments will be necessary to add the changes in this section to those already accomplished by the Supreme Court pursuant to sections 2072 and 2074 of title 28.

Section 1313(a)(2) provides authority to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to establish a program for providing voluntary separation incentive payments to "individuals serving in the judicial branch." Based upon an understanding of the intent of this provision, as well as appropriate respect for principles of judicial independence, the executive branch shall construe "individuals serving in the judicial branch" to exclude those individuals serving as members of the Federal judiciary.

Section 1331 adds an amended section 4107(b)(1)(A) to title 5, United States Code, which requires that, in exercising authority to assign and fund academic degree training for certain Federal employees, an agency "take into consideration the need to maintain a balanced workforce in which women, members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and persons with disabilities are appropriately represented in Government service." The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the Equal Protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 25, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5005, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107-296.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Reorganization
Plan for the Department of
Homeland Security**
November 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 1502 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, I submit herewith the enclosed Reorganization Plan for the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security. The Reorganization Plan provides information concerning the elements identified in section 1502(b), and is subject to modification pursuant to section 1502(d) of the Act. In accordance with section 1502(a) of the Act, please transmit this Reorganization Plan to the appropriate congressional committees.

The details of this Plan are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Statement on Signing the Maritime
Transportation Security Act of 2002**
November 25, 2002

Today I have signed into law S. 1214, the "Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002." This Act will strengthen security at our Nation's seaports by requiring comprehensive security plans for U.S. ports and mandating improved identification and screening of seaport personnel.

Certain provisions of the Act, including sections 102, 103(b), 110(c)(4), and 112(4), purport to require an executive branch official to submit recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch. Moreover, to the extent such provisions of the Act would require submission of legislative recommendations, they would impermissibly impinge upon the President's constitutional authority to submit only those legislative recommendations that he judges to be necessary and expedient. Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe such provisions as requiring submission of legislative recommendations only where the President judges them necessary and expedient.

Section 102 of the Act adds a new section 70109 to title 46 of the United States Code. This provision purports to require one of my

subordinates to notify foreign officials of certain findings and recommend antiterrorism measures to them. The constitutional authority of the President over foreign affairs necessarily entails discretion over these matters, and so the executive branch shall interpret this provision as precatory.

Section 102 of the Act also adds a new section 70112 to title 46. Section 70112(a)(1)(B) purports to authorize an advisory committee in the executive branch to make available to the Congress recommendations that the committee makes to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 25, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1214, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107-295.

Remarks on Signing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

November 26, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Today we're taking action to strengthen America's economy, to build confidence with America's investors, and to create jobs for America's workers. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act will provide coverage for catastrophic losses from potential terrorist attacks. Should terrorists strike America again, we have a system in place to address financial losses and get our economy back on its feet as quickly as possible. With this new law, builders and investors can begin construction in real estate projects that have been stalled for too long and get our hardhats back to work.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet who are here who worked on this bill, Paul O'Neill and Don Evans and Elaine Chao. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here, particularly those on the stage with me who worked hard to get the bill passed: Chairman Paul Sarbanes; Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who did a lot of work to get the bill done; Senator Harry Reid worked hard on this piece of legislation as well. I appreciate Chairman Mike Oxley from the House, who also worked, along with Senator Dodd, to get this important piece of legislation passed. Mike, thank you for your leadership on this issue. As well, we're joined by other key players from the House of Representatives, Sue Kelly, Chris Shays, John LaFalce, and Ken Bentsen. These Members of Congress put the interests of the country ahead of partisanship, and as a result of their hard work, I'm able to sign the bill today. I want to thank you for your leadership.

I also want to thank the union leaders who are here today, people with whom we've worked hard to get this done, leaders who put the interest of their membership right on the line. Doug McCarron—appreciate your leadership, Doug. He's the general president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Frank Hanley is the general president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, is with us today. Joe Hunt is the general president of the Iron Workers International Union; Ed Sullivan, who is the president of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AF of L-CIO; Terry O'Sullivan, who is the general president of the Laborers International Union of North America.

I appreciate the workers from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and Iron Workers and the Building and Construction Trade Department of the AFL-CIO, who are with us today representing thousands of people who are going to go back to work, thanks to this piece of legislation. Thanks for your leadership, and thanks for your presence.

The attacks of September the 11th, 2001, devastated lives, leveled buildings, and seriously, seriously disrupted our economy. Businesses suffered. The stock market halted trading. Many insurance companies stopped covering builders and real estate owners against the risk of attack. Premiums skyrocketed. Protections were diminished.

Across America, hospitals and office buildings and malls and museums and construction jobs and many transportation companies have had difficulty finding terrorism insurance.

More than \$15 billion in real estate transactions have been canceled or put on hold because owners and investors could not obtain the insurance protection they need. Commercial construction is at a 6-year low, and thousands of hardhat workers have been kept off the job. Commercial mortgage-backed securities have seen their bond ratings lowered, hurting many Americans invested in the bond market, including teachers and police officers and firefighters, who have lost money in their pension plans.

By helping to ensure that terrorism insurance is affordable and available, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act will permit many construction projects to move forward and to help this economy grow. Billions of dollars in investments will be more secure. The Nation's hardhats will get back to work, being able to put food on the table for their families. Investors in markets will have greater confidence that our economy is strong enough to withstand a future attack, and that's important.

This new law will also help the economy in the legal system by discouraging abusive lawsuits. Civil cases resulting from a terrorist attack will be combined in a single Federal court. Lawyers will be prevented from shopping for courts with a reputation for outrageous awards. Judgments and rulings will be more consistent.

It's important for our taxpayers to understand that taxpayer dollars will not be used to pay punitive damages. I'm grateful to the Members of Congress who put the interest of the workers and taxpayers ahead of lawyers. I look forward to working with the new Congress on stronger measures to prevent abusive lawsuits. And today I'm taking steps to ensure that no taxpayer dollar will be spent on legal settlements without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary will work to ensure that settlements are fair to victims, not windfalls for the legal class of America.

The act of Congress I sign today will encourage greater competition in the insurance

market and add strength to our economy. But there's more to do. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans in the next Congress to pass a growth-in-jobs package early next year. My Administration is determined to make America safer, to make our economy stronger, and we're making progress on both fronts.

America has entered a new kind of war, requiring aggressive action abroad and active defense at home. Yesterday, I signed into law the new Department of Homeland Security, to organize our Government for the long-term challenge of protecting America. Today, with terrorism insurance, we're defending America by making our economy more secure. Both these achievements show the unity of our Nation in a time of testing and our resolve to lead America to a better day.

I'm now pleased to sign the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 3210, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107-297. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

November 26, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

I hereby direct you to exercise your authority under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to propose a rule that would require an insurer to obtain your advance approval of any proposed settlement of causes of action described in section 107 arising out of or resulting from an act of terrorism.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 26, 2002

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad you all are here.

I see the turkey standing there. [Laughter] He looks a little nervous, doesn't he? [Laughter] He probably thinks he's going to have a press conference. [Laughter]

I really appreciate you coming to watch me give this bird a Presidential pardon. I'm especially glad to see all the young people who are here. Thank you for coming—and such wonderful looking costumes. We welcome the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Boy Scouts, and school students from the Washington, DC, area. Thanks for coming to the White House.

I wish my dog Barney was here. [Laughter] But I'm afraid Barney would have met his match with that turkey. [Laughter] So we kept him inside.

I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture for coming. Ann, it's great to see you. I appreciate all our distinguished guests for being here. I particularly want to thank Ron Prestage, who is the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. It turns out his dad, Bill, was the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. We kind of like father-and-son combos around here. [Laughter] It's also good to have Alice Johnson with us as well. Thank you all for coming.

The Thanksgiving proclamation which I signed this morning is a Presidential tradition which began with George Washington. The days of Thanksgiving are an American tradition. We've observed this tradition since the Pilgrims. Americans have always been a grateful people: We're grateful for our freedom; we're grateful for our families; we're grateful for our beautiful country.

Each year at Thanksgiving, we gather in that spirit to count our blessings and to share those blessings with our families and with others. On this holiday, American families will be thinking of loved ones far from home, especially members of our military, who defend our country.

We remember those in other lands who suffer under oppression, who long for freedom, and we pray that they might one day live in a world at peace and in a free society. And in this Nation of many faiths, we ask that the almighty God continue to bless us and to watch over us.

And now, as we look to our national day of Thanksgiving, I have the honor of carrying

out an important Presidential tradition. The bird's name is Katie. [Laughter] Ron, it was awfully nice of you to name that bird after your daughter. It's a high honor to be named—to have that turkey named after your child. And it's a fine looking turkey. [Laughter]

By virtue of this pardon, Katie is on her way not to the dinner table but to Kidwell Farm in Herndon, Virginia. There she'll live out her days as safe and comfortable as she can be.

Thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving. I look forward to having a conversation with Katie. Let's do it.

[At this point, the President greeted audience members.]

All right, thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Alice Johnson, president, National Turkey Federation.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2002

November 26, 2002

I am pleased to send greetings to everyone celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

For eight days and nights, Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the ancient story of Israel's courageous faith. In a victorious struggle against their oppressors, the Maccabees heroically overcame enormous odds to liberate the ancient kingdom of Israel. Hanukkah reminds us that faith can give us the strength to overcome oppression. Today, the spirit of the Maccabees continues to live and thrive among the Jewish people and in the State of Israel.

During the eight days of Hanukkah, Jews throughout the world gather with family and friends to rejoice and celebrate. Each night, they light a branch of the menorah to commemorate the miracle of the lamp that, with only enough oil for one day, burned in the ancient Temple for eight days. The festival of lights culminates on the eighth night when all the candles burn in unity, symbolizing the

eternal light of the Temple and the long-standing struggle of the Jewish people against adversity.

Americans join in thanking God for our blessings and renew our commitment to the values of faith, family, and community that make us strong. The candles of Hanukkah remind us that in the face of darkness, goodness will prevail.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous Hanukkah.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on the Establishment of the Department of Homeland Security

November 26, 2002

Memorandum to Federal Employees

Yesterday I signed into law legislation to create the new Department of Homeland Security. It will unite our efforts under one roof and behind one primary mission: to protect the American people from another terrorist attack.

Achieving that goal is my highest and most urgent priority as President. Our success is made possible by the hard work and unwavering dedication you've shown before and after September 11th. Americans owe you their gratitude for helping to keep their families safe and their communities secure.

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security will focus on three critical objectives to:

- Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism; and
- Minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

We will form the new Department as soon as possible. Under the terms of the initial plan I sent to the Congress, nearly all the affected agencies would be brought together on March 1 of next year.

We are assembling a great leadership team, made up of proven decision-makers who know how to get the job done. They share your vision and commitment to a more

secure homeland. I intend to nominate Governor Tom Ridge to serve as Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Gordon England to serve as Deputy Secretary, and Mr. Asa Hutchinson to serve as Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security.

Many of you are familiar with Governor Tom Ridge. As the Nation's first Homeland Security Advisor, he exercised tremendous leadership on a complex, multifaceted topic. For him, homeland security is a national effort, not simply a Federal one. Governor Ridge served as Governor of Pennsylvania for almost 6 years. Prior to that he was elected six times to the United States House of Representatives with overwhelming majorities. He is also a decorated Vietnam veteran. Governor Ridge has earned my trust and the trust of the American people. He will make a great Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England will leave his position to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to his time at the Department of the Navy, Secretary England served as executive vice president of General Dynamics Corporation from 1997–2001. In addition to his background in mergers and acquisitions, his private sector experience includes management experience at Combat Systems Group, General Dynamics Fort Worth aircraft company, and General Dynamics Land Systems. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the M.J. Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University.

Asa Hutchinson currently serves as Administrator of Drug Enforcement (DEA). As head of DEA, Administrator Hutchinson has focused his efforts at dismantling high-profile drug trafficking organizations including the Arellano Felix organization. Prior to his tenure at DEA, Administrator Hutchinson served for three terms in the United States House of Representatives where he served on the House Judiciary Committee and Select Committee on Intelligence.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to homeland security and to our great country. During this time of transition it is extremely important that you continue to stay focused on your important

duties and responsibilities. I appreciate all that you have done—and all that we are about to do together during this historic chapter in our Nation's history.

George W. Bush

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Achieving
Militarily Significant Benchmarks for
a Sustainable Peace in Kosovo**

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 1212 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106–398, I hereby submit a report, prepared by my Administration, on the progress made in achieving the militarily significant benchmarks for conditions that would achieve a sustainable peace in Kosovo and ultimately allow for the withdrawal of the United States military presence in Kosovo.

The term “militarily significant” relates to tasks and objectives significant from a military standpoint that once accomplished would allow for withdrawal of military forces from Kosovo. In the establishment of the Kosovo benchmarks, four critical tasks for NATO forces were identified: military stability, public security, border/boundary issues, and war crimes/International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia support. Objectives for these tasks were drawn from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, the NATO Operations Plan, the Military Technical Agreement, and the Kosovo Liberation Army Undertaking.

I anticipate that KFOR—and U.S. participation in it—will gradually reduce in size as public security conditions improve and Kosovars assume increasing responsibility for their own self-government.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Lapse of the Export
Administration Act of 1979**

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Burma**

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

Remarks on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

November 27, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Today I sign an act of Congress authorizing intelligence programs vital to our security and creating a national commission to investigate the events of September the 11th, 2001, and the years that led up to that event. This commission will help me and future Presidents to understand the methods of America's enemies and the nature of the threats we face.

Today I'm pleased to announce my choice for commission Chairman, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Dr. Kissinger is one of our Nation's most accomplished and respected public servants. He worked here at the White House as National Security Adviser, represented America abroad as the Secretary of State for two Presidents. He is a distinguished author, academic, Army veteran, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. He's also spent much of his life in New York, feels deeply the loss that came to that city and to our country. Dr. Kissinger will bring broad experience, clear thinking, and careful judgment to this important task.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for returning to the service of your nation.

Dr. Kissinger and I share the same commitments. His investigation should carefully examine all the evidence and follow all the facts, wherever they lead. We must uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September the 11th. My administration will continue to act on the lessons we've learned so far to better protect the people of this country. It's our most solemn duty.

I want to thank the congressional leaders for their work on this commission and on the broader legislation as well. The law I sign today directs new funds and new focus to the task of collecting vital intelligence on terrorist threats and on weapons of mass production—weapons proliferation. In a period of rapidly changing dangers, we will continue

to work with the Congress to get the resources we need to gather information so we can better defend America.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us today, who worked hard to make this commission a reality: Senator Joe Lieberman—thank you, Senator—Congressman Porter Goss; Tim Roemer; Chris Shays; and Chris Smith—all distinguished Members of the United States Congress, all who join thousands of Americans who refuse to forget that which took place on September the 11th, 2001.

Above all, I want to thank the family members of the people who were killed on September the 11th, family members who are here today and others around the country. In working for this commission, you have been motivated by a noble goal: You want to spare other Americans the kind of suffering you faced. I appreciate that sentiment. America is grateful.

The Nation's families gather during holidays. You need to know that there's a lot of people who continue to pray for you. There's a lot of people that you've never seen before—you don't have any ideas of what their names are—they share your grief. I hope that provides some comfort.

September the 11th marked a dividing line in the life of our Nation. The events of a single morning dramatically demonstrated America's vulnerability to the threats of a new era. Oceans that separated us from other continents no longer separate us from danger. America's enemies are still determined to inflict great harm. We have a duty—a solemn duty—to do everything we can to protect this country.

We've acted to reduce the Nation's vulnerabilities. We're stepping up security and transportation systems at port of entries and on our borders. We've made important reforms in Federal law enforcement, ensuring that the FBI's primary focus now is the prevention of future attack. We're doing a better job of sharing information among agencies. By legislation I signed this week, we've created a Department of Homeland Security to involve the largest reorganization of the Federal Government in more than a half a century, with the goal of protecting America.

And overseas we're chasing the killers down, one person at a time—one at a time. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida network. There is no cave dark enough or deep enough to hide from the justice of the United States of America. And it doesn't matter how long it takes, this Nation will stay on course to find them, to bring them to justice, to make sure America's homeland is secure.

These essential steps do not complete our work, and that's important for America to know. In the war against terror, our goal is to take every measure that is necessary, to gather all information that is available and gain every advantage that is possible. An aggressive investigation into September the 11th, with a responsible concern for sensitive information that will allow us to win the war on terror, will contribute to the security of this country.

This commission's findings may show a need for further reform in intelligence gathering and other areas. I'm confident that under Dr. Kissinger's leadership the commission's work will be thorough. The recommendations will be helpful and useful.

I also hope that the commission will act quickly and issue its report prior to the 18-month deadline embodied in the legislation. After all, if there's changes that need to be made, we need to know them as soon as possible, for the security of our country. The sooner we have the commission's conclusions, the sooner this administration will act on them.

And as a people, Americans are always looking forward. As a nation, we're working every day to build a future that is peaceful and secure. To reach this goal we must learn all about the past that we can. So with this commission we have formed today, America will learn more about the evil that was done to us. And the understanding we will gain will serve us for years to come. This commission is not only important for this administration; this commission will be important for future administrations, until the world is secure from the evildoers that hate what we stand for.

I ask the Members of Congress that are here today to please come up and join me as I sign this important legislation.

May God bless the families of those who suffered on September the 11th. May God bless you today. May God bless you for long days to come, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. H.R. 4628, approved November 27, was assigned Public Law No. 107-306.

Statement on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

November 27, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4628, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003," which authorizes appropriations to fund United States intelligence activities, including activities essential to success in the war against global terrorism. This Act also establishes the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States to examine and report on the facts and causes relating to the September 11th terrorist attacks. The Commission will build upon the work of the congressional joint inquiries to carefully examine the circumstances surrounding the attacks and the lessons to be learned from them. I expect that the Commission's final report will contain important recommendations for steps that can be taken to improve our preparedness for and response to terrorist attacks in the future.

The executive branch shall implement sections 325, 334, and 826 of the Act, and section 8H(g)(1)(A) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 as enacted by section 825 of the Act, relating to submission of recommendations to the Congress, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Many provisions of the Act, including section 342 and title VIII, establish new requirements for the executive branch to disclose sensitive information. As I have noted in signing last year's Intelligence Authorization Act and other similar legislation, the executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign

relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

The executive branch shall construe subsections 501(d) and (e), relating to the number and activities of military personnel deployed abroad, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 27, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4628, approved November 27, was assigned Public Law No. 107-306.

**Memorandum on a Determination
Under the Interstate Commerce
Commission Termination Act of 1995**
November 27, 2002

*Memorandum for the Secretary of
Transportation*

Subject: Determination Under the Interstate
Commerce Commission Termination Act of
1995

Section 6 of the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982, Public Law 97-261, 96 Stat. 1103, imposed a moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to motor carriers domiciled in, or owned or controlled by persons of, a contiguous foreign country and authorized the President to modify the moratorium. The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), Public Law 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, maintained these restrictions, subject to modifications made prior to the enactment of the ICCTA, and empowered the President to make further modifications to the moratorium.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I modified the moratorium on June 5, 2001, to allow motor carriers domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico to obtain operating authority to transport international cargo by truck between points in the United States and to provide bus services between points in the United States.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) established a schedule for liberalizing certain restrictions on the provision of bus and truck services by Mexican-domiciled motor carriers in the United States. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I hereby determine that the following modifications to the moratorium are consistent with obligations of the United States under NAFTA and with our national transportation policy and that the moratorium shall be modified accordingly.

First, qualified motor carriers domiciled in Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to transport passengers in cross-border scheduled bus services. Second, qualified motor carriers domiciled in Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide cross-border truck services. The moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to Mexican-domiciled motor carriers for the provision of truck or bus services between points in the United States will remain in place. These modifications shall be effective on the date of this memorandum.

Furthermore, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(5), I hereby determine that expeditious action is required to implement this modification to the moratorium. Effective on the date of this memorandum, the Department of Transportation is authorized to act on applications, submitted by motor carriers domiciled in Mexico, to obtain operating authority to provide cross-border scheduled bus services and cross-border truck services. In reviewing such applications, the Department shall continue to work closely with the Department of Justice, the Office of Homeland Security, and other relevant Federal departments, agencies, and offices in order to help ensure the security of the border and to prevent potential threats to national security.

Motor carriers domiciled in Mexico operating in the United States will be subject to the same Federal and State laws, regulations, and procedures that apply to carriers domiciled in the United States. These include safety regulations, such as drug and alcohol testing requirements; insurance requirements; taxes and fees; and other applicable laws and regulations, including those administered by the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization

Service, the Department of Labor, and Federal and State environmental agencies.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:06 p.m., November 29, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 2.

Videotape Remarks for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

November 28, 2002

Good morning. As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember to share our blessings and make this holiday season a time for giving to those in need. By helping a neighbor, we serve our Nation, and we serve a cause greater than self-interest. Everyone can do something. And through the USA Freedom Corps, you can find ways to help at a school, a food pantry, or any other organization near you.

Macy's and NBC join me in wishing you a happy Thanksgiving, and we ask you to make this holiday the start of a season of service.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at 3:10 p.m. on November 12 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast during the telecast of the November 28 parade. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Israel and Kenya

November 28, 2002

I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorist attacks today at the Likud Party polling place in northern Israel and the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, as well as the attempted attack on a civilian airliner shortly after it took off from Mombasa's international airport. I want to extend my condolences to the victims and their families, and to the governments and peoples of Israel and Kenya. Today's attacks underscore the

continuing willingness of those opposed to peace to commit horrible crimes. Those who seek peace must do everything in their power to dismantle the infrastructure of terror that makes such actions possible. The United States remains firmly committed, with its partners around the world, to the fight against terror and those who commit these heinous acts.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 23

In the morning, at the Prezidentura in Vilnius, Lithuania, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania and his wife, Alma Adamkiene. The two Presidents then had a bilateral meeting. Later, they participated in a photo opportunity and then met with Presidents Arnold Ruutel of Estonia and Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy personnel at the American Center. They then traveled to Bucharest, Romania, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Ion Iliescu of Romania at Cotroceni Palace. The two Presidents then had a bilateral meeting.

Later in the afternoon, the President was joined by Mrs. Bush, and they met with U.S. Embassy personnel at the Ambassador's Residence.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

November 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

The President announced his intention to designate Michael J. Garcia as Acting Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Department of Justice.

November 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador to congratulate him on his November 24 electoral victory. He then had CIA and FBI briefings.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan at the White House on December 9.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova to the White House on December 17 to discuss Moldova's continuing reforms and its aspirations to deepen cooperation with the United States and Euroatlantic structures.

November 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 28

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he had two telephone conversations with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice concerning the terrorist attacks in Israel and Kenya earlier in the day.

During the day, the President celebrated Thanksgiving with Mrs. Bush, their daughters, Barbara and Jenna, his parents, former President George Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, and his brothers Marvin and Neil Bush and members of their families.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 23

Fact sheet: Lithuania: Military Deployments Abroad

Fact sheet: Romania: Military Deployments Abroad

Released November 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 124

Announcement of nominations for Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security at the Department of Homeland Security

Released November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Rahmonov of Tajikistan to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Voronin of the Republic of Moldova to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2546, H.R. 3389, H.R. 4878, H.R. 5349, and S. 3044

Fact sheet: A Record of Accomplishment for America

Released November 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1070, H.R. 3340, and H.R. 3394

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 23

H.J. Res. 124 / Public Law 107–294
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes

Approved November 25

S. 1214 / Public Law 107–295
Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002

H.R. 5005 / Public Law 107–296
Homeland Security Act of 2002

Approved November 26

H.R. 3210 / Public Law 107–297
Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

H.R. 2546 / Public Law 107–298
Real Interstate Driver Equity Act of 2002

H.R. 3389 / Public Law 107–299
National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002

H.R. 4878 / Public Law 107–300
Improper Payments Information Act of 2002

H.R. 5349 / Public Law 107–301
To facilitate the use of a portion of the former O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, by the local Boys and Girls Club through the release of the reversionary interest and other interests retained by the United States in 1955 when the land was conveyed to the State of Missouri

S. 3044 / Public Law 107–302
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Interstate Supervision Act of 2002

Approved November 27

H.R. 1070 / Public Law 107–303
Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Act of 2002

H.R. 3340 / Public Law 107–304
To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow certain catch-up contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to be made by participants age 50 or over; to reauthorize the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel; and for other purposes

H.R. 3394 / Public Law 107–305
Cyber Security Research and Development Act

H.R. 4628 / Public Law 107–306
Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

Week Ending Friday, December 6, 2002

Proclamation 7631—World AIDS Day, 2002

November 27, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has taken the lives of more than 20 million people and is projected to take millions more. On World AIDS Day, countries around the world are united to support the individuals, families, and communities affected by this disease, and to renew our commitment to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, developing and delivering more effective treatments, and finding a cure.

To support our struggle against HIV/AIDS, we must call upon the compassion, energy, and generosity of all people. Through their service and dedication, faith-based and volunteer organizations are providing local and global communities with strategies to confront the HIV/AIDS pandemic. By responding to the needs of their neighbors, these organizations and individual citizens offer invaluable support and hope to countless people. These organizations also help overcome dangerous barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment such as the stigma and discrimination that often attaches to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. By raising awareness and promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS, we help improve the lives of millions of people around the world and demonstrate the compassion of our Nation.

My Administration remains strongly committed to supporting research that treats those living with HIV/AIDS, prevents the spread of this disease, and that can develop a cure. For this coming year, my Administration has requested \$2.9 billion for research on vaccines and treatments to combat the disease. This is a significant increase over

prior year funding for these efforts, and expresses my Administration's commitment to helping find a cure.

To help stop the global spread of AIDS we must prevent mothers from passing the HIV virus to their children. My Administration has committed \$500 million to the new International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative, which will focus on countries in Africa and the Caribbean where the problem is the most severe. This Initiative seeks to treat 1 million women annually and to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS by 40 percent within 5 years. It also increases the availability of preventative care and drug treatment therapy, and seeks to improve critical healthcare delivery systems. The International Mother and Child Prevention Initiative will save thousands of lives, and assist our vital effort to overcome the global devastation of HIV/AIDS.

The United States intends to provide more than \$1.3 billion in 2003 to international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, a 30 percent increase over the prior year's commitment. I was very pleased to help launch the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria together with U.N. Secretary-General Annan and Nigerian President Obasanjo. My Administration has since then pledged \$500 million to the Global Fund, and we are committed to further support the Fund as it continues to demonstrate its success.

On World AIDS Day, I urge world leaders and citizens to join the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. By working together, we can provide hope and comfort to all those affected by this devastating disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2002, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other territories

subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating HIV/AIDS. I encourage all Americans to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in houses of worship, workplaces, and other community centers to remember those who have lost their lives to this deadly disease and to comfort and support those living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 4. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Alternative Plan for Locality Pay Increases for Civilian Federal Employees

November 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am transmitting an alternative plan for locality pay increases payable to civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule (GS) pay system in January 2003.

Under title 5, United States Code, civilian Federal employees covered by the GS pay system would receive a two-part pay increase in January 2003: (1) a 3.1 percent across-the-board increase in scheduled GS rates of basic pay linked to the part of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) that deals with changes in the wages and salaries of private industry workers, and (2) a locality pay increase based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' salary surveys. For Federal employees covered by the locality pay system, the overall average pay increase would be about 18.6 percent.

For each part of the two-part pay increase, title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement an alternative pay plan if I view the adjustment that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate due to "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare." For the reasons described below, I have determined that it would be appropriate to exercise my statutory alternative plan authority to limit the locality pay portion of the January 2003 GS pay increase.

A national emergency has existed since September 11, 2001. Full statutory civilian pay increases in 2003 would interfere with our Nation's ability to pursue the war on terrorism. They would cost about \$13.6 billion in 2003 alone—\$11.2 billion more than the 2.6 percent overall Federal civilian pay increase I proposed in my 2003 Budget—and would build in later years. Such cost increases would threaten our efforts against terrorism or force deep cuts in discretionary spending or Federal employment to stay within budget. Neither outcome is acceptable. Therefore, I have determined that a total pay increase of 3.1 percent would be appropriate for GS employees in January 2003.

Because 5 U.S.C. 5303 already mandates an across-the-board GS pay increase of 3.1 percent in January 2003, GS locality-based comparability payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304 must remain at current levels. While my Administration remains committed to the principle of adjusting civilian Federal pay rates in keeping with changes in local labor market rates, our national situation precludes granting larger pay increases to GS employees at this time.

Accordingly, I have determined that:

(1) Under the authority of section 5303(a) of title 5, United States Code, the pay rates for each statutory pay system will be increased by 3.1 percent, effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2003; and

(2) Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments in the percentages set forth in the attached table will remain in effect in 2003.

subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating HIV/AIDS. I encourage all Americans to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in houses of worship, workplaces, and other community centers to remember those who have lost their lives to this deadly disease and to comfort and support those living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS.

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(2) Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments in the percentages set forth in the attached table will remain in effect in 2003.

Finally, the law requires that I include in this report an assessment of the impact of my decision on the Government's ability to recruit and retain well-qualified employees. I do not believe this decision will materially affect our ability to continue to attract and retain a quality Federal workforce. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, is at 2.1 percent, well below the 3.1 percent across-the-board pay increase already mandated by current law, and Federal quit rates are at an all-time low of 2.1 percent per year, well below the overall average quit rate in private enterprise. Should the need arise, the Government has many compensation tools, such as recruitment bonuses, retention allowances, and special salary rates, to maintain the high-quality workforce that serves our Nation so very well.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 29. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 30, 2002

Good morning. This week, all across America, we gather with the people we love to give thanks for the blessings in our lives. Each family has its own traditions, yet we are united as a nation in setting aside a day of gratitude. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, grateful for the loved ones who give meaning to our lives, and grateful for the many gifts of this prosperous land. On Thanksgiving we acknowledge that all of these things, and life itself, come not from the hand of man, but from Almighty God.

The blessings we have received take on special meaning in this time of challenge for our country. Over the last year, millions of Americans have found renewed appreciation for our liberty and for the men and women who serve in its defense. We have held our family and our friends closer, spending more

time together, and letting them know we love them.

Taking time to count our own blessings reminds us that many people struggle every day—men, women, and children facing hunger, homelessness, illness, addiction, or despair. These are not strangers. They are fellow Americans needing comfort, love, and compassion. I ask all Americans to consider how you can give someone in need a reason to be thankful in this holiday season and throughout the year.

It's easy to get started and to have an immediate impact. Volunteering your time at a soup kitchen, teaching a child to read, visiting a patient in the hospital, or taking a meal to an elderly neighbor or a shut-in are all simple acts of compassion that can brighten someone's life. Every act of love and generosity, however small it may seem, is significant. Every time you reach out to a neighbor in need, you touch a life, you improve your community, and you strengthen our nation.

Earlier this year, I created the USA Freedom Corps office in the White House to harness the power of millions of acts of charity, compassion, and love to make America a better place. I hope you'll consider joining the armies of compassion and dedicating time and energy and service to others. I'm so proud of the millions of Americans who have answered the call to service, enriching the lives of others with acts of kindness. It is a testament to the good heart and the giving spirit of the American people.

There's no better time than this season of Thanksgiving to renew our commitment to helping those in need. The USA Freedom Corps Web site—usafreedomcorps.gov—is a wonderful place to get started. This resource offers valuable information about service opportunities in your hometown, across America, and around the world. You can also get information by calling 1-877-USA-CORPS.

Take the time to find out how you can help your fellow Americans and make this holiday season a season of service.

Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:15 p.m. on November 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November

30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency To Act as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

November 26, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Act as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Administrator of the United States Fire Administration;
Administrator of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration;
Assistant Director, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate; and
Regional Director, Region IV.

Section 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall

act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this order in designating an acting Director.

Section 3. Termination.

This memorandum shall terminate immediately upon the transfer of the authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Department of Homeland Security.

Section 4. Publication.

The Director is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2.

Memorandum on Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions Under Section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003

November 29, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions Under Section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003

Pursuant to the authority contained in section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (“the Act”) (Public Law 107–228), and pursuant to section 603 of that Act, regarding noncompliance by the PLO and the Palestinian Authority with certain commitments, I hereby impose the sanction set out in section 604(a)(2), “Downgrade in Status of the PLO Office in the United States.” This sanction is imposed for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later. You are authorized and directed to transmit to the appropriate

congressional committees the initial report described in section 603 of the Act.

Furthermore, I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to waive that sanction, pursuant to section 604 of the Act. This waiver shall be effective for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 4, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5.

Remarks on Signing the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act

December 2, 2002

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. Glad you're here. Welcome to the White House.

Today we're taking important action to conserve North America's wetlands, which will help keep our water clean and help provide habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife. Through this legislation, the Federal Government will continue its partnership with landowners, conservation groups, and States to save and improve millions of acres of wetlands. The North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act shows our concern for the environment and our respect for future generations of Americans.

I appreciate two members of my Cabinet who are here today. I'm honored the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, is with us, the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman; thank you both for coming.

I appreciate the Ambassador, Ambassador Kergin from Canada, for being here as well. Mr. Ambassador, glad you're here. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank Bob Smith, Senator from New Hampshire, for being here and for his work on this bill. I want to thank Wayne Gilchrest from Maryland—he's got a big interest in wetlands as well as the Chesapeake Bay—for coming here. I appreciate so very much Robert Underwood, ranking member from Guam, for coming. I'm sorry that Jim Hansen is not with us today. He was the chairman of the House Committee on Resources, who helped write and sponsor and get this legislation passed through the Congress.

I appreciate Steve Williams, who is the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, for coming today. Where are you, Steve? There you are. Thanks for coming.

And I want to thank the president of Ducks Unlimited, John Tomke; thanks for coming, John. I'm glad you all are here. And I want to thank you all for coming as well.

With this signature today, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act will be reauthorized for 5 years. The law authorizes Federal money to match donations from sportsmen, State wildlife agencies, conservationists, and landowners. Since 1991, more than \$462 million in Federal grants have helped to encourage \$1.3 billion in contributions from others.

Together these funds have restored streams and rivers, reestablished native plants and trees, acquired land that is home to more than a third of America's threatened and endangered species. Because about 75 percent of the wetlands are held privately, we need to encourage cooperation with our landowners. This legislation shows that when Government and landowners and conservationists and others work together, we can make dramatic progress in preserving the beauty and the quality of our environment.

I want to thank the Congress for supporting this legislation. And I ask the Members of the Congress and the two Cabinet members who are here today to join me as I sign this important piece of legislation.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

The President. Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred

to Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Kergin. H.R. 3908, approved December 2, was assigned Public Law No. 107–308.

Remarks on Signing the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 in Arlington, Virginia

December 2, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you all. Please be seated. Please be seated.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. And thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your candor. Thank you—you're doing a fabulous job on behalf of the American people. It's an honor for me to be here today with the leaders of our military, the good folks who are serving our country, to sign the 2003 defense authorization bill.

We're a nation at war. America must understand we're at war. But those who wear the uniform must understand how proud all of America is for your service to our great country. On behalf of a grateful nation, I'm here to thank you.

Our military is making good progress in this war. We've liberated an oppressed and friendless people. We're hunting down the terrorists all across the globe. We're performing our missions with speed and skill. You have the strong, united support of this great land, and this bill should reflect the strong and united support of the United States Congress.

And I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here on stage, Senator Warner and Congressman Duncan Hunter. And Members of the Senate and the Congress who are with us, I want to thank you for your good work on this important legislation.

I appreciate so very much all those who work in the Secretary's office who worked hard on this bill. I want to thank the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs who are here and the Vice Chairmen are with us and those who represent the enlisted personnel of our military.

Most of all, I want to say a word about Bob Stump, Chairman Stump, who couldn't be with us today, distinguished chairman of

the Armed Services Committee, who has served our Nation well. He's a dedicated public servant who has decided to retire. And as the Secretary said, this bill is appropriately named for this fine American. We will miss him, and we wish Bob and his family all the very best.

I want to thank the service Secretaries who are here with us. And I want to thank you all for coming.

The legislation I sign this afternoon was passed by Congress in a remarkable spirit of unity. It sets priorities of our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country. Our country has unprecedented challenges, and we're facing them with unmatched technology, careful planning, and the finest traditions of valor.

We're rewarding the service and sacrifice of our military families with higher pay, improved facilities, and better housing. We're procuring the best weapons we possibly can and the best equipment, while adding funds for operations and maintenance as well. We're investing in missile defenses and all new technologies we need to gain every advantage—every advantage—in the battlefields of the future.

And since intelligence is playing a critical role in our ability to achieve military victory, this new law creates a new high-level position within the Department of Defense called the Under Secretary for Intelligence.

This generation of Armed Forces has been given two difficult tasks, fighting and winning a war and, at the same time, transforming our military to win the new kind of war. In the first stages of our fight against terror, we've already seen the future face of warfare, forces that are more agile and mobile and lethal, along with weapons that are smarter and tactics that are more inventive. These priorities are reflected in this year's budget. You'll see them reflected in every military budget I submit and sign as your President.

America's military is strong. And that's the way it should be. Our Nation and the world are safer that way. Now and in the future, we will maintain a military that is second to none. And the greatest strength of America's military is the cause we all serve. That cause is freedom in a world at peace. Today, that

cause is being challenged by determined enemies. And we will not rest, and we will not relent until our freedom is secure.

Our troops in Afghanistan remain engaged in a difficult and dangerous mission. We're hunting down trained killers. And that's all they are, nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. We're destroying their weapons. The Secretary reports to me in the White House that, day after day, we're finding giant caches of weapons which we're destroying. And while we hunt them down—hunt the killers down, we'll continue to help the Afghan people as they work to build lives of dignity and lives of security. Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for hijackers and bombmakers and assassins. Thanks to the United States military, the terrorist training camps are closed. Many terrorists have met their fate in the caves and mountains of Afghanistan. Others are now in custody.

Yet we know that many terrorists are still at large. They hide and they plot in over 60 different countries. We face an enemy that's attacked cities in America, embassies and airplanes in Africa, ships in the Gulf, tourists in Bali. This enemy lives like a parasite. They plot in shadows. They prey on failed states. And they ally themselves with outlaw regimes.

Defeating this enemy requires fighting a different kind of war, what we call the first war of the 21st century. We're pursuing the terrorists wherever they dwell. It doesn't matter where they hide; we're after them, one by one. We follow them wherever they run. They think they can run; they can't run far enough from the long arm of justice of the United States. We're freezing their finances. We're disrupting their plots. We're killing them or capturing them, one person at a time. That's how you win the first war of the 21st century, a war we are going to win.

Some of the successes in this war will make headlines, and sometimes you won't even know about it. But all the terrorists can be certain of this: Their hour of justice will come. And that hour has already arrived for an increasing number of field generals of the terrorist army. Recently, we took a guy named al-Nashiri into custody. Until last month he was the top Al Qaida operative,

the top Al Qaida leader in the Gulf region. He was plotting and planning. But today this much is certain: He won't be executing any more attacks against the United States and our friends like the attack he masterminded against the U.S.S. *Cole*.

Success in the war on terror will only come by taking every measure to protect innocent people from sudden and catastrophic violence. And we must oppose the threat of such violence from any source. We oppose the terror network and all who harbor and support the terrorists. And we oppose a uniquely dangerous regime that possesses the weapons of mass murder, has used those weapons, and could supply those weapons to terrorist networks.

Saddam Hussein's regime has a long history of aggression against his neighbors and hostility towards America. It has a long history of ties to terrorists. The dictator has a long history of seeking biological and chemical and nuclear weapons, even while U.N. inspectors were present in his country. Now the world has told him the game is over. The U.N. Security Council, the NATO Alliance, and the United States are united. Saddam Hussein will fully disarm himself of weapons of mass destruction, and if he does not, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him.

As the U.N. weapons inspections process gets underway, we must remember that inspections will not—will only work—will only work if Iraq fully complies. You see, the inspectors are not in Iraq to play hide-and-seek with Mr. Saddam Hussein. Inspectors do not have the duty or the ability to uncover terrible weapons hidden in a vast country. The responsibility of inspectors is simply to confirm the evidence of voluntary and total disarmament. It is Saddam Hussein who has the responsibility to provide that evidence as directed and in full. Any act of delay, deception, or defiance will prove that Saddam Hussein has not adopted the path of compliance and has rejected the path of peace. In the inspections process, the United States will be making one judgment: Has Saddam Hussein changed his behavior of the last 11 years? Has he decided to cooperate willingly and comply completely, or has he not? So far the signs are not encouraging. A regime that fires

upon American and British pilots is not taking the path of compliance. A regime that sends letters filled with protests and falsehoods is not taking the path of compliance.

On or before the 8th of December, Iraq must provide a full and accurate declaration of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. That declaration must be credible and complete, or the Iraqi dictator will have demonstrated to the world once again that he has chosen not to change his behavior.

Americans seek peace in this world. We're a peaceful nation. War is the last option for confronting threats. Yet the temporary peace of denial and looking away from danger would only be a prelude to broader war and greater horror. America will confront gathering dangers early, before our options become limited and desperate. By showing our resolve today, we are building a future of peace.

In the decisions and missions to come, our military will carry the values of America and the hopes of the world. The people of Iraq, like all human beings, deserve their freedom. And the people of Afghanistan, with the help of the United States Armed Forces, have gained their freedom.

One guardsman from Florida tells of meeting a member of the new Afghan national army. This Afghan soldier said he enlisted to honor the memory of his brother who was killed by the Taliban and to ensure that his own son would live in freedom. The Florida guardsman wrote home that "being here makes me realize that people are giving up their lives to have a fraction of the freedoms we take for granted." He said, "Talking to one soldier made me realize how lucky I am to have been born in the United States of America."

"I'm honored to have met an Afghan patriot," he wrote. Every time I visit this building or any American base around the world, I'm honored to meet American patriots. The men and women of our military bring credit to our flag and security to our country. On behalf of the American people, I thank you for all you've done, for all you will do in the cause of freedom and the cause of peace.

And now I'm pleased to sign the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Pentagon. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, who introduced the President; and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf. H.R. 4546, approved December 2, was assigned Public Law No. 107-314. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

December 2, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4546, the "Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003." The Act authorizes the funding necessary to protect the United States and advance its interests abroad. In particular, it authorizes the resources necessary to continue the war against terrorists of global reach, to equip and train our Armed Forces for success in combat, and to support the members of the Armed Forces and their families with a substantial and fully merited increase in basic pay. The Act also grants new authorities to the Department of Defense that will assist in transforming the armed forces to meet future challenges.

A number of provisions of the Act establish new requirements for the executive branch to furnish sensitive information to the Congress on various subjects, including sections 221, 1043, 1065 (enacting 10 U.S.C. 127b(f)(2)(C)(ii) and (iii)), 1205, 1206, 1207, and 1209 (enacting section 722 of Public Law 104-293). The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Many provisions of the Act call for executive branch officials to submit recommendations and plans to the Congress, including sections 112(b), 142(c), 221(c), 231 (enacting

10 U.S.C. 196), 234(c), 241(c)(3)(D), 366, 404(c), 513(e), 534(c), 582, 721 (enacting 38 U.S.C. 8111(c)(4) and (f)(2)(C) and (F)), 723, 813, 924, 1043(b)(2), 1061 (enacting 10 U.S.C. 113a), 1207, 1208 (enacting section 1503(b)(8) of Public Law 103-337), 3141(e), 3143, 3176(b)(4) and (d), and 3504(c)(4). The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch. In addition, with respect to provisions that purport to require executive branch officials to submit legislative proposals to the Congress, including sections 513(e), 813, 1061, and 3143, the executive branch also shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

The executive branch shall construe section 133(2)(B) of the Act as requiring only notification to the Congress and not any form of congressional approval following notification, as any other construction would be inconsistent with the constitutional principles enunciated by the Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*.

The executive branch shall construe section 2308(e)(1) of title 10 of the United States Code, as enacted by section 801 of the Act, as neither giving the force of law to any quantity set forth in a table, chart, or explanatory text in a joint explanatory statement of a House-Senate committee of conference or in any congressional committee report, nor requiring the exercise of waiver authority under section 2308 to acquire more than a quantity specified in such a table, chart, or explanatory text. Construing the section otherwise would not be consistent with the bicameralism and presentment requirements of the Constitution for the making of a law.

The executive branch shall implement section 2323 of title 10 of the United States Code, as extended through fiscal year 2006 by section 816 of the Act, in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 242 of the Act vests authority to direct the provision of funds for designated projects, and to select certain projects for funding, in an official who is to be designated by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. Under the Constitution, such authority should be exercised only by officers of the United States appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Appointments Clause. Accordingly, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the official designated by the Under Secretary under this section is a duly appointed constitutional officer or that the official's exercise of the authority vested is supervised and reviewed by the Under Secretary or another appropriate constitutional officer.

Finally, the executive branch shall construe sections 3155, 3156, and 3160, which purport to require executive branch officials to conduct programs with a foreign country, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the foreign affairs of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 2, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4546, approved December 2, was assigned Public Law No. 107-314.

Statement on the Death of George Christian

December 2, 2002

George Christian was an honorable, decent, and kind man who represented the best of public service, and he was devoted to his family. He was a statesman of the highest integrity. He also was a great Texan, whose wise counsel was sought by generations of leaders. Laura joins me in offering our most heartfelt condolences to the Christian family. We are grateful for the life he lived and the many positive contributions he made to his country and to his State.

Remarks in Shreveport, Louisiana
December 3, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. I'm glad I came. Thank you all. Please be seated—unless you don't have a chair. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be here in Shreveport. I'm so thrilled that you all came out. It's kind of getting close to home if you know what I mean. I'm proud to be in the great State of Louisiana.

The last time I was in Shreveport was on September the 11th, 2001. I went to Barksdale Air Force Base. Since that time, the world has seen the resolve of the United States of America. I thank the men and women who wore our uniform then at Barksdale, and I know you join me today in thanking them to make sure America is free.

We're grateful for our freedom here in America. We love our freedoms. Nobody is going to take freedom away from this country. But part of living in a free society means we have responsibilities as citizens. We have the obligation as a citizen of America to do our duty, and one of the duties we have is when it comes to election time, one of the duties is to go vote. So I'm here in the great State of Louisiana urging all the citizens, Republicans and Democrats and folks who could care less about political party, to go to the polls this Saturday. But I've got a suggestion. [*Laughter*] For the good of Louisiana, for the good of everybody in Louisiana, Suzie Terrell needs to be the next United States Senator.

I'm proud of the race she's running. She talks about what she believes in. She sets the right kind of tone. She's the kind of person with whom I can work to get something done for Louisiana and the people of Louisiana. No doubt in my mind, she's the right choice for everybody who lives in this State.

And I want to thank you for coming to show your support for Suzie. I want to thank you for your activity at the grassroots level. You need over the next couple of days to go to your coffee shops, your community centers and tell the people that you've got a good one running for the United States Senate. You've got somebody who can do the job for all the people of this State. She's counting on you, and I'm counting on you to do every-

thing you can to turn out a big vote and send this good woman to the United States Senate.

And we need to have Lee Fletcher in the House of Representatives too. I look forward to working with Lee. I look forward to having Lee a part of a fine delegation from the great State of Louisiana. He'll fit in just right with people like Billy Tauzin, who's doing a fabulous job for our country, Jim McCrery and David Vitter—all of them fine Members of Congress. So when you get in that booth, make sure you not only vote for Suzie, but if you live in Lee Fletcher's district, pull the Fletcher lever, too.

I appreciate so very much the Governor showing up. Yes, he's a good man. Foster is a good man. He's my kind of guy. He's down-to-earth. He speaks his mind. But most importantly, he's done in office what he said he would do. He's been a great Governor for the people of Louisiana. One of these days, he's going to invite me to come hunting again.

I regret that the first team of our family isn't here today. She's helping decorate the White House. But I am proud of Laura. She is a fabulous First Lady for America. And she sends her best to Suzie and Suzie's family. And like me, she urges you all to get to those polls come Saturday. Show up. Do your duty. Send a good, strong message that Louisiana is wise when it comes to electing candidates. It makes sense to have one in one party and a Senator in the majority party if you want to get something done.

And one thing about Suzie is, she's got a good record. She's proven herself to be a competent soul, somebody who can get the job done. You might remember the election commissioner's office. It needed a house-cleansing. She cleaned house. There's now integrity in that office. People can be proud of that office thanks to Suzie Haik Terrell. She told the people of Louisiana she would do the job, and she has done that job. She understands who she's accountable to. She's accountable to the people. She understands she works for the people of Louisiana.

She saved \$20 million for the taxpayers of Louisiana. She's got an awesome responsibility, and she saved money, because she understands what I know. When you spend the Government's money, you don't spend—it's

not the Government's money you're spending; it's the people's money.

No, she's got a can-do spirit. See, we need people to go to Washington to set aside all the political bickering that tends to dominate the discourse, to get things done on behalf of the American people. That's what we need. We need an attitude of cooperation. Oh, I expect there to be independent voices in Washington, DC, and no question about her, she's an independent voice. She kind of tells you what's on her mind. But it's an attitude that's important. We need an attitude in the Senate to bring people together so we can say that we're doing the people's business and we're making a difference in people's lives.

And we're making some progress. I was proud to sign the Department of Homeland Security bill. It made sense. It now means we're going to reorganize our Government so we can do our job, and that is to protect the American people from further attack. We want people all focused in the same direction. We want cultures to change, if need be, to make sure that we can do everything we can to say to the American people, "We're working overtime to protect you." We need to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing into the country, if they're leaving the country when they're supposed to be leaving the country, so America is protected.

We're making progress about bringing people together to get things done. I'm convinced Suzie's election will continue that progress. I went to the Pentagon yesterday and fulfilled a campaign pledge, signed the most significant increase in the authorization of defense spending since the President—Ronald Reagan was the President.

I was able to sign a piece of legislation that will get our hardhats back to work. I signed a terrorism insurance bill that will enable construction projects that have been on hold to go forward. I'm worried about the fact that some people are looking for work and can't find work in America. I want our hardhats working. I want our welders welding. I want the construction people back to work. I want to reward the hardhats, not the trial lawyers of America.

We're making progress up there. Suzie's election will help us make more progress. We've got work to do on education. Listen, anytime any child can't read means we've got to stay on education. I appreciate the Governor's hard work of joining and setting high standards. We need somebody in the Senate who will join me in making sure we've got local control of our schools in America.

Last year, we spent \$847 million of Federal money on Louisiana schools, and that's good. But now we're starting to ask the question that Mike's been asking and I know Suzie will ask: "Are we getting our money's worth?" See, you've got to ask that question if you don't want any child left behind. You know, are the dollars we're spending making a difference in the lives of our children? Can our children read and write and add and subtract? And when we find they can, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who are teachers, thanks for what you do. But what's important is that when we find children in schools which won't teach and won't change, that we challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in America.

And speaking about schools, I want to thank the Byrd High School Band and the Parkway High School Band for coming. I'm glad you all came. I'm sorry you had to miss school to come. *[Laughter]* Just put my name on the excuse slip. And if you're 18, make sure you vote.

We've got more work to do. We've got to make sure this economy continues to grow. I'm for a growth agenda—want to do things in Washington, DC, that helps create jobs. The role of Government—and Suzie understands this—the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes. And the best way to help people who are looking for work, the best way to stimulate economic vitality is to make the tax cuts we passed permanent.

See, when that economy started slowing down, I decided to fulfill what I said I was going to do and urge that the Government let people keep more of their own money. See, when you have more of your own money, it means you're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when you

demand additional good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, it means somebody in Louisiana or Texas or anywhere else is likely to be able to find a job. The tax relief plan came at the right time. And now, in order to make sure our economy is strong and vibrant, we better make sure the tax cuts are permanent.

And there's one person in this Senate race who's willing to stand up and say she will join the President in listening to the people and making tax cuts permanent, and that is Suzie Terrell.

No, we've got more work to do. We've got more work to do. I need somebody in the Senate with whom I can work and Billy can work to make sure we get us an energy bill. We got a problem when it comes to energy. We get too much of our energy from countries that may not like us. That's a problem. We can do a better job of conserving. We can do a better job of promoting technologies that will make us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. But we've got to do a better job here at home of finding more hydrocarbons in the United States of America. An energy bill is good for our job base. It's good for economic security, and it's good for national security.

I want to thank Billy Tauzin for working hard to get an energy bill. That new Senate may make it easier for us to get a bill done on behalf of the American people.

We've got more work to do, and I look forward to working with Suzie to make sure that we modernize Medicare. See, medicine has changed, and the Medicare system hasn't changed. Medicine is modern, but Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of our seniors, we need to fulfill our national promise and modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for our seniors.

I look forward to working with Suzie on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana. I also look forward to working with Suzie to make sure that our judiciary represents the values of Louisiana. Amazing what an election did—kind of changed the attitude in Washington. Up until recently, I couldn't get a lot of my judges through the Senate. They were playing politics with the judges. I had named some very fine people from around the coun-

try, good, honest people, and we couldn't get them through because they wanted to play politics.

You need somebody from Louisiana who will join with this President to make sure the judges I name reflect the values of Louisiana. We don't need any more people legislating. We don't want our judges legislating. We want our judges interpreting the Constitution. Those are the kind of judges I'll name, and I can count on Suzie's vote to make sure they get confirmed.

But the biggest job we have for a while is to protect this country. That's the biggest job we've got. Our most awesome responsibility is to make this homeland secure. And the best way to do it is to chase the killers down one at a time and bring them to justice. That's the biggest job facing this administration and the next Congress and administrations and Congresses to come. This is a long haul to get them. *[Laughter]*

I guess they didn't realize who they were hitting. They probably thought the national religion was materialism and that we were so selfish that we all might file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* They didn't understand America. They don't understand that when it comes to defending our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes. We will defend freedom no matter what the cost.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. It's a different kind of war. You've just got to know it's a different kind of war. In the old days, we could destroy tanks and airplanes and ships, and people say, "Well, they're making progress." It's a different kind of war because we're fighting people who are—they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths, and they try to find a dark cave. They're kind of lurching around in the dark corners of some cities around the world. They're in over 60 countries. And slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network which hates us because of what we love. See, they hate the fact that we love freedom. They can't stand the fact that in this country people can worship the Almighty God any way he or she sees fit.

Thanks to our military, thanks to our fantastic military, we won the first battle of the first war of the 21st century. And we won it when we got rid of the Taliban regime in

Afghanistan. But in so doing, it's important for you to remind your youngsters that this great country never went in to conquer anybody. We went in to liberate. Thanks to America and our friends, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan. Not only did we rout the Taliban and many of the killers they harbor, but we freed people to realize their dreams. And we're not leaving. We're going to stay there to make sure this good country is secure and the good country can flourish and that the hope we want for our own children is the hope that mothers and dads in Afghanistan can realize for their children.

We're making progress on this war against terror. Sometimes you'll see the progress, and sometimes you won't. It's a different kind of war. The other day, we hauled a guy in named al-Nashiri. That's not a household name here in America. [*Laughter*] I can understand why some go blank when they hear his name. But he was the Al Qaida commander in the Gulf states. Let me just put it to you this way. He no longer has the capacity to do what he did in the past, which was to mastermind the U.S.S. *Cole* that killed—the plot on the *Cole* that killed American soldiers. He's out of action, for the good of the world.

Sometimes you'll see it, and sometimes you won't. But you've got to know that in this war against terror, the doctrine stands that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists." And a lot of nations have heard that message, and they're with us. We're cutting off their money. We're sharing intelligence. We're hunting down the killers one at a time. It doesn't matter how long it takes. This country will stay the course until Al Qaida is completely demolished.

But September the 11th brought home a new reality, and it's important for all our citizens to understand that reality. See, a lot of us, when we were raised, never really worried about the homeland. We all believed that two oceans would forever separate us from harm's way and that if there was a threat gathering overseas, we could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to be involved in dealing with that threat. September the 11th delivered a chilling message to our country, and that is, oceans no longer protect us. And

therefore, it is my obligation to make sure that we address gathering threats overseas before they could do harm to the American people.

And that's why I elevated the issue of Iraq. That's why I took our message of peace and freedom to countries around the world. I want them to understand the nature of the man who runs Iraq is the nature of a man who doesn't tell the truth. He says he won't have weapons of mass destruction. He's got them. He's not only got them; he's used them. And he's not only used them in his neighborhood; he's used them on his own people. That's the nature of the man with whom we deal. For 11 long years, he has deceived and denied.

So I went to the United Nations. I said, "When is enough enough?" They voted 15 to nothing to say, "Now enough is enough." The members of the Security Council had a chance, and they accepted the challenge to make sure that this United Nations became an effective body when it comes to keeping the peace, not an empty debating society.

Then I went to NATO—strong Allies in NATO—and overwhelmingly the message was, "Enough is enough." And now there's inspectors inside this country. But I want to tell you, the issue is not the inspectors. The issue is whether or not Mr. Saddam Hussein will disarm like he said he would. We're not interested in hide-and-seek inside Iraq. The fundamental question is, in the name of peace, in the name of security, not only for America and the American people, in the name of security for our friends in the neighborhood, in the name of freedom, will this man disarm? The choice is his. And if he does not disarm, the United States of America will lead a coalition and disarm him in the name of peace.

We have an obligation to our children and our children's children to do everything we can to make sure the homeland is secure. And we'll meet the obligation. We'll meet that obligation together.

You know, the amazing thing about America is that I can predict—boldly predict and certainly predict, that out of the evil done to our country will come incredible good. Because of the nature of our country, I can say

that. By being tough and strong and united in the face of danger, we can bring peace to the world. I believe that. I believe that by doing what we need to do to secure the world from terrorist attack, to rid tyrants of weapons of mass destruction, to make sure that somebody like Saddam Hussein doesn't serve as a training base or a provider of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist networks—by doing our job, that the world will be more peaceful, by standing strong for what we believe, by remembering that freedom is not America's gift to the world, but God's gift to each and every human being, that we can achieve peace. I want you to tell your kids and your grandkids that amidst all the speculation about war and military, that our drive and our vision is for a peaceful world in which everybody can realize their potential and live in peace.

And here at home we have a chance to achieve some incredible good out of the evil done to our country. September the 11th shook our soul. I think it has helped awaken a spirit in the country, a spirit that understands that serving something greater than ourself in life is part of the American creed, that the American spirit is bigger than just any selfish ambition.

Today when I landed at the airport, I met Mary Anne Blanchard Selber and Jean Sayres. These ladies have started the Providence House here in Shreveport. This is a—it's a home to provide shelter to the homeless. They follow their hearts. The reason I bring up this example is because they represent the true strength of our country. The true strength of our country lay in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

You see, out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate America. We've got to understand that amidst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There's addiction and hopelessness. There are people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. So long as any of us hurt, we all hurt, yet we can solve the problems in our society by loving a neighbor just like we like to be loved ourselves. We can solve America's problems by putting our arm around the lonely and the hopeless and say, "I care for you. I love you." America

can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And the Providence House is one example of what I'm talking about. They represent the true strength of our country, people who love people, people who care for those who hurt, people who understand that Government's role is limited. We can hand out money, but we can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's why I'm so strong for the Faith-Based Initiative. I understand the power of faith in the lives of our citizens around this country.

No, if you want to join the war on terror, if you want to show the world the true worth of America, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. See what you can do to help mentor a child. Go see a shut-in. It's the small acts of kindness and decency which define the true victory in the war against terror, which will show the world what this country is all about.

Perhaps best defined for me and, I suspect, others, as they come up in America—the spirit was defined best on Flight 93. Remember that when people were flying across our country, they thought they were on an average business trip or they thought they might be just taking an average trip to go see a loved one, and they found out the plane they were on was being used as a weapon. And they told their loved ones over the telephone, "I love you," and "Goodbye." They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the spirit of America is strong today. I can boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will come great good, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:54 a.m. at the Hirsch Coliseum at the State Fairgrounds of Louisiana. In his remarks, he referred to Lee Fletcher, candidate for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District; Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster of Louisiana; Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Senatorial Candidate Suzanne Haik
Terrell in New Orleans, Louisiana**
December 3, 2002

Nice to be back in New Orleans, home of a new basketball team, home of a winning football team, and in the State of the next United States Senator, Suzie Terrell.

I'm thrilled to be here amongst a lot of our friends. It seems I've been coming to New Orleans for a long time. *[Laughter]* What a fabulous town. I'm honored to be here on behalf of a great candidate, somebody who represents the values of Louisiana, somebody who has got a record of accomplishment, somebody who is not afraid to speak her mind to the President of the United States—*[laughter]*—but somebody who I know will do a great job on behalf of all of Louisiana.

I'm here to thank you for your support. I'm here to remind the good folks of Louisiana they have a duty to go to the polls on Saturday. In the land of the free, you have an obligation to defend freedom by being a part of our democracy. I don't care whether you're Republican or Democrat or don't give a hoot about a political party; you have an obligation in this country to vote. But I've got a suggestion. *[Laughter]* For the good of Louisiana and for the good of America, Suzie Terrell needs to be the next United States Senator.

She's got a lot going for her. First of all, she's a mother of three fabulous young girls. There they are: Julie, Bebe, and Chrissy. Anybody who can raise three teenage girls—*[laughter]*—you know what I mean. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate her willingness to serve the people, willingness to take the path that a lot of people won't take, and that is offer herself up for office. And she's done a great job in the office that she held. After all, you might remember that the election commissioner's office needed a little house-cleaning, needed to have the integrity restored, and Suzie Terrell did it. She saves the taxpayers money.

I need an ally up there who understands, when it comes to spending what they call the Government's money, the Government

doesn't own that money. It's not the Government's money that we spend. It's the people's money.

And she's going to have some good hands to work with in the United States Congress from the great State of Louisiana, starting with the chairman, Billy Tauzin. I love working with Billy. He brings good common sense to the Halls of the United States Congress. And I like working with David Vitter from right here in the New Orleans area. David, thank you for being here. And Jim McCrery is with us today, and I appreciate your hard work, Jim. Thanks for coming. And Richard Baker is with us. Where are you, Richard? Baton Rouge. Good to see you, Richard.

I so very much appreciate being here with your Governor. He too gives the President an earful. *[Laughter]* He's not the prettiest Governor in America. *[Laughter]* But he's one of the most effective. He's done a heck of a job for the people of Louisiana.

And I know we've got another Governor here with us—celebrating the Louisiana Purchase, which I'm sure the people of Louisiana agree with me, is a heck of a deal. *[Laughter]* But Frank Keating from Oklahoma is here today as well. Frank, I appreciate you coming. Yes, sir. He probably wants to talk about the OU-Texas game. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be up here with Pat Brister and Boysie Bollinger, both of whom are good friends, and both of whom represent the grassroots activists in the State of Louisiana. I'm here to remind you all that—I want to thank you for what you have done and what you are going to do over the next couple of days, and that is to gather up your buddies and get them to vote, is to man the phones and put up the signs and grab people by the wrists and say, "You owe it to Louisiana to vote for Suzie Terrell for the United States Senate."

I like Suzie's attitude and her tone, the way she wants to go to Washington to get some things done, and we need more of that in Washington, DC. Sometimes, Washington is one of these towns where the person—people who think they've got the sharp elbow is the most effective person; kind of zero-sum politics in Washington: "I win. You lose." That's not the right attitude for the American people. We need a United States

Senator from Louisiana whose mission it is to improve the lives as best we can of all our citizens. And we're making some progress in Washington.

Slowly but surely, we're changing the tone and getting things done on behalf of the American people. This week, last couple of weeks, I signed some important legislation. I signed the Department of Homeland Security, which will better enable our Federal Government to plan and to protect the American people from further attack. And I want to thank the Members of the Senate and the House who finally came together to get that legislation done.

And I signed a bill on terrorism insurance. It's a bill that will get our hardhats back to working again, a bill that should make it easier for big construction projects to get started so that a lot of hard-working Americans can find work—by the way, a bill which is more favorable to the hardhats than to the trial lawyers in America. It's a good piece of legislation that shows what can happen when people come together to get the people's business done.

Yesterday at the Pentagon, I signed the defense authorization bill, fulfilling a promise that I made—Dick Cheney and I made—that said that we're going to do everything we can to make sure we've got the strongest military in the world. A strong military makes it more likely the world is going to be peaceful. We not only had pay raises for our folks; I can say to those whose families serve in the service, "You're going to have the best training and the best possible equipment when you put on the uniform of the U.S. military."

We're making good progress, but there's a lot of work to be done. And I look forward to working with Senator Terrell. We did some good things in education, but there's more to do. So long as any child can't read, we've got a problem in America. As a matter of fact, the new civil right is to make sure every child can read in America. I look forward to working with a Senator Terrell to make sure we maintain the highest of high standards, to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

I look forward to working with Senator Terrell to make sure that we continually pass

power out of Washington, DC, because we believe in local control of schools. I look forward to working with Senator Terrell to make sure that in return for Federal money, that we know whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract. In order to make sure no child gets left behind, we must challenge schools which will not teach and will not change. And I'm confident I have an ally in Senator Suzie Terrell.

We need a Senator who can help break logjams in the United States Senate, particularly when it comes to getting us a good energy bill. I see Billy nodding his head. He's been working on an energy bill. He agrees with me, in this world we need an energy strategy. I mean, face it; we import a lot of energy from overseas. Some of the people we import from don't exactly like us. [*Laughter*] We need an energy plan that encourages conservation and new technologies. We need an energy plan that encourages the development of safe nuclear power. We need an energy plan that encourages clean-coal technologies. We need an energy plan that encourages environmentally safe exploration for hydrocarbons in the United States of America.

I look forward to working with Senator Terrell to modernize Medicare. Medicare is an aged system which is not adapting to the times. Medicine has changed, but Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. There's all kinds of new technologies and prescription drugs which can save lives. But Medicare is stuck in the past. I want to work with Senator Terrell to see to it that we modernize Medicare, making sure we fulfill our promises to our seniors. And a modern Medicare system means prescription drug coverage for our seniors.

I look forward to working with Senator Terrell to make sure the environment for the entrepreneurial spirit is strong. We understand the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. And one way the Federal Government can affect job growth is to let people keep more of their own money, is through tax relief.

Tax relief is not a political slogan; it's good economic policy. If a person has more of their own money, they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And in the marketplace, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody in Louisiana or elsewhere in America is going to be able to find work. We passed tax relief at the right time in American economic history, and now I need a Senator to join me in making sure that tax relief is permanent. And there is no question where Suzie Terrell stands on tax relief.

And I need somebody to work with me to make sure that we've got a good judiciary. It's amazing what an election will do. [*Laughter*] For a long period of time, I couldn't get my judges even to have hearings. There's a vacancy gap on our Federal bench—benches—and that's a problem. It's a problem for people who need to have a hearing. It's a problem for people who want justice. And I couldn't get my judges through the Senate because they were playing politics with the people I put up, good, honorable, decent people, people whose job it is not to try to write legislation from the bench, people whose job it is to strictly interpret the United States Constitution. Those are the kind of people I put on the bench.

And Louisiana needs a Senator who will vote for Louisiana values when it comes to the judiciary. And there's no question in my mind that when it comes to having a good, sound judiciary, the right United States Senator is Suzie Terrell from the State of Louisiana.

No, there's a lot of issues we'll be working on, but there's no bigger issue than to win this war against the terrorists. I talked about the homeland security bill I signed, and you just need to know there's a lot of good folks working overtime to protect the American homeland. But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war. In the old days, you could destroy tanks and ships and airplanes, and say you're making progress. This is a different kind of enemy. It's an enemy

that hides in caves and sends youngsters to their suicidal deaths. These people do not value innocent life. In America, we say every life is precious; everybody has value; everybody counts. Our enemy we face today murders in the name of a great religion, and they could care less who dies. They're nothing but coldblooded killers, and we're going to treat them that way. It doesn't matter how long it takes; it doesn't matter how deep the cave, the United States of America and our friends and allies will hunt them down, one by one, in the name of freedom.

I cannot imagine what was going through their mind when they hit America. They must have thought we were so soft, so weak, so fragile that after 9/11/ 2001, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they're learning something about America that I know, that when it comes to our freedoms, when it comes to the values we hold dear, this United States of America is plenty tough. And that's the way we got to be in this new war of the 21st century.

And we're making progress. You just need to know we're making good progress. After all, this great Nation and our friends liberated a country from one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind by routing the Taliban. We went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. And now, thanks to our great country and our great soldiers and our wonderful friends, young girls—many young girls go to school for the first time in a country that has been liberated by the American people.

And we've got more work to do there. And we'll stay there until we rout them out. See, they think they can kind of hide in the countryside there in Afghanistan, and they may be able to hide for a day or two. They may be able to hide for a year. But it doesn't matter how long. See, that's what you just have to know. It just doesn't matter how long; we're going to stay on the hunt. These people are scattered in 60 different countries. They're scattered around, and slowly but surely, we're dismantling their terrorist network—slowly but surely.

The guy who led the U.S.S.—the bombing, mastermind the bombing on the U.S.S. *Cole*, he was the Al Qaida general for the Gulf states. He's not a problem anymore.

[*Laughter*] One by one, we're bringing them to justice. That's what we've been called to do. History has put this big spotlight on us, and we're not going to let future generations of Americans down.

And that's why I was so proud to sign this defense appropriation authorization bill. The big increases in defense spending sent a clear message to the world: We're in this deal for the long pull.

And we've also got to recognize here in America times have changed. See, when a lot of us were growing up, we could feel pretty secure by the fact that we had two oceans surrounding us and protecting us from dangers that might be gathering abroad. September the 11th, 2001, completely changed the strategic calculations of this country. The battlefield is here. And therefore, it's incumbent upon the President and the Congress to work together to anticipate gathering dangers before they become acute, before the situation becomes so dire that drastic measures might be needed.

It's very important for us to recognize threats when we see them and deal with them appropriately. After all, the threat gathering in a distant land turns out to be a threat directly on the American people. We've got to be wise about how we view the world and make sure that the new arrangements, the new alliances, aren't allowed to develop, an alliance, for example, where a nation that has weapons of mass destruction uses a shadowy terrorist network as a forward army, perhaps encouraging them to attack America without leaving any fingerprints. You've got to worry about disrupting training facilities.

And that's why I started talking about Iraq and Saddam Hussein, not only starting a debate in the Halls of the United States Congress, which overwhelmingly supported any means necessary to deal with the threat to the United States, but also took the debate to the United Nations and a couple of weeks ago to NATO.

It's important for our fellow Americans to understand that, when we're talking about Saddam Hussein, we're talking about a man who said he has had no weapons of mass destruction, yet we believe has weapons of mass destruction, a man who has not only had weapons of mass destruction, but he's used

weapons of mass destruction. He used weapons of mass destruction on his neighbors, and he used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizens. He's a man who has professed hate to America as well as our friends and allies. He's a man who has got terrorist ties, a man who helps train terrorists. He's a threat, and he's a danger.

I went to the United Nations because I felt like, in a world that required cooperation in this new war of the 21st century, that it was important the United Nations show some backbone, that the United Nations be something other than an empty debating society, that when they issue a resolution, they mean it. And on a 15-0 vote, the United Nations recognized the threat of Saddam Hussein and demanded that he disarm.

I then went to our close Allies in NATO and said the same thing. I said, "This man's a threat. He's a threat to us. He's a threat to you. He too must disarm." And now, as you've seen in your newspapers, inspectors are inside of Iraq. Inspectors are there not to play hide-and-seek with Mr. Saddam Hussein. Inspectors are there to verify the will of the world. And the will of the world says clearly, "Disarm." Saddam Hussein, for the sake of peace, must disarm. And if he refuses to disarm, if he tries to deceive his way out of disarmament, this Nation, along with other willing nations, will disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say that because I believe in peace. I believe this is how you achieve peace, by being strong and resolute, by fighting terrorism and all forms of terror, by not allowing those who hate to try to dictate to those of us who love freedom. See, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. Part of the good done to this—part of the evil done to this country is going to help lead the world to peace.

Oh, I know some don't believe that, but I do. I believe that if we remain steadfast and strong, if we remain true to our values, we'll achieve peace, not only peace for ourselves but because we believe every life is precious, everybody matters, everybody has worth. We can achieve peace in parts of the world where they've quit on peace, where people have given up hope.

I also believe here at home we can be a more compassionate country. See, there's

people who are hurting in America. Amongst our plenty, there are pockets of despair, of loneliness and hopelessness. There are people when you say, "American Dream," they wonder what the heck does that mean, American Dream? They have no idea about the promise of this country. And my attitude is, so long as some hurt, we all hurt.

And I also recognize the limitations of Government. Government can hand out money, and frankly, we do a pretty good job of it sometimes. But what it can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when a neighbor puts their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help?" See, I strongly believe that America is going to change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, because the spirit of this country, a selfless spirit, is alive and well.

There are thousands of people all across New Orleans and Louisiana and all across America who understand the responsibility of being an American. It's more than just making a living. The responsibility of a true patriot is somebody who's willing to serve something greater than themselves, serve their country. And one way to best serve your country is to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, there was tremendous evil done to America, but out of the evil is a new spirit, a vitality of the American spirit, perhaps best represented by the folks on Flight 93. The story, in my judgment, is going to be one of the profound stories of the September the 11th, 2001, tragedy. It captures what I know is the strength of our country. People were flying across the land, and they heard the airplane they were on was going to be a weapon. Imagine what went through their minds. They eventually got their thoughts together. They called their loved ones and said "goodbye" and "I love you." History will show that a prayer was said. One guy said, "Let's roll." These citizens took the plane into the ground to save lives, to serve something greater than themselves.

That spirit of America is so strong and so alive, it allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to this country is going to come incredible good, not only a peaceful world but a more compassionate and hopeful

and decent America for every citizen who's lucky enough to live in this country.

And I can make that prediction with absolute certainty, because I know America. This is the greatest country, full of the most decent people on the face of this Earth. I'm honored you're here. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Fairmont Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster of Louisiana; Pat Brister, chairman, Republican Party of Louisiana; Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.; Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Proclamation 7632—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2002

December 3, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Drunk and drugged driving threatens the safety of millions of Americans. Reducing the incidence of impaired driving remains one of our Nation's greatest challenges. As we gather with family and friends to celebrate this holiday season, I urge all Americans to observe National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month by making responsible choices that will help keep our roads safer for all.

Drunk driving accidents take a life every 30 minutes and injure someone every 2 minutes. In the last 24 months, 41 percent of those killed in traffic accidents, which is almost 35,000 Americans, have been killed in alcohol-related crashes. To better protect our citizens and decrease the number of drunk and drugged driving traffic accidents, we must work together to educate our communities about the seriousness of this offense and we must raise awareness of its devastating consequences.

My Administration supports efforts to save lives and prevent injuries resulting from impaired driving. The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) works with local law enforcement agencies that conduct sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols; and it also supports State efforts to pass legislation that increases punishment for those who drink and drive.

The NHTSA and its State and local partners are dedicated to eliminating impaired driving and stopping the associated injuries and fatalities. The NHTSA's national safety campaign—**You Drink & Drive. You Lose.**—aims to lower America's impaired driving fatality rate to less than 11,000 people per year by the year 2005. By providing its partner organizations with guidance on overcoming this national challenge, this important campaign is assisting local law enforcement agencies, community groups and organizations, public health professionals, and businesses to coordinate and address this vital issue.

As part of the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.** campaign, law enforcement agencies across the Nation will be out in full force from December 20, 2002, to January 5, 2003, to stop drunk and drugged driving. During the holiday season, organizations and citizens throughout the country also will be working to prevent this deadly activity by encouraging citizens to choose sober, designated drivers, keep impaired family members and friends off our roads, report drivers who are under the influence, and educate young people about safe, alcohol- and drug-free driving behavior. Through cooperation and determination, every American can do something to make a difference and help stop impaired drivers before they harm others.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2002 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I call upon State and community leaders to join the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.** national mobilization between December 20, 2002, and January 5, 2003. I also urge all Americans to work to

enhance the safety of our Nation's roadways and protect the well-being of our drivers, passengers, and pedestrians during this holiday season and every day of the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 6.

Remarks on Signing the Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act of 2002 and an Exchange With Reporters

December 4, 2002

The President. Good morning. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you for coming.

Legislation I sign today will create a new place on the Internet that is safe for our children to learn and to play and to explore. Dot Kids will be part of the U.S. country domain on the Internet. It will function much like the children's section of a library, where parents feel comfortable allowing their children to browse. It will be a safe place for children to go.

This bill is a wise and necessary step to safeguard our children while they use computers and discover the great possibilities of the Internet. Every site designated "kids" will be a safe zone for children. The sites will be monitored for content, for safety, and all objectionable material will be removed. Online chat rooms and instant messaging will be prohibited, unless they can be certified as safe. The Web-sites under this new domain will not connect a child to other online sites outside the child-friendly zone.

I want to thank the supporters of this good piece of legislation. I want to thank them for their hard work: Representatives Shimkus, Upton, and Markey, as well as Senators Ensign, Dorgan and Fitzgerald. I want to thank them for coming. I am going to ask them

to come up in just a second as I sign this piece of legislation.

All of us here today share the same goals: We must give our Nation's children every opportunity to grow in knowledge without undermining their character. We must give parents effective tools to help their children learn. And we must be on the side of our parents as they work hard to raise their children. We must give our parents the peace of mind knowing their children are learning in safety. This act of Congress helps us meet these goals.

I appreciate you all coming today. It's my honor now to sign the Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act. Would the Members join me.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

The President. I'll answer a few questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I may answer a few questions. You're stuck in a mini press conference here. Yes?

U.N. Inspections in Iraq

Q. Sir, can you tell me specifically what the inspectors have or haven't been able to do, what they've uncovered, or what they haven't uncovered that leads you to believe that the signs are not encouraging that they're doing their job?

The President. Yes. Well, I can tell you this: This isn't about inspectors. The issue is whether Saddam Hussein will disarm. Will he disarm in the name of peace? And we expect him to fully comply. And you know, one of my concerns is that in the past he has shot at our airplanes. Anybody who shoots at U.S. airplanes or British airplanes is not somebody who looks like he's interested in complying with disarmament. He wrote letters, stinging rebukes to what the U.N. did. He was very critical of the U.S. and Britain. That doesn't appear to be somebody who was that anxious to comply.

But we've just started the process. And one of the things that I want to continue to remind Americans, this is not a game that we're playing of hide-and-seek. This is our attempt to work with the world community to create peace. And the best way for peace is for Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. It's up to him to make his decision.

Yes.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan/Inspections

Q. Kofi Annan said Iraq is cooperating. Is there some daylight between you and—

The President. We've been at this—what—5 days. This is after 11 years of deceit and defiance. And the issue, again, is not hide-and-seek; the issue is whether or not Saddam Hussein will disarm. And soon he'll be making a declaration of whether he has any weapons. For years he said he didn't have any weapons. And now we'll see whether or not he does. And if he does, we expect them to be completely destroyed and a full accounting.

And I remind our citizens that the U.N. Security Council voted overwhelmingly, 15 to nothing, for this approach we've taken. Our NATO allies have joined us, and we all expect Saddam Hussein to disarm.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Q. To follow on what Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters] just asked you, do you disagree with the Secretary General's relatively optimistic take on things?

The President. What I agree with is that we've been doing this for 5 days, after 11 years of deception and deceit. The process is just beginning. And the world will determine soon whether or not Saddam Hussein is going to do what we've asked, which is, in the name of peace, fully disarm. This is not a game anymore of, "Well, I'll say one thing and do another." We expect him to disarm. And now it's up to him to do so. And time will tell whether or not he is willing to do so.

Yes.

Situation in Israel

Q. A 95-year-old woman was killed on the West Bank yesterday, and aid groups say that malnutrition among Palestinian children is reaching crisis proportions. What are you doing to alleviate that suffering? And are you concerned that the desperation of the Palestinian community is driving them into the arms of Al Qaida?

The President. I am concerned that terrorists have disrupted the ability for peace-loving people to move a process forward. I

am concerned about that. And our country will continue to fight terror and join our allies in fighting terror wherever it exists. And so I fully understand the Israeli Government's attempt to stamp out terror, because we'll never have peace so long as terrorists are able to disrupt. I'm also concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people. I'm concerned about suffering that has taken place as a result of the activities of terrorists.

We're working with the Sharon government to allow for tax receipts to be redistributed amongst the Palestinian people. And there are a lot of nongovernmental organizations doing work within the Palestinian territory to make sure that people don't starve.

But the net effect of terrorism is to not only stop the peace process but is to cause suffering amongst all the people of the region. And that's why our war against terror must—must remain steadfast and strong, wherever terror exists.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News]. Oh, you just asked a question.

Q. I'll ask another one—

The President. No, that's fine. That's plenty. [Laughter] You did a wonderful job. It was such a great question, I already forgot it. Next. [Laughter]

Al Qaida

Q. Are you concerned about Al Qaida on the West Bank?

The President. I am concerned about Al Qaida anywhere. I believe that Al Qaida was involved in the African bombings, in Kenya. I believe Al Qaida hates freedom. I believe Al Qaida will strike anywhere they can in order to disrupt a civil society, and that's why we're on the hunt. And we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida network. It doesn't matter how long it takes to find them; we'll find them. And we're going to bring them to justice. And the good news is, is that the free world is—recognizes the threats that we all face, and therefore, we're more bound together than we've ever been, in cutting off money, in sharing intelligence, and bringing people to justice.

And it's a dangerous world we live in, because there's still terrorists on the loose. And this is the great charge we have. This is the

first war of the 21st century, and it's a different kind of war. It's a different kind of war than our fathers and grandfathers fought. It requires the same amount of courage and the same amount of focus. And this Government will continue to provide that focus.

U.S. Relations With the Muslim World

Q. Sir, there's a report out today that shows a sharp deterioration in public attitudes abroad about this country, particularly among Muslim nations and key allies like Turkey and Pakistan. Are you concerned, sir, that your message that this is—that the anti-terror campaign is not a war against Islam is somehow not getting to those people?

The President. Well, I haven't seen the report. As you know, I remain skeptical about polls. I don't run my administration based upon polls and focus groups. I'm running this war against terror based upon freedom and doing my obligation to make sure our children can grow up in a free and safe society.

I hope the message that we fight not a religion but a group of fanatics which have hijacked a religion is getting through. I understand the propaganda machines are cranked up in the international community that paints our country in a bad light. We'll do everything we can to remind people that we've never been a nation of conquerors; we're a nation of liberators.

And I would ask the skeptics to look at Afghanistan, where not only did this country rout the Taliban, which was one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, but thanks to our strength and our compassion, many young girls now go to school for the first time. General McNeill, who is our general in Afghanistan, was in today, in the Situation Room, and gave me a briefing about the human condition in Afghanistan. It's improving dramatically. There are projects after projects after projects of—going forward where the United States and other NGOs are involved to improve the human condition.

The Muslim world will eventually realize, if they don't now, that we believe in freedom and we respect all individuals. Unlike the killers, we value each life in America. Everybody is precious. Everybody counts.

And to the extent that we need to continue to make that message work, we will try to do so. But the best thing we can do is to show results from our activities and be able to point to the fact that not only did we liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban, we remain in place, with a lot of aid and a lot of help. And the suffering of the—the human condition is improving, and suffering is less because of the United States of America.

Thank you all. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, USA, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. H.R. 3833, approved December 4, was assigned Public Law No. 107–317.

Remarks on Lighting the Hanukkah Menorah

December 4, 2002

Welcome. This is the sixth night of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. This holiday marks the victory of Jewish patriots over oppression more than two millennia ago. The menorah represents an ancient miracle, in which a lamp with only enough oil for one day burned eight.

Each year, Hanukkah brings a message of hope—that light will overcome darkness, that goodness will overcome evil, and that faith can accomplish miracles.

Today, the spirit of those early patriots lives in the lives of the state of Israel and throughout the Jewish community and among all brave people who fight violence and terror. We pray that this season of light will also be a season of peace for the Jewish people.

We are joined this evening by the members of the Ramaz Chamber Choir. Ramaz is a modern orthodox Jewish day school in Manhattan, and we're grateful to the students for making the trip to join us today.

I also want to thank Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia for the use of this beautiful menorah. Founded in 1795, Rodeph Shalom was the first Ashkenazic con-

gregation established in the Western Hemisphere.

Lighting the menorah will be Daniella and Alexandra Wald from New York City. We welcome the girls here, and the honor is yours.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. in the Bookseller's Area in the East Wing at the White House.

Statement on the 100th Birthday of Senator Strom Thurmond

December 4, 2002

As United States Senator Strom Thurmond turns 100, I am proud to join the people of South Carolina in praising him, his values, and his good works.

Celebrating his 100th birthday as a sitting U.S. Senator is unique in our history, as was his 1954 election to the Senate as a write-in candidate. He has served his fellow citizens as teacher, coach, State legislator, and Governor. Additionally, while serving as a circuit court judge, he volunteered for combat duty during World War II and later landed a glider at Normandy on D-Day at the age of 41. For his military service, he earned 18 decorations, medals, and awards, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart, Belgian Order of the Crown, and French Croix de Guerre.

I had the privilege of campaigning across South Carolina with Senator Thurmond in 1988. I will never forget his beautiful speeches, his love for the people, and their love for him.

My family and I are among the myriad who have great respect and admiration for the Senator. His patriotism, courage, and lifetime dedication to South Carolina and his Nation will always be remembered. I am looking forward to having Senator Thurmond at the White House Friday to celebrate his centennial year.

God bless you, Strom. The Nation and I are grateful for your life of service.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergencies With Respect
to the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)
and Kosovo**

December 4, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a combined 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Daniel T. arap Moi of
Kenya and Prime Minister Meles
Zenawi of Ethiopia and an Exchange
With Reporters**

December 5, 2002

President Bush. Here's what we're going to do. I'm going to welcome our friends to the Cabinet Room in the White House. Each leader will make a statement. We'll then have one question from an American, one question from a Kenyan, and one question from an Ethiopian. The President and the Prime Minister will decide who gets the questions, as will I.

First, it's an honor to welcome President Moi and Prime Minister Meles to the—this is where we do our work, the Cabinet Room. We welcome two strong friends of America here, two leaders of countries which have joined us in the—to fight the global war on terror, two steadfast allies, two people that

the American people can count on when it comes to winning the first war of the 21st century. And I'm so pleased that the President and the Prime Minister have agreed to come and have a substantive visit. I thank their delegations for coming with them, and I look forward to a good and open discussion about how we can advance our respective interests.

So Mr. President, welcome. President Moi is a strong leader of Kenya. He is leading the country to a transition period through open elections. And Mr. President, you have distinguished yourself by your service to your country, and I appreciate that, and we welcome you.

President Moi. Thank you very much indeed. I'm delighted to have my last visit to the United States as President of the Republic of Kenya. We are—I am here to discuss a wide range of issues. The most important issue is the security within the Horn of Africa and particularly my own country, Kenya.

These are important issues which will enable us to handle and manage terrorism in that part of the world. And so I am delighted to be in Washington today.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you. And of course, I want to reiterate what I have said before, and that is, our country mourns the loss of life in Kenya, the tragedy that befell your country as a result of killers trying to terrorize freedom-loving people. And I appreciate your leadership on that issue.

Mr. Prime Minister, I'm so honored that you're here. Welcome.

Prime Minister Meles. Thank you, Mr. President. We are all here very glad that we've been welcomed to Washington. A moment ago you said that we are engaged in the first war of the 21st century. We believe that the war against terrorism is a war against people who have not caught up with the 21st century, who have values and ideals that are contrary to the values of the 21st century. And in that context, it's a fight not between the United States and some groups; it's a fight between those who want to catch up with the 21st century and those who want to remain where they are.

So I want to assure you that we are all with you against forces of terror and—

[*inaudible*]*—*and I appreciate your support and leadership. Thank you very much for welcoming us*—*

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

We'll have one question from each side here. Jackson [David Jackson, Dallas Morning News].

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Decision To Disarm

Q. Mr. President, I've been out in the country on vacation, and a lot of people have asked me, "What are the chances that we're actually going to war with Iraq?" I mean, how likely is war, and what would trigger it?

President Bush. Right. That's the question that you should ask to Saddam Hussein. [*Laughter*] It's his choice to make. And Saddam Hussein must disarm. The international community has come together through the United Nations Security Council and voted 15 to nothing for Saddam Hussein to disarm. We recently got back from NATO, where our NATO Allies voted overwhelmingly to send the same message.

So David, to answer your question, the question is whether or not he chooses to disarm, and we hope he does. For the sake of peace, he must disarm.

There are inspectors inside the country now, and the inspectors are there not to play a game of hide-and-seek, but they're there to verify whether or not Mr. Saddam Hussein is going to disarm. And we hope he does.

Q. But at what point would you make that decision?

President Bush. We hope he does. You'll see.

Mr. President, would you care to call from somebody from the Kenyan press? You don't have to if you don't want to. [*Laughter*] I thought it would be hospitable.

Q. I'm here from Ethiopia.

President Bush. Well, we'll get you next, sir. [*Laughter*] Is the Kenyan reporter here? Oh, there.

War on Terror

Q. I would like to know, since Kenya has been a victim of terrorism, what has the U.S. Government put into place, what measures have you put into place to assist Kenya*—*

President Bush. Yes. Well, that's what we're going to talk about, of course. And part of the reason the President has come is to discuss ways that we can continue our aid program and continue our work together.

The other thing we must remember is that the war on terror is global in nature and that if the terrorists could strike in Kenya, they could strike in Ethiopia; they could strike in Europe; and that we must continue this war, to hunt these killers down one at a time, to bring them to justice, which means information sharing. We're pleased with the information sharing we're getting from our allies here. It means cutting off the money, and it means bringing to justice*—*like the Kenyan authorities will be doing to those who kill and take innocent life.

Would you care to call on somebody from your press corps?

U.S. Assistance to Kenya and Ethiopia

Q. I'm going to repeat the same question the Kenyan reporter asked of you. What could be exactly the role of the United States in assisting those African countries, particularly who are the victims of terrorism?

President Bush. Yes. Well, information sharing, for example*—*we've got a good intelligence-gathering network, made stronger by the fact that we share information between countries. But if we get wind that somebody is thinking about doing something to Ethiopia, we're prepared to work with the Ethiopian Government to disrupt any plans.

The best thing we can do to help secure your countries is to chase the killers down, and we're making good progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling an Al Qaida network. And that inures to the benefit of all the countries of the world.

We, of course, will be talking to*—*about issues such as drought as well. We'll be talking about other issues, economic vitality. I'll be thanking these leaders for their work in bringing stability and peace to their part of the continent of Africa. These are leaders; these are men who have stepped forward and have shown vision and leadership, and we're grateful for that.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Eid al-Fitr

December 5, 2002

Thank you very much, sir. It's good to be with you again. And it is my honor to visit the Islamic Center of Washington once again.

For half a century, this beautiful mosque has served as a place of worship for Muslims and has helped to advance understanding between people of different faiths. Millions of our fellow Americans practice the Muslim faith. They lead lives of honesty and justice and compassion.

I am pleased to join you today in the celebration of Eid, the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan. I appreciate so very much Dr. Khouj, and I want to thank the other distinguished imams from the Washington, DC, area. Thank you all for being here. And I enjoyed our visit. I also appreciate the Muslim schoolchildren who are here, telling me stories and reading poems and showing me artwork. Please tell them thanks again for their hospitality.

Islam traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham. And Ramadan commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Mohammad, a word that is read and recited with special attention and reverence by Muslims during this season.

Over the past month, Muslims have fasted, taking no food or water during daylight hours, in order to refocus their minds on faith and redirect their hearts to charity. Muslims worldwide have stretched out a hand of mercy to those in need. Charity tables, at which the poor can break their fast, line the streets of cities and towns. And gifts of food and clothing and money are distributed to ensure that all share in God's abundance. Muslims often invite members of other families to their evening iftaar meals, demonstrating a spirit of tolerance.

During Eid al-Fitr, Muslims celebrate the completion of their fast and the blessings of renewed faith that have come with it. Customs vary between countries, from illuminating lanterns in Egypt to lighting firecrackers in Pakistan, to inviting elders to tra-

ditional feasts in Niger. Around the world, families and neighbors and friends gather to share traditional foods and congratulate each other on meeting the test of Ramadan.

The spirit behind this holiday is a reminder that Islam brings hope and comfort to more than a billion people worldwide. Islam affirms God's justice and insists on man's moral responsibility. This holiday is also an occasion to remember that Islam gave birth to a rich civilization of learning that has benefited mankind.

Here in the United States, our Muslim citizens are making many contributions in business, science and law, medicine and education, and in other fields. Muslim members of our Armed Forces and of my administration are serving their fellow Americans with distinction, upholding our Nation's ideals of liberty and justice in a world at peace. And in our Nation's Capital, this center contributes greatly to our spiritual and cultural life.

On behalf of Laura and our family and the American people, I bring our best wishes to all who worship here and to Muslims throughout the world for a joyous Eid and for health and happiness and prosperity in the year to come.

Eid Mubarak. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the mosque at the Islamic Center of Washington, DC. In his remarks, he referred to Abdullah Khouj, director of the center. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr, 2002

December 5, 2002

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world as you celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast.

At the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, worship, and reflection, Eid celebrates the renewal of faith, hope, and compassion. During this time of great rejoicing, Muslims give thanks for the blessings they have been granted, and demonstrate their commitment to the Qur'an's teachings by helping those in need. These acts of kindness and generosity strengthen communities

worldwide, and as we observe this holiday season, I encourage Americans of all faiths to join in building a culture of service that demonstrates the true character of our Nation.

America treasures the relationship we have with our many Muslim friends, and we respect the vibrant faith of Islam which inspires countless individuals to lead lives of honesty, integrity, and morality. This year, may Eid also be a time in which we recognize the values of progress, pluralism, and acceptance that bind us together as a Nation and a global community. By working together to advance mutual understanding, we point the way to a brighter future for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous Eid, and for health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree

December 5, 2002

Thank you very much. With the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, we observe one of the great traditions of our Nation's Capital. And throughout the Christmas season, we recall that God's love is found in humble places, and God's peace is offered to all of us. Laura and I are pleased to be with you at this Christmas Pageant of Peace, and we thank you all for coming as well.

I want to thank Barbara for hosting this event. I want to thank all the entertainers for making the night such a special evening. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank Peter and the board of directors and the production team for organizing this fine event. I appreciate Santa coming. *[Laughter]* Looks like he needs a belt for Christmas. *[Laughter]* Finally, I want to thank all the good people of the National Park Service. The National Christmas Tree is a living tree, and the Park Service looks after it every single day of the year.

For nearly 80 years, in times of calm and in times of challenge, Americans have gathered for this ceremony. The simple story we remember during this season speaks to every generation. It is the story of a quiet birth in a little town on the margins of an indifferent empire, yet that single event set the direction of history and still changes millions of lives. For over two millennia, Christmas has carried the message that God is with us, and because He's with us, we can always live in hope.

In this season, we celebrate with our families—and deeply miss family members no longer with us. Thousands of families in our Nation are still grieving over the terrible losses that came to them last year on September the 11th. We pray for their comfort. We pray for the comfort for everyone who has lost a life this year.

Our entire Nation is also thinking at this time of year of the men and women in the military, many of whom will spend this Christmas at posts far from home. They stand between Americans and grave danger. They serve in the cause of peace and freedom. They wear the uniform proudly, and we are proud of them.

Laura and I wish every American family the blessings of this season, happy holidays, and a merry Christmas. And now we have the honor of lighting the National Christmas Tree. And joining us we've got two new friends, Samara Banks and Ben Schneller, to help us light this tree.

Now, if everybody—you all step up here. *[Laughter]* Get ready. Please join us in the countdown: Five, four, three, two, one.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:57 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to actress Barbara Eden, hostess, and Peter F. Nostrand, chairman, Christmas Pageant of Peace; entertainer Roy Clark, who played Santa Claus; and Samara Banks and Ben Schneller, children who assisted the President in lighting the National Christmas Tree. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on the Resignations of
Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill
and National Economic Council
Director Lawrence Lindsey**

December 6, 2002

My economic team has worked with me to craft and implement an economic agenda that helped to lead the Nation out of recession and back into a period of growth. I appreciate Paul O'Neill's and Larry Lindsey's important contributions to making this happen. Both are highly talented and dedicated, and they have served my administration and our Nation well. I thank them for their excellent service.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 30

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had intelligence briefings.

December 1

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

December 2

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya to express his condolences concerning the November 28 terrorist attacks in Kenya.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with the 2002 NASCAR Winston Cup Series champion, Tony Stewart, and Stewart's team owner, Joe Gibbs.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya and Prime Minister Meles

Zenawi of Ethiopia to the White House on December 5.

The President announced the appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as Special Envoy and Ambassador at Large for Free Iraqis.

December 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Shreveport, LA. In the afternoon, he traveled to New Orleans, LA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

December 4

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland to Washington, DC, on December 9.

The White House announced that the President will host President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain for a meeting and luncheon on December 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert D. McCallum, Jr., to be Associate Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, coastal erosion, and tidal surge on October 23–November 12.

December 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

December 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia concerning the situation in the Korean Peninsula. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President went to the headquarters of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, where he spoke to USTR employees. Later, in the State Room at the White House, he attended a 100th birthday

reception for Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

The President announced the recess appointment of Ellen L. Weintraub as a member of the Federal Election Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the Karamah Iftaar Dinner

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Kenyan President Moi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the appointments of Elliott Abrams as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Near East and North African Affairs and Flynt Leverett as Senior Director for Middle East Initiatives at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on appointment of Special Envoy and Ambassador at Large for Free Iraqis

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2621, H.R. 3758, H.R. 3988, H.R. 4727, H.R. 5590, H.R. 5708, H.R. 5716, H.J. Res. 117, and S. 3156

Released December 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released December 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2712, H.R. 727, H.R. 2595, H.R. 5469, S. 1010, S. 1226, S. 1907, S. 1946, S. 2239, S.J. Res. 53, and H.R. 5504

Released December 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released December 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1240 and S. 2237

Fact sheet: U.S.-Canada Smart Border/30 Point Action Plan Update

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 2

H.R. 2621 / Public Law 107-307
Product Packaging Protection Act of 2002

H.R. 3908 / Public Law 107-308
North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act

H.R. 3988 / Public Law 107–309
To amend title 36, United States Code, to clarify the requirements for eligibility in the American Legion

H.R. 4727 / Public Law 107–310
Dam Safety and Security Act of 2002

H.R. 5590 / Public Law 107–311
Armed Forces Domestic Security Act

H.R. 5708 / Public Law 107–312
To reduce the preexisting PAYGO balances, and for other purposes

H.R. 5716 / Public Law 107–313
Mental Health Parity Reauthorization Act of 2002

H.R. 4546 / Public Law 107–314
Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

H.J. Res. 117 / Public Law 107–315
Approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President John Adams

S. 3156 / Public Law 107–316
Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building Act

H.R. 3758 / Private Law 107–6
For the relief of So Hyun Jun

Approved December 4

H.R. 3833 / Public Law 107–317
Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act of 2002

H.R. 5504 / Public Law 107–318
Anton's Law

H.R. 727 / Public Law 107–319
To amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to provide that low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products subject to such Act

H.R. 2595 / Public Law 107–320
To direct the Secretary of the Army to convey a parcel of land to Chatham County, Georgia

H.R. 5469 / Public Law 107–321
Small Webcaster Settlement Act of 2002

S. 1010 / Public Law 107–322
To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of North Carolina

S. 1226 / Public Law 107–323
POW/MIA Memorial Flag Act of 2002

S. 1907 / Public Law 107–324
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the city of Haines, Oregon

S. 1946 / Public Law 107–325
Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002

S. 2239 / Public Law 107–326
FHA Downpayment Simplification Act of 2002

S. 2712 / Public Law 107–327
Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002

S.J. Res. 53 / Public Law 107–328
Relative to the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress

Approved December 6

S. 1240 / Public Law 107–329
To provide for the acquisition of land and construction of an interagency administrative and visitor facility at the entrance to American Fork Canyon, Utah, and for other purposes

S. 2237 / Public Law 107–330
Veterans Benefits Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, December 13, 2002

Proclamation 7633—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2002

December 6, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Early on a quiet Sunday morning on December 7, 1941, aircraft of the Empire of Japan, without provocation or warning, attacked the United States forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. More than 2,400 Americans died that day and another 1,100 were wounded, in what was the start of a long and terrible war against the forces of fascism, tyranny, and imperialism.

Out of that surprise attack grew a steadfast resolve to defend the freedoms on which our Nation was founded. From the ruins of Pearl Harbor, America built the strongest Navy in the world and emerged as a superpower to lead a coalition of allies to victory over evil in World War II. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines fought and won many crucial battles, defeating history's most powerful tyranny. Our Nation must always remember the heroism, dedication, and sacrifice of those who served. Their courage in battle continues to inspire us today as our Armed Forces fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and around the world.

The men and women who fought for America at Pearl Harbor not only protected our Nation, but also helped to shape its character. Nine Americans who fell had Navy ships named after them, and 15 men earned the Medal of Honor for bravery, with 10 of them awarded the Medal posthumously. As we remember the lost on what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called "a date which will live in infamy," I encourage our veterans to share their experiences with our youth so that new generations can learn about this important moment in our history.

Today, we salute our veterans of Pearl Harbor and World War II, whose sacrifices saved democracy during a dark hour. In their memory, a new generation of our Armed Forces goes forward against new enemies in a new era. Once again, we pledge to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace around the world. Americans have been tested before, and our Nation will triumph again.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7, 2002, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2002, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this and every December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 10, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 11. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 7, 2002

Good morning. This weekend is the deadline for the Iraqi regime to fully disclose to the U.N. Security Council all of its weapons of mass destruction. Disarming that regime is a central commitment of the war on terror. We must, and we will, prevent terrorist groups and outlaw regimes from threatening the American people with catastrophic harm.

Saddam Hussein has been under a duty to disarm for more than a decade, yet he has consistently and systematically violated that obligation and undermined U.N. inspections. And he only admitted to a massive biological weapons program after being confronted with the evidence.

Now the U.N. Security Council and the United States have told Saddam Hussein: The game is over. Saddam Hussein will fully disarm himself of weapons of mass destruction, and if he does not, America will lead a coalition to disarm him.

As the new inspections process proceeds, the United States will be making only one judgment: Has Saddam Hussein changed his behavior of the last 11 years and decided to cooperate willingly and comply completely, or has he not?

Inspections will work only if Iraq complies fully and in good faith. Inspectors do not have the duty or the ability to uncover terrible weapons hidden in a vast country. The responsibility of inspectors is simply to confirm evidence of voluntary and total disarmament. Saddam Hussein has the responsibility to provide that evidence, as directed, and in full.

The world expects more than Iraq's cooperation with inspectors. The world expects and requires Iraq's complete, willing, and prompt disarmament. It is not enough for Iraq to merely open doors for inspectors. Compliance means bringing all requested information and evidence out into full view to show that Iraq has abandoned the deceptions of the last decade. Any act of delay or defiance will prove that Saddam Hussein has not adopted the path of compliance and has rejected the path of peace.

Thus far we are not seeing the fundamental shift in practice and attitude that the

world is demanding. Iraq's letters to the U.N. regarding inspections show that their attitude is grudging and conditional. And in recent days, Iraq has fired on American and British pilots enforcing the U.N.'s no-fly zone.

Iraq is now required by the United Nations to provide a full and accurate declaration of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. We will judge the declaration's honesty and completeness only after we have thoroughly examined it, and that will take some time. The declaration must be credible and accurate and complete, or the Iraqi dictator will have demonstrated to the world once again that he has chosen not to change his behavior.

Americans seek peace in the world. War is the last option for confronting threats, yet the temporary peace of denial and looking away from danger would only be a prelude to a broader war and greater horror. America will confront gathering dangers early. By showing our resolve today, we are building a future of peace.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on December 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception

December 8, 2002

Welcome to the East Room of the White House. We are glad you're here. Laura and I are so pleased to join you in honoring the achievements of five great Americans. We welcome the honorees, and we welcome their families and friends who share the pride of this special day.

Each new group of Kennedy Center honorees presents a picture to remember. This year we've brought together in one room a legend of Broadway, the conductor of the Met, the composer of "Mrs. Robinson"—

[laughter]—the face of Cleopatra—[laughter]—and the voice of Darth Vader. [Laughter]

We're all looking forward to a fine show this evening at the Kennedy Center, produced once again by George Stevens. Tonight's event recognizes lives of high achievement in the cultural arts. Each one of you is known to the American people in a way that runs deeper than fame. You've each made a place of your own in the culture of our Nation. And tonight, you can know that you are appreciated as well as being admired.

People say that the voice of the President is the most easily recognized voice in America. Well—[laughter]—I'm not going to make that claim in the presence of James Earl Jones. And that commanding voice belongs to one of the finest, most respected actors in this generation.

There was a time when his voice was seldom heard. You see, as a boy, Jimmy Jones struggled with a speech impediment. Often he could communicate with his teachers only in writing. This young man had a heart full of courage and determination. And so, he learned debating and public speaking, and he read Shakespeare aloud to master the feel and rhythm of language. Later, he cleaned offices while learning the actor's craft.

By his own will and God-given talent, James Earl Jones gained breakthrough roles on the stage and in some of the finest films of recent decades, from the "Great White Hope" to the "Field of Dreams." Along the way, Americans have come to know an artist of seriousness and skill. They've also come to know a man of great dignity whose voice we hope to hear for many years to come. Congratulations.

It is not commonly known, but Paul Simon got his start on the stage as well, as the White Rabbit—[laughter]—in a sixth grade production of "Alice in Wonderland." [Laughter] Playing the Cheshire Cat was his new friend Art Garfunkel.

Paul Simon still thinks of himself as a boy from Queens. America thinks of Paul Simon as the writer of some of the most memorable songs of our times and a singer of eloquence and integrity. From collaborative works such as "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" to the groundbreaking rhythms of "Graceland,"

Paul has defied musical boundaries, appealed to all generations, and expressed the ideals and hopes of mankind.

He once studied to be a lawyer. When he chose another path, the legal profession missed out on volumes of moving and lyrical briefs. [Laughter] His decision to be a performer led him to Paris, where in the early 1960's you could have seen Paul Simon performing alone, for anyone who cared to stop and listen could have not known then that he would one day draw some of the largest live audiences ever.

When you listen to Paul Simon's songs, you hear a gentle and truthful voice from a gifted man with a good heart. For the words and music he's brought to all our lives, America today honors Paul Simon.

James Levine knew from his earliest years that he was destined for a life in music. In the decades since, he has conducted major orchestras around the world and is himself an institution as the maestro of the New York Metropolitan Opera.

At the age of 3, he was playing melodies on the piano. His mother and father took him to symphonies where he would sit with the open score on his lap, conducting with a knitting needle. [Laughter] By age 9, he was producing full operas on a puppet stage at home. Helen and Lawrence Levine encouraged their son's extraordinary talent, while letting nobody exploit him. This prodigy matured into one of the most influential conductors America has ever produced.

James Levine is known for an understated style, drawing attention to the music itself, with his vivid and precise interpretations. And his artistic vision has preserved and advanced the unmatched reputation of the Metropolitan Opera.

James Levine has said that "music chose me, because I can't remember life without it." For the rest of us, it is hard to think of American classical music without him. So tonight, the music world is grateful for the disciplined artistry and joyful presence of maestro James Levine.

Our fourth honoree has been described by one theater critic as "20,000 volts of untamed electricity." [Laughter] Anyone who has seen Chita Rivera on the stage or screen knows what that critic means. Her professionalism,

enthusiasm, and style have set a Broadway standard that few have ever reached.

Chita began her training in classical ballet and became a star in "West Side Story." She went on to acclaimed performances in "Bye Bye Birdie," "Sweet Charity," "Chicago," and many other great shows. She's the owner of two Tony awards and has been nominated for five more. Her hard work and personal warmth have gained her the respect of her peers and the affection of the American people.

It is fitting we recognize these accomplishments here in her hometown. Her family lived on Buchanan Street. Chita's father played in the Navy Band. Her late mother, Katherine, who worked for the Government, remains her inspiration in life. Chita said, "I am only an extension of my mother. I look like her. I think like her. Every step I do on that stage is for her." And I know, Chita, that your mother would also be proud of you today as America pays tribute to your distinguished career and your wonderful spirit.

On a fall afternoon in 1951, President Harry Truman welcomed a group of young actresses to the White House. [*Laughter*] Among them was Elizabeth Taylor. At that event, Truman wondered aloud what the next 50 years would bring in the film industry. He added, "I know some of these young ladies will see that day." Well, standing here in 2002, we are honored to welcome back that lovely girl who became one of the most accomplished and compelling actresses in movie history.

Elizabeth Taylor's early pictures, like "National Velvet" and "Lassie Come Home," turned many reviewers into fans. One wrote, "Her face is alive with youthful spirit. Her voice has the softness of sweet song, and her whole manner is one of refreshing grace."

Through the years, her performances in such films as "Giant" and "Butterfield 8" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" showed a depth and intensity that set her apart. Her face is one of the most memorable ever captured on film. And for millions of Americans, Elizabeth Taylor is the very definition of acting talent and movie stardom.

She has also given her heart to important causes, especially the defeat of AIDS. For her compassionate life and for a film career

like no other, the Kennedy Center and the American people honor Elizabeth Taylor.

Each of our five honorees has shared great gifts and has enriched the life of our Nation. They have given us all many fond memories, and I hope these distinguished Americans and their families and friends will cherish the memory of this evening.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all. And may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Memorandum on Designations Under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

December 7, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003-05

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination of Designations Under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including under section 5 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that each of the following groups is a democratic opposition organization and that each satisfies the criteria set forth in section 5(c) of the Act: the Assyrian Democratic Movement; the Iraqi Free Officers and Civilians Movement; the Iraqi National Front; the Iraqi National Movement; the Iraqi Turkmen Front; and the Islamic Accord of Iraq. I hereby designate each of these organizations as eligible to receive assistance under section 4 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination and designation to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 9.

**Memorandum on Authorization To
Furnish Drawdown Assistance to the
Iraqi Opposition Under the Iraq
Liberation Act of 1998**

December 7, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003-06

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Presidential Determination on
Authorization to Furnish Drawdown
Assistance to the Iraqi Opposition under the
Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including under sections 4(a)(2) and 5(a) of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338) (the “Act”), and consistent with Presidential Determination 99-13, I hereby direct the furnishing of up to \$92 million in defense articles from the Department of Defense, defense services from the Department of Defense, and military education and training in order to provide assistance to the following organizations:

Iraqi National Accord;
Iraqi National Congress;
Kurdistan Democratic Party;
Movement for Constitutional Monarchy;
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan;
Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq;

and to such other Iraqi opposition groups designated by me under the Act before or after this determination. The assistance will be allocated in accordance with plans being developed by the Department of Defense and the Department of State.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 9.

**Remarks Announcing the
Nomination of John Snow To Be
Secretary of the Treasury**

December 9, 2002

The President. Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning. Today I’m pleased to announce my nominee for the Secretary of the Treasury. John Snow has excelled as a business leader, an expert on economic policy, an academic, and as a public servant. He’ll be a superb member of my Cabinet.

I also want to welcome Carolyn here today. Thank you for coming. I’m honored you’re here.

As we look to a new year and a new Congress, John Snow will be a key adviser on the economy and a key advocate for my administration’s agenda for growth, new jobs, and wider and more international trade. I’ll be proposing specific steps to increase the momentum of our economic recovery, and the Treasury Secretary will be at the center of this effort. I appreciate John’s willingness to serve our country.

In a varied and productive career, John Snow has shown consistent qualities of foresight and integrity and public spirit. He’s led one of our Nation’s largest railroads with skill and success. He knows firsthand how the economy works. His peers elected him to lead the Business Roundtable, where he was an articulate voice for pro-growth policies.

John has a deep, longstanding commitment to ethical corporate governance. And as the cochairman of an important commission on public trust and private enterprise, he holds a Ph.D. in economics and has taught in the field. He served in the executive branch under two Presidents.

John returns to public service at an important moment for our economy. Inflation is firmly under control, which keeps the cost of food, clothing, and other necessities more affordable. Mortgage rates interest remain at historic lows, making home prices more reasonable for millions of Americans. A 5.6-percent increase in productivity over the last four quarters is the biggest of any comparable period since 1973. And growth has returned to the American economy.

Yet, we also face specific challenges that could slow the recovery and limit future

growth. Parts of America are expecting—are experiencing persistent unemployment. Many Americans have very little money left-over after taxes. Some struggle under a weight of debt that makes it difficult to save for retirement. Investor confidence needs to be strengthened in practical ways.

The new Congress will have a responsibility to address these challenges. My administration will make specific proposals as how best to address these challenges. I look forward to working with John Snow, as we move forward on a growth-and-jobs package. He and I share a basic conviction: We believe the strength of our economy lies in the unmatched enterprise and creativity and hard work of the America people.

It is the task of Government to create an environment in which these qualities are rewarded and where jobs are generated, especially by small businesses in America. My administration has acted on these principles, and we will continue to do so. John will be the senior member of a new economic team.

From the day I took office, I've been fortunate to have outstanding economic advisers at the Treasury Department and in the White House. I'm deeply grateful to Secretary Paul O'Neill and Dr. Larry Lindsey for their leadership, particularly in the aftermath of September the 11th, 2001. They share credit for an historic tax relief and other economic policies that moved our economy from recession to growth.

Paul and Larry are two of the most fine, honorable, decent men I've ever served with. They can be proud for all they have done for their country.

There is important work ahead to bring greater economic growth in the new year. This economy is strong, and we can make it stronger. I'm eager for the task, and so is our next Secretary of the Treasury. And I hope the United States Senate will act quickly to confirm John Snow.

[At this point, Secretary-designate Snow made brief remarks.]

The President. Congratulations, sir. Welcome.

Secretary-designate Snow. Thank you.

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Carolyn Snow, wife of Secretary-designate Snow. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Snow. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Peace Agreement in Indonesia

December 9, 2002

I congratulate the Government of Indonesia and the leadership of the Free Aceh Movement on the peace agreement signed on December 9th. The United States strongly supports this courageous effort to end a conflict that has cost thousands of innocent lives in Aceh and torn at the fabric of Indonesia for almost three decades. I commend President Megawati and the people of Aceh for choosing the path of reconciliation over the path of violence. I applaud the determined efforts of the Henri Dunant Center which made this agreement possible.

The United States strongly supports the agreement's monitoring mechanisms, which will ensure that both sides follow through on their commitments. We welcome decisions by the Governments of Thailand and the Philippines to deploy monitors in support of that mission. To reinforce the peace, the United States will work closely with Japan, Australia, and Indonesia's other partners in the coming months to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for Aceh.

Today's agreement demonstrates that Indonesia's efforts to fight terror and maintain a united Indonesian nation are fully compatible with principled efforts to address legitimate political grievances. The agreement offers the hope of greater autonomy and respect for the people of Aceh. I call on all parties to the agreement to faithfully meet their commitments and build the better future that all peace-loving Indonesians expect and deserve.

Proclamation 7634—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 2002

December 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's commitment to individual freedom and democracy provides the foundation for our society. As a Nation, we cherish the values of free speech, equal justice, and religious tolerance, and we steadfastly oppose the forces of cruelty, injustice, and tyranny. Since the founding of our country, the Bill of Rights has served to guide our people and our Government to ensure basic human rights and liberties. The United States is a country where all citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions, practice their faith, and enjoy the blessings of freedom.

Today, countless people around the world cannot exercise their basic human rights. America has pledged to support all individuals who seek to secure their unalienable rights. Across the globe, we will continue to stand with those who fight for fundamental freedoms, whether they be democracy activists in Cuba, university faculty and students in Iran, opposition leaders in Zimbabwe, journalists in Belarus, or the people of North Korea who have never known freedom. We are leading a coalition of more than 90 nations to defeat terror and to secure liberty and opportunity for people throughout the world. Our fight against oppression demonstrates our Nation's dedication to a future of hope and understanding for all people. One year after the liberation of Afghanistan from the clutches of terror and tyranny, we are helping the Afghan people build institutions of democracy and tolerance that are essential to the country's future stability, security, and prosperity. And I hope the brave people of Iraq will soon realize their own dreams of peace and freedom.

In commemorating Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, we renew our pledge to uphold the vital principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity that have made our Nation strong. By working together to advance the rights of all peo-

ple, we help to build mutual trust and peace for all individuals across this land and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2002, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2002, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10, 2002, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the legacy of human rights passed down to us from previous generations and to resolve that such liberties will prevail in our Nation and throughout the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:05 a.m., December 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12.

Remarks on Business Strengthening America's "Day of Service"

December 10, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming today. Thanks for your warm welcome. Thanks to the leaders here who represent industry and compassion, for your important commitment to promote an ethic of service in our Nation, to encourage your employees to serve something greater than themselves.

You know, this is a really, really strong nation we have. We're strong militarily, but that's not our greatest strength. The greatest strength of America is the people of America. The people of America have got enormous hearts, great desire to help others. The enemy struck us on September the 11th, 2001. They obviously didn't know who they were striking. They struck the greatest nation on the face of the Earth and, in so doing, inspired a spirit of America that is alive and

well. And those of us in positions of responsibility must capture that spirit, for the good of the American people.

In our plenty, there are people who hurt. And the wealthiest nation on the face of the Earth, we've got to remember there are some who doubt the promise of America. There are people who are hungry, people who don't have places to live, people who are adrift. The great challenge of the 21st century is not only to keep the peace, but the great challenge of the 21st century is, turn the evil done to America into an incredible good by making sure that people all across our land realize the hope of the American experience.

There is no question in my mind America can achieve that goal. There is no doubt. And today we're to talk about how—one step to achieving that goal.

As you know, I've been setting up a different economic team to make sure we continue on the good works of the previous economic team to grow our economy. That's our focus. We want people working jobs. We're encouraging the expansion of good jobs. But our purpose today is to make sure that as we focus on good jobs, we also focus on good works, to make sure that the American spirit is alive and well in every part of our community.

I want to thank our Secretary of Commerce, my great, longtime friend Don Evans, for not only his service to our country but his understanding about the compassion agenda that our country must embrace. I want to thank the chief operating officers of the components of the USA Freedom Corps who are here: Les Lenkowsky, who runs AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps; Mike Brown, the Deputy Director of FEMA, who is in charge of the Citizen Corps component; and Gaddi Vasquez, who is in charge of our Peace Corps—all obviously Corps members. *[Laughter]* I want to thank the members of the Business Strengthening America steering committee who organized this event and today's events.

If we want to usher in a period of responsible behavior in America, people must behave responsibly. And part of behaving responsibly is to understand the responsibilities that come with being a CEO. It's not only the responsibility to tell the truth; it's the re-

sponsibility to use your position to encourage compassion. And I'm proud of this organization. And today we're going to expand the vision and goals of this organization.

I appreciate the U.S. Chamber, the Center for Corporate Citizen—Corporate Citizenship for—for working on these initiatives.

After September the 11th, a lot of our fellow citizens found a deeper appreciation for our freedom. That's a fact. A lot of people began to take a look at their lives and realize that values of service are really important—values of faith and values of family and values of service to their country. They realize that serving something greater than themselves is a part of being a patriotic American, that patriotism was being redefined in a positive way.

And millions are now responding to the call to service in all kinds of ways: Volunteering in the soup kitchen. Something dear to my heart and Laura's heart is the mentoring of children to not only teach them how to read but make sure that they understand that there is love in our society. People are working in schools and libraries and police departments and hospitals.

We've got great hearts in America, but a lot of folks don't have the time to serve, and that's what we're here to discuss today. They would like to be spending more time helping people in need, but they've got a job to do. They've got to show up for work, so they can put money on the table. And when companies support volunteer service—it's important for the CEOs and the COOs and the board of directors to understand, when you support volunteer service and provide time, you really unleash the heart of America.

And the firms represented here are doing just that, and I want to thank you for that. I want to thank you a lot. The Business Strengthening America is led by corporate leaders who understand the need to encourage volunteer service. Companies that are part of the Business Strengthening America are making fundamental and institutional changes to support service to our country. Businesses are offering paid leave for employees who volunteer in their communities. I want to thank you for that. You're setting a great example for others.

They're giving a percentage of employee time or donating products, like software, or making outright financial contributions in order to do your part to be a sound citizen of this country. You're placing senior executives on boards to make sure that accounting practices or legal practices are sound and wise. You enlist customers and clients to mentor or tutor. There's all kinds of things happening in America today, all aimed at making sure the American experience is alive and well for every single citizen.

I appreciate you including information about the USA Freedom Corps on your Web sites, on bank statements, on grocery bags all throughout America. We have a competitive workplace, a marketplace here in America, and that's healthy and strong. The more competition, the better it is for Americans. But in this endeavor, there is no competition; there's collaboration to figure out the best way to make sure America is a compassionate country.

Last June, the Business Strengthening America was formed with 18 members. Eighteen brave souls stepped forward and said, "I want to help. I want to make a difference." In less than 6 months, the group has grown to 100 members. It represents 2 million employees. That is a major division in the army of compassion.

Today the Business Strengthening America is launching an effort to increase the membership to more than 500 companies by next June. We're going to do so to encourage membership, starting today. I hope the CEOs of America—the CEOs of America's companies, both large and small, hear the call to join this group, to be a part of the 500 by next June. It is essential that you understand the call to service extends to you as well.

We're going to have regional conferences in cities across our country to continue the momentum of a cultural shift to service. The amazing thing is, I think, when a company representative talks to these leaders who have been involved in this project, you'll find that when you show concern, it helps your customer base. It helps employee morale. It says—sends messages into the community in which you exist that you're more than just

a capitalistic enterprise; you're a capitalistic enterprise with a strong conscience.

You'll find that employees walk a little better down the halls of your companies when you've encouraged them to help a neighbor in need. There's nothing like giving a little bit of yourself to enrich your life. And when the person's life is enriched, so is the company as a whole.

A lot of people talk about building loyalty in the consumer base, your customer base. It's amazing what happens when you serve something—you serve something in need in terms of building loyalty. There's nothing like building loyalty by helping somebody in need.

Acts of service are supported by businesses, yet they're obviously performed by people. People must lead. And today I was pleased to see that after this meeting, folks in this room will set an example by going to build a playground in Washington, DC. Take your muffler. [*Laughter*]

Donnie Evans and members of my staff did the exact same thing. We have—all of us have a responsibility to do more than just talk it up. We've got a responsibility to actually perform and do the deed itself. And I encourage members of my administration to do just that. And our Secretary of Commerce set the example for members of my Cabinet.

The Business Strengthening America is a part of a new culture of service. USA Freedom Corps is providing information to millions. John Bridgeland, who runs our office, has done a fabulous job of using modern technologies to spread the word, technologies that say, "If you want to volunteer, get on the Web page, and here are the opportunities close to your house." We've really got thousands of opportunities for people, for the individual to show up. And people are responding. Nearly 118,000 individuals have contacted the Peace Corps for applications since I put out the call. That's a lot.

We not only encourage service at home, obviously through the Peace Corps initiative, we encourage service abroad as well. You see, the interesting thing about this country which sets us apart from the terrorists, for example, is we say, "Every life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth." Contrast to Al-Qaida-type killers. They don't say

"Everybody has worth." They believe only a few matter. But America says everybody counts, no matter if you live in America or elsewhere. And Peace Corps is going to spread that gospel and spread that message and make sure that people have got the benefits of freedom available for them, just like we have it here at home.

The Senior Corps and the AmeriCorps are expanding mightily under Les' leadership. They're doing a lot to work to mentor and clean parks and take care of the elderly. Listen, part of making sure America is a compassionate place means acts as simple as walking into a shut-in's home and saying, "I love you," on a regular basis. We're not talking about great acts of courage in order to change America; we're talking about simple acts of love.

Two hundred and forty-six Senior Corps councils have been formed, outlets for people to express their concern about the future of our country. These happen to be formed to respond to a disaster of any kind, including a terrorist attack. But it's healthy for a community to provide outlets for folks to show up and say, "I want to be a part of a disaster response team." Doctors and nurses are joining what we now call the Medical Reserve Corps to help communities with major emergencies. Volunteers are at police and fire departments now. In other words, the call is being responded to. And I want to thank the American people.

Each of the activities that we talk about at the USA Freedom Corps or this organization will touch a life and strengthen the country. And the important thing that we're doing today, I hope, and I know you all hope, will send a clear signal to our young that serving something greater than themselves in life is a part of the American experience.

I hope that people who are interested in serving America log on to the usafreedomcorps.gov Web site or call 1-877-USA-CORPS. It will give you a chance to be a part of the army of compassion. You can find ways in which you can serve this great Nation. You can be a part of making sure the American experience is strong and alive and well all across the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for your compassion. Thank you for your care. Thank you for your leadership. May God bless your works, and may God continue to bless America. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of William Donaldson To Be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

December 10, 2002

The President. Good morning. The health and future of the American economy depends heavily on the honesty of American business and the integrity of the securities markets. Investors must have completely fair and accurate information to make sound investment decisions. The Federal Government, through the Securities and Exchange Commission, enforces the basic truthfulness requirement of our society.

Today I announce my nominee to serve as the Chairman of the SEC. Bill Donaldson will be a strong leader with a clear mission: to vigorously enforce our Nation's laws against corporate corruption and to uphold the highest standards of integrity in the securities markets.

I am proud you're here. I also want to thank Jane and Adam and Matthew and Kimberly and Andre for being here as well, the Donaldson family.

Bill is one of the most respected business leaders in our Nation. And he brings a unique and diverse background to this really important task. As a founder of a leading investment banking firm, he understands the capital markets, and he understands financial institutions. As the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, he set high business standards and worked for the interests of the small investor. As the founding dean of the Yale School of Management, he sees business as a calling which demands high standards of integrity. He's a lifelong entrepreneur, a Marine Corps veteran. He's an experienced and dedicated public servant. He's a good man.

Throughout his exceptional career, Bill Donaldson has shown an ability to take on big assignments, to confront big problems, and to meet big challenges with a lot of energy and a lot of success.

The new Chairman will assume leadership of an agency that's moving forward on many fronts. This past year, the SEC has filed a record number of actions for financial reporting and disclosure violations. The agency sought the removal of more than 100 corporate officers and directors on grounds of misconduct, has filed dozens of restraining orders to protect against corporate misdeeds, ordered corporations and executives to return to investors hundreds of million dollars in improper gains. To strengthen investor confidence, the SEC ordered the leaders of nearly 1,000 large corporations to certify the financial information they submitted in the last year—to certify that it was fair and that it was accurate. SEC investigators are also working closely with our Corporate Fraud Task Force to ensure quick action against fraud and against insider trading.

We've accomplished much, and there's more to do. We must continue to prosecute corporate criminals. We must implement the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, from broader disclosure requirements to tougher penalties for wrongdoing, to removing executives who break the faith with the shareholders and the American people. These are the far most reaching reforms of American business since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. We'll give them full force.

Over the last year, the SEC has added new personnel and will receive a significant increase in its budget. Today I'm announcing that I will request yet another increase in SEC funding for fiscal year 2004, which, when enacted, will mean we have nearly doubled the budgets from 2002.

Bill Donaldson and his entire organization will have my strong support and the resources they need to carry out their important duties. Public confidence in our market and our stock exchanges and in companies is absolutely essential to our free enterprise system and to a growing and dynamic economy that creates jobs and opportunities for each and every American.

When we uphold an ethic of responsibility in American business, we expose the wrongdoers. We also recognize and reward the many good companies and honest people who create wealth and jobs throughout the economy.

I want to thank Bill Donaldson for taking on this very important task. I look forward to his confirmation by the United States Senate at the earliest possible date.

Welcome, Mr. Donaldson. Appreciate you.

[At this point, Chairman-designate Donaldson made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you, Bill. And I appreciate your thank-you.

Q. Mr. President, can we ask you about your pension guidelines, sir?

The President. No.

Q. Any initial reaction to the Iraq declaration, sir?

The President. Have a good day.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman-designate Donaldson's wife, Jane, and their children, Adam, Matthew, Kimberly, and Andre. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Chairman-designate Donaldson.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey's AK Party and an Exchange With Reporters

December 10, 2002

President Bush. Mr. Chairman, welcome to the home of one of your country's best friends and allies. We're impressed by the leadership—your leadership and your party's strong victory. We thank you very much for your commitment to democracy and freedom.

We join you, side by side, in your desire to become a member of the European Union. We appreciate your friendship in NATO. You're a strategic ally and friend of the United States, and we look forward to working with you to keep the peace.

It's my honor to welcome you to America.

Chairman Erdogan. I thank you very much. We're very happy to be in the United States, who is our ally and friend, and it's also another source of happiness for us that Mr. President spare the time to meet with us.

Undoubtedly, we see our bid to European Union membership as the most important modernization project of our country since the establishment of the Republic. And this will serve as a great jump-start for democracy, enhancement of democracy.

This week is a very important one for us. This is actually a turning point in our history. It's also very meaningful that this turning point merged with our—coincided with our new established Government and our election victory. We're aware of your support on this matter, and we are very appreciative of this. But it shouldn't end here. We expect that to continue, of course, now—[*laughter*].

President Bush. Well, thank you all.

Q. Sir, can we ask—

President Bush. Not today. But you know something? I appreciate the effort. [*Laughter*]

Q. O for two today—

President Bush. Well, you know something, it's good for you—brings discipline. Right, Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters]? If I answer questions every time you ask one, expectations would be high. And as you know, I like to keep expectations low. [*Laughter*]

Q. —expect some phone call for European Union?

President Bush. I made a lot of phone calls already. My administration is working hard on Turkey's behalf.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Chairman Erdogan's Adalet ve Kalkinma Party (Justice and Development Party) won a majority of the Turkish Parliament in the elections of November 3. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by the United States of America, the Republic of Kenya, and Ethiopia

December 10, 2002

At the invitation of President George W. Bush, President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia met at the White House on Thursday, December 5, 2002.

The leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment in the global war on terrorism. They recognized the significant and unique challenges of fighting terrorism, which continues to pose a serious threat to the region and the world. To this end, the three leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together and, with the international community, to eliminate terror networks and actively oppose those governments and organizations that support, harbor, or tolerate terrorist activities.

The leaders renewed their determination for lasting peace and security in the region and recognized that freedom and democracy comprise the foundation of these objectives. President Bush expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Kenya and Ethiopia in the peace process in Sudan and the reconciliation process in Somalia. He also indicated his confidence in a smooth election and transition process in Kenya, and the prompt and continuous progress in the Ethiopia-Eritrea peace process as prescribed* in the peace agreement.

The leaders called attention to the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, where food shortages are affecting six million people and may eventually expose 14 million people to starvation. The United States will continue to provide food aid and other humanitarian assistance to alleviate the effects of the crisis and calls upon other donor nations to provide substantial emergency assistance. The leaders also agreed to take steps to prevent the recurrence of food emergencies in the region.

* White House correction.

Chairman Erdogan. I thank you very much. We're very happy to be in the United States, who is our ally and friend, and it's also another source of happiness for us that Mr. President spare the time to meet with us.

Undoubtedly, we see our bid to European Union membership as the most important modernization project of our country since the establishment of the Republic. And this will serve as a great jump-start for democracy, enhancement of democracy.

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* White House correction.

The leaders welcomed African development initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and called upon African countries to take advantage of opportunities provided by the African Growth and Opportunity Act. They recognized that long-term economic prosperity will require strong leadership at home to promote economic freedom, coupled with support from both local and international communities.

The leaders expressed concern over the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases in Africa and their impact on social, economic, and security sectors. Kenya and Ethiopia lauded the Bush Administration for its leadership in the global fight against these diseases and for being the largest, single contributor to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. They resolved to give high priority to the campaign to eradicate these diseases, and the United States reaffirmed its support.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Emomali Rahmonov on the Relationship Between the United States of America and the Republic of Tajikistan

December 10, 2002

We declare our commitment to continue the development of our long-term strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, based on our common goal of promoting peace, security, economic development, and democracy in the Republic of Tajikistan and in Central Asia.

We note the deepening relationship between our two countries, demonstrated by the appointment of the first Tajik Ambassador in Washington and the beginning of construction for a new U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe. This growing relationship is based on our common goals of security, prosperity, and liberty for the citizens of our nations. We will continue to work together to advance

these goals through cooperation on economic and political reform and poverty reduction in Tajikistan, with the aim of more fully integrating the Republic of Tajikistan into the global economy and raising the standard of living and respect for human rights. Further, we will maintain our security relationship, working together to combat threats to peace worldwide while further developing Tajikistan's independent ability to address these threats.

We are cognizant of the threats that international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and narcotics trafficking pose to Tajikistan, to Central Asia and to the entire world, and will work together and with others to address these threats while respecting human rights. Further, we pledge to continue the war against terror to a successful conclusion, both in Afghanistan and worldwide. We recognize the threat that the Taliban and al-Qa'ida posed to regional security and the key role Tajikistan plays in the global coalition against terror. We have worked together closely, and will continue to do so, to combat the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and other extremist forces in Central Asia. We welcome the removal of the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, while noting with concern the presence of Taliban and Al-Qa'ida remnants that wish to continue to destabilize the regional situation. Our two countries pledge to support the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in its efforts to rebuild that country and integrate it into the broader international structure. We will make all necessary efforts to facilitate the provision of aid to Afghanistan, and urge our global partners in this effort to fulfill their pledges of reconstruction aid.

We jointly note the threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses to international peace and security, and declare our steadfast opposition to such proliferation. In this regard, we commend the United Nations Security Council for its unanimous passage of Resolution 1441, and call on the Government of Iraq to comply fully with the terms of the resolution by allowing unfettered inspections and destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction.

The leaders welcomed African development initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and called upon African countries to take advantage of opportunities provided by the African Growth and Opportunity Act. They recognized that long-term economic prosperity will require strong leadership at home to promote economic freedom, coupled with support from both local and international communities.

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Recognizing the importance of democratic political systems, rule of law, and market-oriented economic policies in providing for the welfare and stability of our societies, we pledge to further develop the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Tajikistan, while working jointly to carry out democratic and legal reforms within Tajikistan that expand fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We further underscore the importance of rule of law as a prerequisite for economic development. The United States welcomes the efforts Tajikistan has made to integrate its economy into the global market, and will continue to assist Tajikistan in reforming its legal structures to better provide for rule of law and economic freedom with the goal of encouraging investment in the Republic of Tajikistan.

We state our commitment to the principles of democracy and human rights, and pledge to work jointly to extend and strengthen civic institutions such as free and independent media, democratic elections, political pluralism, and civil society. In this spirit, we reaffirm our commitment to basic human rights as enshrined in the founding documents of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. We further make clear our concern regarding the worldwide problem of trafficking in persons, and pledge our mutual assistance to combat in both of our countries this modern form of slavery. Finally, we confirm our joint efforts to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two countries. In this regard, the U.S. government has initiated a substantial program to enhance computer connectivity for Tajikistan's schools, and the U.S. Peace Corps will consider sending an assessment team to Tajikistan in 2003 with the view of establishing a country program there.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the National Strategy To Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction

December 11, 2002

Today I have issued the National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction. The strategy establishes a comprehensive approach to counter the growing threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear, radiological, biological, and chemical weapons. This strategy is integral to the National Security Strategy of the United States of America and the National Strategy for Homeland Security. We will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes and terrorists to threaten our Nation and our friends and allies with the world's most destructive weapons.

Weapons of mass destruction pose a grave danger. They could allow America's adversaries to inflict massive harm against our country, our military forces abroad, and our friends and allies. Some rogue states, including several that support terrorism, already possess WMD and are seeking even greater capabilities as tools of coercion. For them, these are weapons of choice intended to deter us from responding to their aggression against our friends in vital regions of interest. For terrorists, WMD would provide the ability to kill large numbers of our people without warning. They would give them the power to murder without conscience on a scale to match their hatred for our country and our values.

Our national strategy to combat WMD is based on three pillars. We will pursue robust counterproliferation policies and capabilities to deter and defend against the use of these weapons. We will strengthen nonproliferation measures to prevent states and terrorists from acquiring WMD. We will increase our preparations to respond effectively to any use of WMD against us or our friends and allies. To succeed, we must use new technologies, strengthen our intelligence capabilities, work even more closely with allies, and establish new partnerships with other key states, including former adversaries.

Recognizing the importance of democratic political systems, rule of law, and market-oriented economic policies in providing for the welfare and stability of our societies, we pledge to further develop the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Tajikistan, while working jointly to carry out democratic and legal reforms within Tajikistan that expand fundamental freedoms and human rights.

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The need to prevent, deter, defend against, and respond to WMD threats presents our Nation with a difficult and complex challenge. The strategy I have issued today asks much of our Federal Government, our State and local institutions, and indeed, every citizen. The threat is real and the stakes are high. Success against this threat is a requirement of history—one that the United States will meet with confidence and determination.

Executive Order 13278—President's Commission on the United States Postal Service

December 11, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to ensure the efficient operation of the United States Postal Service while minimizing the financial exposure of the American taxpayers, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service (Commission).

Sec. 2. Membership. Commission shall be composed of nine members appointed by the President. The President shall designate two members of the Commission to serve as Co-Chairs.

Sec. 3. Mission. (a) The mission of the Commission shall be to examine the state of the United States Postal Service, and to prepare and submit to the President a report articulating a proposed vision for the future of the United States Postal Service and recommending the legislative and administrative reforms needed to ensure the viability of postal services.

(b) In fulfilling its mission, the Commission shall consider the following issues and such other issues relating to the Postal Service as the Commission determines appropriate:

(i) the role of the Postal Service in the 21st century and beyond;

(ii) the flexibility that the Postal Service should have to change prices, control costs, and adjust service in response to financial, competitive, or market pressures;

(iii) the rigidities in cost or service that limit the efficiency of the postal system;

(iv) the ability of the Postal Service, over the long term, to maintain universal mail delivery at affordable rates and cover its unfunded liabilities with minimum exposure to the American taxpayers;

(v) the extent to which postal monopoly restrictions continue to advance the public interest under evolving market conditions, and the extent to which the Postal Service competes with private sector services; and

(vi) the most appropriate governance and oversight structure for the Postal Service.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) The Department of the Treasury or any organizational entity subject to the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Commission. The Commission is established within the Department of the Treasury for administrative purposes only.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Commission. Members appointed from among private citizens of the United States, however, while engaged in the work of the Commission, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(c) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director.

(d) The Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, may establish subcommittees, consisting of Commission members, as appropriate, to aid in its work.

(e) Consistent with such guidance as the President or, on the President's behalf, the Secretary of the Treasury, may provide, the Commission shall exchange information with and obtain advice from Members of Congress; Federal, State, local, and tribal officials; commercial, nonprofit, and residential users of the United States Postal Service; and others, as appropriate, including through public hearings.

(f) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the

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(f) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the

Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(g) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

Sec. 5. Report. The Commission shall submit its report, consistent with its mission set forth in section 3 of this order, to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, not later than July 31, 2003.

Sec. 6. General Provisions. (a) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and it is not intended to, and does not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

(b) The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its report and in no event later than August 30, 2003.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 11, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 12, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 13.

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

December 11, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003-07

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy toward Burma"

in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104-208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

(1) progress toward democratization in Burma;

(2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and

(3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

I understand the attached report was not forwarded due to an administrative error.

You are hereby authorized and directed now to transmit the attached report fulfilling the above-stated requirements to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 12.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

December 12, 2002

The President. Thanks a lot for the warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be back in Philadelphia, a city known for the history that was made here and the spirit of compassion which is found here.

I'm honored to spend the time with you all. I thank you for your interest in our country. You love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength. You love your neighbor. And by the works that come from your faith, you are building a more just

Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

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and generous nation. And we are grateful for your efforts.

I appreciate the tremendous turnout for this White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. I think it's a really important conference. Many faiths and many traditions are represented here. Yet we share the same belief that every person in need is a worthy child of God. And we share the same goal: We must bring the hope and healing of faith-based services to more and more Americans.

Government has often been slow to recognize the importance of faith-based and community efforts. That's changing, and more changes are needed. So today I'm announcing a series of actions to stop the unfair treatment of religious charities by the Federal Government.

If a charity is helping the needy, it should not matter if there is a rabbi on the board or a cross or a crescent on the wall or a religious commitment in the charter. The days of discriminating against religious groups just because they are religious are coming to an end.

And I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have traveled here today, Mel Martinez and Ann Veneman. I appreciate the fact that two fine United States Senators from Pennsylvania are here, Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter. I'm honored they have traveled with me to this fine event. I see Congressman Greenwood is with us as well. Thank you for coming. Anybody else from the Congress? They'll get the message.

I want to thank Mike Brown, who's the Deputy Director of FEMA, who is here. Of course, I want to thank your mayor, John Street. I appreciate the fact—I appreciate the very fact that the mayor understands the importance of encouraging faith-based programs to change the neighborhoods and the lives of the good people of Philadelphia.

I want to thank Cardinal Bevilacqua for coming. Your Eminence, it's good to see you, sir. I want to thank Franklin Graham. I want to thank all the leaders, the generals, the soldiers in the armies of compassion who are here with us today.

Today I landed Air Force One—one of the things I try to do is herald the heroes of our society. I met Gary Hobbs, the USA Free-

dom Corps greeter, the former NFL player for, of course, the Eagles, who volunteers as a mentor for disadvantaged children. I want to thank Gary for his support and his service.

Every generation of Americans must rise to its own challenges, and the challenges facing this generation are very clear. We must overcome great dangers to our country, wherever they gather. We're waging a war—we're waging an unrelenting effort in this war to dismantle a terrorist network which has attacked America.

I have no greater obligation than to protect our country and to defend our freedoms. We will confront outlaw regimes which hate our country and arm to threaten civilization, itself. We have that obligation, to recognize the world changed for America on September the 11th, 2001. Before that date, it seemed like we could use the oceans to protect us from gathering dangers. We could be confident that nobody could possibly hurt America—hurt Americans on American soil, and that changed. And therefore, our Government and your leadership must have a realistic assessment of the dangers we have faced and we will face. We have acted, and we will act again, to protect the American people and to keep the peace.

We must also rise to a second challenge facing our country. This great and prosperous land must become a single nation of justice and opportunity. We must continue our advance toward full equality for every citizen, which demands the guarantee of civil rights for all. Any suggestion that the segregated past was acceptable or positive is offensive, and it is wrong.

Recent comments by Senator Lott do not reflect the spirit of our country. He has apologized, and rightly so. Every day our Nation was segregated was a day that America was unfaithful to our founding ideals. And the founding ideals of our Nation and, in fact, the founding ideals of the political party I represent was, and remains today, the equal dignity and equal rights of every American.

And so the—and this is the principle that guides my administration. We will not, and we must not, rest until every person of every race believes in the promise of America because they see it in their own eyes, with their

own eyes, and they live it and feel it in their own lives.

We have work to do. We must be honest about it. We have got a lot of work to do in this country, because there are pockets of despair in America. There are men and women who doubt the American Dream is meant for them. There are people who face the struggles of illness and old age with no one to help them or pray with them. There are men and women who fight every minute of the day against terrible addictions. There are boys with no family but a gang and teenage moms who are abandoned and alone. And then there are the children who wonder if anybody loves them.

We've reformed welfare in America to help many; yet welfare policy will not solve the deepest problems of the spirit. Our economy is growing; yet there are some needs that prosperity can never fill. We arrest and convict dangerous criminals; yet building more prisons is no substitute for responsibility and order in our souls.

No Government policy can put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when someone, some good soul, puts an arm around a neighbor and says, "God loves you, and I love, and you can count on us both."

And we find that powerful spirit of compassion in faith-based and community groups across our Nation: People giving shelter to the homeless, providing safety for battered women, giving care and comfort to AIDS victims, bringing companionship to lonely seniors.

I saw that spirit of compassion earlier today when I visited adults and children involved in a program called Amachi at the Bright Hope Baptist Church right here in Philadelphia. In the Amachi program, good people from more than 50 churches in this area serve as mentors to the children of prisoners. They share their time and attention. They just serve as a friend.

Most of us find it difficult to imagine the life of a child who has to go through a prison gate to be hugged by their mom or dad. Yet this is the reality for almost a million-and-a-half American boys and girls. They face terrible challenges that no child deserves to face. Without guidance, they have a higher

risk of failing in school and committing crimes themselves. The volunteers of Amachi, who are with us here today with the children they are loving, are such wonderful givers of guidance and love.

I'm told that "amachi" is a Western African word that means, "Who knows what God has brought us through this child." That attitude is the inspiration of a good mentoring program. No child is a problem or a burden. Every child is a priority and a blessing. That is the message of the Almighty God who cares for these, and that is the message carried to the city by the volunteers of Amachi. And I want to thank them for being here today. And I want to thank them for their love. And I want to thank them for their example for other Americans to follow.

Faith-based charities work daily miracles because they have idealistic volunteers. They're guided by moral principles. They know the problems of their own communities, and above all, they recognize the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. These groups and many good charities that are not specifically religious have the heart to serve others. Yet many lack the resources they need to meet the needs around them.

They deserve the support of the rest of us. They deserve the support of foundations. They deserve the support of corporate America. They deserve the support of individual donors, of church congregations, of synagogues and mosques, and they deserve, when appropriate, the support of the Federal Government.

Faith-based groups will never replace Government when it comes to helping those in need. Yet Government must recognize the power and unique contribution of faith-based groups in every part of our country. And when the Federal Government gives contracts to private groups to provide social services, religious groups should have an equal chance to compete. When decisions are made on public funding, we should not focus on the religion you practice; we should focus on the results you deliver.

The Amachi program receives 38 percent of its funding from the Federal Government. My administration has been working for

nearly 2 years to encourage this kind of support to good faith-based programs. And we're making some progress. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, run by Mel—we've changes regulations in eight programs which cover over \$8 billion in grants to encourage competition that includes faith-based groups. We've opened up more than \$1 billion in after-school programs to competition, including faith-based groups. We're reaching out to grassroots community groups and helping them learn the complicated process of grantmaking. I see a lot of heads nodding when it comes to complicated process. *[Laughter]*

Yet there's a lot to do. In Government, we're still fighting old attitudes, habits, and rules that discriminate against religious groups for no good purpose. In Iowa, for example, the Victory Center Rescue Mission was told to return grant money to the Government because the mission's board of directors was not secular enough. The St. Francis House Homeless Shelter in South Dakota was denied a grant because voluntary prayers were offered before meals. A few years ago in New York, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty was discouraged from even applying for Federal funds because it had the word "Jewish" in its name.

These are examples of a larger pattern, a pattern of discrimination. And this discrimination shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the law. I recognize that Government has no business endorsing a religious creed or directly funding religious worship or religious teaching. That is not the business of the Government. Yet Government can and should support social services provided by religious people, as long as those services go to anyone in need, regardless of their faith. And when Government gives that support, charities and faith-based programs should not be forced to change their character or compromise their mission.

And I don't intend to compromise either. I have worked for a Faith-Based Initiative to rally and encourage the armies of compassion. I will continue to work with Congress on this agenda. But the needs of our country are urgent, and as President, I have an authority I intend to use. Many acts of discrimination against faith-based groups are com-

mitted by executive branch agencies. And as the leader of the executive branch, I'm going to make some changes, effective today.

First, in a few minutes—you'll be happy to hear—*[laughter]*—I am going to sign an Executive order directing all Federal agencies to follow the principle of equal treatment in rewarding social service grants.

Every person in every Government agency will know where the President stands. And every person will have the responsibility to ensure a level playing field for faith-based organizations in Federal programs. No funds will be used to directly support inherently religious activities; yet no organization that qualifies for funds will ever be forced to change its identity.

And secondly, I have directed specific action in several Federal agencies with a history of discrimination against faith-based groups. FEMA will revise its policy on emergency relief so that religious nonprofit groups can qualify for assistance after disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. HUD and HHS, who provide so much grant money to communities across America, will revise their regulations to reflect the principle of non-discrimination.

In addition, we're issuing a guidebook which you've received. The book explains in plain English—*[laughter]*—how faith-based groups can qualify for Government grants. It gives guidance on what you can and cannot do with taxpayers' money. We're going to distribute this guidebook widely. We will continue to hold regional conferences like this one all around the United States of America. The rules for dealing with the Government are clear, and we want more and more faith-based charities to become partners in our efforts, our unyielding efforts to change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time.

Through all these actions, I hope that every faith-based group in America, the social entrepreneurs of America, understand that this Government respects your work, and we respect the motivation behind your work. We do not want you to become carbon copies of public programs. We want you to follow your heart. We want you to follow the

Word. We want you to do the works of kindness and mercy you are called upon to do. [Applause] Thank you.

For too long, for too long, some in Government believed there was no room for faith in the public square.

Audience members. Preach on, brother!

The President. I guess they've forgotten the history of this great country. People of faith led the struggle against slavery. People of faith fought against child labor. People of faith worked for women's equality and civil rights. Every expansion of justice in American history received inspiration from men and women of moral conviction and religious belief. And in America today, people of faith are waging a determined campaign against need and suffering.

When Government discriminates against religious groups, it is not the groups that suffer most. The loss comes to the hungry who don't get fed, to the addicts who don't get help, to the children who drift toward self-destruction. For the sake of so many brothers and sisters in needs, we must and we will support the armies of compassion in America.

The steps we take today will help clear away a legacy of discrimination against faith-based charities. In the new year, I will announce further initiatives to help community groups that serve their neighbors.

Our Nation needs more mentors, particularly, mentors for children whose mom or dad is in prison. Our Nation needs more centers to treat addiction. Our Nation must recognize that if we can change a heart, we're more than likely to change someone's habits and addiction on drugs and alcohol. Instead of building towering bureaucracies, Government should be finding new and creative ways to support local efforts.

I call this approach compassionate conservatism. And in my State of the Union Message, I will ask members of both political parties to move forward with me on this vision. By promoting the compassion of our people, by promoting the great strength of America, we will bring new hope to neighborhoods all across this land.

You know something about America? We meet every challenge that faces our country. That's why I'm so optimistic about our fu-

ture. And we will answer the call of our times. We will defend our freedoms, and we will lead the world toward peace. And we will unite America behind the great goals of justice and compassion.

In the work of compassion, it is not the people in Government who are the experts; the people in this room are the experts. The people in this room are helping lead America to a better day. You just need to know that. And you need to know that I am incredibly grateful for what you do. There is a saying: Nobody can teach you how to be a good servant of God; you have to learn it on the job. And you are doing that job so incredibly well.

Audience members. And you are, too!

The President. I appreciate your commitment—I appreciate your commitment. I appreciate your service. I appreciate your love. And now I'm proud to sign this Executive order providing equal treatment for faith-based charities all across the greatest land on the face of the Earth, the United States of America. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Downtown Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; and Franklin Graham, chairman and chief executive officer, Samaritan's Purse. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13279—Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations *December 12, 2002*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 121(a) of title 40, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to guide Federal agencies in formulating and developing policies with implications for faith-based organizations and other community organizations, to ensure equal protection of the laws for faith-based and community organizations, to further the national effort to expand opportunities for, and strengthen the capacity of, faith-based and other community organizations so that

Word. We want you to do the works of kindness and mercy you are called upon to do. [Applause] Thank you.

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ture. And we will answer the call of our times. We will defend our freedoms, and we will lead the world toward peace. And we will unite America behind the great goals of justice and compassion.

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they may better meet social needs in America's communities, and to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Government contracts, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this order:

(a) "Federal financial assistance" means assistance that non-Federal entities receive or administer in the form of grants, contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property, cooperative agreements, food commodities, direct appropriations, or other assistance, but does not include a tax credit, deduction, or exemption.

(b) "Social service program" means a program that is administered by the Federal Government, or by a State or local government using Federal financial assistance, and that provides services directed at reducing poverty, improving opportunities for low-income children, revitalizing low-income communities, empowering low-income families and low-income individuals to become self-sufficient, or otherwise helping people in need. Such programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (i) child care services, protective services for children and adults, services for children and adults in foster care, adoption services, services related to the management and maintenance of the home, day care services for adults, and services to meet the special needs of children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities (including physical, mental, or emotional disabilities);
- (ii) transportation services;
- (iii) job training and related services, and employment services;
- (iv) information, referral, and counseling services;
- (v) the preparation and delivery of meals and services related to soup kitchens or food banks;
- (vi) health support services;
- (vii) literacy and mentoring programs;
- (viii) services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, services for the prevention of crime and the provision of assistance to the victims and the families of criminal offenders, and services

related to intervention in, and prevention of, domestic violence; and

- (ix) services related to the provision of assistance for housing under Federal law.

(c) "Policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations" refers to all policies, programs, and regulations, including official guidance and internal agency procedures, that have significant effects on faith-based organizations participating in or seeking to participate in social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance.

(d) "Agency" means a department or agency in the executive branch.

(e) "Specified agency heads" mean the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Sec. 2. Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria.

In formulating and implementing policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations, agencies that administer social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance shall, to the extent permitted by law, be guided by the following fundamental principles:

(a) Federal financial assistance for social service programs should be distributed in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

(b) The Nation's social service capacity will benefit if all eligible organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, are able to compete on an equal footing for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs;

(c) No organization should be discriminated against on the basis of religion or religious belief in the administration or distribution of Federal financial assistance under social service programs;

(d) All organizations that receive Federal financial assistance under social services programs should be prohibited from discriminating against beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of the social services programs on the basis of religion or religious belief.

Accordingly, organizations, in providing services supported in whole or in part with Federal financial assistance, and in their outreach activities related to such services, should not be allowed to discriminate against current or prospective program beneficiaries on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice;

(e) The Federal Government must implement Federal programs in accordance with the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Therefore, organizations that engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, and proselytization, must offer those services separately in time or location from any programs or services supported with direct Federal financial assistance, and participation in any such inherently religious activities must be voluntary for the beneficiaries of the social service program supported with such Federal financial assistance; and

(f) Consistent with the Free Exercise Clause and the Free Speech Clause of the Constitution, faith-based organizations should be eligible to compete for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs and to participate fully in the social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance without impairing their independence, autonomy, expression, or religious character. Accordingly, a faith-based organization that applies for or participates in a social service program supported with Federal financial assistance may retain its independence and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that it does not use direct Federal financial assistance to support any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. Among other things, faith-based organizations that receive Federal financial assistance may use their facilities to provide social services supported with Federal financial assistance, without removing or altering religious art, icons, scriptures, or other symbols from these facilities. In addition, a faith-based organization that applies for or participates in a social service program supported

with Federal financial assistance may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other chartering or governing documents.

Sec. 3. Agency Implementation.

(a) Specified agency heads shall, in coordination with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI), review and evaluate existing policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations in order to assess the consistency of such policies with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order.

(b) Specified agency heads shall ensure that all policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order. Therefore, specified agency heads shall, to the extent permitted by law:

- (i) amend all such existing policies of their respective agencies to ensure that they are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order;
- (ii) where appropriate, implement new policies for their respective agencies that are consistent with and necessary to further the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria set forth in section 2 of this order; and
- (iii) implement new policies that are necessary to ensure that their respective agencies collect data regarding the participation of faith-based and community organizations in social service programs that receive Federal financial assistance.

(c) Within 90 days after the date of this order, each specified agency head shall report to the President, through the Director of the White House OFBCI, the actions it proposes to undertake to accomplish the activities set forth in sections 3(a) and (b) of this order.

Sec. 4. Amendment of Executive Order 11246.

Pursuant to section 121(a) of title 40, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to further the strong Federal interest in ensuring that the cost and progress of Federal procurement contracts are not adversely affected by an artificial restriction of the labor pool caused by the unwarranted exclusion of faith-based organizations from such contracts, section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 204 (a) The Secretary of Labor may, when the Secretary deems that special circumstances in the national interest so require, exempt a contracting agency from the requirement of including any or all of the provisions of Section 202 of this Order in any specific contract, subcontract, or purchase order.

(b) The Secretary of Labor may, by rule or regulation, exempt certain classes of contracts, subcontracts, or purchase orders (1) whenever work is to be or has been performed outside the United States and no recruitment of workers within the limits of the United States is involved; (2) for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; (3) involving less than specified amounts of money or specified numbers of workers; or (4) to the extent that they involve subcontracts below a specified tier.

(c) Section 202 of this Order shall not apply to a Government contractor or subcontractor that is a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities. Such contractors and subcontractors are not exempted or excused from complying with the other requirements contained in this Order.

(d) The Secretary of Labor may also provide, by rule, regulation, or order, for the exemption of facilities of a contractor that are in all respects separate and distinct from activities of the contractor related to the per-

formance of the contract: provided, that such an exemption will not interfere with or impede the effectuation of the purposes of this Order: and provided further, that in the absence of such an exemption all facilities shall be covered by the provisions of this Order.”

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) This order supplements but does not supersede the requirements contained in Executive Orders 13198 and 13199 of January 29, 2001.

(b) The agencies shall coordinate with the White House OFBCI concerning the implementation of this order.

(c) Nothing in this order shall be construed to require an agency to take any action that would impair the conduct of foreign affairs or the national security.

Sec. 6. Responsibilities of Executive Departments and Agencies. All executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall:

(a) designate an agency employee to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 7. Judicial Review.

This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch, and it is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:09 p.m., December 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 16.

**Executive Order 13280—
Responsibilities of the Department
of Agriculture and the Agency for
International Development With
Respect to Faith-Based and
Community Initiatives**

December 12, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to help the Federal Government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet social needs in America's communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development.* (a) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development shall each establish within their respective agencies a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (Center).

(b) Each of these Centers shall be supervised by a Director, appointed by the agency head in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI).

(c) Each agency shall provide its Center with appropriate staff, administrative support, and other resources to meet its responsibilities under this order.

(d) Each Center shall begin operations no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 2. *Purpose of Executive Branch Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* The purpose of the agency Centers will be to coordinate agency efforts to eliminate regulatory, contracting, and other programmatic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the provision of social services.

Sec. 3. *Responsibilities of the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* Each Center shall, to the extent permitted by law:

(a) conduct, in coordination with the White House OFBCI, an agency-wide audit to identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and other community

organizations in the delivery of social services by the agency, including but not limited to regulations, rules, orders, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities that either facially discriminate against or otherwise discourage or disadvantage the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal programs;

(b) coordinate a comprehensive agency effort to incorporate faith-based and other community organizations in agency programs and initiatives to the greatest extent possible;

(c) propose initiatives to remove barriers identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order, including but not limited to reform of regulations, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities;

(d) propose the development of innovative pilot and demonstration programs to increase the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal as well as State and local initiatives; and

(e) develop and coordinate agency outreach efforts to disseminate information more effectively to faith-based and other community organizations with respect to programming changes, contracting opportunities, and other agency initiatives, including but not limited to Web and Internet resources.

Sec. 4. *Reporting Requirements.*

(a) *Report.* Not later than 180 days from the date of this order and annually thereafter, each of the two Centers described in section 1 of this order shall prepare and submit a report to the White House OFBCI.

(b) *Contents.* The report shall include a description of the agency's efforts in carrying out its responsibilities under this order, including but not limited to:

(i) a comprehensive analysis of the barriers to the full participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social services identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order and the proposed strategies to eliminate those barriers; and

(ii) a summary of the technical assistance and other information that will be available to faith-based and other community organizations regarding

the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and procurement.

(c) *Performance Indicators.* The first report, filed 180 days after the date of this order, shall include annual performance indicators and measurable objectives for agency action. Each report filed thereafter shall measure the agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the initial report.

Sec. 5. Responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development. The Secretary and the Administrator shall:

(a) designate an employee within their respective agencies to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Administration and Judicial Review. (a) The agency actions directed by this executive order shall be carried out subject to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:09 p.m., December 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 16.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Stephen Friedman as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

December 12, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I'm pleased to introduce the newest member of my economic team, Mr. Steve Friedman. Welcome, Steve. I also want to welcome Barbara and Susie and Caroline and David and Sam. We're glad you all are here, and thank you for your sacrifice.

Steve Friedman has spent a career at the center of American enterprise and finance and job creation. He's an innovative economic thinker, a proven manager, and he's a business leader of national standing. He has served the country as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and as Chairman of a task force on modernizing financial management at the Pentagon. Steve is a graduate of Cornell University, and he holds a law degree from Columbia University and serves as chairman emeritus of that university's board.

I'm delighted that Steve will be joining the White House staff as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council.

He replaces a dear friend, Larry Lindsey. I appreciate so very much Larry's service to our country. He has a distinguished career here in the White House. He's earned the respect of the President and everybody who has worked with him.

I selected Steve for his wide experience and steady and sound judgment. He understands the free enterprise system. He knows how the economy works. And he shares my objectives for stronger economic growth, high standards of corporate integrity, more small businesses across our Nation, and greater trade across the world.

I will work with Steve and others on a growth and jobs package that we will present to the new Congress. In order to continue

the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and procurement.

(c) *Performance Indicators.* The first report, filed 180 days after the date of this order, shall include annual performance indicators and measurable objectives for agency action. Each report filed thereafter shall measure the agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the initial report.

Sec. 5. Responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development. The Secretary and the Administrator shall:

(a) designate an employee within their respective agencies to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Administration and Judicial Review. (a) The agency actions directed by this executive order shall be carried out subject to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:09 p.m., December 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 16.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Stephen Friedman as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

December 12, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I'm pleased to introduce the newest member of my economic team, Mr. Steve Friedman. Welcome, Steve. I also want to welcome Barbara and Susie and Caroline and David and Sam. We're glad you all are here, and thank you for your sacrifice.

Steve Friedman has spent a career at the center of American enterprise and finance and job creation. He's an innovative economic thinker, a proven manager, and he's a business leader of national standing. He has served the country as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and as Chairman of a task force on modernizing financial management at the Pentagon. Steve is a graduate of Cornell University, and he holds a law degree from Columbia University and serves as chairman emeritus of that university's board.

I'm delighted that Steve will be joining the White House staff as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council.

He replaces a dear friend, Larry Lindsey. I appreciate so very much Larry's service to our country. He has a distinguished career here in the White House. He's earned the respect of the President and everybody who has worked with him.

I selected Steve for his wide experience and steady and sound judgment. He understands the free enterprise system. He knows how the economy works. And he shares my objectives for stronger economic growth, high standards of corporate integrity, more small businesses across our Nation, and greater trade across the world.

I will work with Steve and others on a growth and jobs package that we will present to the new Congress. In order to continue

our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

Thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it.

[At this point, Director Friedman made brief remarks.]

The President. You're welcome. I'm glad you're here. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director Friedman's wife, Barbara, and their children Susie, Caroline, David, and Sam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Friedman.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director *December 11, 2002*

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 et seq., I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession. During any period when the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (Director) has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Di-

rector is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Associate Director for Technology;
Associate Director for Science; and
Chief of Staff and General Counsel.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

Sec. 3. Publication. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Announcing the Smallpox Vaccination Plan *December 13, 2002*

Good afternoon. Since our country was attacked 15 months ago, Americans have been forced to prepare for a variety of threats we hope will never come. We have stepped up security at our ports and borders. We've expanded our ability to detect chemical and biological threats. We've increased support for first-responders. We made public—made our public health care system better able to track and treat disease. By preparing at home and by pursuing enemies abroad, we're adding to the security of our Nation. I thank the members of my team who are here who are adding to the security of our Nation.

One potential danger to America is the use of the smallpox virus as a weapon of terror. Smallpox is a deadly but preventable disease. Most Americans who are 34 or older had a smallpox vaccination when they were children. By 1972, the risk of smallpox was so

our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

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One potential danger to America is the use of the smallpox virus as a weapon of terror. Smallpox is a deadly but preventable disease. Most Americans who are 34 or older had a smallpox vaccination when they were children. By 1972, the risk of smallpox was so

remote that routine vaccinations were discontinued in the United States. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been completely eradicated, and since then, there has not been a single natural case of the disease anywhere in the world.

We know, however, that the smallpox virus still exists in laboratories, and we believe that regimes hostile to the United States may possess this dangerous virus. To protect our citizens in the aftermath of September the 11th, we are evaluating old threats in a new light. Our Government has no information that a smallpox attack is imminent. Yet it is prudent to prepare for the possibility that terrorists would kill indiscriminately—who kill indiscriminately would use diseases as a weapon.

Our public health agencies began preparations more than a year ago. Today, through the hard work of our Department of Health and Human Services, ably led by Tommy Thompson, and State and local officials, America has stockpiled enough vaccine and is now prepared to inoculate our entire population in the event of a smallpox attack. Americans and anyone who would think of harming Americans can be certain that this Nation is ready to respond quickly and effectively to a smallpox emergency or an increase in the level of threat.

Today I am directing additional steps to protect the health of our Nation. I'm ordering that the military and other personnel who serve America in high-risk parts of the world receive the smallpox vaccine. Men and women who could be on the frontlines of a biological attack must be protected.

This particular vaccine does involve a small risk of serious health considerations. As Commander in Chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am willing to do the same. Therefore I will receive the vaccine along with our military.

These vaccinations are a precaution only and not a response to any information concerning imminent danger. Given the current level of threat and the inherent health risks of the vaccine, we have decided not to initiate a broader vaccination program for all Americans at this time. Neither my family nor my staff will be receiving the vaccine, because

our health and national security experts do not believe vaccination is necessary for the general public.

At present, the responsible course is to make careful and thorough preparations in case a broader vaccination program should become necessary in the future. There may be some citizens, however, who insist on being vaccinated now. Our public health agencies will work to accommodate them, but that is not our recommendation at this time.

We do recommend vaccinations for one other group of Americans that could be on the frontlines of a biological attack. We will make the vaccine available on a voluntary basis to medical professionals and emergency personnel and response teams that would be the first on the scene in a smallpox emergency. These teams would immediately provide vaccine and treatment to Americans in a crisis, and to do this job effectively, members of these teams should be protected against the disease.

I understand that many first-responders will have questions before deciding whether to be vaccinated. We will make sure they have the medical advice they need to make an informed decision. Smallpox is a serious disease, and we know that our enemies are trying to inflict serious harm. Yet there's no evidence that smallpox imminently threatens this country.

We will continue taking every essential step to guard against the threats to our Nation, and I deeply appreciate the good efforts of State and local health officials who are facing difficult challenges with great skill. The actions we are taking together will help safeguard the health of our people in a measured and responsible way.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 7

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

December 8

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

December 9

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Lapologang Caesar Lekoa of Botswana, Amadou Lamine Ba of Senegal, Pedro Manuel dos Reis Alves Catarino of Portugal, Ivan Vujacic of Yugoslavia, Antoine Ntamobwa of Burundi, Roberto Danino Zapata of Peru, Antonio Arenales Forno of Guatemala, Helgi Agustsson of Iceland, and Jean-David Levitte of France.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Margaret Cushing Whitman; Steven Rollie Rogel; Frank Henry Habicht II; Jerome Jasinowski; William Frenzel; Rodolphe Vallee; Bernard Aronson; Edward Emma; Jill Considine; Wythe Willey; Edward Perkins; Richard Rivera; Pete Hanna; John Rowland; Jean-Pierre Rosso; Hersh Kozlov; Samuel Palmisano; JoAnn Brouillette; Herbert Johnson; Hector Ruiz;

Melinda Bush; Richard Wardrop, Jr.; Grace Nichols; Larry Liebenow; Michael Goldstein; Thomas Mottola; George Fitch; Luis Lauredo; James Winston Morrison; Walter Bernard Duffy Hickey, Jr.; Robert Edward Grady; and Morgan Yaping Wang.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement Territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

December 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

The President announced the appointment of David G. Leitch as Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard B. Gasaway as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board for Firefighting.

The President announced his intention to appoint George Stuart Yount as U.S. Representative on the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

December 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, President of the European Union, to express his support for Turkey's aspirations to join the EU. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he participated in an interview and White House tour with journalist Barbara Walters for broadcast on December 13 on ABC's "20/20" television program.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton, and Chairman James Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality to discuss implementation of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative to reduce the threat of wildfire in the western States. Later, he attended a diplomatic corps holiday reception at Blair House.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on the U.S.

Postal Service: James A. Johnson and Harry Pearce (Co-Chairmen); Richard C. Levin; Norman I. Seabrook; Carolyn L. Gallagher; Robert S. Walker; Joseph R. Wright; Don V. Cogman; and Dionel E. Aviles.

The President declared a major disaster in the Northern Mariana Islands and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

December 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile to discuss the Chile-U.S. free trade agreement that was signed on December 11. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he went to Bright Hope Baptist Church to meet with participants in the Amachi Mentoring Program for children of prisoners.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he dropped by a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council at the White House.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss the Senator's December 6 remarks at a 100th birthday celebration for Senator Strom Thurmond.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe ice storm on December 4–6.

December 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss South Korea-U.S. relations, the situation in North Korea, and President Bush's regrets concerning the June 13 deaths of two South Korean girls, Shim Mi-Sun and Shin Hyo-Son, as a result of an accident during a U.S. military training exercise in Seoul, South Korea. President Bush then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Africa on January 10–17, 2003, where he will open the second U.S.–Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Mauritius.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 7

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Iraqi regime's report to the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission

Released December 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Announcement of nomination for Secretary of the Treasury

Released December 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

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Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman, Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton, U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Rebecca Watson on the Healthy Forests Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Executive order establishing the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands

Fact sheet: Reducing the Threat of Catastrophic Wildfires and Improving Forest Health

Released December 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Carolina

Fact sheet: Progress for the President's Compassion Agenda

Announcement of appointment of Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge,

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Julie Gerberding, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Gregory Suchan, and State Department Office of Medical Services Director Cedric Dumont on the President's smallpox vaccination plan

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Reaffirms Support for OAS Secretary General's Efforts in Venezuela and Calls for Early Elections

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement and Turkey

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Africa

Fact sheet: Protecting Americans: Smallpox Vaccination Program

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 13

S. 2017 / Public Law 107-331
Indian Financing Amendments Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, December 20, 2002

**Statement on the Resignation of
Henry Kissinger as Chairman of the
National Commission on Terrorist
Attacks Upon the United States**

December 13, 2002

It is with regret that I accept Dr. Kissinger's decision to step down as Chairman of the national commission to investigate the events of September 11, 2001, and the years that led up to that event.

As I stated at the time of his appointment, Dr. Kissinger is one of our Nation's most accomplished and respected public servants. I thank him for his willingness to consider serving his country once again. His chairmanship would have provided the insights and analysis the Government needs to understand the methods of our enemies and the nature of the threats we face.

My administration will work quickly to select a new Chairman whose mission will be to uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September 11, even as we act on what we have learned so far to better protect and defend America.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Northern
Ireland**

December 13, 2002

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am transmitting to you a report prepared by my Administration as required by section 701(d) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228).

The enclosed report broadly addresses policing reform and human rights in Northern Ireland. It provides information on topics of interest outlined by the Congress, including

details on paramilitary decommissioning, and the manner in which U.S. law enforcement training for members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is being administered.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 14, 2002

Good morning. This week I introduced new members of my economic team. For the Secretary of the Treasury, I have submitted the name of John Snow, a respected business leader and economist who shares my commitment to faster growth and more new jobs for American workers. I have nominated Bill Donaldson to serve as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to vigorously enforce the laws against corporate corruption. And here at the White House, Steve Friedman will be the Director of the National Economic Council, giving me daily advice on our economy.

These leaders will assume their duties at an important moment for our economy. There are many good signs. Inflation is firmly under control, which means food, clothing, and other necessities are more affordable. Mortgage interest rates remain at historic lows, helping more Americans become homeowners. And growth has returned to the American economy.

Yet we also face specific challenges that could slow the recovery and limit future growth. Many Americans have very little money left over after taxes. Some struggle under a weight of debt that makes it difficult to save for retirement. Investor confidence

needs to be strengthened in practical ways. And the Nation's rate of unemployment is now 6 percent—and significantly higher in some parts of America. We will not rest until every person in America who wants to work can find a job.

The new Congress that convenes next month will have a responsibility to address these challenges, and I will be making specific proposals to increase the momentum of economic recovery through a jobs and growth package.

The last Congress also left behind some unfinished business. The House and Senate passed different bills extending unemployment benefits. However, no final bill was sent to me extending unemployment benefits for about 750,000 Americans whose benefits will expire on December the 28th. These Americans rely on their unemployment benefits to pay for the mortgage or rent, food, and other critical bills. They need our assistance in these difficult times, and we cannot let them down.

I have shared these concerns with leaders of the House and the Senate, and they understand the need for early action. When our legislators return to the Capitol, I ask them to make the extension of unemployment benefits a first order of business. And the benefits they approve should be retroactive, so that people who lose their benefits this month will be paid in full. I've also directed the Department of Labor to work with the States to minimize any delay in helping these Americans once Congress has acted and extended these benefits.

I look forward to working with Members of both parties in the new Congress on our economic challenges. We must help our fellow citizens who have lost their jobs. And we must create an environment in which businesses, especially small businesses, can grow and generate the new jobs our country needs.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:02 a.m. on December 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also re-

leased a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Appointment of Thomas H. Kean as Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

December 16, 2002

I am pleased to announce that Thomas H. Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and president of Drew University in New Jersey, will serve as Chairman of the national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the events that led up to it.

Tom Kean is a leader respected for his integrity, fairness, and good judgment. I am confident he will work to make the Commission's investigation thorough. It is important that we uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September 11th.

Governor Kean served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race from 1997 to 1998, served as Vice Chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in 1995, and led the U.S. delegation to the World Conference on Education for All in Thailand in 1990.

Statement on the Resignation of Joe M. Allbaugh as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

December 16, 2002

For nearly 2 years as Director of FEMA, Joe Allbaugh has served America with ability, courage, and compassion. He will continue to shepherd FEMA through its transition into the Department of Homeland Security.

After the attacks on our country, America came to know Joe as I do: He is a steady leader, a calm presence, and a man who inspires confidence in a time of crisis. I have trusted Joe in a variety of positions throughout my public life, and he has always met the highest standards of service and integrity. Laura and I wish Joe the very best in all that he does in the future.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Negara Brunei Darussalam

December 16, 2002

President Bush and His Majesty, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, today pledged to reinforce the friendship between the peoples of the United States and of Brunei Darussalam, and to pursue our common interests of peace, prosperity, and stability in Southeast Asia.

The two leaders recommitted themselves to the global war on terror, declaring terrorism a threat to all civilized societies and the exploitation of religion to promote violence an abomination. President Bush and His Majesty reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation in combating terrorism in a comprehensive manner and affirmed the importance of working with multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. The two leaders also recognized the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding amongst the diverse cultures, societies, and religions.

The President praised Brunei Darussalam's long tradition of religious tolerance and cooperation with its neighbors, friends, and partners. In the wake of the tragic Bali bombings, the President and His Majesty agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation to identify and destroy terrorist networks; exchange information and intelligence about terrorists and terrorist organizations; disrupt the movement of terrorists and the tools of terror across international borders; and cut off sources of funding for terrorist acts, especially in Southeast Asia. His Majesty welcomed President Bush's offer to assist Brunei Darussalam in building its capacity to counter terrorism.

The President welcomed the recent accession of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The President and His Majesty also look forward to cooperating with other ASEAN partners in supporting the proposed regional counterterrorism center in Malaysia.

President Bush expressed appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's contribution toward the humanitarian relief efforts and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Such contributions demonstrate the compassion of the Government and people of Brunei in its commitment to build a peaceful, prosperous Afghanistan.

The President and His Majesty welcomed the growing, mutually beneficial bilateral defense relationship between the United States and Brunei Darussalam, and reaffirmed their desire to see such cooperation increase.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of a strong and united ASEAN, and President Bush offered all appropriate assistance to support capacity-building within ASEAN. President Bush praised Brunei Darussalam's strong leadership role in ASEAN in recent years, and reaffirmed our commitment to expand U.S. engagement with ASEAN as a pillar of stability in Southeast Asia. The two leaders agreed on the importance of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and APEC in promoting regional stability and prosperity. The President welcomed Brunei Darussalam's support for our Secure Trade in the APEC Region, or "STAR," initiative, aimed at transforming the movement of goods and people to increase both security and economic competitiveness. The President pledged to work with the Government of Brunei Darussalam to assist Brunei Darussalam in building its own capacity to provide increased border and customs security and efficiency.

His Majesty welcomed President Bush's Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative, or "EAI," as an initiative designed to promote increased investment, economic growth, and free trade between the United States and ASEAN countries. The President and His Majesty welcomed the signing of a bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). This TIFA will provide the foundation for increased trade and economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United States as both economies adapt to the economic challenges of the 21st century. The two sides agreed to coordinate their efforts bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally, including working together to complete successfully the Doha Development Agenda.

To further deepen understanding between our two nations, the President and His Majesty have pledged to increase educational opportunities for Bruneian students, government officials, and other professionals to study and train in the United States. Toward this end, the President announced the establishment of a Fulbright Program in Brunei.

The President and His Majesty also reiterated their mutual commitment to advance the rule of law and to promote respect for human rights, including freedom of religion, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and cherished by the people of both the United States and Brunei Darussalam.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Proclamation 7635—Wright Brothers Day, 2002

December 16, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have contributed to important technological breakthroughs that have improved the quality of life for countless individuals. On December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first successfully sustained and controlled flight with a heavier-than-air, engine-powered aircraft. In the 99 years since that revolutionary event, mankind has flown across oceans, broken the sound barrier, launched satellites, and landed on the moon. On Wright Brothers Day, we celebrate the vision and determination of these innovators whose remarkable achievements changed the world forever.

The first successful powered flight on the morning of December 17, 1903, lasted only 12 seconds and spanned approximately 120 feet; but the Wright brothers' ideas and design led to countless advances in aviation. Between 1899 and 1905, they constructed a total of seven aircraft, and through this extensive research and experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright established the foundation of modern aeronautics.

The airplane has played a critical role in improving our national defense, our economy, and our Nation. It has enabled trade to thrive, strengthened our economic security, and fostered friendship and goodwill throughout the world. Today, Americans rely on airplanes to deliver emergency treatment to the sick or injured, bring families together, and link us to every corner of the globe.

The United States remains committed to supporting progress in technology that secures air travel, enhances our national defense, and ensures the success and prosperity of our country. Inspired by the extraordinary accomplishments of the Wright brothers, our Nation will continue to explore new ideas, improve technology, and work for a brighter future for all.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143) as amended, has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 17, 2002, as Wright Brothers Day. Through their courage and willingness to take risks, the Wright brothers reflect the true American character.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 19.

Remarks at the White House Children's Story Hour

December 17, 2002

Students. Merry Christmas.

The President. Thank you. Third graders?

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December 17, 2002

Students. Merry Christmas.

The President. Thank you. Third graders?

Students. Yes.

The President. Good. Where's your teachers? Thank you for teaching. Welcome. We're glad you're here. This is the Roosevelt Room in the White House.

The First Lady. And this painting behind us is Teddy Roosevelt, up above.

The President. He was one of our Presidents.

The First Lady. He was one of our Presidents 100 years ago—100 years ago.

The President. Where's Burnie Elementary? Welcome.

Saint Agnes? Glad you all are here. Thanks for coming.

Laura and I thought we'd read a Christmas story to you, if that's okay.

Students. Yes.

The President. Glad you accepted it. [Laughter] That's what's going to happen.

Have you heard the one that starts with, "Twas the night before Christmas"?

Students. Yes.

The President. And what comes next?

Students. I can't see it.

The President. Oh, I'm sorry. "Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house"——

The First Lady. "Not a creature was stirring"——

The President. ——"not even a mouse."

The First Lady. Mouse.

The President. Nobody was stirring. It was kind of quiet, wasn't it? You had better read that, because I can't see it.

The First Lady. [Laughter] "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds."

Don't they look snug?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. "While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads." What does that mean? Do you know what sugar plums are?

Students. No.

The First Lady. Candy. So they're thinking maybe their stockings will have candy in them, don't they?

The President. You can't see? You come right over here.

The First Lady. "And ma in her kerchief, and I in my cap had just settled down for

a long winter's nap." Do you all want to come up closer here?

The President. It may be easier to see.

The First Lady. Yes. Come on over here so you can see. These are really beautiful pictures, if you can see close.

"When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters, threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, gave a luster of midday to the objects below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear"—do you all know?

Students. Reindeer.

The First Lady. "A miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer."

The President. Yes.

The First Lady. "With a little old man so jolly and quick, I knew in a moment it must be"——

Students. Saint Nick.

The First Lady. "Saint Nick." Do you like these pictures?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. "More rapid than eagles, the coursers they came, and he whistled and shouted and called them by name."

Do you know the name of the reindeer? "Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen." See all these reindeer?

The President. Anybody in this room named Blitzen? [Laughter]

The First Lady. Do you all remember all these names? "Dasher and Dancer, and Comet and Cupid"——

Student. And Rudolph.

The First Lady. And Rudolph. That's right.

The President. Right.

The First Lady. He's not in this story, though. He came later.

"To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall! Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!

"As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, so up to the housetop the coursers they flew, with a sleigh full of toys, and Saint Nicholas, too."

This is pretty. You notice who is in every picture—well, not every one.

“And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, down the chimney he came with a bound.

“He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot. And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler just about to open his pack.”

See all those toys?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. “His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry. His droll little mouth was drawn up in a bow, and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.”

Is this what we all think Santa Claus looks like?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. With a white beard?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. And a nose like a cherry?

“The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a round little belly that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.”

The President. Pretty exciting so far, isn't it? [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. “He spoke not a word but went straight to work and filled all the stockings, and then he turned with a jerk.”

And what's he going to do now? How's he going to get out? Back up the chimney, isn't he?

“And laying his finger aside of his nose and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.”

The President. That's kind of hard to do. [*Laughter*] Have you ever tried to crawl up your chimney?

Students. No.

The First Lady. “He sprang to his sleigh and to his team gave a whistle. And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim as he went out of sight”—what did he exclaim? Do you remember the very end of this? Do you? What?

Student. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

The President. Very good.

The First Lady. That's right. Exactly.

The President. Very good.

The First Lady. “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.”

The President. And that's what we want to say to you all: Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement Announcing a National Missile Defense Initiative

December 17, 2002

When I came to office, I made a commitment to transform America's national security strategy and defense capabilities to meet the threats of the 21st century. Today I am pleased to announce that we will take another important step in countering these threats by beginning to field missile defense capabilities to protect the United States as well as our friends and allies. These initial capabilities emerge from our research and development program and build on the test bed that we have been constructing. While modest, these capabilities will add to America's security and serve as a starting point for improved and expanded capabilities later, as further progress is made in researching and developing missile defense technologies and in light of changes in the threat.

September 11, 2001, underscored that our Nation faces unprecedented threats, in a world that has changed greatly since the cold war. To better protect our country against the threats of today and tomorrow, my administration has developed a new national security strategy and new supporting strategies for making our homeland more secure and for combating weapons of mass destruction. Throughout my administration, I have made clear that the United States will take every necessary measure to protect our citizens against what is perhaps the gravest danger of all: the catastrophic harm that may result from hostile states or terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them.

Missile defenses have an important role to play in this effort. The United States has moved beyond the doctrine of cold war deterrence reflected in the 1972 ABM Treaty. At the same time, we have established a positive relationship with Russia that includes partnership in counterterrorism and in other key areas of mutual concern. We have adopted a new concept of deterrence that recognizes that missile defenses will add to our ability to deter those who may contemplate attacking us with missiles. Our withdrawal from the ABM Treaty has made it possible to develop and test the full range of missile defense technologies and to deploy defenses capable of protecting our territory and our cities.

I have directed the Secretary of Defense to proceed with fielding an initial set of missile defense capabilities. We plan to begin operating these initial capabilities in 2004 and 2005, and they will include ground-based interceptors, sea-based interceptors, additional Patriot (PAC-3) units, and sensors based on land, at sea, and in space.

Because the threats of the 21st century also endanger our friends and allies around the world, it is essential that we work together to defend against them. The Defense Department will develop and deploy missile defenses capable of protecting not only the United States and our deployed forces but also our friends and allies. The United States will also structure our missile defense program in a manner that encourages industrial participation by other nations. Demonstrating the important role played by our friends and allies, as part of our initial missile defense capabilities, the United States will seek agreement from the United Kingdom and Denmark to upgrade early-warning radars on their territory.

The new strategic challenges of the 21st century require us to think differently, but they also require us to act. The deployment of missile defenses is an essential element of our broader efforts to transform our defense and deterrence policies and capabilities to meet the new threats we face. Defending the American people against these new threats is my highest priority as Commander in Chief and the highest priority of my administration.

Statement on the Resignation of Nick Calio as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

December 17, 2002

Nick Calio has been a valuable and trusted member of my administration since the day I took office. As my top staff representative on Capitol Hill, he has been at the center of major legislative victories, from landmark education reforms to historic tax relief for the American people. Members of Congress have always been able to rely on Nick's integrity, forthrightness, and civility. I have been able to count on his good judgment, his energy, and his loyalty. He has given 2 years of faithful service, and he leaves with my gratitude and friendship.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Voronin on U.S.-Moldovan Relations

December 17, 2002

We welcome the positive development and expansion of U.S.-Moldovan relations over the last 11 years. The relationship of our two countries is based on a shared commitment to promoting prosperity, freedom, and security in Moldova and throughout the region.

Together, we reaffirm our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, and underscore our determination to bring the Transnistrian separatist conflict to a peaceful resolution. We stress our continued commitment to the ongoing OSCE-led Transnistria talks and, in particular, to the Kiev Document as the basis for negotiation of a lasting settlement.

We note and welcome the Russian Federation's intention to implement fully its commitments undertaken at the OSCE's Istanbul Summit by completing the withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Moldova by December 31, 2003. We urge Transnistria's authorities to support unconditionally this process. If the Transnistrian authorities continue systematically to create obstacles for the disposal or withdrawal of Russian ammunition and military equipment, we are prepared to consider together with other concerned

countries targeted measures directed at the Tiraspol regime.

We recognize the progress that Moldova has made in transforming its economy in a free market direction, most notably in the agricultural sector. At the same time, we are cognizant of the economic challenges currently facing Moldova, including Moldova's particularly difficult debt situation. We are in complete accord that Moldova must strengthen its reform efforts, especially in the areas of privatization and the energy sector, and improve its investment climate. We agreed that with strong and clearly demonstrated performance under Moldova's IMF program, the United States would consider participating in a comprehensive plan to stabilize Moldova's debt outlook in the medium term.

We note and welcome Moldova's positive record since independence in conducting free and fair elections and in implementing democratic reforms. We pledge our commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and human rights and to observing them in practice. To this end, we underscore the vital importance of further progress in meeting OSCE election standards and in strengthening free and independent media in Moldova.

Finally, we reaffirm the importance of continued cooperation between the United States and Moldova in promoting regional security, including through our common efforts at combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; transnational crime; and trafficking in persons. We will deepen our cooperation to combat international terrorist threats to world peace both in our own countries and internationally. The United States appreciates Moldova's support in the global war on terrorism.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Signing the E-Government Act of 2002 *December 17, 2002*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2458, the "E-Government Act of 2002." This legislation builds upon my Administration's ex-

panding E-Government initiative by ensuring strong leadership of the information technology activities of Federal agencies, a comprehensive framework for information security standards and programs, and uniform safeguards to protect the confidentiality of information provided by the public for statistical purposes. The Act will also assist in expanding the use of the Internet and computer resources in order to deliver Government services, consistent with the reform principles I outlined on July 10, 2002, for a citizen-centered, results-oriented, and market-based Government.

Title II of this Act authorizes agencies to award "share-in-savings" contracts under which contractors share in the savings achieved by agencies through the provision of technologies that improve or accelerate their work. The executive branch shall ensure, consistent with applicable law, that these contracts are operated according to sound fiscal policy and limit authorized waivers for funding of potential termination costs to appropriate circumstances, so as to minimize the financial risk to the Government.

Title III of this Act is the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. It is very similar to title X of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which also bears the name Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 and which I signed into law on November 25, 2002. I am signing into law the E-Government Act after the enactment of the Homeland Security Act, and there is no indication that the Congress intended the E-Government Act to provide interim provisions that would apply only until the Homeland Security Act took effect. Thus, notwithstanding the delayed effective dates applicable to the Homeland Security Act, the executive branch will construe the E-Government Act as permanently superseding the Homeland Security Act in those instances where both Acts prescribe different amendments to the same provisions of the United States Code.

Finally, the executive branch shall construe and implement the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect sensitive national security, law enforcement, and foreign relations

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Finally, the executive branch shall construe and implement the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect sensitive national security, law enforcement, and foreign relations

information. In particular, consistent with my constitutional authorities and section 301(c) of this Act, the executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner that preserves the authorities of the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other agency heads with regard to the operation, control, and management of national security systems.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 17, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2458, approved December 17, was assigned Public Law No. 107-347. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on World
Intellectual Property Rights**

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

As required by the second proviso of the text of the resolution of advise and consent to ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and the World Intellectual Property Organization Performances and Phonograms Treaty, passed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on the status of the ratification of those treaties and related materials.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
Created by the Accumulation of
Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in
the Territory of the Russian
Federation**

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain**

December 18, 2002

President Bush. Welcome. I'll make a statement; the President will make a statement. That will be all we'll be doing today.

It is my great honor to welcome my good personal friend and a friend of the United States Jose Maria Aznar to the *Casa Blanca*. He is one of the world's strongest leaders when it comes to our mutual concerns about keeping the peace and fighting terror. He understands the first—he understands firsthand the consequences of terror activity. And today, Mr. President, we join you in the mourning of loss of life for a policeman in your country who was killed.

I also want to take a moment to express our deepest sympathy for the people of Galicia. We understand the concern and the

information. In particular, consistent with my constitutional authorities and section 301(c) of this Act, the executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner that preserves the authorities of the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other agency heads with regard to the operation, control, and management of national security systems.

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I also want to take a moment to express our deepest sympathy for the people of Galicia. We understand the concern and the

heartfelt worry about the effects of the oil-spill. President Aznar said, “*Nunca mas,*” and I believe him. And I want to thank him for his leadership. And I’m glad he’s back here. *Bienvenidos.*

President Aznar. I begin by thanking President Bush very warmly for his very kind invitation once again.

I’d also like to thank President Bush for his solidarity and particularly for the cooperation shown to Spain by all levels of the U.S. administration in the light of the environmental disaster caused by the sunken oil tanker off the coast of Spain.

And can I say that in all the meetings I’ve had with representatives of your administration, we have received offers of unconditional support in helping cope with that disaster, and that support is ongoing and will continue. And I’d like to thank President Bush for the personal impetus that he has given in that cooperation.

Spain and the United States are working together within a framework of very solid and close cooperation and confidence. And I am determined that this will continue to be the case in the future in the fight against terrorism, in the fight against weapons of mass destruction, and in this overriding objective of defending a world of freedom, justice, and stability.

Gracias, señor.

President Bush. *Vamos a verles.*

Q. Why shouldn’t Senator Lott resign, sir?

President Bush. *Vamos a verles en la fiesta en la noche.*

Q. *No comprende.*

President Bush. I said, I’ll see you at the party tonight.

Q. I thought that meant questions.

President Bush. See you at the party tonight.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Peace Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

December 18, 2002

I welcome the signing of the peace agreement that brings an end to 4 years of civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I appreciate the strong leadership and commitment of President Kabila to form a transitional government in Congo. I further commend all parties on their willingness to make the tough decisions to ensure a peaceful and democratic future for the Congolese people.

This peace agreement offers the Congolese people a critical opportunity to build lasting peace in a unified Congo. The United States will continue to work with Congo’s Government, the Congolese Liberation Movement, and the Congolese Rally for Democracy and Civil Society to move forward on implementing the agreement, which will result in national elections.

I thank President Mbeki for his leadership and efforts on behalf of peace in the Congo and throughout Africa. The United States looks forward to working with the African Union and the United Nations to help the Congolese people realize their dream for national reconciliation and growing prosperity.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Subsidy Budget Authority Request for Aloha Airlines, Inc.

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$45 million Federal credit instrument for Aloha Airlines, Inc.

heartfelt worry about the effects of the oil-spill. President Aznar said, “*Nunca mas,*” and I believe him. And I want to thank him for his leadership. And I’m glad he’s back here. *Bienvenidos.*

President Aznar. I begin by thanking President Bush very warmly for his very kind invitation once again.

I’d also like to thank President Bush for his solidarity and particularly for the cooperation shown to Spain by all levels of the U.S. administration in the light of the environmental disaster caused by the sunken oil tanker off the coast of Spain.

And can I say that in all the meetings I’ve had with representatives of your administration, we have received offers of unconditional support in helping cope with that disaster, and that support is ongoing and will continue. And I’d like to thank President Bush for the personal impetus that he has given in that cooperation.

Spain and the United States are working together within a framework of very solid and close cooperation and confidence. And I am determined that this will continue to be the case in the future in the fight against terrorism, in the fight against weapons of mass destruction, and in this overriding objective of defending a world of freedom, justice, and stability.

Gracias, señor.

President Bush. *Vamos a verles.*

Q. Why shouldn’t Senator Lott resign, sir?

President Bush. *Vamos a verles en la fiesta en la noche.*

Q. *No comprende.*

President Bush. I said, I’ll see you at the party tonight.

Q. I thought that meant questions.

President Bush. See you at the party tonight.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Peace Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

December 18, 2002

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December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$45 million Federal credit instrument for Aloha Airlines, Inc.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$14 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 19.

Remarks at the Capital Area Food Bank

December 19, 2002

The President. Thanks. Be seated. Thank you very much. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. It is nice to be in a building full of food and full of love. We are honored to be here. Laura and I are here to send a message to our fellow Americans: We hope you love your neighbor as you would like to love—be loved yourself, that in this holiday season, let's commit ourselves to making it a season of service to others, others who might hurt, others who need food, others who can benefit from our kindness and generosity.

I love to tell people in this country—this is a fabulous country—in my judgment, the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And the reason why is because America is full of people who have got great hearts and great souls, people who are willing to serve something greater than themselves. My call for the holiday season is for people to serve your Nation by helping somebody in need, to join the—become a soldier in the army of compassion.

I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, for her service to our country. Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you being here. It's nice to see you; appreciate you keeping the potholes around the White House—[laughter]. I'm honored that members of the city council are here. Thank you all for coming. It's a—it is a fantastic tribute to your government that you support pro-

grams such as this food bank, center for—the eradication of hunger in Washington, DC. I appreciate your strong statement and your deep concern.

I want to thank Lynn. Lynn Brantley is president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. I appreciate your heart. I appreciate your organizational talents. I mean, after all, this is the center for distribution to hundreds of outlets to feed people who are hungry. I mean, not only does Lynn care a lot, but she has obviously got a pretty good—a capacity to organize. She had me in peaches and spinach. [Laughter]

I want to thank Greg TenEyck, who is the chairman. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I want to thank Barry Scher, who is the vice chairman. Thank you all for helping out and dedicating your time and efforts to make sure this program is viable and strong.

I think the thing we've got to understand here in the midst of all our plenty is that there are people who hurt, people who are hungry, people who need love, people who, when you hear the word "American Dream" have no idea what you're talking about. And if they do, they wonder whether or not that American Dream applies to them.

Our goal in America is to do everything we can to help those who hurt. And there is a role for government, no question about it. I like to say government can spend money, but government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government can help, but government should never crowd out the great compassion we find in programs such as this right here.

Washington, DC, hurt as a result of the attacks of September the 11th. The economy suffered around here. Therefore, there are more who hunger, and there are less who are giving.

The agencies involved with helping those in need, need our sustained help. This organization here attracts nearly 12,000 volunteers. I want to thank those who volunteer here. I want to thank you for what you do and thank you for being a part of the great fabric of compassion in America.

More Americans need to volunteer. There are ways to do so. The usafreedomcorps.gov on the Web page is the place to look. You

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can call 1-877-USA-CORPS and find out ways that you can help. If you are interested in being a part of feeding those who hunger, this is a great place to come to.

But you can find out on the Web page other ways to help. People oftentimes say, "Well, I want to help. I don't know how." Well, we're trying to help you find out how. I hope people around this country realize that agencies such as this food bank need money. They need our contributions. Contributions are down. They shouldn't be down in a time of need. We shouldn't let the enemy affect us to the point where we become less generous. Our spirit should never be diminished by what happened on September the 11th, 2001.

Quite the contrary, we must stand squarely in the face of evil by doing some good. And part of doing good is not only dedicating your time and talent to help but to reach into your wallet so that those of us who hurt among us have a chance to heal and to be a part of the American experience.

Those who are poor, those who suffer, those who have lost hope are not strangers in our midst. They're our fellow citizens. And in this time of joy, in the time of blessing, we've got to remember that. To make the season complete and the season whole, we must help those who are in need.

One of the things you've got to—I hope you'll recognize about me is sometimes I get a little wordy; I admit that. But I hope you view me as a man of action as well. We've got over 29 Federal agencies, people within the agencies who have been called upon to help. And they are helping. And I want to thank the Federal employees who have heard the call to love their neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself.

We all have a responsibility in high positions or low positions to follow through with our—with words and deeds. And this administration is committed to fulfilling the great promise of the American experience.

Again, I want to thank you all for coming. You know, we live in a blessed land. We live in a fantastic, fantastic country. The goals for this country are peace in the world, and the goals for this country are a compassionate American for every single citizen. That com-

passion is found in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

My call to the American people is, patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot in America is serving something greater than yourself, is serving the greatest country on the face of the Earth by helping a neighbor in need.

May God bless this institution. May God bless the volunteers and donors and people who have made Capital Food Bank thrive. May God continue to encourage the spirit of giving and love. And may God bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:11 a.m. in the warehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002

December 19, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4664, the "National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002." The Act authorizes appropriations for the National Science Foundation and modifies statutory authorities of the Foundation.

Section 5(f) of the Act purports to condition authorizations of certain appropriations on a subsequent determination by the Congress of the existence of successful progress by the executive branch toward specified goals. The executive branch shall construe the purported condition as advisory, since any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*. Also, the executive branch shall construe and implement sections 8(10)(A), 9(a)(5), 11(b)(3), and 24 in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 14(a), 14(b) (amending section 201(a)(1) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998), and 18(d) call for

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Several provisions of the Act, including sections 14(a), 14(b) (amending section 201(a)(1) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998), and 18(d) call for

the submission by the executive branch of specified information or recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive, and to submit to the Congress such recommendations as the President judges necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4664, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107-368.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 and For Other Purposes

December 19, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4883, an Act to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The executive branch shall construe sections 221(a)(4), 223(b), and 241(a)(2) of the Act as providing statutory bases for revocation of commissions or removal from service that are separate from, in addition to, and not in derogation of the President's constitutional authority to remove officers of the United States. The executive branch also shall construe sections 222 and 224 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to nominate and appoint candidates who are not the subject of recommendations under those sections.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4883, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107-372.

Executive Order 13281—Half-Day Closing of Executive Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government on Tuesday, December 24, 2002

December 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty for the last half of the scheduled workday on Tuesday, December 24, 2002, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

Sec. 2. The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty for the full scheduled workday on December 24, 2002, for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons.

Sec. 3. Tuesday, December 24, 2002, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., December 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 23.

Remarks Following Discussions With the Quartet Principals and an Exchange With Reporters

December 20, 2002

President Bush. The Vice President and I are honored to welcome the Quartet Principals to the Oval Office. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate so very much

the submission by the executive branch of specified information or recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive, and to submit to the Congress such recommendations as the President judges necessary and expedient.

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December 20, 2002

President Bush. The Vice President and I are honored to welcome the Quartet Principals to the Oval Office. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate so very much

your working with us to move the Israeli-Palestinian issue forward to a peaceful resolution of what has been a longstanding conflict.

I am strongly committed to the vision that I outlined on June the 24th. I believe it is in everybody's best interests that there be two states living side by side in peace. And this Government will work hard to achieve that. And I want thank you all for joining us in working toward that important vision.

There are some keys to moving forward. All of us must work hard to fight against terror so that a few cannot deny the dreams of the many; that we must encourage the development of Palestinian institutions which are transparent, which promote freedom and democracy; that we must work together to ease the humanitarian situation. There's—too many Palestinian moms and dads grieve over the future for their children because of hunger and poverty, lack of health care.

I appreciate the fact that the Quartet is working on what we call a roadmap. I view the roadmap as a part of the vision that I described. It is a way forward. It sets conditions. It's a results-oriented document. It is a way to bring people together so that they share their responsibilities.

We're assuming our responsibilities. The people in the neighborhood must assume their responsibilities. All nations must be committed to peace in order for us to achieve peace, must be committed to the vision of two states side by side in order to achieve the vision of living side by side.

The roadmap is not complete yet, but the United States is committed to its completion. We are committed to its implementation in the name of peace.

I want to thank you all for coming. We're on our holiday season. It is the season of peace on Earth. We confirmed that today in this meeting.

Kofi.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We've had a very good meeting this morning, and we are very close to finalizing the roadmap. And we believe that this is a roadmap that can help bring about the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side. It will require sacrifices from both sides, and it will

demand parallel steps by both states for us to be able to move forward.

The Quartet has indicated that this roadmap and the approach of the parties has to be performance-driven; they have to perform. But it also has to be hope-driven. And I believe that this vision of two states living in peace and security will be the dream that will keep that hope alive. And all of us, working with our friends in the region, will work hard to ensure that we achieve this day within the 3-year period that we have set ourselves.

And Mr. President, we want to thank you for your support. And I think working together we can all be able to achieve this objective. Our intention is to release the roadmap and give it to the parties as soon as possible. And I think the communique we'll be putting out will say clearly what we intend to do next. So I will pause here. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. Good to see you, sir.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Hold on a second, please. Some of our guests will be speaking.

Foreign Minister Moller. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm very glad that you're so dedicated to the peace process in the Middle East. Your vision of the two states is very important. It's very important for European Union that the people in the area know they will get two states which have to live quietly, peacefully, side by side.

What we are trying to do is to pave the way to the two states. And that's why we have endorsed this roadmap and worked with this roadmap, because it's good thing with a vision, but you must know how to go there. And that is what we have in working it. And it has been a very good cooperation—the United States, Russia, the United Nations, and the European Union.

And I think it's very important that Israel knows it will live there forever in security. But they can only have that security if they give a political solution to the Palestinians, that the Palestinians know that their day will come where they get the state, which make them sure of their future. They both have a future, and we have to help them with a future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Igor. In *Ingles?* [*Laughter*]

Foreign Minister Ivanov. Thank you for receiving us, first thing.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Foreign Minister Ivanov. The second thing, before we had a lot of interest, good documents, but we couldn't implement. Now we have good document, and the most important thing is to implement. This is our main objective now. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Very good.

Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], quick question.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, your administration concluded yesterday that Saddam Hussein pretty much blew his last chance to come clean on his weapons of mass destruction. Are we now on a path to war?

President Bush. One thing is for certain. We will fulfill the terms and conditions of 1441.

The world spoke clearly that we expect Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. Yesterday's document was not encouraging. We expected him to show that he would disarm. And as the Secretary of State said, it's—it's a long way from there. And we're serious about keeping the peace. We're serious about working with our friends in the United Nations so that this body, ably led by Kofi Annan, has got relevance as we go into the 21st century. And yesterday was a disappointing day for those who have longed for peace.

Listen, I want to thank you all for coming.

Q. Trent Lott question?

President Bush. I would have, but we ran out of time. [*Laughter*] We ran out of time. They eat up your time. We had only so much time available. They ate up your time. I'm sorry. [*Laughter*]

Q. You can drop by later.

President Bush. We could do that; you're right. But we're due at Christmas parties.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Per Stig Moller of Denmark, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Rus-

sia. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Senator Trent Lott's Decision Not To Seek the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 20, 2002

I respect the very difficult decision Trent made on behalf of the American people. As Majority and Minority Leader of the Senate, Trent Lott improved education for the American people; he led the way in securing tax relief; he strengthened our national security; and he stood for a bold and effective foreign policy. Trent is a valued friend, and a man I respect. I am pleased he will continue to serve our Nation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him on our agenda to make America safer, stronger, and better.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2002

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Christmas.

During Christmas, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As God's only Son, Jesus came to Earth and gave His life so that we may live. His actions and His words remind us that service to others is central to our lives and that sacrifice and unconditional love must guide us and inspire us to lead lives of compassion, mercy, and justice.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding throughout the Earth. As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, we are also grateful for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are working to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace and safety around the world.

This Christmas, may we give thanks for the blessings God has granted to our Nation and

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President Bush. Thank you, sir.

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Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], quick question.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, your administration concluded yesterday that Saddam Hussein pretty much blew his last chance to come clean on his weapons of mass destruction. Are we now on a path to war?

President Bush. One thing is for certain. We will fulfill the terms and conditions of 1441.

The world spoke clearly that we expect Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. Yesterday's document was not encouraging. We expected him to show that he would disarm. And as the Secretary of State said, it's—it's a long way from there. And we're serious about keeping the peace. We're serious about working with our friends in the United Nations so that this body, ably led by Kofi Annan, has got relevance as we go into the 21st century. And yesterday was a disappointing day for those who have longed for peace.

Listen, I want to thank you all for coming.

Q. Trent Lott question?

President Bush. I would have, but we ran out of time. [*Laughter*] We ran out of time. They eat up your time. We had only so much time available. They ate up your time. I'm sorry. [*Laughter*]

Q. You can drop by later.

President Bush. We could do that; you're right. But we're due at Christmas parties.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Per Stig Moller of Denmark, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Rus-

sia. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Senator Trent Lott's Decision Not To Seek the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 20, 2002

I respect the very difficult decision Trent made on behalf of the American people. As Majority and Minority Leader of the Senate, Trent Lott improved education for the American people; he led the way in securing tax relief; he strengthened our national security; and he stood for a bold and effective foreign policy. Trent is a valued friend, and a man I respect. I am pleased he will continue to serve our Nation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him on our agenda to make America safer, stronger, and better.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2002

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Christmas.

During Christmas, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As God's only Son, Jesus came to Earth and gave His life so that we may live. His actions and His words remind us that service to others is central to our lives and that sacrifice and unconditional love must guide us and inspire us to lead lives of compassion, mercy, and justice.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding throughout the Earth. As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, we are also grateful for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are working to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace and safety around the world.

This Christmas, may we give thanks for the blessings God has granted to our Nation and

in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity, and hope.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message.

Message on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa celebrates the traditional African values of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. From December 26th to January 1st, people of African descent gather to renew their commitment to these seven principles, known as *Nguzo Saba*, and give thanks for the blessings of family, community, and culture. Kwanzaa is also a time for Africans and African-Americans to honor their common heritage by participating in events based on early harvest gatherings called *matunda ya kwanza*, or first fruits.

As individuals and families join together during Kwanzaa, their joy enriches communities in the United States and across the globe. By uniting people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs, this holiday promotes mutual understanding and respect. These universal principles inspire us as we work together for a future of freedom, hope, and opportunity for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Kwanzaa, and for peace, happiness, and success in the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had intelligence briefings.

December 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. In the evening, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert for television broadcast on TNT at 8 p.m.

December 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

In the afternoon, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the President made remarks to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials to thank them for their service.

During the day, the President met with House leaders to discuss proposed legislation concerning prescription drugs for seniors.

December 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to discuss the legislative agenda for the upcoming session of Congress. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova.

December 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark B. McClellan to discuss FDA

initiatives to promote scientifically based information for consumers on foods and dietary supplements.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

The President announced the appointment of David Hobbs as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs and Ziad Ojakli as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janet Hale to be Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark Kent Ervin to be Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security.

December 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

December 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to congratulate him on his December 19 electoral victory. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss Senator Lott's announcement earlier in the day that he will not seek the Senate majority leader's position when Congress re-convenes on January 6, 2003.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were

submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 38, H.R. 308, H.R. 451, H.R. 706, H.R. 1712, H.R. 1776, H.R. 1814, H.R. 1870, H.R. 1906, and H.R. 1925

Released December 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a townhall meeting for future Department of Homeland Security employees hosted by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge

Statement by the Press Secretary: Iraqi Opposition Conference, London, December 2002

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3180, H.R. 3401, H.R. 3449, H.R. 3609, H.R. 3858, H.R. 4692, H.R. 4823, H.R. 5125, H.R. 5738, H.R. 2099, H.R. 2109, H.R. 2115, H.R. 2187, H.R. 2385, H.R. 2628, H.R. 2818, H.R. 2828, H.R. 2937, and H.R. 2990

Released December 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary commending the Federal Trade Commission for voting to create a national "Do Not Call" registry

Released December 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Congratulates President-Elect Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3048, H.R. 3747, H.R. 3909, H.R. 3954, H.R. 4129, H.R. 4638, H.R. 4682, H.R. 4750, H.R. 4874, H.R. 4944, H.R. 4953, H.R. 5099, H.R. 5436, and H.R. 5472

Released December 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the rescheduling of the President's upcoming visit to Africa

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 16

H.R. 38 / Public Law 107-332
Homestead National Monument of America Additions Act

H.R. 308 / Public Law 107-333
Guam War Claims Review Commission Act

H.R. 451 / Public Law 107-334
To make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Nebo Wilderness Area, and for other purposes

H.R. 706 / Public Law 107-335
Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002

H.R. 1712 / Public Law 107-336
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make adjustments to the boundary of the National Park of American Samoa to include certain portions of the islands of Ofu and Olosega within the park, and for other purposes

H.R. 1776 / Public Law 107-337
Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area Study Act

H.R. 1814 / Public Law 107-338
Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002

H.R. 1870 / Public Law 107-339
Fallon Rail Freight Loading Facility Transfer Act

H.R. 1906 / Public Law 107-340
Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park Addition Act of 2002

H.R. 1925 / Public Law 107-341
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Waco Mammoth Site Area in Waco, Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes

Approved December 17

H.R. 2099 / Public Law 107-342
To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide adequate funding authorization for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve

H.R. 2109 / Public Law 107-343
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach Park in Biscayne Bay, Florida, for possible inclusion in the National Park System

H.R. 2115 / Public Law 107-344
To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the Lakehaven Utility District, Washington

H.R. 2187 / Public Law 107-345
To amend title 10, United States Code, to make receipts collected from mineral leasing activities on certain naval oil shale reserves available to cover environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance costs incurred by the United States with respect to the reserves

H.R. 2385 / Public Law 107-346
Virgin River Dinosaur Footprint Preserve Act

H.R. 2458 / Public Law 107-347
E-Government Act of 2002

H.R. 2628 / Public Law 107-348
Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2002

H.R. 2828 / Public Law 107-349
Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act of 2002

H.R. 2937 / Public Law 107-350
To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a shooting range

H.R. 2990 / Public Law 107-351
Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 3180 / Public Law 107-352
To consent to certain amendments to the New Hampshire-Vermont Interstate School Compact

H.R. 3401 / Public Law 107-353
California Five Mile Regional Learning Center Transfer Act

H.R. 3449 / Public Law 107-354
To revise the boundaries of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and for other purposes

H.R. 3609 / Public Law 107-355
Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 3858 / Public Law 107-356
New River Gorge Boundary Act of 2002

H.R. 4692 / Public Law 107-357
To amend the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Establishment of the Andersonville National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, to provide for the addition of certain donated lands to the Andersonville National Historic Site

H.R. 4823 / Public Law 107-358
Holocaust Restitution Tax Fairness Act of 2002

H.R. 5125 / Public Law 107-359
Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002

H.R. 5738 / Public Law 107-360
To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians

H.R. 2818 / Public Law 107-361
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land within the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area in the State of Idaho to resolve an occupancy encroachment dating back to 1971

Approved December 19

H.R. 3048 / Public Law 107-362
Russian River Land Act

H.R. 3747 / Public Law 107-363
Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Memorial Study Act of 2002

H.R. 3909 / Public Law 107-364
Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Act

H.R. 3954 / Public Law 107-365
Caribbean National Forest Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2002

H.R. 4129 / Public Law 107-366
To amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Central Utah Project, to redirect unexpended budget authority for the Central Utah Project for wastewater treatment and reuse and other purposes, to provide for prepayment of repayment contracts for municipal and industrial water delivery facilities, and to eliminate a deadline for such prepayment

H.R. 4638 / Public Law 107-367
To reauthorize the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project

H.R. 4664 / Public Law 107-368
National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002

H.R. 4682 / Public Law 107-369
Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act

H.R. 4750 / Public Law 107-370

Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002

H.R. 4874 / Public Law 107-371

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to disclaim any Federal interest in lands adjacent to Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes in the State of Idaho resulting from possible omission of lands from an 1880 survey

H.R. 4883 / Public Law 107-372

To reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes

H.R. 4944 / Public Law 107-373

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Act

H.R. 4953 / Public Law 107-374

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to grant to Deschutes and Crook Counties in the State of Oregon a right-of-way to West Butte Road

H.R. 5099 / Public Law 107-375

To extend the periods of authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to implement capital construction projects associated with the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins

H.R. 5436 / Public Law 107-376

To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Oregon

H.R. 5472 / Public Law 107-377

Protection of Family Farmers Act of 2002

Week Ending Friday, December 27, 2002

The President's Radio Address

December 21, 2002

Good morning. As families across the Nation gather to celebrate Christmas, Laura and I want to extend our best wishes for the holidays. We hope that this Christmas will be a time of happiness in your home and a time of peace in the world.

In this season, we celebrate with our families and deeply miss loved ones who are no longer with us. Thousands of families in our Nation are still grieving over the terrible losses that came to them last year on September the 11th. We have not forgotten their loss, and we continue to pray for their comfort.

The Christmas season brings a deeper concern for fellow citizens in need. Our country is prosperous; yet we must also remember there are pockets of despair in America. Some men and women are facing the struggles of illness and old age with no one to help them or pray with them. Other Americans fight against terrible addictions. Some young men have no family but a gang. Some teenage moms are abandoned and alone. And some children wonder if anybody loves them.

We all share a responsibility to help, both through our Government and through individual acts of compassion. In this season of giving, I hope all Americans will look for opportunities to donate and volunteer where the need is greatest. By reaching out to a neighbor in need, we make our country a more just and generous place.

Our entire Nation is also thinking at this time of year of the men and women in the military, many of whom will spend Christmas

at posts and bases far from home. They stand between Americans and grave danger. They serve in the cause of peace and freedom. They wear the uniform proudly, and we are so proud of them.

I have met with these idealistic young men and women across America and around the world. I know the sacrifices they make, and in every place they serve, they can know that they have the love of their families and the gratitude of their Nation.

At this time of year, we appreciate all the blessings that fill our lives, especially the great blessing that came on a holy night in Bethlehem. The Christmas story speaks to every generation. It is the story of a quiet birth in a little town on the margins of an indifferent empire; yet that single event set the direction of history and still changes millions of lives.

For over two millennia, Christmas has carried the message that God is with us, and because He is with us we can always live in hope. The world we live in is very different from the world of ancient Bethlehem. Our need for that hope is still unchanged. In all the challenges and dangers of our day, we still seek the promise of peace on Earth.

Thank you for listening, and Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on December 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Radio Remarks to the People of Iran*December 21, 2002*

I'm pleased to send warm greetings to the people of Iran and to welcome you to the new Radio Farda broadcast.

For many years, the United States has helped bring news and cultural broadcasts for a few hours every day to the Iranian people via Radio Freedom. Yet the Iranian people tell us that more broadcasting is needed, because the unelected few who control the Iranian Government continue to place severe restrictions on access to uncensored information. So we are now making our broadcast available to more Iranians by airing news and music and cultural programs nearly 24 hours a day, and we are pleased to continue Voice of America and VOA TV services to Iran.

The people of Iran want to build a freer, more prosperous country for their children and live in a country that is a full partner in the international community. Iranians also deserve a free press to express themselves to help build an open, democratic, and free society.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Iranian people, particularly the families of the many Iranians who are in prison today for daring to express their hopes and dreams for a better future. We continue to stand with the people of Iran in your quest for freedom, prosperity, honest and effective government, judicial due process, and the rule of law. And we continue to call on the Government of Iran to respect the will of its people and be accountable to them.

As I have said before, if Iran respects its international obligations and embraces freedom and tolerance, it will have no better friend than the United States of America.

Best wishes for a bright future filled with knowledge and information and freedom.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 1:15 p.m. on December 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast in Iran on Radio Farda. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20.

Memorandum on the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth*December 20, 2002*

Memorandum for the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service

Subject: White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth

An unacceptably large number of American youth fail each year to develop the academic, social, and citizenship skills necessary to succeed in our country. For example, 60 percent of fourth graders from low-income families cannot read at grade level, more than 2.6 million teens use illicit substances each month, and 400,000 teens commit violent crimes each year. Many of these young people grow up in economic and social environments that place them at a significant disadvantage.

The Federal Government has spent billions of dollars over the last 30 years in a variety of programs to address these issues. A 1998 analysis by the General Accounting Office has pointed out that there were 117 Federal programs administered by 15 departments aimed at disadvantaged youth. Some of these programs have been very successful. However, overall, the Federal Government's efforts and programs to assist disadvantaged young people have been fragmented and not as successful as hoped.

Consistent with my interest in improving the effectiveness of Federal programs in general, and in programs for disadvantaged

youth in particular, in fostering ways that citizen service can bring about important change, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Establishment of Task Force.

(a) There is hereby established, within the Executive Office of the President, the "White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth" ("Task Force"). The Task Force shall consist of:

(i) the Attorney General, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Education, Director of National Drug Control Policy, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS); and

(ii) such other Federal officials as the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy may from time to time, on my behalf, designate.

(b) The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, or in that Assistant's absence, the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps, shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force. The Chairman shall convene and preside at meetings of the Task Force, determine its agenda, direct its work and, as appropriate with particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Task Force that shall consist exclusively of the Task Force members.

(c) A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force or Task Force subgroup functions of the member, any person who is part of the member's agency and who is an officer appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, or a member of the Senior Executive Service (or, in the case of the CNCS, an employee of the CNCS designated by the CEO of the CNCS).

Sec. 2. Functions of the Task Force. The Task Force shall develop, and submit in accordance with section 3 through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy for my

approval, a comprehensive Federal response, under existing authorities and programs, to the problems of youth failure, with a focus on enhanced agency accountability and effectiveness. Objectives shall include: (a) coordinating interagency efforts to address the problems of failure among disadvantaged youth; (b) developing a unified research plan to identify effective practices that help disadvantaged youth; (c) incorporating positive youth development practices that help disadvantaged youth; and (d) analyzing and quantifying the impact of Federal efforts aimed at disadvantaged youth. These objectives shall be carried out consistent with my Administration's implementation of performance-based budgeting.

Sec. 3. Reports. In performing its functions, the Task Force shall present to me, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy:

(a) not later than April 30, 2003, a preliminary report of their initial overall assessment of the Federal response to failure among disadvantaged youth under existing authorities and programs, including a work plan that details the goals and objectives for the Task Force and evaluates the potential for expanding successful Federal disadvantaged youth programs through program consolidation, redirection of resources, and elimination of ineffective programs; and

(b) not later than October 1, 2003, a final report describing the actions of the Task Force to respond to the problem of youth failure and submitting for my approval the comprehensive Federal response to which section 2 refers.

Sec. 4. Termination. The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after the date of the submission of the final report as described in section 3(b) of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. General. (a) Agencies and the CNCS shall assist and provide information to the Task Force consistent with applicable law as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Task Force. To the extent permitted by law, the CNCS shall provide funding and administrative support for the Task Force.

(b) As used in this memorandum, the term "agency" means an executive department or agency of the Federal Government.

(c) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(d) This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

Statement on the Election of Senator Bill Frist to the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 23, 2002

I congratulate Senator Bill Frist on his election to Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. Senator Frist has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to working with him and all Members of the Senate and House to advance our agenda for a safer, stronger, and better America.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 21

In the afternoon, at the White House, the President received a smallpox vaccination. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

December 24

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with selected domestic and overseas U.S. military personnel to express holiday wishes and thank them for their service.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had Christmas Eve dinner with extended family members.

December 25

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush celebrated Christmas with extended family members.

December 26

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

December 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. He then had a telephone conversation with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to discuss NATO enlargement and other results of the November 21–22 NATO Summit, the situation in Iraq, and Poland's decision to purchase F–16 fighter jets from the U.S.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.